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SHAMI IN RACE FOR ARJUNA **AWARD**

OPINION 6 WORLD 8 MONEY 10 DANCE OF DEMOCRACY: AMBUSH KILLS 7 ISRAELI INDIA E-RETAIL MARKET TO A MATTER OF CHOICE SOLDIERS IN GAZA CITY CROSS \$160 BILLION BY 2028 NEW DELHI, THURSDAY DECEMBER 14, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

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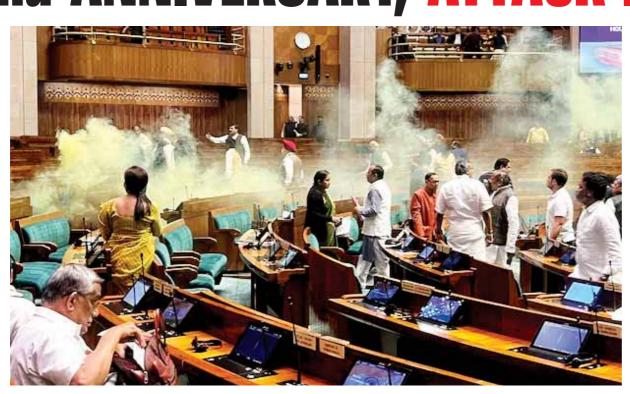
ON 22nd Anniversary, attack inside parliament

In a major security breach during the Zero Hour at 1:02 pm in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday - the 22nd anniversary of the Parliament attack — two intruders, both carrying smoke canisters emitting yellow-coloured smoke, jumped from the visitors' gallery and ran into the Lok Sabha chamber, shouting slogans before being overpowered by MPs.

At the same time, two persons, including a woman, also sprayed coloured gas from canisters while shouting slogans "tanashahi nahi chalegi" (dictatorship will not be allowed) outside Parliament as they were protesting in front of Transport Bhawan. All four have been detained by security forces. Two persons involved in the Lok Sabha incident have been identified as Sagar Sharma and Manoranjan. Sharma had come to the visitor's gallery as a guest of Mysuru Lok Sabha member Prathap Simha. Separately, a man and a woman

identified as Neelam, 42, of Haryana's Hisar, and Amol Shinde, 25, of Maharashtra's Latur area were detained on Wednesday while they were protesting outside the Parliament building carrying cans that emitted yellowish and red smoke.

The two jumped into the chamber from the public gallery at 1:02 pm. While one was spotted from jumping over



the benches, the other was left dangling from the gallery before jumping into the chamber, according to several MPs present in the House.

BJP member Rajendra Agrawal, who was in the chair, adjourned the proceedings till 2 pm as one part of the Lok Sabha chamber was filled with yellow-coloured smoke. Sources said the Delhi Police suspects the involvement of two more people along with the four who have already been held in the Wednesday securitv breach of Parliament. All six were known to each other and were staying in a house in Gurugram, they claimed. Police sources said that the four accused knew each other and had two other accomplices,

who are vet to be traced. "While four have been held, the fifth has been identified. The two suspects and the four accused stayed in a house in Gurugram, and it seems that the incident was planned. No mobile phones have been found on the accused, and

police are looking for their phones," said a police source. Video footage from the Parliament CCTV system revealed one man, donned in a dark blue shirt, leaping across desks to evade capture, while the second was in the visitors' gallery spraying smoke. Television footage showed them jumping from desk to desk and appeared to be headed towards the Well of the House. Both men were overpowered by MPs and security staff. Another video showed a Lok Sabha official reading to the House sec-onds before the chaos. Suddenly, shouts of "catch him, catch him" can be heard.

According to a preliminary probe, tear-gas canisters were found in the shoes of the suspect. While the affiliation of the protesters was not known immediately, US-based Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun had recently released a video threatening to attack Parliament on or before December 13.

Continued on Page 2

Appalling Security lapse that could have claimed lives again

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA NEW DELHI

Amid the blame game between multiple security layers for the combined Old and New Parliament complex, the various "loopholes" and "differences" between uniformed personnel on highly defined security protocols led to a major breach at the New Temple of Democracy. This breach could have been more alarming on the day when the nation paid homage to the people who laid down their lives to secure the Parliament in December 2001.

With the Parliament security system short-staffed and no recruitment in the last decade, the tested and trusted in-cadre Parliament Security Services (PSS) were completely ignored when the new Parliament building was added this September. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, who is also the guardian of Parliament, announced that a comprehensive review would be carried out on the existing security system in Parliament.

"What improvements can be made in the security parliamentary staff was



Police personnel apprehend a man carrying a can emitting yellowish smoke while he was protesting outside the Parliament premises, during the Winter session, in New Delhi, on Wednesday

measures will be assessed after discussing the matter with members," Birla said. Birla ordered a high-level inquiry into the incident and praised the Lok Sabha security members, personnel, chamber staff, and marshals for rising to the occasion and capturing the perpetrators. "The incident is a matter of concern, and we are conducting a highlevel inquiry into this incident. The future course of action will be decided based on the findings of the probe," Birla stated.

shortage

conveved occasions by some leaders in the all-party meeting convened by the Lok Sabha

presiding officer.
The PSS's responsibility for the new Parliament has been curtailed only for the issuance of various category entry passes, including those of guests of the Parliament. The inner security layer for the NPB has been given to Delhi Police and CRPF for frisking and facilitating visitors, including media personnel, to several galleries in Lok Sabha as well as Rajya Sabha.

Continued on Page 2

India slams OIC for Article 370 verdict criticism

RAHUL DUTTA NEW DELHI

India strongly rejected comments from the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Wednesday, expressing concern over the Supreme Court's verdict upholding the 2019 revocation of Article 370 of the Constitution, which granted special status

to Jammu & Kashmir. Arindam Bagchi, the Spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, said that the OIC's actions, influenced by a "serial violator of human rights and an unrepentant promoter of cross-border terrorism," raise significant questions. Although Bagchi did not explicitly name the country, it was evident that he was referring to Pakistan.

"India rejects the statement issued by the General Secretariat of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) regarding a judgment of the Indian Supreme Court. It is both ill-informed and ill-intended," Bagchi declared.

He emphasised, "That the OIC does so at the behest of a serial violator of human rights and an unrepentant promoter of cross-border terrorism makes its actions even more questionable. Such statements only undermine the credibility of the

On Tuesday, the General Secretariat of the OIC expressed concern over the Supreme Court verdict. The Supreme Court had, on Monday, upheld the Centre's decision on August 5, 2019, to abrogate Article 370. The OIC deemed the reversal of Article 370 "illegal and unilateral" and demanded its recall. In the statement, it said, "The General Secretariat reaffirms its solidarity

with the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their quest for the right of selfdetermination and reiterates its call on the international community to enhance its efforts to resolve the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions?

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, which has 57 member states across four continents, describes itself as the collective voice of the Muslim world.

CM of MP, Chhattisgarh take oath

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Mohan Yadav and Vishnu Deo Sai Were sworn in as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh respectively on Wednesday in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home ident JP Nadda, and Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma will take oath on December 15. In Bhopal, Mohan Yadav (58), the

leader of the BJP legislative party and MLA from Ujjain South, was administered the oath of office by Governor Mangubhai Patel at the Lal Parade Ground in Bhopal. Jagdish Devda and Rajendra Shukla were sworn in as Deputy Chief Ministers. Before the swearing-in ceremony, Yadav visited a temple in Bhopal and then proceeded to the State BJP office to pay respects to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, one of the founding members of the Jana Sangh, and BJP's founding ideologue Syama Prasad

The swearing-in ceremony saw the crowd chanting "mama, mama" as Chouhan arrived on stage, while "Modi, Modi" slogans remained prevalent throughout the ceremony. Ahead of his swearing-in ceremony, Mohan said that Madhya Pradesh would follow in the footsteps of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in leading the country. "I come from the land of

King Vikramaditya, and I am

Mookerjee.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister-designate Mohan Yadav during the latter's swearing-in ceremony in Bhopal on Wednesday. Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel is

committed to the progress of the State and fulfilling the aspirations of crores of citizens of Madhya Pradesh. We will witness the same good governance that existed during the rule of King Vikramaditya,' said Yadav, the three-time BJP MLA and the 19th Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.

He is the State's fourth OBC Chief Minister from the BJP since 2003, following Uma Bharti, Babulal Gaur, and Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Yadav's appointment as Chief Minister also marks the end of the era of BJP stalwart and four-time CM Singh Chouhan, who Shivrai dominated the State's politics for close to two decades.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde, his deputy Devendra Fadnavis, Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami, Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel, Union Ministers Jyotiraditya Scindia and Nitin Gadkari were

present on the occasion.

In Raipur, four-time Lok Sabha MP and three-time State BJP chief Vishnu Deo Sai, the BJP legislative party leader and MLA from Kunkuri seat, was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh on Wednesday. State BJP chief Arun Sao and MLA Vijay Sharma took oath as Deputy Chief

Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan administered the oath of office and secrecy to Sai and his two deputies during a grand ceremony held at the Science College ground, attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP president JP Nadda, Union Ministers Amit Shah and Nitin Gadkari, and Chief Ministers of some States.

Earlier in the day, Sai offered prayers at the Jagannath temple in Raipur ahead of his swearing-in ceremony. He also paid tributes to freedom fighter Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee by garlanding their statues at different places in the State Capital, officials said. Later, Sai reached his residence in Purena area and sought his mother's blessings. He and his wife Kaushalya Devi Sai performed "Navgrah" puja at their house, the statement said. Sai (59) will be the fourth Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, which was created in

Sao (54) hails from the influential Sahu (Teli) OBC community. Sharma (50), a Brahmin, is the State BJP's general secretary.

Continued on Page 2

Opposition seeks Shah resignation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

everal Opposition Smembers on Wednesday demanded an explanation from the Government regarding the security breach in the



Lok Sabha. They also claimed that security arrangements in the new Parliament building are not sufficient and need to be addressed immediately. The TMC demanded the resignation of Home Minister Amit Shah. The Rajya Sabha saw sloganeering, and some

Opposition members walked out in protest after their demand for the adjournment of the House and the presence of Shah in the House was not met.

Parties of the Opposition INDIA Bloc will hold a meeting on Thursday morning to discuss their future course of action regarding the security breach in Parliament and are planning to meet President

Droupadi Murmu. Trinamool Congress leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay announced that the Opposition parties will gather at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's residence on

Thursday morning to address the matter. Sources have indicated that Opposition leaders are contemplating seeking statements from the Government in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on the security breach.

Continued on Page 2

Massive repatriation of artifacts under Modi rule

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The list of Indian artifacts, The list of mulan management including cultural antiquities and figurines stolen over centuries and now returning home, is getting longer, particularly in the past decade. An analysis of government data reveals that the majority of additions to the Indian treasure trove happened in the past ten years, i.e., from 2014 to 2023, when as many as 344 were retrieved from foreign countries. This is a notable increase compared to the period from 1976 to 2013 when only 13 artifacts were brought back to India, highlighting a shift in efforts and outcomes in recent years.

More such antiquities are in the process of being repatriated, said sources in the Archaeological Survey of India under the Union antiquities recovered from abroad during the past ten years, at least 31 artifacts retrieved from Australia, Singapore, the UK, and the USA belong to Tamil Nadu. "The government is committed to

bringing back the antiquities of Indian origin taken away from India. Whenever any such antiquity of Indian origin surfaces abroad, the ASI takes up the matwith the Indian Embassies/Missions abroad through the Ministry of External Affairs for retrieval," said Union Minister of Culture G Kishan Reddy in the Lok Sabha recently. In a written reply to a query, he added that over centuries, innumerable priceless artifacts, some with deep cultural and religious significance, have been stolen and smuggled abroad.

The government has adopted a Culture Ministry. Among the proactive approach to "bringing

On numerous foreign visits, Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed the matter with global

back Indian artifacts and culturand multilateral leaders al heritage". institutions.

Repatriation of Indian antiquities exported illegally is carried out

irrespective of states. Whenever

the theft of an antiquity is reported, an FIR is lodged in the concerned police station, and a "Look Out Notice" is issued to law enforcement agencies, including Custom Exit Channels, to keep vigil, trace stolen antiquities, and prevent their illegal export. If an antiquity is traced, the case is pursued by the concerned law enforcement agency in coordination with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for recovery, said Reddy. The list of 157 artifacts that have

been added to India's treasure trove, handed over by the United States following Prime Minister Modi's visits in 2016 and 2021, includes a diverse set of items ranging from the one-and-a-halfmetre bas-relief panel of Revanta in sandstone of the 10th CE to the 8.5cm tall, exquisite bronze Nataraja from the 12th CE. The items largely belong to the period from the 11th CE to the 14th CE, as well as historic antiquities such as the copper anthropomorphic object of 2000 BC or the terracotta vase from the 2nd CE. Some 45 antiquities belong to the Before Common Era. While half of the artifacts (71) are

cultural, the other half consists of figurines related to Hinduism (60), Buddhism (16), and Jainism (9). Their make spreads across metal, stone, and terracotta. The bronze collection primarily contains ornate figurines of wellknown postures such as Lakshmi Narayana, Buddha, Vishnu, Siva Parvathi, and the 24 Jain Tirthankaras, as well as the less common Kankalamurti, Brahmi, and Nandikesa, besides other unnamed deities and Continued on Page 2

Security at Maharashtra I-T raids former TMC MLA house, 8 other places Legislature stepped up

LS breach: Suspect's home raided in Latur

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

fter a major security breach in the Lok Sabha Aearlier in the day, the police on Wednesday evening beefed up security in and around the Maharashtra Legislature in Nagpur where the winter session is currently on, even as the police raided the home of one of the four suspects involved in the breach at Latur and questioned

Within hours after one of the four miscreants breached security and created a commotion in Lok Sabha on the 22nd anniversary of the Parliament terror attack, the police deployed additional security personnel in and around the legislature complex where security checks were intensified and a vigilance is being maintained on the roads leading to the Vidhan Bhavan.

On his part, Maharashtra, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis — who holds the home portfolio — spoke to State Director-General of Police Rajnish Sheth and directed him to investigate the antecedents of Amol Shinde of Zari village in Latur district, who is one of the four persons arrested in the Parliament security breach.

Meanwhile, the two teams of Latur Police swooped on the home of Amol Shinde (25) and searched cupboards and other storage places, in their effort to look for documents, literature or any other pieces of evidence that would link to the Parliament incident.



Amol's parents told the police that their son had left home two weeks ago saying he was going to New Delhi. They claimed that their son had not told them anything about the purpose of his visit to the national capital.

More details about Amol, including his antecedents, his friends, relatives and acquaintances and his links, if any, with questionable organisations and persons engaged in subversive activities, will emerge, when the Delhi police subject him to custodial interrogation in the com-

slogans such as "Tanashahi Nahi

The area around Parliament was turned into a fortress following the incidents with the PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $A^{ ext{fter recovering more than}}_{ ext{Rs 354 crore of unexplained}}$ cash from the residences of an Odisha Congress MP, the Income Tax Department on Wednesday conducted raids in the premises of a former Trinamool Congress MLA and eight other related persons,

Officials said that they also spoke to former TMC MLA Sohrab Ali and the other businessmen whose houses were raided, refusing to divulge whether they had recovered any document or hidden cash. The raids were conducted in Asansol, Durgapur and Raniganj areas, as the businessmen did not pay taxes for



Meanwhile, the Enforcement Directorate investigating the ration scam has alleged in a charge-sheet filed against arrested State minister Jyotipriya Mallick that they had been able to trace till now a Rs 400 crore scam. The ED, which submitted documents running into more than 3,000 pages along with the

charge sheet filed under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), claimed that food grain worth at least Rs 400 crore had been sold in the market, an advocate

Mallick had personally gained Rs 36 crore thus far, the officials told the Calcutta High Court, adding this could just be the tip of the iceberg.

3 killed, 34 hurt after water tank collapse

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

A t least three persons, including a woman, were killed and 34 others injured, some of them seriously after an overhead colonial-era water tank collapsed over waiting passengers at Burdwan Railway station about 110 km from Kolkata. The accident occurred at about

12.10 pm Eastern Railways sources said adding the tank built in 1890 could store about 58,400 gallon of water. "Today an overhead water tank

on platform numbers 2 and 3 at Burdwan railway station collapsed, killing three people and injuring 27 others," the city SP said, adding that the injured had been shifted to the Burdwan Medical College and Hospital. "Some passengers were waiting for a local train to arrive when the tank collapsed suddenly ... literally trapping under it about 35-40 people ... the Railways staff including the Railway Protection Force immediately rushed to the spot and conducted the rescue operations," a senior official said. According to the officer, the water tank was made of corrugated metal

"The Railways have rushed in senior doctors from Kolkata BR Singh Hospital — an Indian Railways facility — to Burdwan," Eastern Railways Chief Public Relations Officer S Mitra said adding the Railways would provide all kinds of assistance including treatment to the vic-

The accident disrupted services at the junction. Speaking on the reason for the collapse the CPRO said that things could be ascertained only after an inquiry. "Authorities have ordered a probe into the tank collapse and suspended work of three employees," a senior official said. A similar accident had taken

place three years ago when a portion of the old colonial structure of the Burdwan junction had collapsed, injuring several persons.

Meanwhile, local Trinamool Congress MLA Khokan Das accused the Narendra Modi Government of neglecting the safety and security of Indian Railways. "Modi ji is interested in stunt politics ... increasing fares ... but not appointing new staff ... about 3.5 lakh posts are vacant

in the Indian Railways out of which about 1.7 lakh is in the safety and security department," he said.

Alleging that there was grave deficit of maintenance insofar as the overhead tank was concerned he said, "it is a 133 year old tank which is seldom maintained ... the policy of this Government is to only announce so-called premium trains like Vande Bharat etc but doing nothing about preserving the lives of the common man who travel in the trains ... you saw what happened in Odisha

The BJP however defended the Indian Railways saying "freak accidents were not out of ordinary in a country." A senior State BJP leader said that the accident was the result of a few negligent officials and not the policy decisions taken by the Railway

Major fire breaks out in Lokmanya Tilak Terminus, nobody injured

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

A major fire broke out in the canteen, booking and waiting areas platform number one the Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (LTT) in north-central Mumbai on Wednesday afternoon, leading to panic among the passengers present. However, there were no injuries or casualties in the mishap.

The fire erupted at around 2.50 pm, prompting the railway authorities to move out the passengers from the Jan Aahar Canteen, ticket booking and waiting areas.

As the fire spread, three fire engines and two ambulances arrived on the scene to douse the blaze. Before long, a video clip of the

fire - showing thick clouds of smoke emanating from the roof of the railway terminus went viral on social media. Not wanting to take any chances, the Central Railway authorities switched the power in the station area and discontinued the Overhead Equipment (OHE), resulting in suspension of train services. A Central Railway spokesperson said that the fire was extin-

guished at around 3.30 pm. There were no injuries or casualties in the mishap," he

Though the cause of fire has not been established, it is believed that the sparks from the welding work that was going on at a Pod hotel being constructed at the concourse area, might have fallen on the foam material kept in that area leading to the fire. Incidentally, the Jan Ahar canteen is located next to the under-construction Pod hotel where the fire spread. The waiting longue and booking area are located in the vicinity of both these struc-

termini for long distances in Mumbai, the others being Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Dadar on the Central Railway, Mumbai Central and Bandra on the Western Railway.

The LTT is one of five railway

Members who overpowered the

On 2nd anniversary...

From Page 1

From Page 1

course of action.

two persons inside the Lok Sabha chamber said, "One of them was saying I am a patriot and came here to protest." Many Lok Sabha members beat up the intruders before handing them over to security. JD(U) member Ramprit Mandal said the intruders had hidden the gas canisters

Opposition...

The Opposition parties will

jointly decide the future

Amid sloganeering, Leader

of the Upper House and

Union Minister Piyush Goyal

said, "The Rajva Sabha is the

House of Elders. We should

convey a message that the

country is above all this. We

must let the House function.

The Congress is indulging in

the politicisation of the issue,

which will not be good for

the nation. An enquiry is

being conducted. Let us wait

for its findings and allow the

House to function smoothly."

reassembled at 2 pm,

Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar

informed the MPs about the

security breach in the Lok

Sabha, as some members

sought to raise the issue.

"The information I have is

that the intruders in the Lok

Sabha visitors' gallery have

service is examining the

matter forthwith. We will

apprise the members of the

results before I adjourn for

Raising the issue of the

security breach, Leader of the

Kharge termed it a "very

serious matter". He stated

that opposition members

Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mrs. Maltil Rathore is the owner of Property No. 109, area measuring 100 sq. yds. 53 61 sq. mrs., Part of Khasra No. 14/177, situated at Rani Laxmi Bhai Nagar Colony, Village Dundahera, Pargana Loni, Distal Ghaziabad, U.P. acquired the same from Mr. Ravinider Singh Sisodia vide Sale Deed dated 30 05.2008 registered as Document No. 3001, at SRO-Ghaziabad-I, and intend to mortgage against the financial assistance from Jurly Small Finance Bank Ltd That That Original Sale Deed dated 27 08.1991 rescueded Mr. Eccharam. Mr. Liladhar & Mr. Chaman Singh in favour of Mr. Ravinder Singh Sisodia, duly registered vide Doc. No. 11496, on 27 06.1991, at SRO-Ghaziabad-I, stostMisplaced/Not available and continue Lost Report vide L RN 0.1096/539/2023, dated 02.11.2023 has been lodged by Mrs. Malti Rathors with sregard. To comply the requirements of BANK NBFC, we give his public notice that if any Persinaving any type of daiminipht little/interest/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing and the address mentioned below, about his dejections, with the side property is free from all type of the said property is free from all type

the day," Dhankhar said."

immediately

Mallikarjun

security

been

apprehended.

parliamentary

Opposition

in their shoes and sprayed yellow-coloured gas in the Lok Sabha chamber. Mandal, who was near the intruder, said RLP member Hanuman Beniwal and other members overpowered the person. "One of the two was raising slogans 'Tanashahi nahi chalegi," Mandal said. At the same time in a similar

incident, after opening the gas canisters that emitted the smoke outside the Parliament building, the two protesters also raised

have also participated in a tribute to those who laid

down their lives for the

country. 'We are always ready

for the country's unity and

security. The sacrifices made

by our people are unmatched

environment and

Kharge further stated, "You

allowed the House to

function, but this is a very

serious problem. It is not just

a question of the Lok Sabha

question is how two people

managed to intrude in the

presence of such a large

To this, Dhankhar remarked

that the moment he came to

know about the incident, the

Director of Security was

"I told him to give me an update. I have shared with

the House the update which

he gave me at that point in

time. It is a matter of

concern, but let us await full

details, and I think we'll be

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
To, be known to all that my client, SHRI SABHYASACHI
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the owner of DDA MIG FLAT NO.33, DN FIRST + SECOND
FLOOR, STUILARD AT SHEIRH SARAH, REW DELHI-110017, VIDE
DDA FILE NO FAQUEZYFS/HB. The original documents i.e.
original DEMAND LETTER, POSSESSION LETTER, NOC
FOR WATER & ELECTRICITY CONNECTION and SITE
POSSESSION SLIP of the above said property have been
lost or misplaced by my client and is not traceable inspite
of his best efforts. An F.IR./NOR to this effect has been
logded in the Police Station. Crime Branch, Delhi (LR No.

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कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल

यांत्रिक विभाग (मुख्यालय) गोविंदपुरा (बी.एच.ई.एल)

able to reflect," he added.

security apparatus."

called by him.

the Rajya Sabha. The

legislative

good

transacting

Chalegi" (dictatorship will not be allowed), "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "Jai Bheem, Jai Bharat," police officials said. Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora visited Parliament to take stock of the situation after the twin security breaches

deployment of police and para-

Massive repatriation of artifacts under...

From Page 1 The motifs include religious

to yours,' he said." sculptures from Hinduism As some Opposition members were shouting slogans, Dhankhar asked (Three-headed Brahma, Chariot-Driving Surya, Vishnu and his Consorts, Siva as them not to do so, stating Dakshinamurti, Dancing Ganesha, etc), Buddhism that the House is 'not a place to shout slogans.' (Standing Buddha, Bodhisattva "We need not politicise every Majushri, Tara), and Jainism issue politically. It is a security issue," the Rajya Sabha chairman said. He (Jain Tirthankara, Padmasana Tirthankara, Jaina Choubisi), as well as secular motifs observed that the Lok Sabha (Amorphous couple in Samabhanga, Chowri Bearer, is currently functioning in a

Female playing drum, etc). In 2013, one antiquity was returned to India from France; while in 2023, two were returned from Australia, seven from the UK, and 85 from the US, according to the data. A stone sculpture of Nagaraja (the serpent king) was retrieved from Australia in 2020, among the 291 antiquities retrieved since that year. Last year, Scotland returned 7

artifacts that belonged to several regions across India, including a ceremonial Indo-Persian sword from the 14th century and an 11th-century carved stone door jamb seized from a temple in Kanpur.

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, returned 15 artifacts. These included a ceramic pot from Chandraketugarh belonging to the 1st century B.C.E, a stone bust of Kamadeva, the God of Love, from the second half of the 8th century C.E, a Svetambara enthroned Jina, with attendant Yaksha and Yakshi from the 11th century CE, among other things. Officials said that 36 artifacts returned between 2017 and 2020 were from Australia, the US, and the United Kingdom. The recovered items included metal idols of Ram, Sita, and Laxman, a stone

sculpture of Nataraj, stone sculptures of Brahma and Brahamani, a Bodhisattva head, 'Dancing Shiva,' a metal Ganesh idol, and a Sri Devi artifact from the Chola period. Several artifacts were handed over to India between 2014 and 2016, the initial period when Prime Minister Narendra Modi took oath as Prime Minister. The repatriated artifacts included the Nataraja and the Ardhanariswara artifact in 2014 from Australia, the Parrot Lady artifact from Canada. the Mahisamardini from Germany, while the Uma Parameshwari was returned by Singapore in 2015.

drowning incidents occur due

to lack of knowledge and

awareness regarding water safe-

Drowning prevention in India

requires a comprehensive and

strategic approach that encom-

passes awareness, education,

data-driven interventions.

infrastructure development,

collaboration, and strength-

ened emergency response," she

Pawar noted that investing in

ty measures.

underlined.

Appalling Security... From Page 1

"We had an incident-free era in the Old Parliament as the entire security apparatus was managed by PSS, except for entry, which was handled by Delhi Police. We were trained for profiling visitors and assigned codes if any suspected face was present in the visitors' lot, enabling PSS personnel to be extra cautious. We used to relay warnings yet facilitated guests without caring about whoever recommended the visitor. Besides, we allowed visitors to sit after the 4/5th seating rows, and special suspected face as it was already earmarked in the entry passes, said a Parliament security source who also shared the various formats of training they undergo every year.

Now, the present scenario has Old Parliament, with their duty confined only to the issuance of passes from CPIC (Centralised which involves frisking and engagement

is to be done by the CRPF. "In the present circumstances,

the security system has completely failed. This is the biggest failure as the learning and process of profiling a person are too vital, easing the burden on the deployed staff. In this case, both the profiling and reflex action by the security forces failed. It was Parliamentarian colleagues who were more alert after the jumped," accused

personnel. While entrance with a valid authorized pass was granted, another issue that failed to be noticed was the presence of visitors beyond the allotted time slot. The two accused, Manoranjan D and Sagar Sharma, who jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber, had visitors' passes for 45 minutes, but they stayed in the visitors' gallery for close to two hours, violating the rules, sources said. Parliament sources said three passes were issued at the behest of BJP MP from Mysuru, Simha, Prathap Wednesday. However, one person, a woman, had to return as she arrived with her child, whose name was not mentioned in her pass. The

requests from members of their constituency.

changed, and PSS guards the Parliament Identity Card). The inner layer, visitors/guests in the galleries,

another explained PSS

woman had no connection with the two accused.

Manoranjan D has been

pursuing Simha and his office

for the pass for over three

months. Facing flak, Simha's

office defended him, saying

MPs generally entertain such

The "tried and trusted" PSS is

now short-staffed by around 125 men of the sanctioned strength, and the last recruitment was done in 2013, while during the decade, several superannuated and vacancies against them were

filled by deputation. Sources said the sanctioned strength of security officials in the hierarchy ranging from Special Director (Security) to Security Assistant Grade-II is around 301, while the actual strength is 176-a vacancy of

of 72 in Security Assistant Grade-II, the actual strength is only nine, they said, adding that the corresponding figure for Security Assistant Grade-I is 24 against a sanctioned

strength of 69. Serious questions are already being raised about the security breach, which comes on the 22nd anniversary of the terror attack on the old Parliament building. Hours earlier, President Draupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi led a tribute to the nine

people who were killed. Doubts were expressed over the security arrangements in the NPB, which boasts sophisticated gadgets for foolproof vigilance of the Parliament.

During the Special session of Parliament this September, which also saw the inauguration of the new parliament, there were visitors shouting slogans hailing the PM after which the Opposition had sounded an alert over such indecent exhibition of prowess

As a Parliament correspondent for more than a decade now, the author of this report would observe that the PSS would not even allow visitors to carry any handkerchief, and the visitor gallery, which was next to the media gallery in the House, had several PSS men at designated spots even if on a given day there was only one visitor. The same drill applied to the MP spouse gallery, and even they could not carry any objects, including electronic items.

on the floor of the house.

revamped, including allotting separate entrances to MPs, staff members, and the press. Visitors, when allowed back, will enter from a fourth gate. In addition, the visitors' gallery will now be encased in glass to stop people from jumping into the Lok Sabha chamber. Body scan machines, similar to those in airports, will be installed in

After the scare, Parliament security protocols have been

Rajya Sabha expresses concern over suicides among students PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $M_{
m party\ lines,\ in\ the\ Rajya}^{
m embers,\ cutting\ across}$ Sabha on Wednesday expressed concern over suicides among students and Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar proposed a discussion on the issue and suggested evolving an ecosystem where student suicides can be minimised and brought down to

He made these assertions during Ouestion Hour in the Raiva Sabha where five supplementaries were asked by members on suicides among students due to stress of competitive

examinations. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan replied to all oral supplementaries but the members continued to show their anxiousness over the issue.

भोपाल, दिनांक 11.12.2023

District Bhopal

Taking cognisance of the seriousness of the issue, Dhankhar said, "I appeal to the honourable members that this is an issue (in which) we must involve ourselves. We can make huge contributions."

He suggested evolving an ecosystem where student suicides can be minimised and brought down to zero.

"Everyone has a role to contribute. I will be open to a discussion on this issue as the members may feel," he stated. Earlier, replying in the House on the starred or oral questions, Pradhan informed the members that, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), there were 1,70,924 (1.70 lakh) suicides reported in 2022. Of these, suicides due to failure in examinations were 2,051 or 1.2 per cent. "I take responsibility

of this (suicides by students).

reported every year: Govt PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ 'Strategic Framework for **NEW DELHI** Drowning Prevention' along with Union Minister of State for Health SP Singh Baghel here, highlighted that many

38,000 cases of drowning

Every year, 38000 cases of drowning are reported in the country which is a huge number and to prevent these cases, the Government on Wednesday stressed on investing in the development of safe recreational spaces and enhancing safety infrastructure around water bodies in addition to establishing a strong reporting system at both local and national levels for identifying high-risk areas and implementing due interven-

Union Minister of State for emergency response. Pawar, who unveiled the

Health Bharati Pravin Pawar on Wednesday said drowning prevention in India requires a comprehensive and strategic approach that encompasses awareness, education, datadriven interventions, infrastructure development, collaboration and strengthened

the development of safe recreational spaces and enhancing safety infrastructure around water bodies in addition to establishing a

strong reporting system at both local and national levels for identifying high-risk areas and implementing due interventions will go a long way in preventing drowning

population and is the second for

have a maximum of 13 ministers, including the Chief norm.

and old-timers. Sai is the first tribal Chief Minister from the BJP in most dominant social group after OBCs.

comeback to power in the November polls, winning 54

emerged victorious in one Assembly constituency.

down-to-earth approach, work dedication, and determination to achieve goals. Sai has headed the BJP's Chhattisgarh unit three times, displaying the Central leadership's faith in his organisational skills. It was BJP stalwart late Dilip Singh Judev who encouraged Sai to enter electoral politics in 1990. In the same year, Sai was elected as an MLA for the first time on a BJP ticket from Tapkara (in Jashpur district) undivided Madhya Pradesh. He retained the seat in the 1993 assembly polls.

Minister, according to the surrounding State political circles suggest that the new council of ministers will consist of a mix of fresh faces

Chhattisgarh. The party decided to give the top post to a leader from the community that accounts for nearly 32 per cent of the State's

seats in the 90-member State The Congress, which won 68 seats in 2018, was reduced to 35, while the Gondwana Gantantra Party (GGP)

Despite inheriting a family political legacy and holding key portfolios when he was a Union minister, Sai is known

CM of MP, Chhattisgarh... From Page 1 The Chhattisgarh cabinet can

The BJP made a stunning Speculation Assembly.

निविदा आमंत्रण घोषणा-पत्र क्र. 209/यां.वि./2023 Online percentage/item rate bids for the following works are invited from registered contractors and firms of repute fulfilling registration criteria:

of Contract (In Rs.) (in Months) 2023 UAD PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND BEAUTIFICATION WORKS AT 10009250/-_303303_2 FOOD STREET, SHAHPURA, BHOPAL WARD NO 48 ZONE NO 06 Interested bidder can view the NIT on website https://www.mptenders.gov.in/ The Bid Document can be purchsed only online from 10:30 A.M. (time) 09.12.2023 (date) to 17:30 P.M

Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website https://www.mptenders.gov.in/ only, and not For electrification related works: It is mandatory for bidder should have own "A" Class electrical registration or agreement with "A" Class electrical registration Holder (Attach as per)

The initial period of 03 (three) year after completion shall be treated as Defect Liability Period (DLP) **Executive Engineer** MUNICIPAL CORPORATION BHOPAL

नि.क्र. 1237/023/024

(time) 26.12.2023 (date)

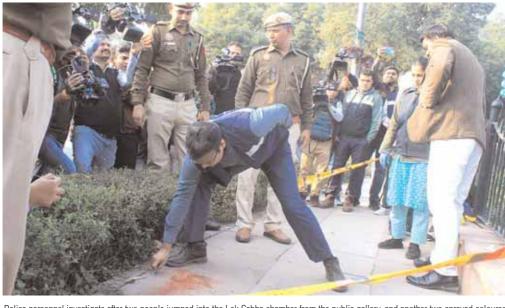
Parliament security breach planned, coordinated: Police

said the Parliament security breach was well-coordinated, meticulously planned and carried out by six accused, five of whom have been nabbed. Sagar Sharma and Manoranjan D who were held inside the Lok Sabha chamber, and Amol Shinde and Neelam -- caught outside Parliament -- are in police custody. All six were known to each other and were staying in a house in Gurugram, they claimed.

According to sources, Lalit and Vikram are suspected to be their accomplices. While Vikram has been detained from Gurugram, Delhi Police teams have been sent to various locations to nab Lalit. "No mobile phones have been found on the accused and police are looking for their phones," said a police source. The accused set off coloured smoke canisters both inside and outside the Parliament. They also indulged in sloganeering outside the Parliament.

after two people jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber from the public gallery and opened canisters that emitted a similar-coloured smoke, triggering panic among the MPs. They were identified as Sagar Sharma and Manoranjan D. Video footages from the House's CCTV system revealed one man,

The incident happened minutes



Police personnel investigate after two people jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber from the public gallery, and another two sprayed coloured gas from canisters while protesting outside the Parliament premises, in New Delhi on Wednesday

jumping into the Lok Sabha

chamber and also sought action

against BJP MP Prathap Simha

The communication from Lok

Sabha Secretary General to

who felicitated their passes.

ing across desks to evade capture, while the second was in the visitors' gallery spraying smoke. Television footage showed them jumping from desk to desk, and appeared to be headed towards the Well of the House. Both men were overpowered by MPs and security staff.

In another video showed a Lok Sabha official reading to the House seconds before the chaos. Suddenly, shouts of "catch him, catch him" can be heard.

Sagar Sharma and Manoranjan D jumped into the Lok Sabha cham-ber from the public gallery during Zero Hour, released yellow gas from canisters and shouted slogges before being overpowered by MPs. Around the same time, Amol Shinde and Neelam sprayed coloured gas from canisters while shouting slogans "tanashahi nahi chalegi" outside the Parliament

sources, however, played down

the chances of any serious

action against Simha, saying it is

a routine practice for MPs to write

for passes for people and they cannot be blamed for their

a day when the nation is observing the anniversary of the 2001 Parliament attack. Terrorists from Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed outfits attacked the Parliament complex on this day in 2001, killing nine people. Police sources said the Parliament

security breach was a well-planned and well-coordinated incident carried out by six people, all of whom were in contact with each other over Instagram and other social media platforms where they hatched the plan. The accused devised the plan a few days ago and carried out a recce, they said. "Five of them stayed at Vikram's residence in Gurugram before coming to the Parliament. As per the plan, all six wanted to go inside the parliament but only two got passes, the source said. Interrogation of Amol Shinde revealed that the six accused had known each other for the past four years through social

"They had the same ideology and hence decided to give a message to the government. The security agencies are trying to ascertain if they were instructed by anyone or any organisation. During interrogation, Amol said they were upset with issues like the farmers' protest, Manipur crisis, unemployment, that's why they committed this act," a police source said.

Man, woman detained for protesting outside **Parliament**

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A man and a woman were detained on Wednesday for protesting out-side the Parliament building carrying cans that emitted yellow and red smoke. They have been identified as Neelam, 42, of Haryana's Hisar, and Amol Shinde, 25, of Maharasthra's

The incident happened minutes after two people jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber from the public gallery and opened canisters that emitted a similar-coloured smoke, triggering panic among the MPs. Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora visited the Parliament to take stock of the situation after the twin security breach.

The area around the Parliament was turned into a fortress following the incidents with the deployment of police and paramilitary. The Delhi Police's Special Cell has been tasked with the investigation of both the incidents, according to officials. Forensic teams visited the Parliament to gather scientific and physical evidence.

Special Secretary (Home) came as sary of the 2001 terror attack on conduct. ing demanded a through probe It happened all of sudden, say visitors

Opposition seeks probe into Parliament security lapses

all-party meeting in which mem-

bers from different parties flagged

a variety of issues and raised secu-

rity concerns in Parliament's new

building, more so as the security

breach happened on the anniver-

Visitors at the public gallery of the Lok Sabha on Wednesday said the two protesters who jumped into the House's chamber were sitting quietly and disrupted the proceedings "all of a sudden".

An eyewitness who was sitting at the public gallery said that while some Lok Sabha MPs were chasing the protesters, a smoke canister was thrown by one of them inside the House. "The protesters were not chanting any slogans while being seated at the public gallery and jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber all of a sudden," the eyewitness said.

The moment the protesters jumped into the House's chamber, the MPs tried chasing them. The protesters also threw a smoke canister there. During the incident, we were evacuat-

According to the eyewitnesses, around 30 to 40 visitors were seated at the gallery of Lok Sabha when the "security

kind of an incident inside the Parliament, despite five layers of security," another eyewitness

Eyewitnesses outside the

tions," he said.

breach" took place.

"It was shocking to see such

Parliament claimed that despite

Two persons jumped into the

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) was on Wednesday

asked to launch a security review

of Parliament as members of

Opposition at an all-party meet-

Lok Sabha chamber from the public gallery during Zero Hour and released yellow gas from canisters and shouted slogans before being overpowered by MPs. Around the same time, two persons, including a woman, also sprayed coloured gas from canisters while shouting slogans 'tanashahi nahi chalegi' outside the Parliament



having passes, they were not allowed inside. Narayan Swami, one of the eyewitnesses, claimed that 23 of them had gathered outside the Parliament after acquiring passes to visit the gallery of the House, but they were denied "We had visitors' pass but were not allowed entry," Swami claimed.

The area around the

Parliament was turned into a fortress following the two incidents with paramilitary and police personnel deployed in large numbers. The Delhi Police's Special Cell will investigate both the incidents, according to officials.

The two incidents came on a day when the nation is observing the anniversary of the 2001 Parliament attack. Terrorists of Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed outfits attacked the Parliament complex on this day in 2001, killing nine people.

After opening the gas canisters that emitted smoke outside the Parliament building, the two shouted "Tanashahi Nahi Chalegi" (dictatorship will not be allowed), "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "Jai Bheem, Jai Bharat," officials said.

While she was being taken away by police personnel, the woman told reporters that they did not belong to any organi-

sation and were students. "My name is Neelam. The Indian government is subjecting us to oppression; when we raise our voices for our rights, we are beaten and thrown into iail. We are subjected to undue force. We do not belong to any organisation. We are students and we are unemployed.

Security breach on 2001 anniversary attack on democratic values: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday said the security breach inside Parliament on the anniversary of the 2001 attack was an "affront to our democratic val-

In a major security breach on the anniversary of the 2001 Parliament attack, two persons on Wednesday jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber from the public gallery and opened canisters that emitted a yellow-coloured smoke, triggering panic among the MPs. The House was adjourned soon after the incident. A man and a woman were detained on Wednesday for protesting outside Parliament with cans that



police said.

'Today's breach in Parliament, on the solemn anniversary of 2001 attack, is an affront to our democratic values. The security of our temple of democracy cannot be compromised. An urgent investigation is vital to uncover who were the attackers, how did they get in, what were their motives ...

strict," Kejriwal said in a post on X. AAP Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha called the breach "an agonizing echo of that dark day". "India still remembers the attack on our Parliament in

Action must be swift and

2001. Today's security breach is an agonizing echo of that dark day, reopening wounds on its anniversary," he said in a post on X. "This is not just a breach; it's an outright attack on our democracy. An immediate and thorough investigation is needed to swiftly unmask the perpetrators," he added.

He underlined the need to protect the country's democratic institutions, calling Parliament "a sacred symbol" of

Atishi directs DJB to take field visits to gauge situation

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A week after she rapped its officials over sewage overflow, Delhi Water Minister Atishi on Wednesday directed Delhi Jal Board to send officials on ground regularly to take stock of the situation. According to a notice she

issued to the body, the DJB CEO has been directed to take at least two field visits every week and the chief engineers three field visits in the same period.

"All remaining junior engineers, additional engineers, additional chief engineers and superintending engineers have been directed to visit the ground on a daily basis,' Atishi's notice to DJB CEO said. The minister said that the reports of the field visits have to be submitted to the CEO and the chairperson every Monday. "CEO DJB must ensure strict compliance of the directions issued. Non-compliance of any officer will be viewed adverse-

ly," she added.

The minister had on December 7 pulled up the Jal Board officials for the sewage overflow in Wazirpur JJ Colony, Shakti Nagar Extension, Ashok Vihar Phase III areas of north Delhi. Atishi, in a statement, said that her office has been constantly receiving complaints regarding sewer overflow from different parts of the city. She



personally visited several areas in Sultanpur Majra, Pocket A Mayur Vihar, Áshok Vihar, Chitla Gate, Nehru Hill along with concerned local area officers and disappointed to say that the ground situation of these areas was not only dismal but inhuman.

"During my visit, I found dirtv water from the sewer overflowing onto the roads. In most cases, people living in the vicinity informed me that they have been facing these issues for several months now. In some cases, the residents informed that the problem of sewer overflow has been so persistent that they have been forced to step on bricks to get out of their houses. The negligence of some DJB officers has created unhygienic conditions for people living in these areas. This is totally unacceptable," she said. "She was shocked to say that DJB officials, even senior officers, were unable to answer public queries," Atishi said.

AAP Government running away from debates: R.IP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

head of the winter session And the Delhi Assembly later this week, BJP MLAs on Wednesday alleged that the AAP Government was running away from debates on issues related to the people of the city. No immediate reaction was available from the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) over the charge. There are eight BJP MLAs in the 70-member House as against AAP's 62.

At a joint press conference here, Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri alleged that the Kejriwal government in the last four years did not allow notices of the BJP legislators over issues related to He claimed that his party's LOP in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri and other MLAs at a press conference in New Delhi on Wednesday MLAs have given notices for debates on issues like the poor

भारतीय जनता पार्टी, दिल्ली प्रदेश

condition of transportation, compensation to farmers, pollution in the Yamuna, old age pension and non-issuing of ration cards.

The winter session of the Delhi Assembly will begin on Friday. Apart from tabling revised estimates of the budget, debates on different issues are likely in

Ranjan Dimri I Pioneer the House during the two-day

Bidhuri highlighted issues such

as the misuse of government funds in the construction of the Chief Minister's residence, manipulation in the files of the Vigilance Department, the failure of the AAP government in health and education, and the financial crisis of Delhi

Transport Corporation. **.G nod to assistant PP**

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a move aimed to speed up trials in city courts, Delhi Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has approved the promotions of 13 assistant public prosecutors to additional public prosecutors, the Raj Niwas said on Wednesday.

The promotions will help speed up cases in the day-today working of the subordinate judiciary in the national capital. Since the creation of 17 new courts recently, the trial process was facing an acute shortage of additional public prosecutors, it said in a state-

The promotions will be for six months or till the posts are filled by regular recruitment through the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), whichever is earlier.

The 13 assistant public prosecutors recommended for promotion by the screening committee have successfully completed the mandatory training and are clear from a vigilance angle, the Raj Niwas said.

According to the Recruitment Rules, they have completed the eligibility requirement of being in service for six years as assistant public prosecutors, the statement said.

Leopard found dead near Khatushyam temple in Alipur

STAFF REPORTER **NEW DELHI**

leopard was found dead Aleoparu was round and Aleoparu was round and Mighway (NH) 44 near Khatushyam temple in north Delhi's Alipur in the early hours of Wednesday, pólice said. This comes just days after a leopard was sighted multiple times in south Delhi's Sainik Farms area.Police said they received a PCR call at around 4am and upon reaching the spot, found the animal lying on one side of the road.

This prima facie appeared to be a case of traffic accident. The body has been taken into the custody and forest department informed for further necessary action," police said. It is unclear if this was the same leopard that was spotted in South Delhi's Sainik Farms area last week.

A week ago, a leopard was spotted in South Delĥi's Sainik Farm area and the forest department had put up trap cages to capture the animal. As the trap came up empty, forest officials said they figured the leopard had gone back to the Aravalli forests.

Another police officer said forest officials would check if this is the same animal that was spotted in south Delhi. Some residents have claimed that they spotted a leopard in Mukmelpur village located in



Alipur two days ago, the official added. The status of leopards in Delhi has been a highly debated one. According to a 2022 report, at least eight leopards were in the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, which is close to the Sainik Farm. There have been reports of leopard sightings in Asola

Bhatti for the past few years, but their presence was only confirmed last year. In January this year, the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) had released a video showing a leopard cub emerging from a burrow inside the sanctuary. This was the first documented leopard cub in Asola Bhatti and is believed to have been

Compose your own melody, don't replicate success: DU VC

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi University Vice Chancellor Professor Yogesh Singh on Wednesday said in the symphony of commerce, do not replicate success stories and compose your own melody. He also said craft a narrative that resonates with innovation, resilience, and ethical purpose while speaking at the inaugural function of the 74th Annual All India Commerce Conference (AICC) of the Indian Commerce Association (ICA) here. Delhi Lt Governor V K Saxena, in his address, expressed his gratitude and appreciated his association with Delhi which has strengthened his conviction. He said it is important to reflect the rich history of the Indian Commerce Association and talked about its achievements since 1947.

Talking about the theme of the conference 'One Earth, One Family, One Future,' he mentioned about how it brings back the ancient philosophy of sharing responsibility to nurture the one family, Earth, and how this triple foundation method can boost growth in

the world. He said sustainability, growth, development and inclusiveness are measures of performance in the future and will help companies to

gain confidence, reassurance, profitability along with the sustainability and betterment of the society. Saxena mentioned that there needs to be harmony in the society to achieve the goals of the theme.

The Department of Commerce, Faculty of Commerce and Business, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi is hosting the 74th AICC which will end on December 15.

Puri introduces bill to extend protection to unaut 2024 to December 31, 2026. unauthorised developments in mercial space and other civic Provisions) Second Act, 2011, relocation and rehabilitation of dairy and poultry) in

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Wednesday introduced the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Act, 2023 in Lok Sabha extending the validity of the said Act for a period of three years from January 1,

The Act aims to protect certain forms of unauthorised developments in Delhi from punitive action. Puri introduced the bill, which extends the protection given to unauthorised

buildings till 2026. The Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act, 2006 was enacted on the May 19, 2006, of Delhi over the last many initially for a period of one year, to protect certain forms of demand for housing, com-

Delhi from punitive action. This protection to various forms of unauthorised developments in Delhi has continued thereafter, through Ordinances and Acts enacted from time to time. "The phenomenal growth of

years has led to increase in

amenities. The gap in the demand and supply has resultsaid Act. the National Capital Territory

ed in the problems of encroachment on public land, growth of slums, unauthorised constructions, etc," as per the statement of objects and reasons of the It further said in the year 2011, a comprehensive legislation,

namely, the National Capital

Territory of Delhi Laws (Special

was enacted which was valid for a period of three years upto 31st December, 2014. The validity of this Act has been extended from time to time with such modification as were necessary and the current validity is upto December 31,

As per the provisions of the 2011 Act, orderly arrangements had to be made for

dwellers slum and Jhuggi-Jhompri clusters; unauthorised colonies, village abadi area (inculding urban villages) and their extensions; farm houses involving construction beyond permissible building limits; schools, dispensaries, religious and cultural institutions, storages, warehouses and godowns used for agricultural inputs or produce (including

rural areas built on agricultural land; guidelines for redevelopment of existing godown clusters (including those for a storage of non-agricultural goods); special areas and policy or plan for orderly arrangement in all other areas of the National Capital Territory of Delhi in consonance with the Master Plan on

Nation pays tributes to security personnel under Modi rule: Sarbananda

ation paid tributes on Wednesday to security personnel who laid down their lives in the 2001 terror attack on Parliament with President Droupadi Murmu saying the nation will forever be indebted to the brave security personnel and asked all to reiterate the pledge to wipe out ter-

Terrorists of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed outfits attacked the Parliament complex on December 13, 2001, killing nine people. All five terrorists were gunned down by the security forces

"On this day, 22 years ago, the nefarious plan of terrorists to eliminate the top line of political leadership of the country and damage our Temple of Democracy was foiled by the brave security personnel, inclu-

ding the nine who laid down their lives for the motherland, Murmu said in a post on 'X'. The nation will forever remain

in their debt, she said. "Their sacrifice will not be allowed to go in vain as we reiterate today our pledge to wipe out terror- a threat to humankind $\begin{array}{ll} everywhere -- in \ all \ its \ forms \\ and \ \ manifestations," \ \ the \end{array}$ President said.

In Parliament, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla led the nation in paying tributes to those who laid down their lives in the terror attack. Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi

and Mallikarjun Kharge, Home Amit Minister Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, Commerce Minister Pivush Goval, Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh were among others who offered floral tributes to the martyrs



Modi was seen interacting with the family members of the martyrs, particularly children who had gathered for the ceremony on a wintry morning. Later, Modi was seen having a chat with the Rajya Sabha Chairman.

"Remembering the courageous security personnel who laid down their lives during the attack on our Parliament in

ture of its defence forces includ-

ing acquiring nuclear powered

submarines and long-range

'But Australia's defences are

not enough alone," he said adding, "We need partners to

achieve strategic balance --

partners with whom we share

a common cause." "Australia

is investing in our network of

strategic partnerships. We

know that when countries pool

their resources and combine

their strengths, that is a deci-

sive competitive advantage,"

The Australian envoy said

military

strike systems, in view of var-

ious security challenges.

2001. Bharat is forever indebted to them for their supreme sacrifice," the Vice President

"Terrorism remains a threat to humanity worldwide, and it is imperative for nations to stand united in eradicating this obstacle to global peace," he said. In a post on X, the prime minister said, "Today, we remember and pay heartfelt tributes to the

try" since the end of the Second

"This build-up is occurring

without transparency, or reas-surance to the region about its

intent. And it is not just in the military domain where we see

"We are seeing strategic competition play out amongst a range of states across multiple

domains: from the economic to

the diplomatic, to the geo-

technical,interwoven by a contest of narratives," he said.

'We are witnessing the use of

coercive trade measures, polit-

ical interference, and disinfor-

mation. Such actions by some

countries encroach on the abil-

ity of others to fully exercise

their sovereignty and to decide

their own destinies," he added

Green argued that such behav-

iours are "compounding" risks

globally, and pose historic and significant dangers to "our

"I'm only four months into my

time here, but my impression

is that India knows these things

better than many others

Australia has felt, in different

ways, the impact of these

"Ànd if India and Australia

want to preserve an open, sta-

ble and prosperous Indo-Pacific, we need each other," he

Green also delved into the

bilateral defence ties and said

dynamics," he said.

ways of life"

World War.

this," he said.

said in a post on X.

brave security personnel martyred in the Parliament attack in 2001. Their courage and sacrifice in the face of danger will forever be etched in our nation's

On December 13, 2001, terrorists attacked the Parliament complex and opened fire. Their attempt to storm Parliament House was foiled by personnel from the Parliament Security. from the Parliament Security Service, CRPF and Delhi Police. The attack victims included Kamlesh Kumari, a constable with the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the first to spot the terrorists and raise an alarm. Jagdish Prasad Yadav and Matbar Singh Negi of the Parliament watch and ward, and Nanak Chand, Rampal, Om Prakash, Bijender Singh, Ghanshyam of the Delhi Police and Deshraj, a gardener with the CPWD. A journalist, who was injured in the attack, died later. All five terrorists were shot

North East has become a "powerhouse of India's growth" under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said on Wednesday

Addressing a press conference, the former Assam chief minis-ter said Modi has delivered more than his guarantees for the region during his over nine years at the helm during which peace and security" have been restored in the region which faced decades of "neglect" under the Congress' rule.

Sonowal said over Rs 5 lakh crore grant has been given to the eight states in the region in over nine years in a major boost to its infrastructure, including roadway, railways, waterways and air connectivity. The number of airports has risen to 17 from nine,



Targeting the Congress, which used to be most powerful political force in North East, he said terrorism, protests, weak governments, bad policies and scams afflicted the region under its rule as people faced an uncertain future.

The Congress, he alleged, was mostly interested in looting its resource while people had to protest for basic development needs and the region's representatives had to wait for months in the national capital to get appointments with ministers and officials, often in vain.

Under Modi, the government has reached out to people of the region with the prime minister himself visiting a record 64 Central ministers have visited the region 362 times in the last

two years and over 800 times in over nine years, as the prime minister instructed them and officials to work sincerely and with commitment to boost development there, he said. Modi has shown a leadership driven by dedication, commitment and patriotism to restore peace and pride to the region which got to showcase its culture and civilisation to the world during the G20 exercise as it host-

ed several events, he said. The steps taken by the government have borne fruits and the North East has now awakened, the BIP leader said.

It has become a powerhouse of India's growth and has become an important destination," he

Wellness

curriculum to

improve students

emotional health

India 'indispensable' partner for strategic equilibrium against China build up: Australia

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

India is an "indispensable" partner critical for ensuring strategic equilibrium against the backdrop of China's "largest military" build-up without any transparency after the Second World War as well as challenges such as coercive trade measures and political interference, Australian High Commissioner Philip Green said on

In an address at the Asia Society Policy Institute, the newly-appointed envoy said India and Australia want to preserve an open, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific and that both sides see the region the same way and know what needs to be done. Delving into various aspects of

the India-Australia engagement in the last around five years, he said it was the "fastest rise" in a major power relationship that his country has ever experienced and it is expanding further. In an oblique reference to

Washington's allegations of an

A Notice of intended marriage has beer received from Mr. Pawan Singh Bisht S/o Late Mr. D.S.D Bisht R/o House No. 800

AUSTRALIA - INDIA RELATIONS IN 20

Indian link to a failed plot to kill a Sikh separatist and Canada's charge of "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of a Khalistani extremist, Green said New Delhi and Canberra are managing sensitive issues.

We are also learning about each other at a deeper level: we've had our differences and we're managing sensitive issues including the concerns we have about alleged activities on US and Canadian territory," he

Green said Australia has begun a "generational reinvestment" in the size, capability and struc-

"And India is an indispensable partner, critical for achieving the sort of strategic equilibrium that we need," he said in his A notice of intended marriage has beer received from Mr. Ernie Dsouza S/o Mr Johnny Dsouza R/o A-357A, Block-A, Palam first public analysis of India-Australia partnership, its importance and the regional security challenges.

> City Magistrato Marriage Officer Noid

Vihar Gurgaon - 122001 and Ms. Yoshi Sharma D/o Mr. Neeraj Sharma R/o L-49 Sector-11, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Naga (U.P.) in the office of the undersigned, a person interested therein, may file objections to it on any day upto 05-01-2024 n the office of the undersigned.

Late Mr. D.S.D Bisht R/o House No. 800, Arun Vihar, Near Lal Market, Sector-37 Noida, Distr. Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.) and Ms. kalyani Rajesh Ghule D/o Mr. Rajesh Ramkrishnan Ghule R/o Plot no. 09, Ring Road Near Shrush Traders, Ganesh Colony, Bhusawal, Jaigaon, Maharashtra-425201 in the office of the undersigned, any person interested therein, may file objections to it on any day upto 10-01-2024 in the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-City Magistrate/Marriage Officer Noida Gautam Budh Nagar

APPENDIX IV-A

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation ar

Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforce

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and

Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls

Housing Finance Ltd. ICIN: L65922DL2005PLC1360291 ("Secured Creditor")

the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever

there is" basis on 30.12.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 12,03,383/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Three Thousand Three Hundred Eighty

Three only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLDCP00494113, by way of

11.12.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 12.12.2023 along with legal expenses and othe charges due to the Secured Creditor from SUDHEER RANJAN and MEERA DEVI.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 6,75,000/- (Rupees Six Lakh Seventy Five Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be

Rs. 67.500/- (Rupees Sixty Seven Thousand Five Hundred only) i.e. equivalent to

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

FLAT NO. SF - 3 (L. I. G) HAVING AREA 27.87 SQUARE METERS EQUIVALENT

TO 300 SQUARE FEET ON 2ND FLOOR (WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS), REAR RHS

CONSTRUCTED UPON PLOT NO. 64, BLOCK - E, SITUATED IN S. L. F. VED

VIHAR. VILLAGE SADULLABAD. PARGANA & TEHSIL LONI. DISTRICT

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided

APPENDIX IV-A

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and

Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor" the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of

the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whateve there is" basis on 30.12.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery o Rs. 31,63,631/- (Rupees Thirty One Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Six Hundred

Thirty One only) pending towards the Loan Account No. HHLKUN00313983, by

way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest in 1.12.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other

related loan document(s) w.e.f. 12.12.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from RAJIV PARKASH GUPTA, SUDHA GUPTA and ABHISHEK GUPTA.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 24,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 2,40,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Forty Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshobidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in

GHAZIABAD - 210102, UTTAR PRADESH.

Date: 12.12.2023

Place: GHAZIABAD

g principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest til

Authorized officer Indiabulis Housing Finance Limited

Gautam Budh Nagar

now the "largest of any coun- "landing points" all the time.

APPENDIX IV-A Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and

Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforce Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and

Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls lousing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor") the **physical possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whateve basis on 30.12.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 16.30.893/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Thirty Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Three only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOI00292668, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 08.12.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 09.12.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from SURESH DUBEY (PROPRIETOR INDUSTRIAL GAS AND CHEMICALS CORP) and SITA DUBE The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 22,00,000/- (Rupees

wenty Two Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 2,20,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Twenty Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

FLAT NO. 003 MEASURING 975 SQUARE FEET (90.58 SQUARE METERS) ON

GROUND FLOOR IN TOWER T - 5, SECTOR 07 IN THE PROJECT KNOWN AS "PARK VIEW DELIGHT", BESTECH CITY CENTRE, VILLAGE MALPURA, DHARUHERA, REWARI - 123401, HARYANA TOGETHER WITH CAR PARKING

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabi idding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in

Date : 11.12.2023 Place : REWARI

Authorized office Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

APPENDIX IV-A Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement)

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005FLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there Is" basis on 30.12.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 38,05,845/- (Rupees Thirty Eight Lakh Five Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Five only) pending towards Loan Account No. HDHLLAJ00486354 (Earlier LAN Code 00044598 of DHFL), by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 11.12.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) we f. 12.12.2023 along with Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 12.12.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from PRADEEP KUMAR, BHARAT SINGH and JAMOTRI DEVI.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 20,50,000/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Fifty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 2,05,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Five Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

BUILT UP NORTHERN SIDE THIRD FLOOR (LHS) WITH ALL ITS ROOF RIGHTS, WITH PROPORTIONATE AREA MEASURING 75 SQUARE YARDS ON PROPERTY BEARING PLOT NUMBER 48, TOTAL AREA MEASURING 150 SQUARE YARDS, OUT OF KHASRA NUMBER 410 SITUATED IN THE REVENUE ESTATE OF VILLAGE NAWADA IN THE ABADI KNOWN AS MOHAN GARDEN IN BLOCK - H, UTTAM NAGAR, DELHI - 110059 WITH COMMON CAR PARKING SPACE ON AT STILT FLOOR ALONG WITH PROPORTIONATE, UNDIVIDED, INDIVISIBLE AND IMPARTABLE OWNERSHIP RIGHTS IN THE LAND / PLOT AND WHICH IS BOUNDED AS UNDER:EAST: PORTION OF PLOT H-48, WEST: ROAD 20 FEET,

SOUTH: UNIT OF RHS AND ROAD 20 FEET, NORTH: OTHER'S PROPERTY For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullsh

Date: 12.12.2023 Place: NEW DELHI

Authorized officer Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

Smoking shrinks brain, quitting prevents further loss, says study PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

It is well known that smoking can cause long-term effects on health and increases the risk of cancer, and cardiovascular diseases. If this still does not deter you from quitting the habit then more ill-effects are at your disposal. According to a study by researchers at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, smoking shrinks the brain. The good news is that quitting smoking prevents further loss of brain tissue — but still, stopping smoking doesn't restore the

age prematurely, the researchers The findings, published in Biological Psychiatry: Global Open Science, help explain why smokers are at high risk of age-related cognitive decline and Alzheimer's disease.

brain to its original size. Since

people's brains naturally lose

volume with age, smoking

effectively causes the brain to

'Up until recently, scientists have overlooked the effects of smoking on the brain, in part because we were focused on all

the terrible effects of smoking "It sounds bad, and it is bad," Bierut said. "A reduction in

on the lungs and the heart," said senior author Laura I. Bierut. the Alumni Endowed Professor of Psychiatry. "But as we've started looking at the brain more closely, it's become apparent that smoking is also really bad for your brain." Scientists have long known

that smoking and smaller brain volume are linked, but they've never been sure which is the instigator. And there is a third factor to consider: genetics. Both brain size and smoking behavior are heritable. About half of a person's risk of smoking can be attributed to his or

brain volume is consistent with increased aging. This is important as our population gets older, because aging and smoking are both risk factors for dementia?

"You can't undo the damage that has already been done, but you can avoid causing further damage," Chang said. "Smoking is a modifiable risk factor. There's one thing you can change to stop aging your brain and putting yourself at increased risk of dementia, and that's to quit smoking.

NEW DELHI In align with the vision set out by the National Education Policy, 2020, and outlined under the National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2023, that emphasises the holistic development of learners, the Oxford University Press India has

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

lum" for school children to help them understand emotions, build an active body, develop healthy relationships and understand the importance of ecological care.

designed '"wellness curricu-

'My Happiness and Me" is a series of eight activity work-books designed for schoolchildren in classes 1-8. Officials said the curriculum

aims to assist the children in navigating their mental, emotional and physical wellbeing. "The wellness curriculum is a unique, research-based publication aligned with NCF 2023. The series 'My Happiness and Me' offers learners a toolkit to navigate their emotions and relationships successfully. This approach, validated by the Oxford Impact Study, not only enhances wellbeing but also leads to improved educational outcomes in core disciplines," India Managing Director

Sumanta Datta. We are confident that this active learning pedagogy will bring joy to the learning experience and contribute to shaping well-rounded individuals. Our study found that incorporating wellness curriculum in schools ensures that learner engagement is high, and they experience greater success. It

reduces dropout rates in schools and raises self-efficacy and self-esteem levels amongst learners," Datta added. The curriculum focuses on developing capacities that promote learners' wellness such as fitness, good health, psychosocial wellbeing and sound

ethical grounding, especially in the post-pandemic period. There are five overarching

themes in each book — My Mind, My Body, My Relationships, My World, and Nature Is beautiful. "Each of these guides learners through a range of topics, including managing anger, anxiety, stress, as well as issues such as recognizing good and bad touch, bullying, gender discrimination, nutrition, exercise and many others. The series is an accessible way to help children unpack their thoughts and feelings, helping them become well-rounded individuals as they grow," Datta said.

Plasma therapy saves terminally ill liver patient



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

team of doctors from Fortis AGreater Noida saved a 29year-old patient suffering from hyperacute liver failure by treating him through plasma therapy. Usually, a liver transplant is needed in such patients.

However, the doctors from the Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatobiliary Sciences at the hospital preferred to give plasma therapy to save the patient who had came to the hospital with complaints of fever and jaundice and even failed to communicate properly due to swelling in his brain (cerebral edema).

and required immediate ICU care," said Dr. Apurv Pande, Consultant, Gastroenterology and Hepatobiliary sciences, Fortis Greater Noida. This is a rare, reported condition that happens in only 1% of cases where the patients slip into jaundice and develop other complications such as swelling in the brain," he added.

"He suffered from hepatitis A

In most cases, the patient with timely medical attention recovers in a few days. Since the patient was very young and transplant would have required time to arrange a donor, we decided to give the patient plasmapheresis at the intensive care unit for cerebral Edema

(brain swelling) and liver support. Plasmapheresis is a procedure

where the blood is removed from the patient and the cellular components RBC, WBC, and platelets are separated from the plasma in the machine. The plasma is discarded, and fresh plasma and albumin are mixed along with the cellular components and returned to the body", said the doctors. Pramit Mishra, Facility Director, Fortis Hospital Greater Noida, said, "In cases of hyperacute liver failure, patients can lose their lives if the right treatment is not provided. Other than the liver transplant, plasmapheresis has proved beneficial in saving lives."

Navy to commission INS Tarmugli today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

he Indian Navy will induct

a Fast Attack Craft, INS Tarmugli on Thursday in a ceremonial commissioning ceremony at Naval Dockyard, Vishakhapatnam, navy officials said here on Wednesday. The ship has a unique distinction of having served under the flag of two nations with three names during her distinguished service till date. Commissioned in the Indian Navy as INS Tillanchang,



Region(IOR), they said. active service till 2006, and The ship was commissioned into MNDF as MCGS Huravee thereafter gifted to the Maldives National Defence Force on 16 April 2006, and served (MNDF) by the Indian governthere till its decommissioning in ment India, as part of diplomatic May 2023. The ship was outreach in the Indian Ocean returned to the Indian Navy, which also provided an in-service Waterjet Fast Attack Craft, INS Tarmugli, to MNDF as the new MCGS Huravee. After detailed examination of

the returned ship, a decision was taken to refurbish, repair and reinduct her into the force levels of the Indian Navy. The ship has undergone extensive repair and upgradation by the Indian Navy at Naval Dockvard, Vishakhapatnam, over the last six months, and is scheduled to be commissioned as 'INS Tarmugli' on

103.12 SQUARE METERS EQUIVALENT TO 1110 SQUARE FEET, TOWER-U BUILDING NO. U-1 IN THE GROUP HOUSING COMPLEX "KINGSBUR" APARTMENT", TDI CITY SITUATED IN VILLAGE KUNDLI, SONIPAT – 131101 **HARYANA**

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiab

Date: 12.12.2023 Authorized office Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

Congress took 12 anti-people decisions in Himachal Pradesh: BJP

Congress' rule in Himachal Pradesh as a year of failures, BJP state media in-charge Randhir Sharma on Wednesday said the government's 12 months signifies 12 anti-people decisions.

The Congress government in the state celebrated one year in office on Monday.

Sharma said that it was a year of wait as the women waited for Rs 1,500 per month, the farmers waited for good price for their produce and milk, the youth waited for job and the Congress MLAs waited for cabinet expansion.

The state government took 12 anti-people decisions in 12 months which included closure of educational, health, revenue and other institutions, hike in

PTI MUMBAI

a long time.

unreasonable

29 this year.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Veteran BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi on Wednes-

day called Bihar Chief Minister

Nitish Kumar a "fused bulb" and

challenged him to fight th Lok Sabha election against Prime Minister Narendra Modi in

Reacting to reports of the Bihar Chief Minister holding a rally in

Varanasi later this month, Modi

said, "Nitish Kumar is a fused

bulb, which can flicker, but

"He could not make his candidates win in Madhya Pradesh...

Their impact is limited to their

states. He is holding the rally

because of Akhilesh Yadav...

Fight the election against Naren-

dra Modi if you dare. Arvind

Kejriwal came to fight, and ran

away," the BJP leader said. PM Narendra Modi is an MP

Union Rural Development

Minister and Begusarai MP Giriraj Singh said Nitish Kumar

has no "credibility" and called

him the creator of a modern day

never light up."

from Varanasi

"In any parliamentary democracy, gov-

ernance is done by elected representatives

who are the voices of people. If the rep-

resentative is no more, another must be

Sushil challenges Nitish to

fight against Modi in Varanasi

"Kamasutra."

'Nitish Kumar has no credibil-

ity, what role is he going to play? He has no role left even in Bihar.

His role in public life got over the

day he insulted women in the

Bihar assembly and became a

new creator of Kamasutra," said

Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Manoj Jha meanwhile took a jibe

at Prime Minister Narendra

Modi, saying there is no guaran-

tee that he will be elected the

next time as well. Asked abut the Bihar chief min-

ister's rally in Prime Minister

Modi's constituency, Jha said, "Is

he (Nitish Kumar) committing

"Does PM Modi own Varanasi?

A public representative is a

public representative... There is

no guarantee that he will be

elected the next time. Nitish ji is

the CM of a state... Any com-

mon citizen can go to Varanasi,"

Nitish Kumar is scheduled to

hold a public meeting in

Rohaniya assembly segment of

Varanasi on December 24.

a crime?'



price of diesel and food items. tax on tourist vehicles and the pilgrims visiting the temples in Dev Bhoomi Himachal, termination of outsource employees and many more, he added.

The BJP leader said that it took the Congress government one year to appoint two ministers and one cabinet berth is still over 15,000 people became

It seems that the Congress aspirants eying the posts of the chairman and the vice-chairman have to wait further, he added.

'There was no reason for celebration as monsoon diaster claimed over 500 lives and

homeless, but the government was insensitive to celebrate one year in office," Sharma told the media here.

Alleging that the Congress government misused official machinery for celebrating one year in office, the BJP leader said that Himachal Road Transport Corporation

taking the people to the rally at Dharamshala Escalating his attack, Sharma

(HRTC) buses were used for

said that some of the Congress leaders, including AICC gener-al secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, were not present during the celebrations.

She chose to skip the event even though she was in Shimla, he added.

No member of the Gandhi family or the central leaders were present at the rally on the government's first anniversary in Dharamshala barring party in-charge for the state Rajiv

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu had claimed that Congress leaders Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who had reached Shimla on Sunday, and Rahul Gandhi would be present at the event.

states were also arriving to offer worship, he said. Vijayan was addressing a press conference on the sidelines of the Nava Kerala Sadas outreach programme in the district. Coming under attack from

PTI ■ KOTTAYAM (KERALA)

gently in temple matters.

devotees are offering worship at

the temple daily this year, as per

As Sabarimala is a national pil-

grimage centre, large number of

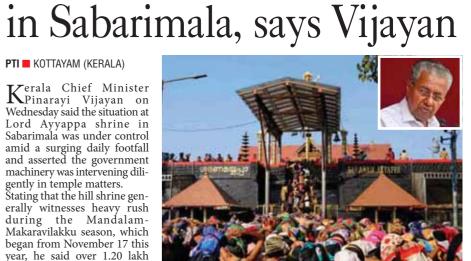
devotees from neighbouring

opposition parties, including the Congress and the BJP over the government's alleged failure in managing the heavy rush at the hill shrine, the chief minister deputed state Devaswom Minister K Radhakrishnan to Sabarimala.

Radharkishnan will reach Sannidhanam after assessing the amenities being provided to the pilgrims at Erumely, Nilackal, and Pamba, a government official said.

Rejecting opposition criticism that the crowd management plans of the government and the Travancore Devaswom Board have failed, the CM said devotees are allowed to trek upwards only based on the rush at the Sannidhanam (temple complex) each time.

"Uncontrolled heavy rush cause some accidents beyond our control. So, we are handling matters with utmost care," he



If an average of 62,000 people visited Sabarimala daily in the initial days of the last Mandalam pilgrimage season, the number had crossed 88,000 in the four days from December 6 in the ongoing season, he said. Pilgrims from neighbouring states who could not visit the shrine earlier due to the flood in Chennai and the assembly election in Telangana are now

No uncontrolled situation

In the wake of the heavy rush, the darshan timing was extended by one hour, Vijayan said. The CM further said that over 20,000 pilgrims came through spot booking in the last few days, and an additional 5,000 people came through the traditional forest path.

coming in large numbers, he

explained.

"Altogether, more than 1.20 lakh pilgrims arrive in a day. Public holidays tend to be more crowded. As a result, pilgrims had to take more time to reach Sabarimala. This is what happened there in the last few days," Vijayan said.

He added all necessary facilities are being provided to the pilgrims at the hill shrine, and it has also been decided to limit the spot booking as part of plans to manage the heavy

Detailing the measures taken by

his government for Sabarimala. he said a total of Rs 200 crore has been allocated in the last seven years under the Sabarimala masterplan.

He also rejected criticism that the absence of an adequate number of police personnel was the reason for the failure in crowd management.

The CM said as many as 16,118 police personnel were deployed at Sabarimala during the ongoing pilgrimage season.

Vijayan also slammed the opposition UDF MPs' protest in front of the Parliament on Tuesday, seeking the Centre's intervention in the Sabarimala issue, and urged them not to use the Lord Ayyappa temple for political gains.

There is no uncontrolled situation prevailing in Sabarimala, he said, adding that all government agencies are intervening in matters related to the shrine with the utmost caution.

Meanwhile, the death of a Sabarimala pilgrim was reported from the Pullumedu forest route on Wednesday.
Police said the pilgrim collapsed while heading to the

shrine through the traditional forest route.

A police team has been sent to shift the body to the hospital, they said.



put in place. People cannot go unrepresented. That is wholly unconstitutional and is a fundamental anathema to our constitutional structure," the court said The court passed its order on a plea filed by Pune resident Sughosh Joshi against a certificate issued by the EC to not hold the bye election to the constituency.

The EC had said it would not be holding the bypoll on two grounds - one that it was busy with other polls including the preparatory activities for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and second that even if the Pune bypoll was held the elected representative would get a very short tenure. The bench, however, refused to accept these grounds and said both are not valid concerns. They are, in fact, an "abdication" of constitutional duties and obligations which cannot be accepted, it said

'The ECI is not only vested but charged with the duty and obligation to hold elections and see to it that any vacancy is filled in. The ECI cannot let a constituency remain unrepresented. Voters cannot be

denied this right," the court said. It noted that the term of the Lok Sabha ends in June 2024 while the Pune conMarch this year.

"The ground that the entire machinery of the ECI was busy with the preparato-ry activities for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections borders on the bizarre," the court

The court said these are not genuine difficulties expressed by the ECI to not hold the Pune bye election and hence they are wholly unacceptable.

"No amount of inconvenience can undermine the statutory and constitutional obligations and duties cast upon the ECI This is something unthinkable and would amount to sabotaging the constitutional framework," the court said in its order.

The court noted that the poll body's powers and directions are not exempt from judicial review, especially when the same affects public law and interest.

Allowing the petition, the bench quashed the EC's certificate and directed it to hold stituency seat has been lying vacant since the Pune bypoll immediately.

rass his people at Moreh. I think it is little beyond his con-

stitutional rights. It is an inter-

nal matter of Manipur govern-

ment." Moreh is a border town

located on the India-Myanmar

border in Tengnoupal district of

Earlier, addressing a gathering,

Singh said, "I had communicat-

ed about the ethnic violence in

Minister Himanta Sarma and

Nagaland CM Neiphiu Rio and

Manipur.

affairs: Biren tells Mizoram counterpart the state police should not har- resolve the issue and restore

Singh added. Singh asserted, "I am mentioning all this because there is no disagreement or tussle between Manipur and Mizoram. There are Meiteis in Mizoram and Mizos in Manipur There ar more than a lakh Meiteis in Assam and Tripura too. In the they had offered their support to Northeast, we all live together.

"The rockets are always bound

to fail; whenever it is ready for

I also had talks with Tripura, Meghalaya and Sikkim CMs

and they too extended their help to bring normalcy in the state,"

peace."



Kerala Governor continues attack on CM, Ministers activists of the Students

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Governor Arif Moha-mmed Khan on Wednesday continued his scathing attack on Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his cabinet by alleging that "they have absolutely no shame". The Governor was referring to the alleged criticism against him from the Left government ministers over nominations by him to the senate of certain uni-

"How are they concerned about whom I nominate to the senate? The CM and the ministers have absolutely no shame. The state Finance Minister came and requested me to nominate a per-

versities in the state.

"How did these people (CM and ministers) know that the people I nominated were different from the list recommended by the Vice Chancellor? They (CM and ministers) recommended the list of nominees to the VC to recommend the same to me," Khan alleged while speaking to reporters in the national capital. He said he had ordered an inquiry and if it was found that VCs were recommending names proposed by the CM and ministers, "I am going to take action against those VCs".

"No one can force me to nominate someone. If I have the power, I will exercise my discretion. I am not obligated to tell you (media) how I exercised my

discretion," Khan said. On being told the Kerala High Court had stayed the nomination of four students to the senate of the University of Kerala, by him as Chancellor of universities, Khan said he was not aware of the reasons for the same. He also said that the High Court did not say anything

about the nominations while staying the same. Regarding the incident of Federation of India (SFI), the student wing of the CPI(M), attacking his vehicle while he was on his way to the Thiruvananthapuram International Airport on Monday night, Khan questioned how government property can be damaged in the name of protest. When reporters said that some ministers of the LDF government had criticised his actions post the attack and allegedly called him a 'goonda', Khan said that showed their "mindset". Ministers P Rajeev, A K Saseendran and P Á Mohamed Riyas came out in support of SFI

while hitting out at Khan. 'They (ministers) are entitled to their opinion. Everybody has seen my car has been attacked. I am not attacking anyone. But for them, their political morality. If this is what they are saying, they are taling about their own personality and character. That is their mindset, their mental level," Khan said.

The Governor also questioned whether government property can be damaged as part of a 'natutral protest'.
"Do they (SFI) have the right to

damage government property in the name of protest?" he ques-

He also pointed out that a case under section 307 (attempt to murder) of the IPC was invoked

against those who raised "verbal slogans" inside a plane. "It hap-pened only recently," he said. Khan also questioned the purpose behind the state government's outreach programme, Nava Kerala Sadas, by saying that if the intention was to gather applications or petitions, that could have been collected locally and sent to the state capital. He said if a solution to the problems of the people was being given right at the spot, "then it

ISRO to develop ECLSS for Gaganyaan mission: Somanath

Don't interfere in Manipur internal

rSRO chairman S Somanath on IWednesday said the space agency has decided to indigenously develop the environmental control and life support system (ECLSS) for the upcoming human space flight mission Gaganyaan, after it failed to get it from other countries. The Gaganyaan project envisages a demonstration of Indian Space Research Organisation's human spaceflight capability by launching a human crew to an orbit of 400 km and bringing them safely back to earth by landing in Indian sea waters. It is expected to be launched in 2025. "We have no experience in developing an environmental control life support system. We were only

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh has asked his

Lalduhoma not to interfere in

the internal affairs of the state.

Singh said while neighbouring states can extend their support

to resolve the ethnic strife in

Manipur, he requested the

Mizoram chief minister to

internal matters of another state.

Talking to reporters on the side-

lines of a programme here on

counterpart

designing rockets and satellites. We thought that this knowledge would come from other nations, but unfortunately after so much discussion, nobody is willing to give it to us," Somanath said. He was addressing the 5th edition of Manohar Parrikar Vidnyan Mahotsav 2023 at Dona Paula, an event organised by Goa's Science, Environment and Technology Department. Somanath said that ISRO has now decided to indigenously develop the ECLSS. "We are going to develop it in India using the knowledge we have and using the industries that we have," he said. Speaking about the challenges before the Gaganyaan programme, he said India has been into knowledgebuilding design capability devel-

Tuesday, Singh said, "I have seen

one comment from the newly

appointed CM of Mizoram that

opment over the last so many years and the pinnacle of this is going to be the Indian human space flight programme.

When we send humans to space through our Gaganyan programme, I think the amount of skill and confidence that we need to have has to be higher than what we currently have," he said. Somanath said that the confidence-building process is happening all across ISRO today with the support of national laboratories. The first part of the Gaganyaan programme is the Gaganyaan programme is the

launch our tension and heartbeats go up because even if the rocket is built very safely having all the processes followed, some-

thing can still go wrong," he said. "And if it goes wrong, then there is nobody who is able to correct it or adjust it. Thousands of elements should work without any flaw to make a launch happen, he said. Somanath said that there is always a risk of failure. When you have a failure possibility, then you must have protection against it in human space flight. This is a core of human space flight - that we should not put the risk of having the astronaut lost due to the failure in the rocket," he said.

Congress seeks CPI(M) support for polls to 2 LS seats in Tripura West Tripura and East Tripura, a reserved seat for ST, and the

PTI ■ AGARTALA

Tripura Congress leader Sudip Roy Barman on Wednesday sought CPI (M)'s support to take on the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls to two parliamentary constituencies in the northeastern state.

In the assembly elections earlier this year, the CPI (M)-led Left Front had entered into an electoral alliance with its once archrival Congress to defeat the BJP-IPFT combine

The northeastern state has two parliamentary constituencies -

BJP won both seats in the 2019 elections. "Tripura Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) is preparing itself to take on the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections here. We understood the gravity of the assembly polls in which the CPI(M) fought in more seats than the Congress. Even in the by-election to two seats-Dhanpur and Boxangar- the CPI(M) put up candidates," Roy Barman told reporters at

Congress Bhavan. The Congress contested 13 seats



the last elections held in February, while the Left Front fielded candidates in 47. The Left Front won only 13 seats and in the by-election, the CPI(M) lost two seats to BIP candidates.

"To defeat the BJP in the state,

support to the Congress in the parliamentary elections. The Congress can't sacrifice all the time," he said. Roy Barman, however, made it clear that the TPCC will abide

by the decisions to be taken by the party's central leadership. Asked about possible talks with the Tipra Motha, the main opposition party in Tripura, the Congress MLA said Pradyot Kishore Manikya, the regional party supremo, had met him in his residence recently and discussed some issues.

Bhajan to be sworn in as Rajasthan CM on December 15 **PTI** ■ JAIPUR

The swearing-in ceremony of Bhajan Lal Sharma, the chief minister-designate in Rajasthan, and his deputies Diya Kumari and Prem Chand Bairwa will be held on December 15.

A BJP spokesperson said the oath ceremony will be held outside Albert Hall at 11.15 am on Sharma, a first time MLA, was

on Tuesday announced as the chief minister-designate dur-ing a BJP Legislature Party meeting in the presence of the party's central observers Rajnath Singh, Saroj Pandey and Vinod



Vidhyadhar Nagar MLA Kumari and Dudu MLA Bairwa were announced as the picks for deputy chief ministers and Ajmer North MLA Vasudev Devnani as speaker of the www.dailypioneer.com

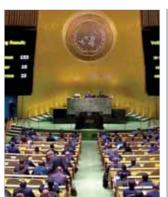
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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Course correction

India deftly changes stance on West Asia conflict, backs UN Resolution for cease-fire in Gaza

tanding up to 'friends' like the US and Israel in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), India has voted in favour of a draft Resolution demanding immediate ceasefire in Gaza and unconditional release of all hostages. Traditionally cautious in its approach to international conflicts, India voted in favour of the Resolution during an emergency session along with 152 other countries. However, the US, Israel and Austria were among the 10 countries that voted against the Resolution, with Israel's Ambassador to the UN Gilad Erdan claiming that a ceasefire will not benefit the people of Gaza but only "the terrorists" who steal the humanitarian aid for themselves. Another 23 - including Argentina, Ukraine and Germany - abstained. The development shows India's tough side as it did not toe the US line and even went against Israel, with which it has traditionally had strong military, tech and strategic ties. India has also had historical relations with the Palestinian people and a commitment to



the principles of justice and self-determination. Given India's ties in West Asia, it started with a balanced and neutral approach: In the not-so-distant past, it abstained from the similar Resolution, which meant it was tilting in favour of Israel. But keeping both sides happy in a war-ravaged region like West Asia is next to impossible. The latest vote in favour of ending the Gaza conflict is yet another indication that India would not give up its sovereign right to exercise its pow-

The latest change in India's stance is noteworthy as it reflects a nuanced evaluation of the situation and a departure from the past. It is a sort of course cor-

rection as India has drawn much flak for not standing by Palestine. India's support for the UN Resolution underscores its growing concern over the escalating violence and humanitarian crisis in West Asia. The conflict has far-reaching implications for regional stability. By taking a clear and unequivocal stance, India positions itself as a responsible global actor willing to engage in matters of international peace and security. The move could potentially enhance India's standing in the region and foster stronger ties with the Arab world. At another level, the stance shift may also be influenced by India's domestic factors, including public opinion and the sentiments of its sizeable Muslim population. Now that the BJP has won three Assembly elections hands down, it is much more confident and can take the diplomatic decision more freely. Though the Resolution itself may not mean much as the US is not on board and Israel remains defiant, it positions India as a strong nation that does not hesitate to speak out its mind. The UNGA adopted the crucial Resolution titled 'Protection of civilians and upholding legal and humanitarian obligations,' urging an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza and unconditional release of all hostages. It, however, did not name the Hamas.



Students wear vibrant dress and show their enthusiasm during convocation of Patliputra University, in Patna

Dance of democracy: A matter of choice



The democracy has survived despite its faults, the power has been transferred 17 times in the country. Ultimately, it is the voters who will decide the next government in 2024

fter completing the five state elections, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and the Opposition prepare for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The BJP is confident about maintaining its stronghold in the Hindi belt, and the Opposition has failed to challenge them effectively. BJP won elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh.

The BJP has become a major political force in India. The Party has broadened its reach and currently holds power in 18 states. This is due to its firm leadership, well-organized structure, vast resources, and effective communication. Furthermore, there has been a significant shift to the right in Indian politics. There is a substantial gap between the popular-ity rating of Narendra Modi and other opposition leaders. The Party's new slogan is "New Momentum, New Pledge.

In the past ten years, Modi has effectively promoted the core concept of Hindu nationalism of the BJP The Party has implemented welfare schemes such as cash transfers, free rations, and affordable gas cylinders to win voters. Another crucial idea, the inauguration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, is planned for January of next year. Despite facing challenges such as high unemployment, inflation, and price hikes, these schemes remain popular among the masses. However, whether people will give Modi a third term in 2024 is to be seen. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) must adopt new strategies beyond relying solely on Modi's charisma to win elections in the southern states. They should first address any internal disagreements within the Party. Secondly, they need to create a new narrative that resonates with voters in the southern states. The current ideologies of Hindutva and Sanatan Dharma are not appealing to the people in these states, who view the BJP as a party that caters to North India. Unlike other political parties, Dravidian parties have promotsocial justice for decades. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has been talking about the Dravidian administration model. The southern region holds 131 of and said that BJP's victory



the 543 Lok Sabha seats. Kerala has many Communist supporters, Tamil Nadu is predominantly atheistic, and the BJP has some base in Karnataka.

However, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have regional parties, limiting the BJP's support in these states. The Opposition group INDIA is dismayed with Congress's poor performance in the recent polls. Rahul Gandhi might have succeeded if the Grand Old Party had won in at least two north-ern Indian states. Congress must create a new poll strategy before the next elections. Opposition parties must unite to prevent the division of non-BJP votes in the next four months to challenge Modi. As a first step, they agreed to field a single candidate in seats where the BJP is the primary contender. The Congress party should focus on winning constituencies with a higher chance of success. It's essential to prioritize defeating the ruling Party over personal gains and egos. Congress needs to date its leadership and leave behind old practices. Trinamool Congress criticized Congress's poor performance

SIMPLY PUT, THE BJP **NEEDS TO DEVELOP** A WINNING STRATEGY FOR THE SOUTH, WHILE **CONGRESS SHOULD** FOCUS ON THE NORTH. AS FOR REGIONAL PARTIES. THEIR PRIORITY SHOULD BE TO KEEP THEIR LOYAL **VOTER BASE**

resulted from Congress's failure. Congress lost the elections due to internal conflicts, weak alliances, and a lack of understanding of the current political climate. To improve, Congress must recruit competent individuals for the appropriate roles and motivate its supporters.

Rahul Gandhi led the 4,000-kilometer Bharat Jodo Yatra to revive the Congress Party. This helped the Party win significantly in Gujarat and Telangana. However, the Yatra's momentum was mainly limited to South India and had no impact in the North. The Opposition needs more money to compete with the B.J.P. The saffron Party uses its funds to keep its leader in the public eye and will receive ?719 crore in 2022-23. Congress Party's donations have gone down to ?79 crore from ?95.4 crore last year. BJP received ?10,122.03 crores in the previous five years compared to Congress ?1,547.43 crores. Corporate contributions to Congress have decreased while the B.J.P.s nave increased. According to recent reports, the Congress is considering lack of funds. It needs vast funds to match with the BJP 's war chest.

In the last 20 years, the expenditure on Lok Sabha elections has increased six times, from Rs 9,000 to Rs 55,000 crore. A third of the expenses are allocated for campaign and publicity. In contrast, the second largest expense is direct payment to voters. Also, political parties now resort to bribing the voters with cash and kind. Simply put, the BJP needs to develop a winning strategy for the South, while Congress should focus on the North.

As for regional parties, their priority should be to keep their loyal voter base. Moreover, merely offering freebies is not always enough to win voters. It is essential to do more to earn their trust and support.

India's democratic journey is a significant achievement with hardly any precedent. The democracy has survived despite its faults, and the power has been transferred 17 times. Ultimately, it is the billion voters wno will decide the future.

(The writer is a popular columnist, views are personal)

Generative Alls driving remarkable trends



The generative AI will change the way economy functions and

businesses are run; it will be a game changer for in many verticals

n a world driven by unprecedented technolog-Lical advancements, there emerges a groundbreaking force that promises to reshape the very fabric of innovation: generative artificial intelligence. With its awe-inspiring ability to create, compose, and imagine, generative AI has surged to the forefront of scientific exploration, capturing the imaginations of researchers, entrepreneurs,

and artists alike. From generating realistic images and synthesising music to aiding in drug discovery and revolutionising customer experiences, this cutting-edge technology possesses the potential to revolutionise a vast array of industries, transcending boundaries and pushing the limits of what we thought was impos-

Potential of GenAI

GenAI is creating exciting possibilities in various industries, including art, design, entertainment, and healthcare, pushing the boundaries of human imagination and creative expression.

Hyper-Personalisation Hyper-personalization, driven by generative AI, refers to

the ability to deliver highly tailored and individualized experiences to users based on their unique preferences, behaviours, and characteristics. By leveraging generative AI algorithms, businesses can generate personalized content, recommendations, and product offerings that resonate with each user on a deeper level. Coding and App Creation

Code and app builders leverage generative AI techniques to assist developers in creating software more efficiently, reducing the need for manual coding and streamlining the application development

One industry significantly impacted by this trend is software development. These tools can automatically generate code snippets, templates, or even complete applications based on high-level specifications provided by

ratizes software development, making it more accessible to individuals with limited cod-

ing experience. Enhanced Realism and **Fidelity**

Enhanced realism and fidelity driven by generative AI refers to using generative artificial intelligence models to create highly realistic and detailed outputs in various domains. GenAI algorithms can generate high-quality images, videos, audio, and text that closely resemble real-world data. This trend profoundly impacted numerous industries and domains, revolutionizing how we create, design, and interact with digital content.

In the entertainment industry, it enables the creation of more captivating movies, games, and VR/AR experiences. It enhances immersion, resulting in more engaging storytelling and improved user experiences.

Interactive and co-creative systems

Interactive and co-creative systems allow users to actively participate and collaborate in the generative process. These systems enable realdevelopers. This also democtime interaction between

humans and AI, fostering a co-creative relationship where both entities contribute to generating content, ideas, or designs.

One industry greatly impacted by interactive and co-creative systems is the field of design and creativity. Tools like Adobe Sensei, a suite of AI-powered creative tools, provide designers with interactive features. Another example can be found in the

music industry. Cross-domain Applications Cross-domain applications are used to generate content or solutions that transcend traditional boundaries and apply to multiple industries or domains. Generative AI algorithms have the ability to learn patterns and characteristics from one domain and apply them to another, enabling the creation of innovative solutions and fostering collaboration between diverse fields.

Generative models trained on medical imaging data can generate synthetic images that resemble accurate patient

(The writer is the founder and CEO, of Simplilearn, views are personal)

CENSOR FILMS LIKE ANIMAL

Sir — Cinema is called the mirror of society. Over the years, people in society, especially the youth, assimilate what is shown in films. In such a situation, film producers and directors are expected to raise such topics and present them to the audience, from which people can learn something good. Even today, in our country, a large section of people go to the cinema with their family members for entertainment. In such a situation, the unwanted obscenity and controversial characters presented in present-day films force people to feel embarrassed.

Any film has to obtain permission from the censor board before its release. In such a situation, the Censor Board is expected not to allow any film to reach the cinema, which may give rise to controversy. One thing that is emerging from the audience's assessment of the controversy in the movie 'Animal' is that many such dialogues and scenes have been shown in this movie, which cannot be accepted in a civilised society. It is expected that in the future, the Censor Board will keep all such things in mind and allow films in which there is a hidden message to reach the audience through cinema.

N Ashraf | Mumbai

CHOOSING THE RIGHT CMS

Sir — Following Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, the names of the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Ministers have now been published in Rajasthan. In all three of these states, the BJP delegated authority to figures who were barely prominent in the race for Chief Minister. Even when Vishnudev Sai became Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, it was rumoured that the state's reins could be handed over to him, but no one expected Mohan Yadav to be appointed Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.

Similarly, Bhajanlal Sharma, a first-time MLA from Rajasthan, had no chance of becoming Chief Minister. Although the BJP has previously made shocking decisions, this time it has made even more surprising ones. Because the BJP did not have from public gallery number four at around

Energy conservation day

crowdfunding to finance its

election campaigns due to a

THE EDITOR



nergy can neither be created nor destroved: it can only be converted from one form to another. Since excessive fossil fuel use is detrimental to man and the environment, the conservation of energy in its different forms is a pressing need for the leaders of the globe to take note of. The issue of global warming and the nations of the world keen to ward off the

chief ministerial candidates in Madhya

Pradesh, Rajasthan, or Chhattisgarh at the

time of the polls, it was fairly clear that if

it won in these states, fresh faces would take

How the BJP bolstered its social equations

through the faces of the Chief Ministers

and Deputy Chief Ministers in these three

states put to rest its opponents' claims that

it ignores a certain segment of society. By

promoting leaders from the Dalit, tribal,

OBC, and general categories, the BJP

demonstrated that it represented all ele-

Sir — In a major security breach on the

anniversary of the 2001 Parliament attack,

two persons on Wednesday, December 13,

jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber

from the public gallery and opened can-

isters that emitted a yellow-coloured

smoke, triggering panic among the

MPs. The House was adjourned soon after the incident. The two intruders jumped

SECURITY BREACH IN PARLIAMENT

Abhijit Roy | Jamshedpur

over power.

ments of society.

looming danger of irretrievable damage caused by it have put energy conservation at the top of the agenda of statesmen across the world. There are no two thoughts about "saving energy is akin to saving the earth.". It is beautifully said, "Save today to survive tomorrow."

Even if the resources are not present in abundance, prioritising energy utilisation can work wonders. Newer energies, like solar energy, have been extensively experimented with and prudently used. Companies and industries have to be "energy compliant." Hotels, hospitals, railway stations, and shopping malls are a few vast energy-consuming centres that are expected to adjust to the government's energy-saving endeavour. "National Energy Conservation Day" on December 14 is aimed at spreading awareness among the people about the importance of saving energy

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

1 PM when the Zero Hour was in progress. They also shouted slogans like 'tanashahi nahi chalegi' (dictatorship will not be allowed). Further, outside the Parliament, two people, including a woman, were detained for protesting using cans that released coloured smoke. One person was seen leaping over the benches of the Lok Sabha while another was seen dangling from the public gallery and spraying some tear gas when Zero Hour was in progress." They were overpowered by the Lok Sabha members and the watch and ward staff.

This is certainly a security breach because the day was observed as the death anniversary of people who sacrificed their lives in the 2001 Parliament attack. This raises serious questions about another aspect of the new Parliament building: security. The two persons detained for the protest outside the Parliament are identified as Neelam (42) and Amol Shinde (25).

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

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FIRST COLUMN

ANXIETY AMONG CHILDREN IS BECOMING COMMON

Cultivate understanding among young ones and help them conquer anxiety



s your child suffering from expressing worries or negative thoughts; frequent crying or emotional reactivity; clingy behaviour or difficulty in separating? Well if yes, then these are the signs of anx-

In the words of Catherine M. Wallace "Listen earnestly to anything your child wants to tell you, no matter what. If you do not listen eagerly to the little stuff when they are little, they will not tell you the big stuff when they are big, because to them all of it has always been

In one of the recent studies, it has been found that 20% of the population especially the children and the youth is extremely sensitive. Aggressive, demanding or controlling behaviour, chronic headaches, and being seemingly distracted are classic signs of anxiety. Anxiety manifests in many ways and an individual needs to show up. One should not make a mountain out of a molehill. It is easy to get caught up in the small things but catastrophising often just makes the situation worse. Every parent should understand how hard it is for their child and other children falling off this prey to cope and at the same time it is the need the families to be both firm as well as flexible so that it is a safe space to explore and grow through anxiety for the child as well as themselves



If the actions performed by the child are safe, one doesn't have to fix their anxiety. The anxiety is not the problem or a sign of breakage but the response to the anxiety is the problem. Instead of minimising their feelings, blaming or criticising for their anxiety, one should pay attention to their child's feelings and concerns without judgement, provide them with verbal and physical reassurance and establish a consistent daily routine with them to nurture their well-being. When the child seeks reassurance, make sure that one does not get stuck in the loop of constantly reassuring them, instead reassuring once is sufficient as the goal is to have them learn to live with some

Simultaneously, it should be the duty of parents to speak to the school about providing various options so that their child does not feel trapped in the classroom and tries to enjoy the company of other classmates. At the same time, parents should also teach their children that they have a battery inside of them which runs out faster than other children. The key is to be empowering the little ones to conquer anxiety and understanding how to support them makes all the differ-

Remember, one should not confuse calm, confident and well-behaved behaviour with quiet, hypervigilant and anxious kids. Many of them are struggling in silence. Encouraging the child to manage anxiety is like building a tower, one block at a time. It is a step-by-step approach that will make the child feel less anxious. It should not matter how long this takes, or how small the steps are. What matters is the experience, and that they do not feel negated in the expe-

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Foreign universities are no panacea



SUKHDEV SINGH

Foreign universities may provide more options for Indian students to choose from but apart from that they may not live up to the expectations of serious students



he Indian University Grants Commission has released the "Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India" Regulations, 2023 for approving Foreign Higher Educational Institutions to set up their campuses and offer under-graduate and postgraduate certificates, diploma and degree courses along with doctoral and post-doctoral research in India. The eligibility criterion for such institutions is that they should be overall or subject-wise among the top 500 in global ranking or should be "reputed" in their home jurisdiction. The objective of the regulations is pro-

claimed as globalisation of the Indian higher education system to facilitate Indian students' study in the "top universities in the world" at 'affordable cost without leaving the country and to develop India as a global education des-

The major motivation projected for permitting Foreign Higher Education Institutions in India is the rising tendency among Indian youth to study abroad. This results in a 'brain drain' and capital outflow from India. As per the Ministry of External Affairs, as of January 2023, approximately 1.5 million Indian students were pursuing education abroad while the number was 1.3 million in 2022. Till 2024 it is expected to grow into 1.8 million students spending \$75-85 billion overseas. As per the Reserve Bank of India, in the FY 2021-22 the amount of INR 5 billion was spent on foreign exchange by the students enrolling overseas. Most of these students settle there instead of returning home after education.

To arrest the human and capital outflow and to trigger inflow by making India a global destination for education, the regulations are flagged as a revolutionary step



AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IS A PLACE FOR LEARNING HARD SKILLS I.E. KNOWLEDGE OF A DISCIPLINE, SOFT SKILLS OF COMMUNICATION AND EXPERIENCE OF INDIVIDUAL,

JOINT AND COLLECTIVE **PURSUITS**

in Indian higher education. It is argued that foreign universities will not only bring their excellence with them but will also stimulate life in Indian universities through their presence as competitors. The future presence of foreign universities in India is being presented as a catalyst for creating academic activism, innovation and excellence by default.

On the face of it, all is well: the motivation is genuine and the objectives are desirable to be fulfilled; but underneath, there are several holes in the motivation and the objectives are based on a sticky wicket.

opting for admission abroad do not enrol primarily for education but to get a long-stay visa and set-tle there in the long run. The attraction is not just the education and training but better employment opportunities based on merit and capability, non-prejudicial work and wage regime, interference-free safe and law-governed life on an equitable basis, a civil social environment etc. They do not go abroad to study and come back to India. For them, it is not about studies, it is about moving to settle abroad.

Many of them are even satisfied with lower-ranking colleges as long as they get visas and work abroad. The bright aspire for a successful global career, while the mediocre are happy with overseas labour and menial jobs because the work earns them better wages, more dignity and independence. According to the INTO University Partnerships survey, "76% of

Indian students aspiring to study abroad plan on working and/or settling overseas after their international degree, and only 20% plan to return to India immediately after studying abroad". Even those with quality education in India and in good employment also cherish a desire to live abroad.

To the frustration of the current regulations, foreign universities in India, thus, may not work as a strong substitute for studying abroad. Foreign universities may provide more options for Indian students to choose from, but students looking for genuinely global opportunities will continue to First of all, most Indian students pursue higher education overseas as an instrument.

I ne IN IO survey also shows that a significant proportion of Indian students (41%) would still prefer studying overseas even if the same quality of education was offered by universities in India. Education is not just a classroom exercise; it is also skill sets to deal with reality and exploration into micro and macro environments.

An educational institution is a place for learning hard skills i.e. knowledge of a discipline, soft skills of communication and experience of individual, joint and collective pursuits. A global educational campus means greater exposure to various cultures, languages and problem-solving skills. With student intake in foreign universities primarily from India, such exposure may be missing in the global campuses in India. In the absence of dignified global work opportunities and the presence of an intolerant and prejudi-

cial social environment, for students from neighbouring China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Slavic and Middle Eastern countries, India may not be an attractive education destination, the way Western and European countries are.

In the absence of any substantial capital push and progressive administrative reforms, Indian universities may not gain much strength to compete with foreign institutions. In the current regime, the faculty in most state and private universities and colleges are not paid salaries according to the UGC pay scales; most are employed as locum tenens. The positions at the higher level are kept vacant to save on the expenditure. The NITI Aayog has noted 'inadequate funding' as one of the constraints for the state universi-

While opening the country to Foreign Institutions of Higher Education, India needs to reform the system by enforcing substantive changes in teaching, examination and work environment and provide adequate funding. Although the foreign universities can complement the domestic institutions simply the presence of foreign institutions cannot be a silver bullet to address the malaise of Indian Higher Education with around 1000 universities and 42000 colleges.

(The writer is a retired professor from Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar and a Member, of the Governing Council, INTACH; views are personal)

The secret of growing younger and living longer

By invoking newness in you and having healthy ageing you can grow younger and enjoy longevity. It is a matter of choice not chance

or a very long time, there has been a quest in the human mind, that is, the search for the fountain of eternal youth or 'Newness' or the miracle antidote for ageing. What is Ageing and Newness? Each and every cell in our body has the capability and memory of renewal or wholeness. Ageing is defined as a process in which the cell loses the memory of renewal or wholeness and thus becomes old. Newness, when every cell of our body retains this capability and memory of renewal by maintaining the integrity and infinite intelligence of a cell, is what we call as Newness. This Newness has healing potential. Each cell has invisible, infinite and immortal intelligence.

Health, according to the World



Health Organization, is defined as a state of physical, mental, social and spiritual well-being and not just merely the absence of disease. Health From the mind-body perspective, is an optimal integration of body, mind, spirit, soul and environment. Charaka Samhita described Health as the foundation of well-being, virtue, prosperity, wealth, happiness and salvation. The environment is our extended body.

There is also a nice Vedic expression, which says, "As is the atom, so is the universe, As is the microcosm, so is the macrocosm, As is the universal body, so is the cosmic body, As is the universal mind,

so is the cosmic mind".

We may add: as is the duration of your Newness, so is the duration of your senescence and longevity.

We are the expressions or the manifestations or the products of interaction between the microcosm, orinternal environment, and the macrocosm, or external environment.

Thus, this whole universe or the cosmos is like a cosmic computer and our sixty trillion cells in our body are like the terminal of the cosmic computer where six trillion chemical reactions occur every second in accordance with the laws of nature in harmony, we are not even aware of it, then who is the programmer? The programmer is our mind. Our mind is an expression of the cosmic mind and our energy is an expression of cosmic

has a tremendous impact on the physical universe. Every bit of the universe is in us and every bit of us is in the universe: Thus, the Newness is a product of optimum interaction between the microcosm and macrocosm within us and outside us. There is a saying "If you want to know what your thoughts were in the past, look at your physical, biological and psychological Newness today. And if you want to know what your physical, biological and psychological Newness will be in future, look at your thoughts today". Newness is thus an expression of our own perceptions, our own thoughts, our own interpretations, our own experiences and our own choices. Our perfect mindset and per-

energy. Our mental universe fect choices, will bring Newness and allow us to grow gracefully with healthy ageing. Thus, Newness is not a matter of chance, but it is a matter of choice. Newness is, thus an optimum networking and integration of energy, information, intelligence and transformation of various actions and interactions with the world within you and the world around you to grow to full potential.

We must maintain our equilibrium in all the opposites to preserve Newness within us. These opposites may be love and hate, day and night, use and abuse, action and inaction, positive and negative thoughts

We can't step into the same river twice, as the water is constantly flowing and if you take variable. Albert Einstein, once

any sample of water at any point in time, it is different and New. Similarly, we can't step into the same flesh and bone again, because everything is changing and becoming New. Change is the essence of life". "We are not only packages of flesh and bone with the wisps of memory and desire We are all web information and energy interwoven with emotions and intelligence from the eye of consciousness' Our stomach lining changes

every five days, our liver changes every eight weeks, our whole skin changes every six weeks, our whole body skeleton changes every twelve weeks, and our DNA changes every five weeks. We are different in different years with Newness potential which is

said, "Every solid particle in this universe is a bundle of information and energy and every cell in our body is a miniature terminal connected to the cosmic computer". The Newness, sickness and death are all the parts of scenery and not the seer. The seer is the soul and spirit and they are immortal and are immune to change and remain ever New. Ninety-eight percent of our atoms change every year and Ninety-nine percent of our information and energy within us is renewed everywhere.

(The writer is Chief Cardiologist, at Medanta *Moolchand Heart Institute)* Views are personal) This is the first part of twopart series on ageing and longevity. To be continued...

Ambush kills 7 Israeli soldiers in Gaza City

AP ■ RAFAH (GAZA STRIP)

t least seven Israeli soldiers Awere killed in an ambush in Gaza City, Israeli media reported Wednesday, as the army continued to meet heavy resistance in an offensive against Hamas that has drawn international outrage and rare US criticism over the killing of thousands of civilians.

President Joe Biden's administration has repeatedly called on Israel to take greater measures to spare Palestinians civilians, even as it has blocked international calls for a ceasefire and rushed military aid to its close ally. Israel has rejected US suggestions for a postwar plan that would revive the long-dormant peace process with the Palestinians.

The air and ground offensive has resulted in the deaths of over 18,400 Palestinians, mostly civilians, since the Oct 7 attack by Hamas that triggered the war. Nearly 85% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million have been forced to flee their homes, and much of northern Gaza resembles a moonscape.

Israeli ground troops are still locked in heavy combat with Palestinian fighters in and around Gaza City, more than six weeks after soldiers invaded the north. Clashes raged overnight and into Wednesday in multiple areas, with especially heavy fighting in Shijaiyah, residents said. "It's terrifying. We couldn't sleep," Mustafa Abu Taha, a Palestinian agricultural worker who lives in the neighbourhood, said by phone. "The situation is getting worse and we don't have a safe place to go."

SUFFERING IN THE SOUTH

Hundreds of thousands of people have heeded Israeli orders to flee to southern Gaza since the start of the war, but that region has also come under repeated aerial bom-

The health care system and humanitarian aid operations have collapsed in large

fighting and Israel's blockade of the territory, and aid workers have warned of starvation and the spread of disease among displaced people in overcrowded shelters and tent camps.

Heavy rainfall overnight

swamped tent camps, including in the southern area of Muwasi, a barren stretch of coastline where Israel has told people to seek refuge.

Israeli strikes overnight hit two residential buildings in the southern province of Khan Younis, where Israeli ground forces had launched a new line of attack earlier this month.

A strike on a home near the main highway between Khan Younis and the southern border town of Rafah killed two boys, aged 2 and 8, a woman in her 80s and a woman in her 30s, according to Mohammed al-Beiyouk, a cousin of the deceased. Another strike killed a baby and his grandfather, according to hospital records at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis. The military rarely comments on individual strikes. Israel says it tries to avoid harming civilians and blames the high toll on Hamas because it conceals fighters, tunnels and weapons in residential areas.

BIDEN BLAMES FAR RIGHT

Biden said Tuesday that he told Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that Israel was losing international support because of its "indiscriminate bombing" and that Netanyahu should change his government, which is dominated by hardright parties. But the offensive is being

conducted by a narrow war

cabinet that includes two politically centrist retired generals, and has overwhelming support among Israelis from across the political spectrum. In Israel, attention is still focused on the atrocities carried out on Oct 7, when some 1,200 people were killed, mostly civilians, and

some 240 people were taken hostage, around half of whom

been little media coverage or public discussion of the plight of civilians in Gaza.

International outrage has continued to mount. On Tuesday, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution calling for a humanitarian cease-fire by a vote of 153 in favour, 10 against and 23 abstentions. The non-binding vote was largely symbolic, but served as a barometer of world opinion. None of the major owers joined Israel and the United States in their opposi-

The US has urged Israel to do more to reduce civilian casualties since it launched its invasion of southern Gaza this month. But the toll has continued to mount at a dizzying rate.

Over 18,400 Palestinians have been killed, according to the Health Ministry in Hamasruled Gaza, whose counts from previous conflicts have tracked with Israeli and UN figures. The ministry does not differentiate between civilian and combatant deaths, but says roughly two-thirds of the dead are women and minors.

AT ODDS ON POST WAR PLANS

Israel and the US say any cease-fire that leaves Hamas in power would mean victory for the militant group, which has governed Gaza since 2007 and has pledged to destroy Israel. But the two allies disagree over what should happen if Hamas is defeated. The US hopes to revive the peace process, which ground to a halt more than a decade ago. It wants the internationally recognised Palestinian Authority, which administers parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, to also govern Gaza, which Hamas seized from it in 2007. But President Mahmoud Abbas, the head of the PA, is extremely unpopular, in part because of his security cooperation with Israel, and he has ruled out any return to Gaza outside of a solution to the conflict that creates a

Sunak defiant after winning crunch vote amid Oppn attacks

 $B^{
m ritish\ Prime\ Minister\ Rishi}_{
m Sunak\ presented\ a\ defiant}$ front in Parliament on Wednesday after winning a crunch vote on the controversial Rwanda Safety Bill, even as the Opposition accused his government of being in "melt-down". Addressing the last Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) session in the House of Commons before Christmas recess, Sunak claimed that while the Conservatives remained focussed on cracking down on illegal migration the Labour Party was distracted by political "tittle tattle", alluding to reports of divisions within the Tory

ranks.
"The British people should decide who gets to come to this country - not criminal gangs or foreign courts. That's what this bill delivers. We will now work to make it law so that we can get



flights going to Rwanda and stop the boats," said Sunak.

Labour Leader Keir Starmer accused the British Indian leader of "kicking the can down the road" after his Rwanda bill passed 313 to 269, with a majority of 44 votes, on Tuesday night in its first parliamentary stage. But with around 38 Conservative MPs recorded as not taking part in the vote, it is widely expected that the controversial Rwanda bill aimed at

east African nation while asylum claims are processed will reignite the deep Tory divisions over the issue as it progresses through further stages in the

"He can spin it all he likes but the whole country can see that yet again the Tory party is in meltdown and everyone else is paying the price. He has kicked the can down the road but in the last week his MPs have said of him he is not have said of him he is not capable enough, he is inexperienced, he is arrogant, a really

bad politician," said Starmer. Faced with one of his toughest challenges since taking charge as Prime Minister last year, Sunak had launched a wide-ranging charm offensive at 10 Downing Street in a bid to win over MPs from within his Conservative Party threatening to rebel against the Rwanda bill. Ahead of the early-stage

night, he hosted a breakfast summit for the Tory rebels on the extreme right of the party who are opposed to the bill because they feel it is not strong enough to circumvent legal challenges. However, more centrist Tories are against the "toughest anti-immigration law ever" being toughened further to threaten the UK's human rights obligations. With the Opposition parties voting against it, Tory rebels either voting against or abstaining in Tuesday night's vote to defeat the bill was seen as a test of Sunak's authority within his own party. Sunak's breakfast charm offensive ahead of a weekly Cabinet meeting proved enough for the moment to ensure he didn't become the first UK PM in nearly 40 years to face a defeat on a vote at such an early stage of a government

Cyclone Jasper crosses Aus's east coast

Canberra(Austrtalia): Tropical Cyclone Jasper crossed Australia's northeast coast on Wednesday as a category 2 storm that lashed the sparsely populated region with winds of up to 140 kph (87 mph).

Jasper had intensified from a category 1 storm on a 5-tier scale before it became the first cyclone of the current season to hit Australia, Queensland state Deputy Premier Steven Miles

The cyclone crossed near the Aboriginal community of Wujal Wujal, 110 kilometres (68 miles) north of Cairns, a city of 160,000. Wujal Wujal has a population of 300 but it was not immediately clear how many residents had evacuated.

There were no immediate reports of injury and damage had yet to be assessed.

The message to Cairns locals and those in the warning area is to take shelter now," Miles told reporters in Townsville as the eye of the storm approached land. "Now is not the time to be

moving around," he added. Emergency responders

had received 150 requests for help hours before the cyclone reached the Queensland shore from the Coral Sea. Around 15,000 homes and businesses in the cyclone's path had lost power, Miles said.

Miles had flown 1,100 km (680 miles) from the Queensland capital Brisbane to Townsville on Wednesday so he would be closer to survey the damage when the sun rises on Thursday. More than 90 people had left their homes for evacuation centres by Wednesday, officials said. They said the residents of low-lying areas in the cyclone's path who did not feel safe should move early to evacuation centres, before con-

Government meteorologist Laura Boeke said flash flooding posed the greatest threat as Jasper crossed the coast. While the winds were expected to weaken quickly as the cyclone moved inland, flooding rains could continue for days.

Zara yanks ads that some found reminiscent of Israel-Gaza war

San Francisco (AP): The Spanish fashion brand Zara has pulled advertising images that to some appeared to reference Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza. The images for a line of jackets included what the company called "unfinished sculptures in a sculptor's studio".

But some online critics said one image of a model holding a wrapped-up man-nequin resembled someone holding a corpse. Other photos included a mannequin with missing limbs and a figure wrapped in fabric or plastic on the floor, according to news

The company apologised in a statement posted on Instagram on Tuesday and said the campaign was conceived in July and photographed in

Yemen missile miss ship loaded with fuel near Bab el-Mandeb Strait

Two missiles fired from territory held by Yemen's Houthi rebels missed a com-mercial tanker loaded with Indian-manufactured jet fuel near the key Bab el-Mandeb Strait on Wednesday, a US official said. It is the first time they target an energy shipment heading to the Suez Canal. An American warship also shot down a suspected Houthi drone flying in its direction during the incident, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence matters. No one was hurt in the attack, the official said.

The assault on the tanker Ardmore Encounter further escalates a campaign by the Iranian-backed rebels targeting ships close to the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, and also

widens the international impact of the Israel-Hamas war raging in the Gaza Strip. The Marshall Islands-

flagged tanker was travelling north toward the Suez Canal in the Red Sea, satellite tracking data analyzed by The Associated Press showed. The vessel was on its way from Mangalore, Karnataka,

and had an armed security crew aboard it, according to data transmitted by the ship. Those guards apparently opened fire to drive off skiffs loaded with men trying to board the vessel, the private intelligence firm Ambrey said. Ardmore Shipping Corp.,

which owns and operates the ship, issued a statement to the acknowledging the attack.
"No one boarded the ves-

sel and all crew members are safe and accounted for," the statement said. "The vessel

no loss of cargo or damage on board." It added: "Ardmore is in close contact with the relevant authorities and military assistance is now in the area providing support as required.' The ship was carrying a load of jet fuel from Shell MRPL Aviation Fuels and

remains fully operational with

Services Ltd., a joint operation of the oil giant and India's national oil company. The fuel was heading to either Rotterdam in the Netherlands or Gavle, Sweden, Ardmore Shipping said.
Shell declined to com-

ment. Ardmore Shipping traded slightly up early Wednesday on the New York Stock Exchange to USD 13.64

The Houthis did not immediately acknowledge the

Historic deal on adopted at COP 28

Nearly 200 countries on Wednesday clinched a deal that called for a "transition away from fossil fuels," the primary reason for the planet's climate crisis, at the UN climate summit here, a development negotiators but criticised by several activists for its lack of

The words "fossil fuel" became part of the final document of the first Global Stocktake deal, being termed the UAE consensus, at the COP28 for the first time in almost three decades of such negotiations, which called for its transition in a "just and equitable" manner. Adopted after nearly two weeks of hectic negotiations, it urges countries to accelerate efforts toward the phasedown of unabated coal power, which is a climb down after India and China strongly resisted the singling out of coal. As COP28 President Sultan

al-Jaber gavelled through the agreement, the room full of negotiators at the annual Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework

(UNFCCC) burst into applause. Addressing the closing plenary of the COP28, Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said the collective efforts here have sent positive signals to the world in reinforcing commitment to maintaining the temway ahead must be based on equity and climate justice, let us implement the Paris Agreement in letter and spirit through the Global Stocktake process," he

The text of the Dubai climate talks calls for a deep, rapid, and sustained reduction in planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions in line with 1.5 degree Celsius pathways in a "nationally determined" manner, taking into account the Paris Agreement and their different national circumstances, pathways, and approaches.

The historic document called on countries with an eight-point plan to achieve this. It includes a "transition away from fossil fuels" in energy systems in a "just, orderly and equitable manner," accelerating action in this decade, to achieve

greenhouse gases emitted and removed from the atmosphere) by 2050. It also urged countries to accelerate efforts toward the phase down of unabated coal power, a marginal step up from the 2021 Glasgow deal. However, unlike the previous versions, it lacks references to and unabated coal power generation. This absence suggests a strong pushback from heavily coal-dependent countries such as India and China.

Also, there is no mention of oil and gas in the 21-page document, fuels that rich countries continue to use.

US Climate Envoy John Kerry said the US along with China, will update their longterm strategies on pathways to net zero emissions by 2050, and encouraged other countries to do the same. Graham Stuart, the UK's climate change minister, said this is the beginning of the end of the fossil fuel era. "We've heard from the small island states and we understand their concerns. The voices of the islands must be heard," he said. India's neighbours – Pakistan and Bangladesh — also spoke at net zero (balance between the closing plenary and wel-

comed the adoption of the landmark agreement. Addressing the gathering after adopting the agreement, Sultan al-Jaber said this is a robust action plan which plans to keep 1.5 degrees within reach.

Avinash Persaud, Special Climate Envoy to Prime said when the dust settles and dawn breaks, this will be seen as one of the most historic COPs."We have operationalised a loss and damage fund, recapitalised the Green Climate Fund, and orchestrated an international climate finance system that prepares for new levies alongside emboldened development banks and new private sector flows. Today, we have committed to triple renewable investments and have a just transition from fossil fuels," he said.

Noting that some parties opposed a clear reference to phase out of fossil fuels during the COP28, UN Secretary-General António Guterres, in his post on X, said: "Fossil fuel phase out is inevitable."

Ajay Mathur, Director General, International Solar Alliance, said the developments in Dubai further underscore the imperative to transition towards renewable energy for achieving Net Zero emissions.

Sanjay Vashist, Director, Climate Action Network South Asia, said, "We cannot celebrate the mere inclusion of the reference to fossil fuels in the text if it comes without means of for energy transition for poor and developing countries." Dr Arunabha Ghosh, CEO of Council for Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), said the COP decision hasn't held historical polluters accountable, or established effective mechanisms to finance climate resilience and a just lowcarbon transition for the Global

"The Global Stocktake's final text lacked the candid acknowledgement of problems and the teeth required to fight them." Madhura Joshi, India Lead at independent climate change think tank E3G said, 'Though, there are several contradictions, the first Global Stocktake leaves the door open for low-carbon/emission technologies and transition fuels that have the potential to delay action and lock-in resources.

Pope wants to be buried in Rome basilica, not in Vatican

Rome (AP): Pope Francis says Major, not in the grottoes of the Vatican like other popes, so he can be near his favourite icon of the Madonna.

Francis, who turns 87 on Sunday, also said he never thought about resigning this year despite a series of health scares. Ĥe said he has a trip confirmed to Belgium next year and visits under consideration to Polynesia and his native Argentina.

"It is true that all journeys are now rethought," Francis told N+ of Mexican broadcaster Televisa. "If they're close by, they can be done. If they're farther away they are rethought. There are limits? It was Francis' first inter-

view since his latest bout of acute bronchitis, which forced the cancellation of a trip this month to Dubai to participate in the UN climate conference. Francis, who had part of one lung removed as a young man, appeared in good form and said he was now recovered and feeling fine. While the job of pope is for life, Francis reconfirmed the possibility of resignation and said he has to prepare for any possibility. "I ask the Lord to say enough, at some point, but when he wants me to," he said.

Francis has already said if he retires, as Pope Benedict XVI did in 2013, he would want to live outside the Vatican somewhere in Rome in a residence for retired priests. Francis has long emphasised his role as bishop of Rome and has a particular devotion to an icon of the Virgin Mary on display in the St. Mary Major basilica near Rome's main train

After every trip, for example, Francis goes to the basilica to pray before the Salus populi Romani (Salvation of the people of Rome), a Byzantinestyle painting that features an image of Mary, draped in a blue robe, holding the infant Jesus who in turn is holding a jew elled golden book.

"It's my great devotion,"

Poland's new PM Tusk takes office, ending 8 years of conservative rule



AP WARSAW

The new Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk and his Cabinet members took office Wednesday after they were sworn in by the president, marking the end of eight tumultuous years of rule by a national conservative party, Law and

The swearing-in ceremony of the pro-European Union government, the final step in a transition of power, took place in the presidential palace in Warsaw. Tusk was returning to the job after a nine-year spell in opposition. Leaders and senior officials from around the world, including US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, said were looking forward to working with Tusk's team. Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz used Polish to amplify his congratulatory message to "dear Donald

"Donald Tusk wants Poland to be again in the heart of the EU and that's where her place is," he said. "I am happy that together, arm in arm with Poland develop the EU and Polish-German relations." The countries' ties were strained under the previous government that exploited the painful World War II history.

The change of government follows a national election on Oct 15 which was won by a group of parties that ran on separate tickets vowing to work together under Tusk's leadership to restore democratic norms eroded by Law and Justice and mend relations with foreign allies that were also strained.

Tusk's government won a vote of confidence in parliament on Tuesday evening after an inaugural speech in which he vowed to demand that the West keep up its support for Ukraine.

The confidence vote was delayed when a far-right lawmaker used a fire extinguisher to put out the candles of a menorah during a Hanukkah celebration dedicated to Poland's Jewish lawmakers of the 1920s and 1930s. Tusk and other leaders sharply condemned the antisemitic provocation.

In his policy speech Tuesday, Tusk called on Poland's fractious political class to unite, saying the nation cannot afford divisions while Russia is waging a war of aggression across the border, a conflict many fear could spread if Moscow prevails.

President Andrzej Duda, an ally of the previous administration, swore in the government after having delayed the power transition as long as he could.

Their disagreements found

expression during the ceremony. Duda said that despite the obvious differences he will cooperate on matters key to Poland's security and the people's well-being, but stressed that he believes that most things are in perfect shape.

Myanmar authorities arrest 2 local journos

Bangkok (AP): Myanmar's military government has arrested two journalists with a local online news service, their editor said Wednesday, in its latest crackdown on media freedom since seizing power nearly three years ago. The chief editor of Dawei Watch, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals from authorities, told The Associated Press that Aung San Oo and Myo Myint Oo were arrested late Monday at their homes in the coastal town of Myeik. The town is about 560 km (350 miles) south of Yangon, the country's biggest city.

The editor said they were arrested three days after returning home from hiding and that security forces told family members they were arrested for reports they had filed. The computers and mobile phones of the reporters and their family members were confiscated by police, and the journalists are being held in an interrogation camp, the editor said. Dawei Watch mostly cov-

ers news in southern Myanmar.

"Journalists are writing the news reports and producing it in line with journalism ethics. Writing reports is not a crime," the editor said. "Arresting, interrogating, and taking actions against the journalists in the same manner as done to people who committed crimes should not be allowed. So I want to say: Release the detained journalists as soon as possible."

Dawei Watch's chief editor said a total of five reporters and a columnist have been arrested since the army began cracking down on independent media after seizing power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February



Weapons voluntarily turned over or seized by police stand in a pile during a ceremony before they are set to be melted down at a foundry in Santiago, Chile, Tuesday

Russian missile

attack on Kyiv

injures over 50

nighttime Russian ballistic

Anighttime Russian ballistic missile attack targeted Kyiv early Wednesday, injuring at least 53 people including eight children, officials said, as the Ukrainian president went to

Scandinavia in pursuit of further international military sup-

ballistic missiles toward the

capital and all were intercept-

underscored the continuing

threat to Ukraine from the

Kremlin's missile arsenal in

the 21-month war. Russia has

in recent months been stockpil-

ing its air-launched cruise mis-

siles from its heavy bomber

fleet, according to a recent assessment by the UK Ministry

Ukraine's power grid. Moscow last year targeted energy infra-

structure in an effort to deny Ukrainians heat, light and running water and break their fighting spirit.

As winter sets in and hinders troop movements allow.

ders troop movements, allow-

ing little change along the front line, long-range air bombard-

ment plays a growing role in

supplies of air defense muni-

tions and other ammunition.

That prompted Ukrainian

Zelenskyy to visit Washington

on Tuesday in an effort to per-

suade lawmakers to approve

President Joe Biden's request for

\$61.4 billion for Ukraine. His

trip accomplished no break-

through.

Ukraine has dwindling

Volodymyr

The attack on the capital

ed by air defences.

of Defence.

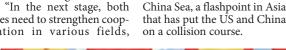
Xi Jingping meets Vietnamese PM

hinese leader Xi Jinping met with Vietnam's prime minister and the head of the country's National Assembly on Wednesday, on the second day of his visit to shore up Beijing's relationship with Hanoi after the Southeast Asian nation recently elevated its ties with Japan and the

United States. Xi met with Communist Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong on Tuesday, and they announced that China and Vietnam would work toward a "community with a shared future," in what was seen as a diplomatic concession by Vietnam to Beijing. The two sides signed 36 agreements, mostly about "deepening cooperation," ranging from telecommunications to crossparty exchange, according to Vietnamese media reports. Vietnam has resisted using that phrase in the past but wanted to assuage Beijing's concerns after Vietnam designated both the US and Japan as "comprehensive strategic partners" in recent months — the highest official designation for a diplomatic relationship. Chinese state media says the designation was first given to China.Xi referenced the phrase again Wednesday in a meeting with National Assembly Chairman Vuong Dinh Hue.

sides need to strengthen cooperation in various fields, tribute to the building of the community with a shared

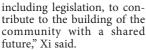
said the rhetorical concession from Hanoi "doesn't mean Vietnam supports China-led political initiatives, but rather (is) a delicate act of hedging, particularly after its upgrade with the US and Japan recently." I think the move is expected given the fact that Xi came to Hanoi in person," Nguyen said.Xi also met with Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh and President Vo Van Thuong on Wednesday and will end his trip after meeting with young Vietnamese and Chinese scholars. Vietnam and China agreed to exchange prisoners, though there were few details made public on that agreement. The two also renewed the expired 2020 agreement to jointly patrol the Gulf of Tonkin which lies between China's southern island province of Hainan and the northeastern coast of Vietnam, local media reported. In addition, the two signed an agreement to cooperate on railway projects. Vietnam and China already have robust ties, but they also have significant points of differ-ence, primarily over territorial claims over islands in the South China Sea, a flashpoint in Asia



Vietnam's Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, right, and the China's President Xi

Jinping wave to media members as they pose for a photo during a meeting at the

government office in Hanoi, Vietnam on Wednesday



The Biden administration hit hundreds of people and Nguyen Khac Giang, a visiting fellow at ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore, firms, from Russia to China to Turkey and the United Arab Emirates, with economic and diplomatic sanctions Tuesday as the U.S. targets third-country contributors that are equipping Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The latest round of sanctions landed as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is visiting Washington to make an appeal for more financial support as his nation fights off the Russian invasion that will enter its third year in February. The financial penalties have made Russia the most sanctioned country in the world but have yet to deliver a knockout punch to Russia's economy. Tuesday's sanctions pack-

age targets a multinational weapons procurement network led by Chinese national Hu Xiaoxun, his China-based private defense company Jarvis HK Co., and a network of associates that coordinate the sale of Chinese-manufactured weapons and components to Russia. A representative from Jarvis did not immediately respond to an Associated Press request for comment. Chinese



Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning condemned Washington's latest move, saying "China has firmly opposed such unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction by the

"The US should immediately correct its wrong actions and stop containing and suppressing Chinese enterprises. China will also take necessary

measures to resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese enterprises," Mao told reporters at a daily briefing on Wednesday.

Additionally, a group of Turkey, UAE and Maldivesbased firms involved in the weapons production process are targeted for economic sanctions. "The Kremlin has steadily turned Russia into a wartime economy, but Putin's war machine cannot survive on domestic production alone," said Treasury Secretary Janet "Our sanctions today con-

tinue to tighten the vise on willing third-country suppliers and networks providing Russia the inputs it desperately needs to ramp up and sustain its military-industrial base."

port for his country after a trip from Denmark, Iceland, to Washington secured no new Norway, Finland and Sweden said in a joint statement in English. "We must continue to A series of loud explosions could be heard in Kyiv at 3 am as the city's air defences stand united against Russia's illegal and immoral war." They vowed "comprehensive assistance" for Ukraine. were activated for the second time this week. Ukraine's air force said Russia launched 10

"Now is not the time to tire," the Nordic leaders said, amid signs of war fatigue among Kyiv's foreign supporters. "We are in a critical phase

decision is," Zelenskyy said, referring to the overnight

strikes. Zelenskyy on Wednesday met in Oslo with

Nordic leaders who feel keen-

ly the potential threat from

nearby Russia and are among

Kyiv's staunchest supporters.

"Russia is eager to exploit divisions," the senior leaders

where Europe must continue to show its support," Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said in a statement. Separately, Latvia and

Ukraine announced an agreement on the production of drones, which have become a key aspect of the war.

They said they will aim to "enhance Ukraine's technolog-That may herald another heavy winter bombardment of ical superiority" in drone use.

Debris from intercepted missiles fell in Kyiv's eastern Dniprovskyi district, injuring dozens of people, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Kitschko said on Telegram. Twenty people, including two children, were hospitalised, and 33 people received medical treatment on

Ân apartment building, a private house and several cars caught fire, while the windows of a children's hospital were shattered, Klitschko said. Falling rocket debris also damaged the water supply system in the district.

It wasn't immediately clear what type of missile was used in the Kyiv attack.

"It is difficult to imagine the consequences of these attacks if we don't have air protection," Ukraine's Minister of

the urgent need for more protection, as Russia shows no intention of stopping."

Hungary to block EU membership negotiations for Ukraine: Orban

US announces new sanctions on

Russia's weapons suppliers

 $H_{
m posal}^{
m ungary}$ will block a proposal to start talks on European Union membership for Ukraine at a summit of the bloc's leaders this week, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said Wednesday, adding that admitting the war-ravaged country would have unforeseeable consequences for the EU.

EU leaders are expected to vote on whether to begin membership talks for Ukraine during a summit in Brussels that begins Thursday. Orbán has maintained that he will block the proposal, which requires a unanimous decision by the leaders of all the bloc's 27 countries. Speaking to lawmakers in

Wednesday, Orbán said that the time for bringing Ukraine into the EU had "not yet come," and that the development of a strategic partnership with Kyiv should be a prerequisite for beginning membership talks. We are interested in a peaceful and prosperous Ukraine, but this requires the establishment of peace as quickly as possible, and a deliberate deepening of the strategic partnership," Orbán said, adding that such a process could take "a number of

"Everything has its appointed time, but the time for Ukraine's membership in the European Union has not yet come," he said. Beyond its

membership talks, Hungary has consistently signalled that it will veto a financial aid package for Kyiv worth 50 billion euros (\$54.1 billion), a position that has frustrated Hungary's EU partners who stress that aid for Ukraine and its eventual membership are crucial for Europe's security.

Hungary relies on Russia for much of its energy supply, and Orbán is seen as Russian President Vladimir Putin's strongest ally in Europe. The government in Budapest has routinely blocked work on sanctions against Moscow linked to the war, and sought to gain access to additional oil and gas supplies from Russia. On Wednesday, Orbán disputed a determination by the EU's executive branch, the European Commission, that Ukraine has fulfilled a number of requirements set as conditions for beginning accession talks. He also argued that Ukraine's membership would reorient the system the 27-nation European Union uses to distribute funds to member countries, resulting in fewer funds for Hungary. "The government's position is currently that Ukraine's rapid entry into the European Union would come with unforeseeable consequences. Ukraine's fast-track accession does not serve the interests of either Hungary or the European Union," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to all that, Mr. Kamal Prakash Soni s/o Sh. Ram Avtar Soni R/o C-35 Devli Road Khanpur Duggal Colony, Pushpa bhawan, S.O

South Delhi-110062 is the owner of property situated at First Floor with ½ rear rights, E 28, Malviya Nagar Extn, Saket, New Delhi. Related

with above properly the prior chain sale deed dated 18.10.2003 vide Doc no 9390 in favor of Sh. Varinder Prakash S/o Late Sh. M.R.

Prabhakar executed by Smt. Asha Prakash w/o

Sh. Varinder Prakash has been misplaced an

een lodged dated 30.11.2023 for the same i

The firm M/s Prabhu Dayal Jewellers has take

redit facility from Axis Bank Limited, Delhi or

this property. If someone has possession or any

objection then he can contact Mr. Arun Kuma Shukla (Contact No - 9312400295) within 18

(ARUN KUMAR SHUKLA (Advocate

Off.: 111-112. New Delhi House, 27 Barakhamba Road,

the Epolice station

Zelenskyy Economy, Yulia Svyrydenko, said on X, formerly Twitter. Telegram on Wednesday that he and Biden agreed to work on increasing the number of air "Each attack emphasizes

Sciences, Faridkot Sadiq Road, Faridkot-151203 Ph.01639-256232, 256236

E-tenders are invited for the procurement of following Machinery on turnkey basis vith pre bid meeting for department of TCCC, Fazilka upto 17-01-2024

Note: Please refer tender document for venue for pre-bid meeting.

Terms and Conditions can be downloaded from http://eproc.punjab.gov.in. The

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

Tender Notice Reference No. 846/ DR

enders will be accepted in E-Tender mode only. Bidder can also download notification and document from the University website i.e. www.bfuhs.ac.in

00/12/157/2023/30566 Dated CHD :- 12/13/2023

defense systems in Ukraine. "The terrorist state has just demonstrated how crucial this

CT Simulator 2) Linear Accelerator

Baba Farid University of Health

Pakistan SC allows trial of civilians by military courts

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Supreme Court Wednesday allowed the trial of civilians by the military courts, conditionally suspending its October 23 ruling in which it had ordered authorities to conduct the hearing of the cases of ex-premier Imran Khan's supporters arrested for their alleged role in May 9 violence in ordinary courts.

A six-member Supreme Court bench, in a 5-1 majority order, announced its verdict on a set of intra-court appeals (ICAs) challenging its previous ruling. Justice Musarrat Hilali, the only woman judge on the bench, dissented from it.

During the hearing, Attorney General Mansoor Awan urged the court to conditionally allow the military trials of civilian suspects to be resumed. Accepting the plea,

million to restore macroeco-

nomic stability and debt sus-

tainability. Announcing this,

Peter Breuer, Senior Mission

Chief for Sri Lanka also said

that the debt restructuring

with China was concluded on

a strictly confidential basis for

the International Monetary

Fund (IMF) to conclude its first

review of the USD 2.9 billion

bailout. China holds 52 per

cent of Sri Lanka's total debt.

"The Chinese agreement

MAY 9 VIOLENCE

the court allowed the trials of civilians to continue. However, the military courts would not issue a final verdict against the suspect.It further stated that the final ruling would be conditional upon the Supreme Court's orders. On October 23, a five-member SC bench had declared that trying civilians in military courts for their alleged role in attacks on army installations after the arrest of Khan on May 9 was ultra vires the Constitution.

The caretaker federal government as well as the provincial ones in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab and the defence ministry had moved ICA before the SC against its judgment.

The verdict allows the military authorities to conduct the trial of over one hundred civilians who were handed over to the military authorities for their involvement in the attacks on the military installation on May 9.

The then Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led cabinet had decided that the protesters who vandalised military installations on May 9 would be tried under the Army Act and Official Secrets Act. According to the Pakistani Army, 102 accused have been handed over to the military authorities for trial. They have been arrested

for their alleged involvement in the attacks on key military establishments, including the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, the Corps Commander's House in Lahore, Pakistan Air Force Base Mianwali, and an office the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in Faisalabad.

Imran Khan, Qureshi indicted in cipher case

PTI ISLAMABAD

special court in Pakistan Aspecial court in Taman former prime minister Imran Khan and his close aide former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi in the cipher case for allegedly leaking state secrets and violating the laws of the country.

Judge Abual Hasnat Zulqernain conducted the proceedings of the case in the Adiala Jail Rawalpindi where the two leaders have been incarcerated in the case. The judge read out the

charges against the two leaders, who were present inside the courtroom, but both of them pleaded not guilty.

This was the second time that they were indicted. Earlier, they were indicted on October 23 but the process was nullified by the Islamabad High Court.

Judge Zulqernain while hearing the case on December 4 had declared that fresh indictment was mandatory in the light of the Islamabad High Court judgment which declared all proceedings illegal after ruling against the jail trial on procedural grounds.

It resulted in the fresh process to initiate an inprison trial of the duo after completing all procedures and starting the case from the

The Federal Investigation Agency registered the cipher case on August 15 on the charges of violating the secret laws of the country.

The case is based on the allegation that a diplomatic document sent by the Pakistan embassy in March last year was mishandled by Khan and Qureshi and they violated the secret laws of the

Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001 **Baba Farid** University of Health Sciences,

Faridkot Recruitment Notice

Vritten test for the recruitment of va-Department of Health & Family Welfare, Department of Medica Education & Research, Punjab Institute of Liver & Biliary Sciences, Mohali and Baba Farid Úniversity o Health Sciences, Faridkot will be held on 17-12-2023 (Sunday). For admit card/ any details/ updates visit vww.bfuhs.ac.in.

Registra

00/12/158/2023/30567

This is to inform the Public at large that Sh. Prem Chand Bhari alias Sh. Prem Chand Sh.O. Late Sh. Dharam Pal Singh is the "Title Holder" in possession of 'DDA Bull tup Freehold Property Bearing Flat No. 2108, Ground Floor, Category – Janta. Nand Nagri G.T.B. Enclave, New Delhi-11093, hereinafter referred to as Schedule Property vide Conveyance Deed date. 20.8. 2014, duly registered as Regn. No. 6620, Book No. 1, Vol. No. 5165, pp. 145–147 on 02.05.2014 in be Office of the Sub Registrar-VII, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi. That the Schedule Property is presently mortgaged with Pramal Finance, wherein the Title Holder is the Mortgagor. That the (j) Allotment Cum Demand Letter dated 15.07.1983 and (iii) Offer to Possession Letter dated 15.07.1983 and (iii) Dersession Letter dated 15.07.1983 and (iii) Dersession Jip dated 29.07.1983 all issued by Delhi Development Authority for the Schedule Property are presently laminated and thus, are to be considered as lost/ misplaced/ destroyed original documents, in ieu of which Information Report dated 09.12.2023 earing LR No. 1217796/ 2023 also has been filled with Delhi Police. Hence, this notice is issued to the Public at large, declaring the nature of the above mentioned documents, i.e. being laminated and thus the Delhi Police. Hence, this notice is issued to the Public at large, declaring the nature of the above mentioned documents, in heiniance, Sale, Mortgage (except for what is mentioned herein above), Exchange, Charge, Llen, Gift, Trust, Encumbrance etc. or objection to the sale of the Schedule Property, by way of Ownership, Company (les), Authority(les), Society(les), Company, (les), Financial Institution(s), Bank(s) HUFs etc., to be submitted with supporting documents and the Title Holder is called from any Person(S). Company (les), Authority(les), Society(les), Bank(s) Huffs etc., to be submitted with supporting documents and the Title Holder shall proced to sel the Schedule Property subject to an objection for Pirmal Finance, as is presently intended.

Office Address

Coreldraw Graphics Suit 2023 1 No. losing date & time: 28-12-2023 at 4:00 PM

for details log onto: www.eproc.punjab.gov.in lote: Any corrigendum(s) to the tender notice shall be published on the abov

NA/12/20764/2023/30577 Dated CHD :- 12/13/2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No. SSA-12018/5/2023-MIS/I/366815/2023 dated 13.12.2023 Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axom, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites following bids through GeM portal:

 GEM/2023/B/4319995 Dated: 09-12-2023 for Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Desktop, MFP Printer, UPS for Digital Library

2.GEM/2023/B/4317530 Dated: 09-12-2023 for Supply of Television

for Digital Library in schools. Interested bidder may visit GeM portal and submit their bid in GeM portal accordingly. The bid is also available in SSA website: https://



Sd/-Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axom Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

For FY 2023-24

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION Town Hall, Near Post Office, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Phone: 0240-2333536 to 40

www.Chh.Sambhajinagarmahapalika.org botslum@gmail.com Date: 12/12/2023 No./CSMC/2023/49/801

Expression of Interest

E Tender Notice No: 2023-AMCA-971328-1

Municipal Commissioner of "Chhatrapati Sambhajinaga Municipal Corporation" (CSMC) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for selection of bidder to undertake development of a project under BOT to development of CTS No. 13917 Mechanical Multilevel Car Parking at Paithan gate having admeasuring area 1100 Sq.mtrs as per UDCPR, applicable norms and on the basis of sanctioned plans.

Details Such as bid document last date of submission, date of Pre bid conference etc. will be available from 13/12 /2023 from 17.00 hrs. on following e-tender portal. https://www.mahatenders.gov.ir All interested bidders may apply online through this portal

> Municipal Commissioner & Administrator Municipal Corporation, CSMC

in principle was very good news in Sri Lanka's debt restructuring talks. We have seen a summary of the key financial terms of the agree

Colombo (PTI): The IMF ment shared by authorities on Executive Board has completa strictly confidential basis," ed the first review under the Breuer told reporters on 48-month Extended Fund Tuesday The IMF late Tuesday con-Facility with Sri Lanka, providing the cash-strapped country with access to about USD 337

SL to get access to \$337 mn

from IMF to stabilise economy

cluded the review and approved the release of the second tranche worth USD 337 million to the island nation, bringing the value of disbursements to USD 670 million in the four-vear facility. Breuer said the IMF

Executive Board completed the first review under the 48month Extended Fund Facility with Sri Lanka, providing the country with access to SDR 254 million (about USD 337 million). This brings the total IMF financial support disbursed so far to SDR 508 million (about USD 670 million) out of the total amount of SDR 2.286 billion (about USD

Over 100 kg explosives used in Pak terror attack which killed 23 soldiers series of blasts, as militants

rammed an explosives-laden

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

ver 100 kg of explosives Were used in the deadliest terror attack this year on Pakistani security forces in the country in which 23 soldiers were killed, an official said here on Wednesday. Six terrorists linked to Tehrik-e-Jihad Pakistan (TJP) rammed an explosive-laden truck into the security post in Dera Ismail Khan in the South Waziristan tribal district in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province on Tuesday. According to Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) SP Asif Mehmud, over 100 kg of explosives were used in the terror attack. Twenty-three soldiers were killed and 30 others were injured in the massive attack.

The assault was followed by a

vehicle into the gate and carried out a subsequent suicide bombing. "The resulting explosion caused the building to collapse, resulting in multiple casualties. All six militants were engaged and killed," the military said in a statement. TIP, a newly formed militant group that is an affiliate of the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), has claimed responsibility for the attack. However, no arrest has been made so far. All the six terrorists were "sent to hell".

The TJP had claimed responsibility for the attack and also released a two-minute video, purporting to show militants targeting security personnel with thermal scopes. Security officials, however,

Governor Haji Ghulam Ali

and caretaker chief minister Arshad Hussain visited the district and obtained briefings on the prevailing law and order situation. They also visited the hos-

pitals to enquire about the health of the injured. Pakistan has recently been claiming the involvement of Afghan nationals in terrorist attacks. After the attack, the

Foreign Office released a state-

PUBLIC NOTICE claimed the video was not Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa

ment demanding immediate and verifiable actions from the Afghan government against militant outfits fomenting terror in Pakistan, as it issued a demarche to Afghan Charge d'Affaires Sardar Ahmad

India e-retail market to cross \$160 billion by 2028

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

PTI MUMBAI

cent by FY26.

E-retail in India is expected to surge past USD 160 billion (over Rs 13 lakh crore) mark by 2028, a report released by Bain & Company in collaboration with Flipkart said on Wednesday.

The E-retail market is expected to be around USD 57–USD 60 billion (Rs 4.75 lakh crore to 5 lakh crore) in 2023, with an annual shopper base of around 240 million representing an annual addition of USD 8–12

The largest cement and

I ready-mix concrete maker

Ultratech Cement on

Wednesday announced that it

plans to increase the overall

share of green energy in its total

energy mix to 85 per cent by

As an interim target for its sus-

tainability objectives and tar-

gets, the AV Birla Group com-

pany plans to increase its total

green energy share from its current 22 per cent to 60 per

Currently the company has 691 MW of green energy capacity, which includes 262

MW of WHRS (waste heat

recovery system) installed capacity and 429 MW of con-

tracted renewable energy. This

translates to about 22 per cent

of its current energy require-

"As the country's largest cement

maker, it is our responsibility to

lead the way in building a

more sustainable and green

future for the industry by

decarbonization. We've been

constantly scaling up our green

energy mix over the years," said

KC Jhanwar, the managing

Ultratech targets to meet 100 per cent of its electricity

requirement through renew-

able sources by 2050, as part of

its commitment towards green

power. As a member of EP100,

Ultratech is committed to dou-

bling its energy productivity. To boost the share of green energy in the overall energy

mix, the company has taken

several initiatives including

switching to renewable energy

sources and expanding waste

heat recovery systems. It has

been reducing reliance on ther-

mal energy in manufacturing

director.

green energy mix by 2030

'Long-term fundamentals of India's e-retail industry, including affordable data, improved logistics and fintech infrastructure and strong digital consumer ecosystems remain intact," Bain's Innovation & Design Capability Area, Partner and Global Leader, Arpan Sheth said in a statement.

"The market is expected to rebound to 23-25 per cent growth levels, surging beyond USD 160 billion by 2028," the statement said.

operations and also driving

adoption of sustainable trans-

port with logistics partners.

Recently it partnered with

Coolbrook, a Finland-based

transformational technology

and engineering company to

jointly develop a project to implement Coolbrook's rotody-

namic heater (RDH) technol-

ogy in one of its manufactur-

ing units. This technology uses

electrification from renewable

sources for heating thus remov-

Similarly it is actively exploring

innovative technologies like

carbon capture, utilisation, and

storage (CCUS) in collabora-

tion with startup technology

CarbonOrO, Coomtech, and

To reduce carbon footprint in its logistics segment, Ultratech has introduced CNG/LNG

companies such

ing the need for fossil fuels.

"As GDP per capita continues

The e-retail market is poised to grow in the coming years, with online spending currently only 5-6 per cent of total retail spending in India compared to the US where it is 23-24 per cent and 35 per cent in China, indicating massive headroom

for growth. According to the report, the majority of India's retail spend (94–95 per cent) continues to be offline, with general trade accounting for 87 per cent of the overall retail spend.

to increase, especially beyond USD 4,000, it is expected to drive a sharp rise in online spending, as spend per shopper on discretionary products increases," the report said.

At present per capita income is

around USD 2,600 in the coun-

The report estimates that over 60 per cent internet users are not shopping online. "The sell-er ecosystem in India is also expanding rapidly, with twice as many sellers added in 2022

compared to the previous year.

new sellers came from Tier 2 and smaller cities," the report

More than half of the total seller base hails from 7 cities, namely Delhi NCR, Surat, Jaipur, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Kolkata, the report said.

The e-retail industry in India is witnessing the emergence of new business models to cater to consumer needs which include quick-commerce (Q-commerce) platforms, hyper-value

commerce (live commerce), and fast fashion.

Over the past year, Q-commerce orders have doubled, accounting for 40-50 per cent of India's e-grocery spend," Bain & Company, Partner and leading member of the Consumer Products & Retail practice, Shyam Unnikrishnan

The hyper-value sector's share of overall e-retail grew five times between 2020 and 2022 in India, the report said.

Gold falls

₹80; silver

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

tumbles ₹700

Gold prices slipped Rs 80 to Rs 61,820 per 10 grams in the nation-

al capital on Wednesday amid weak

global cues, according to HDFC

The precious metal had closed at Rs

Silver also tumbled Rs 700 to Rs 75,050 per kilogram. In the international mar-

kets, gold and silver were down at USD 1,981 per ounce and USD 22.70 per

Spot gold at Comex was trading at USD

1,981 per ounce, down by USD 8 from

61,900 in its previous close.

ounce, respectively.

Stock markets settle marginally higher on late buying

PTI MUMBAI

 $B^{
m enchmark\, equity\, indices}_{
m Sensex\, and\, Nifty\, eked}$ out marginal gains on Wednesday following late buying in capital goods, auto and utility stocks as investors adopted a cautious approach ahead of the US Fed interest rate decision.

The 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 33.57 points or 0.05 per cent to settle at 69,584.60, driven by late buying. During the day, it fell 450.47 points or 0.64 per cent to 69,100.56.

The Nifty gained 19.95 points or 0.10 per cent to 20,926.35

"The market's focus now shifts to the upcoming FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) meeting. And the recent global upside is getting far stretched in anticipation of a rapid fall in US Fed rate in CY 2024," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Among the Sensex firms, Power Grid, Mahindra & Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro, Sun Pharma, State Bank of India, Titan and Tata Steel were the major gainers.

Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finserv, UltraTech Cement and Bajaj Finance were the major laggards.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 1.06 per cent and smallcap index gained 0.73 per cent. Among the indices, services climbed 1.50 per cent, realty jumped 1.45 per cent, utilities (1.33 per cent), power (1.25 per cent), auto (1.17 per cent) and consumer discretionary (0.85 per cent).

În contrast, IT, telecommunication, bankex, oil & gas and teck were the laggards. "Asian shares were mixed while European markets were up on Wednesday, as traders waited for the year's final policy decision from the Federal Reserve and clues on whether the central bank will cut rates next year," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research,

HDFC Securities. In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower while Tokyo ended in the positive terri-

Ultratech to have 85 per cent | 'No proposal to provide subsidy on import duty on EVs into India'

There is no proposal to provide subsidy ▲ on import duty on imports of electric vehicles into the country, Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Som Parkash said the government has taken a series of policy initiatives and measures to create a conducive ecosystem to promote industrialisation and domestic value addition and to make India globally competitive. The government has also taken various

steps to boost domestic and foreign investments in India to enhance local value addition under Make in India initiative, the minister said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. "Presently, there is no proposal either to provide exemption from local value addi-

India," Parkash said. He also informed that the government has launched the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for automobile and auto component industry with a budgetary outlay of Rs 25,938 crore to provide financial incentives to boost domestic manufacturing of advanced automotive technologies products, including electric



vehicles and their components.

a question whether it is a fact that the government has a proposal under consideration to exempt Tesla and other multinational car companies from local value addition of cost in heavy batteries, semiconductors and even magnetic parts and also subsidy on the import duty on the import of electric vehicles in India.

its previous close in the overseas mar-The scheme incentivises the establishment kets. "Comex gold is trading near a of giga scale ACC manufacturing facilimulti-week low after US Consumer Price Index (CPI)data on Tuesday ticked ties in the country for 50 GigaWatt hour tion cost or to provide subsidy on import duty on import of electric vehicles in up slightly in November, bringing into question expected rate cuts next year. The minister said this while replying to

Traders are now waiting for remarks from Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, who is scheduled to speak later on Wednesday, and will provide new insights into the central bank's monetary policy rate path for next year," Saumil Gandhi, senior analyst of commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

Park Hotels, Medi Assist get Sebi approval to launch IPOs

A peejay Surrendra Park Hotels Ltd, which runs hotels under the "The Park" brand, and health-tech firm It has plans to deploy 500 electric trucks and add 1,000 40 tonne CNG/LNG trucks by June 2025 as part of government's eFast initiative. Medi Assist Healthcare Ultratech first introduced CNG Services have received markets regulator Sebi's go-ahead to vehicles in its operations in 2021 and LNG vehicles in 2022

float initial public offerings. The two firms, which filed their preliminary IPO papers in and has over 390 CNG trucks and 50 LNG trucks operational across 17 manufacturing August, obtained the regulator's observation letters on December 7-8, an update with

the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) showed on Wednesday.

In Sebi's parlance, obtaining its observation letter means its goahead to float the IPO. According to the draft papers,

the proposed IPO of Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels comprises a fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 650 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of equity shares to the tune of Rs 400 crore by promoters and investor shareholders.



Those offering shares in the OFS are Apeejay Surrendra Trust, Apeejay Pvt Ltd, RECP IV Park Hotel Investors Ltd, and RECP IV Park Co-Investors Ltd.

Proceeds of the fresh issue would be utilised towards the payment of debt and for general corporate purposes.

The company operates hospitality assets under its brands, The Park, The Park Collection, Zone by The Park, Zone Connect by The Park and

lished a presence in the retail food and beverage industry through its retail brand 'Flurys'.

Stop by Zone. It has estab-

Medi Assist's proposed maiden public issue is entirely an OFS of up to 2.8 crore shares by promoters and existing shareholders, draft papers showed.

Those selling shares in the OFS include Vikram Jit Singh Chhatwal, Medimatter Health Management, Bessemer India Bessemer Health Capital LLC, and Investcorp Private Equity Fund I. Since the issue is completely an

Capital Holdings II Ltd,

OFS, the company will not receive any proceeds, and all the funds will go to the selling shareholders.

Bengaluru-based Medi Assist is a health-tech and insurtech company focused on administering health benefits across employers, retail members, and public health schemes.

OPS to restrict States' capacity to undertake development activities: RBI

Sounding a note of caution, a Reserve Bank report has said that reverting to the DAlinked Old Pension Scheme (OPS) will exert huge pressure on state finances and restrict their capacity to undertake developmental expenditure.

The Reserve Bank's report on 'State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2023-24' also said the provision of non-merit goods and services, subsidies, transfers and guarantees will render their fiscal situation precarious.

The governments of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh have informed the central government and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development for their state government

These state governments have requested for withdrawal/ refund of contribution, along with return thereon, the finance ministry has recently informed Parliament.

The central bank's report said the return to the Old Pension Scheme by a few states, and reports of some other states moving in the same direction would exert a huge burden on state finances and restrict their capacity to undertake growth-enhancing capital expendi-

"Internal estimates suggest that if all the state governments revert to OPS from the National Pension System (NPS), the

be as high as 4.5 times that of NPS, with the additional burden reaching 0.9 per cent of GDP annually by 2060," the report said. This, the report said, will add to the pension burden of older OPS retirees whose last batch is expected to retire by early 2040s and, therefore, draw pension under the OPS till the 2060s.

"Thus, any reversion to OPS by the states will be a major step backwards, undermining the benefits of past reforms and compromising the interest of

future generations," it said. The report noted that some states have budgeted for fiscal deficits exceeding 4 per cent of GSDP in 2023-24 against the all-India average of 3.1 per

US conducted countervailing probe on certain Indian goods: Patel

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The US has conducted countervailing investigations on certain Indian goods such as paper file folders, and common alloy aluminum sheet, Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

The European Commission (EC) has also conducted a similar probe on certain graphite electrode systems, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. She said that the Indian government and the affected exporters have strongly defended the subsidy allegation against various programmes and schemes of the government, both at central and state level, in their written and oral responses during the conduct of investigations. "The products for which countervailing investigations have been conducted and a final determination of CVD (countervailing duty) has been made include Paper File Folders, Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet and Forged Steel Fluid End Blocks by US," she said.

Countervailing duty is a country-specific duty imposed to safeguard the domestic industry against unfair trade subsidies provided by the local governments of the exporting nations. In a separate reply, she said that the reasons for decline in merchandise exports include high base of last year, persisting geopolitical tensions including Russia-Ukraine conflict, and monetary tightening along with recessionary fears that have led to a decline in consumer spending across advanced nations and the consequential slowdown in demands.

TN top software exporter among States this year so far: TRB Rajaa

Software exports from Tamil Nadu have reached an alltime high of USD 4.8 billion surpassing all other states in the country as of October 31, 2023, State Minister T R B Rajaa said on Wednesday.

The Minister for Industries said the software exports from the state could hit USD 8 billion this financial year, marking a 'signif-icant leap' from last year's USD 5.37 billion.

"Exciting news ahead as we get ready for Tamil Nadu Global Investors Meet 2024. State-wise data on Electronic Exports from India till October 2023 are in, and the story of Tamil Nadu's success is truly remarkable yet again," he said on Wednesday.

growth rate over the next two

Rajan wondered whether the

government has any plan for increasing India's economic

growth from the current 6 per

"So you need some sensible dis-

cussion in public...You have to

take economists into your con-

ference," he suggested

cent-plus to 12-15 per cent.

years," he explained.



Tamil Nadu leads in electronic exports with USD 4.78 billion as of October 31, 2023, followed by Uttar Pradesh at USD 2.58 billion. Karnataka ranked third at USD 2.29 billion, the data shared by Rajaa showed.

The state's strategic policies, skilled workforce, robust infrastructure and of course the Dravidian Model of governance have propelled its exports to new heights," he wrote in a social media post.

to the commitment of our Chief Minister M K Stalin to foster innovation, attract investments, and nurture a vibrant business environment. As the data unfolds, it is clear that Tamil Nadu's growth trajectory in Electronic Exports is not just a statistic but a testament to the state's thriving ecosystem," he

'The success must be attributed

Infra spending, good performance by large economies push sharp uptick in GDP in H1FY24: Rajan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan has attributed the sharp uptick in GDP in the first half of the current fiscal to infrastructure spending and good performance by large economies of the world but added India has to do a lot of catching up and the USD 5 trillion economy goal for 2025 is nearly impossible.

Rajan further said that even as India's growth rate is strong, private investment and private consumption have not picked up.

"So if you look at why we have done so well this year, one of the reasons we are doing so well is also because the world is doing well.

"... The other reason for this very strong growth in the first

ment spending on infrastructure," Rajan told PTI.

India retained the tag of the world's fastest-growing major economy, with its GDP expanding by a faster-thanexpected rate of 7.6 per cent in the July-September quarter on booster shots from govern-ment spending and manufac-

At constant (2011-12) prices in April-September 2023-24 (H1 2023-24), GDP is estimated at Rs 82.11 lakh crore as against Rs 76.22 lakh crore during the corresponding period of the previous year, showing a growth of 7.7 per cent in H1 2023-24 as against 9.5 per cent in H1 2022-23.

He noted that over the last four years, from the pre-pandemic days till today, the Indian econ-

omy has grown about 4 per cent a year. That is way below our growth

potential (economic growth rate) of 6 per cent. 'So you said inflation is con-

tained. One of the reasons inflation is contained is we haven't even grown at our potential rate," Rajan, present-ly Katherine Dusak Miller Distinguished Service Professor of Finance at Chicago Booth (USA), observed.

The eminent economist emphasised that India needs to grow much faster as the worrying fact that the growth is not providing enough jobs.

"We are about 5 per cent below our trendline which was the pre-pandemic trendline. So there is some catch-up to be done at this point," he said. Noting that for democracy to

work, the government needs to share the data with the people, he said, "You can not simply pull numbers out of a hat and say...We will be a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025." According to Rajan, it is virtu-

"Because we are now maybe

become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025 unless a "miracle"

ally impossible for India to

Replying to a question on his earlier prediction that India is 'dangerously close' to the Hindu rate of growth, Rajan said he was right to worry that India's economic growth had slowed "I think the word 'Hindu rate of growth' was unfortunate

tations," he said According to him, it was a tech-USD 3.5 trillion economy, to be a USD 5 trillion economy, you nical term, which was used by

because it also created conno-

1978 to describe the slow growth of 3.5 per cent A "4 per cent growth which I

economist Dr Raj Krishna in

mentioned just now in the last four years, (is) not that different from three-and-a-half per cent growth," Rajan said, adding that the country needs to grow much faster.

He opined that the reality is whatever rate India is growing up currently is not enough. Noting that only way India's demographic dividend will become a dividend, if the coun-

try creates enough jobs, Rajan said, "let us focus on that instead of worrying about every quarters growth, which can be opened up." Earlier this year, sounding a note of caution, Rajan said that

India is "dangerously close" to

the Hindu rate of growth in

ly intervene and provide favour and give subsidies to some sectors of the industry. Why do we think it will work out today when it did not work out in the past," he asked. The scheme was announced in 2021 for 14 sectors such as telecommunication white goods, textiles, manufacturing of medical devices, automo-

investment, high-interest rates

On production linked incentive

(PLI) scheme, Rajan likened

the implementation of the

scheme to pre-economic liber-

alisation days when successive

governments used to constant-

and slowing global growth.

biles, speciality steel, food products, high-efficiency solar PV modules, advanced chemistry cell batteries, drones and

-JUNIOR HOCKEY WORLD CUP SEMI —

Mighty Germany stands in India way

omentum on their side, a determined India would look IV to overcome the mighty Germany to progress to the final of the Junior Men's Hockey World Cup for the fourth time in the history of the tournament have on Thursday. nament here on Thursday.

The Indians produced a spectacular display of grit and character to prevail over the Netherlands, ranked fourth in the world, in the quarterfinal on Tuesday

with a thrilling 4-3 win. Trailing 0-2 at half-time and 2-3 in the third quarter, the Indians exhibited immense resilience to beat the Dutch and set up a last-four clash against the

scoring the winner against the Netherlands three minutes from the Uttam's deputy Araijeet Singh Hundal

too was up to the task, scoring twice in the match. India captain Uttam said they are used

to playing under pressure situations. "We are now used to playing under pressure. Be it the Asia Cup final against Pakistan or the bronze-medal match in the Sultan of Johor Cup, we have played

and won under pressure. "It's something we have worked on and we have developed a skill set. It also helps that five players from the existing team were part of the previous Junior World Cup, so our experience

also comes in handy," he said.
The Indians would be brimming with



confidence following the come-frombehind win but they will have to adopt a defensive approach and concentrate more on their strength, which is attack-

Against Netherlands the other day, the Indians went on the back foot and were defensive initially, which cost them dearly but they got their act together in time and played attacking hockey thereafter to secure the hard-fought

But the Germans would be a hard nut to crack as they mostly rely on maintaining a solid defensive structure and breach the opponent's citadel through brisk counter attacks.

Against the Netherlands, the Indians produced a resolute performance with Rohit emerging as the shining light at avoids conceding too many penalty corners as the Germans are known for their

the back line. He was solid in defence and blocked as many as six successive penalty corners in the final quarter to

hand his side the victory. But this is something which would be a cause for concern for India coach C R Kumar and he would be hoping his defence puts up a better showing and

India have faced Germany four times this year and have lost on all four occasions, with their last defeat coming in the semifinals of the Sultan of Johor

Cup (3-6). India also lost 2-4 against Germany in the semifinals of the 2021 men's Junior World Cup in Bhubaneswar.

"The dream of every player in the team is to win the final and we are working tirelessly towards that goal. The team is in good form and we know the strengths and weaknesses of Germany after facing them so many times, Uttam said.

"We don't want to just be participants at the world events. We want to win it and we play with that motivation. So we will use the remaining time to pre-pare ourselves for the match and ensure we give our best against Germany tomorrow."

India coach CR Kumar is confident about his side, stating that Germany is not unbeatable.

"Germany are a strong team and we faced them in the Sultan of Johor Cup recently but with a slightly different squad and a different approach. We have analysed all the teams in the World Cup, Germany included, and the added learning from the previous matches against them will put us in a good position ahead of the game.

"The players know that Germany isn't unbeatable, it's a matter of executing the plan," he said.

Meanwhile in the other semifinal, Spain will take on France.

logistical details. "If it is an entire team (travelling) then the team manager contacts the organising committee and things are arranged immediate-

But she was alone and she didn't contact (organisers), so the organisers didn't know when she was arriving. It didn't happen on purpose, it happened by mistake," Mishra said.

"After arriving in Delhi, she (Okuhara) could have just called the organising secretary or competition manager. It happens sometimes when we travel overseas for an event and there is no one to receive. Nevertheless, it won't happen again."

Organising secretary Nileen Kumar, who is also a BAI executive council member, said he had met Okuhara at the hotel but was a bit brazen in his attempt to justify what they think is an unintentional mis-

'I saw her sitting there in the hotel lobby. BAI joint secretary Prabhakar Rao was also there and we offered our help.

Players have to send requests for accommodation in a BWF form but we didn't receive any such communication from her. It is

the same for everyone. Since there was no request, there was no room booked for her. Other players, who came from 30 other countries didn't face any such problem," Kumar

YOU DON'T GET SHUTTLE BUS IF YOU DON'T STAY IN OFFICIAL HOTEL': It was Okuhara's Indian friends, star shuttlers HS Prannoy and PV Sindhu, who spoke to the local members and organised her

accommodation. Prannoy, a world medallist himself, also arranged a car which would take her to training as she wasn't provided with a shuttle

bus allocated for players. Kumar, the BAI EC member reasoned that Okuhara is only entitled to a shuttle bus pick-up A former world No. 1, Okuhara, team hotel, where she didn't

have a booking, having not filled up the form. "If you stay in the official hotel, then only you get a shuttle bus. It is not possible for the organisers to get players from other

as other international shuttlers have also complained about various things over the last three weeks, which saw India hosting Syed Modi International in Lucknow, Guwahati Masters

Malaysian Soong Joo Ven had taken to 'X' On December 7, posting a video of muddy brown water coming from a tap in his hotel in Guwahati, while Jessica Tan of Singapore had shared pic-

Japanese world champion narrates logistical nightmare in India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $F^{
m ormer}$ world champion and Olympic medallist shuttler Nozomi Okuhara recently narrated her harrowing travel experience in India where she was duped by Delhi's notorious cab drivers and also made to wait for four hours before being allotted a hotel room in Cuttack, Odisha. The 28-year-old Okuhara, took to the social media platform fansnet.Jp to narrate her ordeal after being harassed by cab drivers at Delhi airport and not getting any official transportation after arriving in Cuttack on Monday to play in the Odisha Open. She also had to wait for four hours to check in at the hotel and wasn't provided with a shuttle bus/car for her sched-

uled 8 am practice session. An embarrassed Badminton Association of India (BAI) general secretary Sanjay Mishra termed the series of incidents as

"unfortunate" and promised that
"it won't happen in future".
However, in the local organising
committee's defence, the allpowerful BAI secretary general said the ace Japanese shuttler didn't send any e-mail inform-ing the logistical details (local travel and accommodation) which could have ensured proper arrangement prior to her arrival.

"I understand what Okuhara must have been through but the fact is that we didn't receive any email regarding accommodation or transportation from her end. It is a technical issue and a matter of miscommunication. We had no information," Mishra told PTI.

Terming it as an unfortunate incident, Mishra promised that nothing of this sort will happen in future.

"It is unfortunate but the moment I came to know about it I spoke to the organisers and provided all help. She is a big player and is our guest and we will ensure nothing of this sort

who claimed the Syed Modi International Super 300 title in Lucknow and skipped the Guwahati event the following week, had arrived in New Delhi via Hong Kong on Sunday night. It was then her ordeal started. The disturbing chain of events began when a stranger put her luggage on a trolley at the Delhi airport and then she was duped by a private taxi driver as she ended up paying 10 times more than what an Uber would have cost her to reach a nearby hotel for an overnight stay.

ARRANGEMENTS DONE FOR TEAM AND NOT INDIVIDUAL: However, Mishra also said such an incident wouldn't have occurred if it was an entire contingent travelling because the manager of the squad takes care of the hotels across the city," Kumar This is not the first such incident

and Odisha Open.

tures of pigeon poop on the match courts in Lucknow.

for Chicago Bulls Ring of Honor



Michael Jordan, Scottie Pippen and Dennis Rodman are the headliners for the inaugural class for the Chicago Bulls' Ring of Honor.
The Bulls unveiled their plans for the Ring of Honor on Tuesday. The first class includes 13 men and the 1995-96 team, which went 72-10 and won the NBA title. The franchise plans to of events in January.

The inaugural class also includes Phil Jackson, Jerry Krause, Artis Gilmore, Jerry Sloan, Toni

Kukoc, Bob Love, Chet Walker, Johnny "Red" Kerr, Tex Winter and Dick Klein.

Jackson coached the 1995-96 team, which had Jordan, Pippen, Rodman and Kukoc, with Krause leading the front office and Winter serving as an assistant coach. "The Chicago Bulls Ring of Honor will be a first-ofits-kind celebration honoring many of the legends who have helped shape our organization President Michael Reinsdorf said in a release.

"They have deep connections to our fans and community and

represent a spirit of competition, hard work, and toughness.'

The Ring of Honor festivities include a private gala at the United Center on Jan. 11 and a halftime presentation during a Jan. 12 game against Golden State. Warriors coach Steve Kerr also played on the 1995-96 Bulls

The franchise plans to add to its Ring of Honor every two years, so the next class will be inductsion for players includes spending at least three seasons with the team and being retired from basketball for at least three years.

Jordan headlines inaugural class | Copenhagen beats Galatasaray

In the end, it didn't matter what Manchester United did. Copenhagen's 1-0 win over

Galatasaray on Tuesday booked the Danish champion's place in the knockout stage of the Champions League from second place in Group A and ensured that even a United win over Bayern Munich wouldn't have been enough for Erik ten Hag's troubled team United, which lost 1-0 to Bayern,

had needed Copenhagen and Galatasaray to draw to keep its hopes alive. Galatasaray finishes third and will drop into the Europa League, while United is last. Lukas Lerager scored the only goal of the game but was later sent off to give Galatasaray hope of a late comeback.

After a tense first half lacking much creativity from either team, Copenhagen made the breakthrough in the 58th minute for Lerager to score his third Champions League goal of the season as the Galatasaray defense was slow to react



The midfielder was sent off for collecting two yellow cards in five minutes late on, one for a push on Baris Alper Yilmaz, the other for a clumsy tackle.

Galatasaray needed a win to qualify, but that rarely seemed likely. The Turkish team came closest in stoppage time when Mauro Icardi had a shot saved by goalkeeper Kamil Grabara. had a header blocked by Denis Vavro, with Grabara still out of position from the earlier save. Icardi could have set up a goal in the 73rd when he backheeled the ball for Kerem Aktürkoglu in space in the penalty area, but Aktürkoglu's shot soared over the bar.

Copenhagen is into the Champions League round of 16 for only the second time. In the 2010-11 season, it survived a group also containing Barcelona - the Champions League win-Rubin Kazan and Panathinaikos. Copenhagen got no further than that, losing to Chelsea 2-0 on aggregate in the last 16.

Lens beats Sevilla 2-1

AP LENS (FRANCE)

Defending Europa League champion Sevilla was knocked out of European competition Tuesday in a 2-1 loss to Lens in their final Champions League group game.

Substitute Angelo Fulgini scored six minutes into stoppage time as the northern French club secured a Europa League place. Lens needed only a draw to clinch third place in Group B and took the lead in the 63rd minute with a penalty from Poland winger Przemyslaw Frankowski. He shot into the right corner after Facundo Medina was fouled by Boubakary Soumaré.

Medina then conceded a penalty that goalkeeper Brice Samba saved brilliantly one-handed from veteran defender Sergio Ramos. But the kick was retaken because Samba had moved off his line and, on his second attempt, Ramos clipped a superb Panenka-style penalty under the crossbar in the 79th. He sarcastically cupped his ear to the Lens fans who had jeered

With Sevilla chasing a winner, Ramos shot over from a good position in the fourth minute of

stoppage time and - moments - Florian Sotoca played Fulgini clean through and Fulgini guided the ball neatly into the bottom right corner. In other game, group winner Arsenal drew 1-1 at PSV Eindhoven with both already in the round of 16. Two weeks after being routed 6-

0 by Arsenal, Lens was under pressure from seven-time Europa League winner Sevilla. Veteran midfielder Ivan Rakitic had a stinging shot expertly stopped one-handed by Samba after 30 minutes. Samba was saved by his crossbar in the 56th when David Pereira Da Costa met a cross with a first-time flick. Some 300 Sevilla fans were allowed to attend after France's Council of State overturned a decision by Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin to ban traveling fans following recent violent incidents in the French

The late decision to ban Sevilla's fans - who do not have a reputation for violence - was widely viewed as a panic measure, especially considering there were no incidents when Lens traveled to Spain for the corresponding fixture and that Sevilla fans had booked flights and hotel rooms.

Harry Maguire and Luke Shaw were injured as Manchester United was eliminated from the Champions League on Maguire left the game in the first half of the

1-0 defeat to Bayern Munich at Old Trafford and Shaw went off at half-time. United manager Erik ten Hag later said it would take 24 hours to assess both players,

as he prepares for Sunday's Premier League game at Liverpool. Maguire appeared to injure his groin and

was replaced by Jonny Evans in the 40th minute after signalling he could not play on.



The England center back pulled up unchallenged and looked in discomfort as he clutched the inside of his left leg. Ten Hag quickly instructed Evans to warm

up as Maguire was treated by one of the team's physios. He came back onto the field, but was still

holding his groin and waved to the dugout that he could not carry on. The defender has recently battled his way back into Ten Hag's plans after being

stripped of the captaincy and pushed to the fringes of United's squad. Shaw added to United's concerns when he

was taken off at halftime and replaced by Aaron Wan-Bissaka.

Shoaib: A story of tears, hard work and glory age-group cricket," Lahiri, who heads the Royals Academy in Surrey, told PTI. **PTI** ■ BENGALURU of them were emotional. Saj website in which Bashir floats used to take him around the circuit to play club cricket and Before his glory moment of inclusion in England's Test with a vicious turner.

squad to tour India, Shoaib Bashir's journey was filled with rejection, tears and countless hours of hard work to finetune his skills.

The 20-year-old rookie offspinner from Somerset has been the star of the town after England selectors picked him out of nowhere into the senior side on Tuesday While the whole cricketing

world rejoices over another 'wonder-kid' story, in a faraway corner Siddhartha Lahiri, who coached Bashir since he was 10, offered a smile of satisfaction. "A fantastic opportunity for him. Even if he does not get to play India, you know, being around seniors on an important tour will do him a world of

I am sure not many would have thought of him playing Test "We call it the Variable Volume cricket a few years ago when he was struggling to land a team in Practice, where bowlers bowl at

Lahiri first came across Bashir as a 10-year-old aspiring cricketer in the Royals Academy at the Reeding School and was immediately impressed by his

desire to excel in cricket. "This lad was different because sometimes we tend to forget to enjoy the game, getting caught up in external matters like team

selection, competition from

other players etc "But Shoaib just loved to ball. With his eyes closed, he could land the ball where he wanted it to land. He will come to the academy around 5 PM and after doing his homework he will head to nets straightaway wheeling away for the rest of the evening.

Lahiri said they run a specialised training method in the academy for the budding cricketers and Bashir eagerly lapped

senior players. But not even for once Shoaib complained that a player is too weak or strong for

"He just worked on his action, focused on getting more consistent with his lines and lengths," he added. Lahiri felt that it has something

to do with Bashir's grounded upbringing, being part of an understanding family, which migrated from Pakistan to England a while ago. "See, in England the state school

junior, same age-group and kids will not get as much sporting exposure as the kids from private schools. Shoaib has seen a lot of difficulty as a child, and saw how his parents and uncle worked hard to make his dream

a reality.
"His uncle — Sajid — is a big influence on him. His mother used to come to the academy and sit and watch him for hours. They put all the eggs in one basket, and they are getting the results now.

"I had spoken to Saj after his selection and he was crying, all

other age-group cricket," he explained. However, there Bashir had to

ward off hardships on the field too as Surrey did not include him in their under-16 pro-Lahiri said those days were

tough on the young cricketer.

"At 16, he was struggling to find a place in the county programme after Surrey did not offer him a contract, and generally cricketers found it tough going forward in England if they didn't get a contract by that time. "But then the family took him around to play in minor counties and as it happened, he got a chance to play at Somerset junior programme, where he got a chance to bowl at players like Alastair Cook at nets whenever teams like Essex came around. It was a massive learning curve for him," he detailed. There is this video in the

Somerset County Cricket Club's

the ball above the eyeline of a batter to eventually castle him It came as no surprise to hear spin sorcerer Shane Warne's

influence on that delivery. Lahiri narrated the fascinating story of the legendary Australian leg-spinner's interaction with a

wide-eyed aspiring cricketer. Warnie came to inaugurate the Royals academy. We were told that Warnie would be around for some 10-15 mins and naturally the spinners in the

academy were excited. But once his session started with the kids, it went on three hours and 15 minutes, far exceeding the scheduled 15 minutes. 'He took a special note of Shoaib. Warnie told him to first learn how to turn the ball. Spinners can't be fast bowlers.

Earlier, Shoaib used to bowl a bit flat but Warnie's interaction changed all that. He began to learn more about how to put revs on the ball and turn it," said

Shami in race for Arjuna Award

One of India's ODI World Cup heroes, pacer Mohammed Shami has been recommended for this year's Arjuna Award by the country's cricket board (BCCI), sources said on Wednesday. The 33-year-old had a spectac-

ular run in the ODI World Cup, where India finished second best losing to Australia in the final

As per ministry sources, a special request was made by the BCCI to the Sports Ministry to include Shami's name as origi-nally he didn't feature in the list of the country's second-highest sporting honour.

Shami was the leading wicket-taker in the World Cup, with 24 wickets to his name from merely seven outings. After sitting out of the first four games, Shami shone bright when given the opportunity, claiming 24 wickets at an average of just 5.26.

Shami is likely to feature in India's upcoming two-match Test series against South Africa. The first Test will be a boxing day match starting December 26



in Centurion, followed by the second game in Cape Town

beginning January 3. The ministry has constituted a 12-member committee to decide for this year's sports awards including Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award and Arjuna award among others. Retired Supreme Court Justice

AM Khanwilkar will head the

Apart from him, there are six former international athletes in this committee. Hockey player Dhanraj Pillay, former paddler Kamlesh Mehta, ex-boxer Akhil Kumar, women shooter and

current national coach Shuma Shirur, former cricketer Anjum Chopra, badminton player Tripti Murgunde and powerlifter Farman Pasha are also part of the panel.



Star India batter Suryakumar Yadav consolidated his position at the top of the ICC Men's T20I Batter Rankings after being rewarded for his quickfire halfcentury against South Africa in the second T20I in Gqeberha,

South Africa. South Africa.
The attacking right-hander gained a total of 10 rating points after smashing 56 from just 36 deliveries even though India fell short in the exciting clash by five wickets. Suryakumar now has a total of 865 rating points, which is well clear of his near-Pakistan's est rivals — Mohammad Rizwan (787 rating points) and South Africa's Aiden Markram (758) — with less than six months out from the start of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. Suryakumar famously claimed the premier ranking during the most recent edition of the T20 World Cup in Australia towards the end of last year and, on current form, it appears the India batter is likely to hold that position into next year's tournament in the West Indies and USA. South Africa opener Reeza

Hendricks is one player to make ground on Suryakumar after he

moved up one place to eighth following his innings of 49 against India, while Tilak Varma (up 10 spots to 55th) and Rinku Singh (up 46 places to equal 59th) also gained places. With newly-crowned No.1 T20I bowler Ravi Bishnoi missing

selection on the tour of South Africa so far, it has paved the way for Afghanistan ace Rashid Khan to join the India young gun at the top of the rankings for Γ20I bowlers.

Proteas spinner Tabraiz Shamsi also made some eye-catching ground by rising two places to 10th following an economical spell of 1/18 in their most recent

India left-armer Kuldeep Yadav rose five places to 32nd on the

same list, while Markram improved two places to second behind only India's Ravindra Jadeja in the latest T20I rankings for all-rounders.

There was also some movement on the latest Test rankings this week following the completion of the exciting series between Bangladesh and New Zealand that finished tied at 1-1 after a tight second Test in Mirpur.

Glenn Phillips was adjudged Player of the Match in that Test and the 27-year-old was reward-ed by climbing from outside the top-100 to 55th on the updated rankings for batters and improved 42 places to 24th on the list for all-rounders the list for all-rounders.

Teammate Ajaz Patel jumped seven places to 33rd on the list for Test bowlers, while Bangladesh duo Mehidy Hasan (up two croots to 31st) and (up two spots to 21st) and Nayeem Hasan (up five places to 44th) also made good ground behind top-ranked bowler Ravichandran Ashwin.

Markram, Shamsi

middle over spells

India will have to play lead role: Kaur

women's cricket space, captain Harmanpreet Kaur on Wednesday admitted that India will have to play a lead role to make it a reality through consistent performances.

After a gap of nearly nine years, India will be playing a Test at home when they take on England in a one-off match here at the DY Patil Stadium. India's last Test at home took place in November 2014 against South Africa at Mysore.

it is improving day-by-day In India. A lot of people are coming to watch the match which we saw in the last T20Is," Kaur told the media on the eve of the match.

"Everyone in the world...They want to play in India. In India, things are changing quickly when it comes to cricket. A lot of people are extending their love and we are also trying to improve. We have an opportunity to take women's cricket as

high as we can.
"I know that a lot hinges on the Indian cricket team when it comes to women's cricket. The way the approach is changing in India concerning women's cricket, obviously, we have a lot in our hands," Kaur added.

With India making a return to the Test arena after September 2021, Kaur said as players they desire to appear in more longformat matches but the administrators have to make the final "As players we want to play more and more Test games. It is ICC and (the) board's call to take up,"

Kaur said she was feeling better after twisting her foot in the third T20I against England. "There was a little bit of soreness but I am feeling better now,

Kaur said the switch between white and the red ball formats, given there was only a three-day break between the T20Is and the Test, would be challenging for the players.

Kaur said

"I know, after (playing) white ball cricket it will be a little challeng-ing. The bowling unit got 10-15 stood how the red ball behaves. As batting and bowling units we have tried to cover up as much as we could," she said.

Kaur said changing the mindset quickly would be beneficial.

We want to play positive cricket and that is something that we have discussed in the team meeting as well. It is all about (the) mind game. We cannot keep thinking that

we played a Test match two years ago and some girls are new in the side. The only change is that the (colour of) the ball has changed but the approach will be the same," she said.

"The field placements and bowling can be attacking and we have discussed about winning the sessions too. Hopefully, whatever we have prepared in the last two days, we will be able to execute it in the middle," she said.

Kaur admitted to feeling 'butterflies in the stomach' as this will be the first time she would be leading the country in Tests.

Didn't know how to come back after loss: Rohit

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rohit Sharma had no clue if the would ever get over the disappointment of the World Cup final defeat but the love and understanding of fans has now "motivated" him to make an earnest shot at another ultimate glory. glory. While Rohit didn't mention

which ultimate glory he is talk-ing about but it is fairly believ-able now that he is looking at leading India in next year's T20 World Cup in the West Indies

Rohit, who had a dream World Cup as a skipper and batter till the final, was virtually in tears as he left the ground and had

PTI JOHANNESBURG

over the last three weeks.

needed to regroup in a day's time.

unfavourable environment.

selves in deep waters

The Indian bowlers will come under sharp scrutiny in the team's effort to merge the

immediate task of series-levelling and the distant

target of finding an ideal combination for next

year's T20 World Cup during the third and final

The second T20I against the Proteas was a micro-

cosm of the struggles this next-line Indian

bowlers have gone through more often than not

The left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh and his right-

arm colleague Mukesh Kumar were carted

around by South African opener Reeza Hendricks,

leaking 15.50 and 11.33 runs per over and they

Of course, rain and dew made their task a bit tough

at Port Elizabeth but the pair lacked the imagi-

nation or control while bowling in a rather

The non-availability of pacer Deepak Chahar for

personal reasons only have added to the bowling

Arshdeep and Mukesh are the bowlers the man-

agement trusts to produce forceful efforts in the

But this reserve bench hasn't been able to vindi-

cate that faith so far, many times finding them-

In fact, the 4-1 score-line in the recent home T20I

series victory over Australia has cleverly papered

over some flaws in this bowling unit.

Arshdeep Singh had bowled a brilliant last over

in the fifth T20I at Bengaluru at Aussies but that

absence of seniors like Jasprit Bumrah.



just relieve himself from the pain. "I had no idea how to come back

from this for the first few days. It was my family, friends that kept me going. They kept things light. It wasn't easy to digest but life moves on and it wasn't easy to move on," said Rohit, on his instagram fan page, airing his sentiments for the first time

As India seek series levelling win over SA in 3rd T20l

since November 19, when the team lost to Australia. However, what Rohit loved was

the appreciation and under-standing of the fans of the team's brilliant show. Their kind words were part of his healing process.

"For me to see, people coming up to me, telling me that they were proud of the team, made me feel good. Along with them, I was healing as well. I felt, okay these are the kind of this government. these are the kind of things you want to hear," Rohit said.

While he must have felt for some time that there is nothing more left to achieve, the 36-year-old Indian skipper dropped enough hints that he is now ready for one final date with history.

We need to use powerplay more effectively, says Yadav

PTI ■ GQEBERHA (SOUTH AFRICA)

Captain Suryakumar Yadav emphasised on the need for Indian batters to use Powerplay segment more effectively if the team wants to win the third T20I and level the series against South

Misfiring Indian bowlers in focus Batting first at St. George's Park, India were off to a meek start after losing openers Shubman Gill and Yashasvi Jaiswal for zero as Proteas reduced visitors to 6 for two in two overs.

It was in stark contrast to South Africa's start to their chase of a revised target of 152 in 15 overs, as the hosts scored 42 in just 2.5

clear. They (ŠA openers) batted beautifully in the first five-six overs. That's the brand of cricket we were talking about. But we are really looking forward to the third T20I," Suryakumar said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

The dashing batter, who became fastest to reach 2000 T20I runs, said even though the total was par for the night, their bowlers struggled a bit to tame rain and

"I think it was a par score. But it was a little tough [to bowl]. But I told my boys to be ready to be out of our comfort zone. But mood in the camp is always happy and full of cheer because I've said whatever happens on the ground, leave it on the ground," he added.

South African captain Aiden Markram said the bowlers used the slow nature of the pitch in the initial part of the match, chaining the Indian batters to a good extent.

"I thought the wicket was initial-I thought the wicket was initially on the slower side. From the batting point of view, it skidded on a bit. The rain helped us a little bit (while batting). But our the batting the batting the batting the batting the sales of bowlers tried hard and bowled incredibly well. They come up with their own plans," he said. Markram was quite happy to see opener Reeza Hendricks continuing his fine run in T20Is.

"Hendricks has been fantastic. He's adopted a bit of a leadership role in the batting."

Markram said the form of

Hendricks would add more depth to their search for identifying players for the next year's T20 World Cup.

"Ultimately, you want to pick So, from the selection point of view, there might still be a few places up for grabs. That healthy competition means a lot for us. The left-arm wrist spinner Tabraiz Shamsi bagged the Player of the Match award for his parsimonious spell of two for 18 in four overs.

Shamsi was delighted to put in a good effort under pressure against a power-packed batting line-up like India

'It's about putting the balls in the right area and to be able to do it against India under pressure is particularly pleasing. And SKY's a wonderful player," said Shamsi. Shami has a word of praise for captain Markram and coach Rob Walter.

"The changes Aiden Markram had on the field were brilliant. The positive thing has been that since Rob has come in, he has allowed us to bring our families. You can see that everyone's happy and trying to win games,' he added.

became turning point: Tilak **PTI** ■ GQEBERHA (SOUTH AFRICA)

South African spinners Tabraiz Shamsi and Aiden Markram used better bowling conditions to the fullest to emerge game-changers for South Africa during their fivewicket victory over India in the rain-affected second T20 International, reckoned Indian batter Tilak Varma.

Batting first, India were 180 for 7 in 19.3 overs when rain topped play and South Africa required 152 in 15 overs to win as per DLS calculations and they surpassed the target in 13.5 overs here on Tuesday night. While Varma revived the

Indian innings after initial jitters with 29 off 20 balls, offspinner Markram (1/29 in 3 overs) and left-arm wrist spinner Shamsi (1/18 in 4 overs) gave away only 47 runs between them, taking two vital wickets in the back-10 which stopped India from reaching 200.

"I feel the wicket was on the slower side in the first innings when we batted. The new ball was slightly seaming and we never expected that wicket would grip when Markram and Shamsi were bowling. The spell that Shamsi and Markram bowled became crucial, otherwise we would have reached 200," Varma said during the post-match press-con-

AP ■ PERTH (AUSTRALIA)

Nathan Lyon's quest for his 500th test wicket will be one of the individual features of the series opener between Australia and Pakistan beginning Thursday at Perth Stadium.

The 36-year-old offspinner goes into the match with 496 wickets, poised to join Shane Warne (708) and Glenn McGrath (563) as one of the only Australians to take 500 wickets

in test cricket. Perth Stadium has been a happy hunting ground for Lyon in the past: he has taken 22 wickets in three tests at an average of 18.45, leading Pakistan to identify him as one of their key figures in the first test and

three-match series. "As a team from the subcontinent, we normally play offspinners really well," Pakistan team director Mohammad

Lyon seeks his 500th test wicket

apart the pacer struggled to find his range in the series where he conceded 10.68 runs per over to finish on the winning side this time.

their eyes elsewhere.

Hafeez said. "In the last couple of series, we had a high strike rate against Nathan Lyon.

That will remain the same. We know Lyon is a great bowler but as a team we are confident we will take him on.

Australia vice-captain Steve Smith backed Lyon to make a strong return after missing the latter part of the Ashes series in England with a calf muscle injury, describing the veteran spinner as one of - if not the - most valuable players in the team.

'There's no doubt we missed Nathan at the back end of the Ashes," Smith said. "What he brings to the attack and the control and different tempos

- he can play defensive roles, he can play an attacking role and he's got all the tricks.

"And, closing in on 500 wickets that's a serious feat in itself.'

Lyon is unconcerned that the curator at Perth has predicted a hard and bouncy pitch for the so-called "West Test." That follows the relatively slow surface for last summer's test against the West Indies. "I like playing my role here," Lyon

said. "I enjoy bowling here, there's nice bounce on offer and it's a nice place to bowl. The wicket looks like a typical Perth wicket. It's all good A fast and bouncy pitch would suit



across four matches for as many wickets.

Mukesh seemed to have added a couple of yards

of pace but the seamer was also largely unable to

stop the flow of runs, and against the Australians

he took four wickets from four matches but went

for 9.12 runs per over. The second T20I at Gqeberha (formerly Port

Elizaberth) was a mere continuation of their tra-

vail and they need to pull their act together tomor-

row to prevent a series loss in the early part of a

With just four T20Is remaining ahead of the T20

World Cup, it is also imperative for them to keep

themselves in the mix before the selectors turn

Ravindra Jadeja, who played a T20I after a hia-

tus of one year and four months, too was unim-

pressive at St George's Park and the Indian vice-

captain will be looking for a better outing here.

But then there is always another side to the coin.

Rinku Singh continued to impress while making

his first fifty in this format and he would be eager

Australia's fast bowlers and Pakistan paceman Shaheen Shah Afridi.
"Shaheen in particular with the new

ball, the ability to bring it back down the line to the right-handers is always a threat," Smith said. "Any left-armer that can do that at good pace, it's a skill that we don't see too often. "I think he's improved a lot since he last came out here four years ago." Pakistan has many challenges to overcome in the test series, notably its history of poor performances in Australia. In tests between the teams in Australia, Australia has won 26, Pakistan has won four and there have

been seven draws. The teams last met in Pakistan in

2022 when Australia won a three-test series 1-0. Australia also has an unbeaten record in the three tests it has played at Perth Stadium, which has replaced the WACA as Western Australia's premier cricket arena. Australia heads into the match as the

World Test Champion and with a fullstrength squad, with Mitch Marsh holding out fellow West Australian Cameron Green for the allrounder spot and Lyon returning from injury. Travis Head, voted player of the match in Australia's World Cup final win over India last month and in the World Test Championship final, has been elevated to be a co-vice captain of the test squad with Smith. Both are deputies for skipper Pat Cummins.
"The personality that he brings to the team is something that we all love,"
Cummins said Wednesday. "And, I think you see it in the way he plays his cricket, there's a certain amount of freedom to it.

"He takes the game on and he enjoys it. He's always got a smile on his face. He's great at bringing the team together for team morale ... So he's got all the makings of a really strong leader.

Shan Masood, replacing Babar Azam as captain, said leading Pakistan to a test win in Australia for the first time since 1995 is a priority for the tour. "It would mean the world to us," he said. "We want to go forward as a side, play attractive test cricket.

'For us, it's about the bigger picture - making sure we can compete against the best. And, this is the perfect opportunity to do so."

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