OPINION 6

GLOBAL CONFLICTS FUEL

SINO-RUSSIAN COOPERATION

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Opposition united, yet divided

fter four rounds of meetings over "tea and at different cities in the last six months, the real challenge of seat sharing allocation for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls among the major stakeholders of the INDIA bloc led by the Congress has begun.

Trinamool Congress, Aam Aadmi Party, Janata Dal (U) and RJD, NCP, Samajwadi Party is reported to have started "bargain" with the grand old party considered to be the chariot leader of the coalition to take on the Narendra Modi's juggernaut in forthcoming General Elections

Against the backdrop of resentments expressed by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish ID(U). Kumar's former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi tried to reach out to Nitish, but they could not converse due to prior engagements. Rahul's response came soon after ID(U) Lok Sabha member Sunil Kumar Pintu took a swipe at the Delhi INDIA bloc meeting on Wednesday, stating, "When compared to the last meetings where good snacks were served, this time it got over with only tea, coffee, and



Sources said Rahul Gandhi could not speak to Nitish since he was in a meeting and, when Nitish called back, Rahul was in the middle of a party meeting. Sources told *The Pioneer* that Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has spoken to Nitish Kumar on Friday.

Sources said Nitish had an aspiration to be the prime ministerial candidate of the large Opposition grouping as it was he who first took the initiative and brought everyone together at Patna meeting in June, but in this week's meeting Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge was given a push by TMC and AAP. Kharge has though declined on this front and said focus is to win the maximum number of seats in the elections.

national general secretary Sanjay Kumar Jha, who had attended the meeting along with Nitish Kumar on December 19 said Nitish had stressed the need to finalise seat-sharing arrangements by January. He, however, refuted reports that the senior JD(U) leader grew "upset" over the coalition's reluctance to name him the convener of INDIA and had skipped the post-meeting press conference to register his protest.

On the other hand, Nitish had a meeting with his Deputy Chief Minister Tejaswi Yadav in Patna on Friday, where the two are believed to have discussed seat-sharing among the partners, though RJD leaders said it was regarding the expansion of the Bihar

Rahul, however, held a meeting with NCP chief Sharad Pawar, probably on seat-sharing in Maharashtra for the Lok Sabha elections. After the joint Opposition protests at Jantar Mantar, Rahul drove with Pawar to the latter's 6 Janpath residence. The two leaders were closeted for some time and were learned to have discussed seat-sharing among the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi partners Shiv Sena (UBT), Congress, and NCP for the Lok Sabha elections.

Pawar keen accommodating smaller parties, such as the Left, Peasants and Workers Party, and Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi, in the Opposition alliance, as they have certain pockets of strength in the State. The NCP veteran is also eager to finalise seat-sharing in Maharashtra early so that joint rallies of the coalition could be organised for campaigning in the Lok Sabha elections.

Another challenge is from Punjab, where the ruling party AAP is unwilling to ally with the Congress — the party it routed in last year's Assembly poll — to contest next year's general election. Though the Samajwadi Party participated

just concluded Winter Session, it will have differences with the Congress

on seat-sharing. With Bengal Congress leaders seeking 6-8 seats from the TMC in potential pre-poll alliance talks, the prospects of such collaboration are becoming increasingly uncertain. In the 2019 general elections, the TMC secured victory in 22 out of 42 seats, while the BJP, experiencing a meteoric rise, claimed 18 seats. The Congress, in contrast, managed only 2 seats, and the Left drew a blank for the first time since Independence.

Pradesh West Bengal Congress Committee (PCC) Adhir leaders, including Chowdhury, Deepa Dasmunshi, Chowdhury, and Shankar Malakar, have conveyed their demand for 6-8 seats to party president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi. While the TMC leadership remains tight-lipped about the PCC's demand, a senior leader in the party indicates there is no intention of offering more than 2-3 seats to the Congress. The leader suggested that, given the current atmosphere, the Congress may struggle to retain even the two seats it won last time without TMC support."

INDIA Bloc stages Save Democracy protest

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI/ PATNA/ MUMBAI/

The INDIA bloc staged a nationwide protest on Friday Friday against the suspension of 146 MPs from Parliament during the recently concluded Winter session. The bloc called on people to unite to save democracy in the country, accusing the ruling BJP of stifling the voice of the opposition. The leaders also urged for the defeat of the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The protest in the national capital at Jantar Mantar was led by top Opposition leaders, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, his party colleague Rahul Gandhi, and NCP chief Sharad Pawar. Similar protests were held by members of the INDIA alliance in Kolkata, Mumbai, Lucknow, Patna, Bengaluru, Guwahati, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Ranchi, and other cities



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge talks with party leader Rahul Gandhi as CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury and NCP chief Sharad Pawar look on during a protest of INDIA bloc at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Friday Ranian Dimri I Pioneer

of Left parties, DMK, SP, NC, TMC, JMM, RJD, and other members of the coalition Opposition attended the protest. The BJP criticised Rahul as

immature and leader. undemocratic dismissing the INDIA bloc's protest at Jantar Mantar. Union Information and Minister Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur emphasised

across the country. Leaders the need for MPs to speak in one voice on such sensitive matters and criticised leaders like Rahul Gandhi for levelling false allegations. Thakur said INDIA bloc parties did not participate in discussions in Parliament over people's issues and important Bills, suggesting that they had lost their mental balance following recent Assembly polls rout. Continued on Page 2



Macron to be chief guest at **Republic Day**

RAHUL DUTTA ■ NEW DELHI

French President Emmanuel Macron will be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations on January 26 here. He will be the sixth French leader to grace this prestigious occasion. Announcing this, the External Affairs Ministry said on Friday that, at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President of France Emmanuel Macron will be visiting India as the Chief Guest for the 75th Republic Day celebrations.

"As Strategic Partners, India and France share a high degree of convergence on a range of regional and global issues. This year, we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the India-France Strategic Partnership. The Prime Minister was the Guest of Honour at the Bastille Day Parade held on July 14, 2023, in Paris. President Macron visited India for the G-20 Summit on September 8-9, 2023," said the External Affairs Ministry.

New Delhi's invitation to Macron for the Republic Day celebrations comes amid a rapid upswing in ties between the two countries, including in areas of defence and security, clean energy, trade and investment, and new technologies. In July, Modi attended the Bastille Day parade, which is part of the French National Day celebrations, as the guest of honour.

In the same month, the defence ministry approved the purchase of 26 Rafale (marine) jets from France, primarily for deployment on board the indigenously built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant. France has already responded to India's initial tender for buying the jets. The deal is worth over Rs 50,000 crore.

The two sides are also expanding cooperation in the maritime domain, including in the Indian Ocean Region. The two strategic partners also expressed commitment to cooperate in the co-development and co-production of advanced defence technologies, including for the benefit of third countries.

Continued on Page 2

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A joint team of security forces intensified combing and search operations on Friday in the densely forested belt of Dera ki Gali in the Poonch district to flush out terrorists responsible for the gruesome attack on moving Army vehicles. The terrorists vanished from the scene without encountering significant resistance. It is suspected that the perpetrators behind the strike are hiding in the general area or have taken shel-

Four soldiers were "killed in action," and three others sustained injuries on Thursday when their

India loses more soldiers in J&K

evening, the Indian Army had not released the names of the martvred soldiers. Some media outlets reported on Friday that, after targeting Army vehicles in the Dera Ki Gali area of Poonch, the terrorists mutilated the soldiers' bodies and fled with their rifles. The Army has not issued any

A team from the National Investigation Agency (NIA) visited the spot on Friday before vehicles were ambushed by a group of highly trained foreign launching an investigation into the case. The Indian Army also



toring using helicopters and deployed sniffer dogs to track down the footprints of terrorists. Additional reinforcements were rushed to the spot to plug gaps

Meanwhile, security agencies detained 20

rorists behind the audacious strike.

The recent surge in terrorist strikes on Army personnel in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch has raised alarm bells in the security establishment. In four recent strikes, a total of 19 and prevent the terror- Army personnel were killed in ists from fleeing the action in Rajouri and Poonch since April 2023

According to a recent assessment by intelligence agencies, residents for questioning more than two dozen terrorists to identify facilitators are active in the twin border disand those sheltering ter- tricts of Rajouri and Poonch, Corps, wrote on X.

may be hiding in natural caves to escape aerial reconnaissance. Senior Army and police officials rushed to the spot to supervise combing operations. The General Officer Commanding (GoC), XVI Corps, Lt Gen Sandeep Jain, DGP J&K police RR Swain, and

Inspector General of Police,

taking shelter inside the thickly forested area. These terrorists

Jammu range Anand Jain visited the area and reviewed the security situation. "Indian Army and White Knight supreme sacrifice of four soldiers in Surankote on Thursday while

fighting the scourge of terrorism," White Knight Corps, or XVI

Covid reaches NCR, Centre says no need to panic yet

ARCHNA JYOTI NEW DELHI

Amid concerns that JN.1 variant Covid has started spreading in various pockets of the country, NCR city Noida for the first time reported a positive case of after several months, officials said. As India witnessed a single day rise of 640 fresh infections with Kerala topping the tally on Friday, Dr Soumya Swaminathan, former WHO chief scientist, said that the new strain should not be dismissed as a "common cold" and warned

saying "let us not take things lightly" However, the Union Government has asked people not to panic as yet. Dr Swaminathan's statement comes amid detection of twenty-two cases of COVID-19 sub-variant JN.1, with 21 cases being reported from Goa and

another from Kerala official sources said. Kerala has so far registered 265 fresh Covid-19 infections and one death due to the disease in the last 24 hours. The total number of active cases have climbed to 2,997 from 669 the day before, according to Union Health 2,669

Ministry data.

About the first Noida case, Gautam Buddh Nagar Chief Medical Dr Officer Dr Sunil Sharma said that the Officer 54-year-old male patient lives in Noida but works

at a multinational company in Gurugram. "His test sample has been sent to Delhi for genome sequencing. The result is awaited," Sharma said. District Surveillance Officer and public healthcare expert Dr Amit Kumar said the patient travelled to Nepal earlier this month and also went to work at his Gurugram office after returning. Continued on Page 2

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

head of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, A head of the 2024 Low Salom Carthe BJP's national office bearers met on Friday to deliberate and chart out the party's strategy for the upcoming polls. The two-day meeting was chaired by BJP chief JP Nadda and attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP State presidents, incharge of different States, and organisational general secretaries of States, among others. The BJP's national office bearers also discussed the results of the recently concluded Assembly polls in

Addressing the office bearers, sources said Prime Minister Narendra Modi appreciated the hard work done by workers and leading the three States to an excellent win. He mentioned that in the coming days, they have to work even harder and that not a single seat where the

party contests should be taken lightly. "Each vote, each seat is valuable to maintain the momentum of growth in the nation. All should carry forward the Viksit Bharat Yatra ahead," sources quoted Modi in the meeting. He will address the party leaders again on Saturday at the party's national headquarters.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being welcomed by BJP national president JP Nadda upon his arrival to attend BJP's national office-bearers' meeting at BJP headquarters in New Delhi on Friday

Sources said that in the meeting, various morcha (wings) and State units shared details of their ongoing organisational exercises and would be given directions by senior leaders with an eye on the polls. The BJP won in three of the five States, a major boost to its campaign for the Lok Sabha polls. While outlining campaign programmes, the party is expected to give special focus to southern States. The sources said the party discussed the strategy for Lok Sabha polls in light of efforts by INDIA alliance parties to

contest the polls together. The ongoing "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan", a flagship Central Government programme aimed at ensuring saturation coverage of its numerous welfare schemes, the results of the recent five Assembly polls, and the party's nationwide plans on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee are among the issues likely to be discussed in the

meeting. Earlier, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, along with his deputies Rajendra Shukla and Jagdish Devda, met the Prime Minister, followed by a few Union ministers as part of the first official visit of the new State leadership to Delhi. The CM and the Deputy CMs met Modi at his official residence at Lok Kalyan Marg and informed him "about the development works being undertaken in the state and obtained the guidance of the prime minister," a State Government spokesperson said. The BJP returned to power in Madhya Pradesh after a landslide victory in the Assembly polls.

Delhi, NCR out of bounds for BS III petrol, BS IV diesel vehicles

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Friday ordered a ban on non-essential construction work and the use of BS III petrol and BS IV diesel four-wheelers in Delhi and NCR due to deteriorating air quality. Delhi's overall Air Quality Index (AQI) has been steadily rising since morning, reaching 409 at 4 pm, up from 397 at 10 am. According to data from aqicn.org, the AQI peaked at 831 in Pusa, Delhi; 757 in PGDAV College

Sriniwaspuri; 627 in Wazirpur, and 623 in Anand Vihar at 6 pm. The Commission also advises individuals with flexible working conditions to work from home, use cycles for short distances, share rides, or opt for public transport.

Unfavourable meteorological conditions, including fog and haze with low wind speed, are major contributors to the sudden spike in Delhi's daily average AQI, as stated in the CAQM's order. Under Stage III, restrictions are imposed on the operation of BS III petrol



and BS IV diesel four wheelers in Delhi, Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, and Gautam Budh Nagar. GRAP 3 restrictions are activated when the AQI reaches 400 or higher.

"In view of the current air quality trend and to prevent further deterioration, the Sub-Committee on Friday has decided to reinstate all actions under Stage III of GRAP Severe' Air Quality (AQI ranging between 401-450), effective immediately in the entire NCR. This supplements the existing measures under Stage I and Stage II of

GRAP already in force in NCR Various agencies and Pollution Control Boards have been instructed to ensure strict implementation of Stage-III actions, in addition to those under Stage-I and Stage-II," the CAQM stated.

The CAQM emphasised an eightpoint action plan under Stage III of GRAP, applicable immediately throughout the NCR. This plan outlines steps to be taken by different agencies and Pollution Control Boards of NCR and

Continued on Page 2

napping during floods in State

The civil administration has failed miserably in Tamil Nadu according to senior intelligence officials in the State. The DMK-led Government has been caught napping as heavy rains unleased across the State in the last two weeks sending hundreds of thousands of people reeling under heavy floods and devastation. Tamil Nadu's minister for dairy development Mano Thangaraj blamed the Union Government for inaccurate rain forecast in the southern districts of Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari Ramanathapuram.

"The alert provided by the Meteorological Department was insufficient to beef up the disaster relief system in the State and we are all disappointed. The Centre too is not releasing the funds which we asked for," said Thangaraj. But senior scientists of Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), the Hyderabad



based eyes and ears of the Ministry of Earth Sciences told The Pioneer on Friday that this charge by the Tamil Nadu minister was far from true. "Our master control room monitors the Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean 24X7 and there has been no delay from us in informing the concerned agencies about rainfall,s cyclones, heavy winds and high tidal waves. Records speak a lot and we do not have anything more to add," said a senior scientist of INCOIS.

A press note with photographs issued by the Wellington based

Madras Regimental Centre has proved the minister wrong. The moment the Centre got the news about the heavy rains, companies of National Disaster

these districts. The Thambis (as the soldiers of MRC are addressed) swung into action and performed tasks more than what they were expected to do.

Relief Forces were deployed in

The soldiers saved hundreds of persons (including the old, infirms and infants) marooned in the floods, provided food and drinking water to all and took them to safer locations. Nirmala Sitharaman, union

Tamil Nadu media about the actions initiated by the Centre from the moment it was alerted about the rains on 18 December.

What stands out of this relief operations is the kind of work being undertaken by the MRC Thambis. In addition to the rescue and relief operations which are their immediate tasks, the soldiers are engaged in cleaning the drainage channels as wells as the storm water drainage which are the responsibilities of the State adminis-

"The pictures of the NDRF soldiers itself prove that the Tamil Nadu Government did not do the basic works expected from it and it was taking to recourse the easy way out, blaming the Centre," said Sreepriya Iyer, a social activist. The months October to mid-

January every year is a period of cyclones, heavy downpours and tidal waves. It is a routine affair and the Tamil Nadu Government failed miserably in tacking the precautions," said a former bureaucrat.

Tamil Nadu Government caught | One lakh people to recite Gita hymns in City of Joy

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is unlikely to attend the Sunday's mega event in Kolkata where one lakh peo-ple including sadhus will unite in chanting hymns of The

Come Sunday and there will be religion in the air of the City of Joy, claimed one of the organizers of The Gita Path event. Named Lokkho Konthe Gitapatha (Recitation of The Gita by a lakh people) and organized by the Lokkho Konthe Gitapatha Committeean association of Sanatan Sanskriti Sansad, Matilal Bharat Tirtha Seba Mission Ashram, and Akhil Bharatiya Sanskrit Porisad the mega event will take place at the historic Brigade Parade Ground. "Though mass recitation of The Gita has been organized all over the world one lakh people reciting the hymns jointly will be a unique experience," said one of the organizers adding "the Prime Minister had appreciated such



have no information as to whether he is attending per-

Though the organizers called it a "purely religious event which has no political connection", Bengal Opposition Leader on Friday went to the Brigade Ground to inspect things for himself. He even went to the Ganges to sprinkle holy water for the purpose. "The event is purely a religious one where many important people have been invited ... we even invited the Prime Minister, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and other politicians because this is a unique experience and will be remembered by the people of Kolkata for many years to

The BJP leaders too would not comment much on the party's involvement in the event saving, "we have received invitations ... those who are interested will go ... but the main question is not the BJP but the lakhs of devotees who will definitely visit the programme."
The leaders would however not deny that the event would not come with zero political ramification for the party. "If there is an event which directly or indirectly helps the cause of the BJP then so be it ... but we can say that led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi the BJP will wrest power in Bengal," State party leader Samik Bhattacharya said.

According to sources Sankacharya of Dwarka and the head priest of Puri Jagannath Temple besides hundreds of sadhus are likely to attend the programme. When asked as to why the

event was being organsied in an election year, he said such events take place according to Hindu Panjika (Hindu calendar) and had nothing to do congregations of other religions are attended by politicians no question is raised ... but when it is a Hindu congregation questions are raised immediately."

Meanwhile, the Trinamool Congress Joy Prakash Majumdar said that though the event was a religious one "the question remains whether it will not turn political with politicians joining it or with some religious men often seen with politicians taking part in

When asked as to whether the BJP and its associated bodies belonging to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), were a part of the team of the organizers, organisers said, "there are many people who simultaneously play many roles ... but when they are playing the role of a religious person here we shall consider that person as a devotee and not a politician or a social worker," adding neighed the BJP nor the RSS would play any leading role in the event.

Wrestler Bajrang to return Padma Shri, writes to Modi

There seems to be no end to controversies surrounding Indian wrestling as Olympic medallist grappler Bajrang Punia on Friday decided to return his Padma Shri award in protest against the election of Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh loyalist Sanjay Singh as the president of Wrestling

Federation of India (WFI). On Thursday, Sanjay Singh was elected as the president of the WFI after the panel led by the close aide of Brij Bhushan won 13 of the 15 posts. The wrestlers had demanded that no close associate of Brij Bhushan should enter the WFÍ. "I am returning my Padma Shri award to the Prime

Minister. This is just my letter. This is my statement," read a post shared by the Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist wrestler on X, formerly Twitter. Sakshi Malik, Bajrang and Vinesh Phogat had addressed a press conference after Sanjay's election in which Sakshi, a bronze medallist at the 2016 she would quit the sport as a

Bajrang was conferred with the

The patient is asymptomatic

and went for the Covid-19



Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian honour in the country, in 2019 after a consistent run on the mat that saw him win laurels at top international

Bajrang also posted a letter addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, citing the denial of justice to the country's female wrestlers. He posted the letter on X after

making an attempt to meet the Prime Minister in Parliament and personally hand over it but was stopped at Kartavya Path by the Delhi Police. The 29-year-old world cham-

pionship medallist wrote: "Dear PM Ji, hope your health is well. You must be busy in many wrestlers of the country.

"You must be aware that the

district this year.

women wrestlers of the country started a protest in January this year against Brij Bhushan Singh accusing him of sexual

after the government promised strong action." Expressing his disappointment, the star wrestler added, 'But there was no FIR against Brij Bhushan even after three months. We again took to the streets in April so that the police at least file an FIR

harassment. I too joined their

protest. The protest stopped

There were 19 complainants in January but the number came down to 7 by April. This means Brij Bhushan exerted his influence on 12 women wrestlers.

against him.

'No I don't have any permission. If you can please forward this letter to the PM because I can't go inside. I am not protesting nor being aggressive," Bajrang said while being stopped by Delhi Police offi-

The three top wrestlers --Bajrang, Sakshi and Vinesh -had launched an agitation draw your attention to the year, accusing him of sexually exploiting several women

Shoe hurling incident at bus carrying Kerala CM: Woman journalist arraigned

PTI ■ KOCHI

 $K_{\rm a}$ woman television journalist as the fifth accused in a recent incident of hurling shoes at a bus, in which Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan was travelling, by the activists of the Kerala Students' Union. KSU is the students' wing of the opposition Congress.

A shoe was reportedly thrown at the special bus when the CM and his cabinet colleagues were travelling through the district as part of the Nava Kerala Sadas programme early this month. Kurupumpady Police here, which probed the incident,

already registered a case against four identified KSU workers in the incident. Now, Vineetha V G, reporter of Malayalam news channel Twenty Four, was also arraigned as accused in the case, police said.

Confirming the development, a senior police officer said a case in this regard was registered on December 10 and the journalist was arraigned later after "understanding that she "We had registered a case



tified on the spot under various sections of IPC. When the investigation progressed and the details were collected, she was also arraigned," he told

He also said that more persons might be arraigned in the case in the coming days. However, he was not ready to specify what crime was committed by the woman journalist and under which section of IPC she was booked. The officer said this would be decided only after a detailed interrogation. In recently issued summons to the reporter, police said: revealed that there are reasonable grounds to question you to ascertain facts and circumstances from you, in relation to the present investigation." Meanwhile, the opposition Congress criticised the Pinarayi Vijayan government over the

issue and termed it as an "anti-

democratic act."

The registration of case against the journalist for reporting the incident was an "encroachment" on fearless and independent journalism, KPCC chief K Sudhakaran said.

He urged CM Vijayan, who holds the Home portfolio, to explain how it became a conspiracy if a journalist does her job. Strongly condemning the urged the government to withdraw the case and restore press freedom in the southern State. | attended the parade in 2013. |

Macron to be chief guest...

Every year, India invites world leaders to attend its Republic Day celebrations. There was no Republic Day Chief guest in 2021 and 2022 in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi was the chief guest at this year's Republic Day celebrations.

In 2020, then Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro was the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations. In 2019, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa was the chief guest at the Republic Day parade, while in 2018, leaders of all 10 ASEAN countries attended the celebrations.

In 2017, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan was the chief guest at celebrations, while then French President Francois Hollande graced the occasion in 2016. In 2014, then Japanese Prime

Minister Shinzo Abe was the while Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck

Kashmir LG's remark on Bengal upsets TMC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Trinamool Congress strongly condemned a passing reference made by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha saying the Union Territory was more livable and safe than Bengal.

While making a statement on Kashmir, Sinha who was in Kolkata said "Jammu and Kashmir is more safe and secure than West Bengal," leading to some prompt return-fire from the TMC whose leaders immediately reminded Sinha about a book his predecessor Satyapal Malik wrote.

State TMC leader Arup Chatterjee said "Sinha should remember what Malik had said about how the BJP Government Pulwama massacre of the CRPF men to take place in order to win the 2019 general elections ... this Government sacrificed our jawans at the altar of politics to win elections and here the

Lt Governor is making a statement hailing Kashmir's law He said Bengal was one of the safest places in the country in

Covid reaches NCR, Govt says no need to...

virus had come down in the follow Covid-appropriate

test on his own," Kumar said, adding that this is the only confirmed case in Gautam

Budh Nagar so far.CMO Sharma said testing for the Public Notice In The Pioneer Newspaper our publication was published on dated 09-12-2023 in Page No. 2/10 that the borrower's name was mentioned as Anoop Singh Instead of Anoop Sharma. who is purchasing and Mortgaging the Entire third floor (with roof rights) "said floor" Plot bearing no. 238, area measuring 200 sq. yds., situated at Residential Colony, Shalimar Garder Extn., no. 1 Hadbast Gram Pasonda. Pargar

PUBLIC NOTICE

A notice of intended marriage has bee eceived from Mr. Kartikey S/o Dr. Omve Singh R/o D-215, 4th Floor Swam Jayar Rail Nagar Block-A, Sector-50 Noida Gauta Buddha Nagar U.P. and Ms. Ruhi Priti Barw D/o Mr. Christopher Barwa R/o Vill. Tirr Kemtatoli, Po-Basia, P.S.- Basia, Dist. Gumla harkhand-835229 in the office of the undersigned, any person interested therein may file objections to it on any day upto 11-01-2024 in the office of the undersigne

No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector 6, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301 andline(s): +910120-3101683 / 4562809; e City Magistrate/ Marriag अदालती सूचना आज्ञा से— प्रधान पारिवारिक न्यायालय देहरादून मूलवाद सं0-856 वर्ष-2023

श्रीमती जया आर्या पत्नी श्री मयंक कुमार पुत्री श्री सुशील गौतम, निवासी-62, फेज— 3, इंजीनियर्स एन्क्लेव, जिला देहरादून, उत्तराखण्ड, हाल

प्रतिवादिनी चूंकि वादी मयंक कुमार ने आपके विरूद्ध एक वाद अन्तर्गत धारा 9 हिन्द्र विवाह अधिनियम योजित किया है जिस पर वास्ते जवाबदावा/आपत्ति प्रस्तुत करने हेतु नियत है।

उक्त वाद की सुनवाई के लिए दिनांक 24.11.2023 को नियत किया गया था और आपके नाम समन निकाला गया था। वादी इस न्यायालय में उपसंजात हुआ और आप उपसंजात नहीं हुई। नाजिर की विवरणी से न्यायाल को समाधानप्रद रूप से यह साबित हों गया है कि उक्त समन की तामील आप पर हुई थी किन्तु वह तामील इतने प्रयाप्त समय में नहीं हुई कि आप उक्त समन मे नियत दिन उपसंजात होकर न्यायालय मे उत्तर दे सकें।

आपको सूचित किया जाता है कि वाद की सुनवाई उक्त तिथि पर स्थगित कर द गयी है और उसकी सुनवाई के लिए अब दिनांक 27-01-2024 को नियत की गयी है यदि आप उक्त तारीख को उपसंजात नहीं होगीं तो वाद की सुनवाई और निपटारा आपकी अनुपस्थिति में किया जायेगा।

hospital, he said, adding that residents are being urged to

People can get themselves

tested for Covid at primary

and community health centres here and the district

श्री मयंक कुमार पुत्र श्री प्रदीप कुमार, निवासी–62, फेज–3, इंजीनियर्स एन्क्लेव, जिला देहरादून, उत्तराखण्ड।

निवासी एस-643, स्कूल ब्लॉक सकरपूर, दिल्ली।

आज दिनांक 29.11.2023 को मेरे हस्ताक्षर एवं न्यायालय की मुद्रा सहित जारी किया गया।

प्रबन्धक / रीडर प्रधान पारिवारिक न्यायालय जिला देहरादून

once again. People should wash their hands with soap for a minute, practice social distancing, use alcoholbased sanitisers, wear face when outdoors. masks other measures, among Kumar said.

cases

Twenty-two

measures amid concerns

over the infection spreading

COVID-19 sub-variant JN.1 have been detected in the country till Thursday, with 21 cases being reported from Goa and another from Kerala, official sources said. In Goa, the sources said, no clustering of cases of the JN.1 variant has been seen and all infected people have recovered without complications. Those infected had mild upper respiratory tract infection with symptoms of mild dry

cough, sore throat with or

without fever, they said. In November, 62 samples were sent to different INSACOG labs for whole genome sequencing for detection of the IN.1 variant, while in December, so far, 253 samples have been sent, the sources said on Friday. Even though the number of cases is rising and the JN.1 sub-variant has been detected in the country, there is no cause of immediate concern as 92 per

opting for home-based treatment, indicating mild illness, officials said. The country's Covid-19 tally now stands at 4.50 crore (4,50,07,212).

cent of those infected are

fatality Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated. The number of people who

have recuperated from the

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

P.H. DIVISION, BHANJANAGAR AT CHATRAPUR

Phone - 06811 263909- FAX - 06811 263950 - E-mail - eephchpr@gmail.com

The death toll climbed to 5,33,328 with one more reported from

4,44,70,887. The national recovery rate stands at 98.81 per cent, according to the health ministry's website. The case fatality rate stands at 1.19 per cent. The countries reporting the

disease has increased to

largest proportion of JN.1 sequences are --France (20.1 per cent,1552 sequences), the USA (14.2 per cent, 1072 sequences), Singapore (12.4 per cent ,934 sequences), Canada (6.8 per cent,512 sequences), the UK (5.6 per cent, 422 sequences) and Sweden (5.0 per cent,381 sequences).

World Organization (WHO) recently classified JN.1 as a variant of interest, distinct from its parent lineage BA.2.86. However, the global health body emphasised that the overall risk posed by JN.1 remains low based on current evidence.

INDIA Bloc stages Save Democracy...

From Page 1 Leaders present at the Jantar

Mantar protest included NCP's Sharad Pawar, CPIM's Sitaram Yechury, CPI's D Raja, JMM's Mahua Maji, DMK's Tiruchi Siva, RJD's Manoj Kumar Jha, TMC's Mausam Noor, NC's Masoodi, Hasnain Socialist Revolutionary Party's N K Premachandran, and SP's S T Hasan.

Addressing the gathering in the national capital, Kharge asserted that democracy is under threat under the BJP government. Rahul Gandhi stated that opposition members were suspended Parliament for demanding answers on the Parliament security breach

Reactivating Stage-III restric-

tions, the CAQM has banned

national security or defense.

projects of national impor-

tance, healthcare, railways,

metro rail, airports, inter-

state bus terminals, highways,

roads, flyovers, overbridges,

pipelines, sanitation, and

transmission,

From Page 1

power

water supply.

issue. He emphasized that the government's action silenced the voice of 60 percent of Indians.

NCP chief Sharad Pawar accused the government of trying to silence the opposition and expressed readiness to pay any price to save democracy. Sitaram Yechury highlighted the government's accountability to Parliament, emphasizing the sovereignty of the people of India through their representatives.

Trinamool Congress MP Mausam Noor called for a "BJP-free India," while CPI general secretary D Raja claimed the government is attempting to Parliament redundant.

a protest in Lucknow and other districts of Uttar Pradesh, while Congress protested at Indira Park in Hyderabad, led by Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka. Leaders of the INDIA bloc in Bihar also staged protests

The Samajwadi Party staged

session. The state's ruling coalition, known

across the state against the

en masse suspension of

members of Parliament in

the just-concluded winter

'Mahagathbandhan, comprises six of the INDIA bloc's constituents, namely Congress, RJD, JD(U), CPI(ML) Liberation, CPI, and CPI(M).

Delhi, NCR out of bounds

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

66/03 / SPH(C) / 2023-24 dt. 19.12.2023

OIPR-13172/11/0016/2324

Date & time of availability of bid document in

Last date / time of receipt of bid in the portal

Name and address of the Officer inviting the

From 11.00 AM of 27.12.2023 to 5.00 PM of 16.01.2024

5.00 PM of 16.01.2024 1.00 P.M. on dated 19.01.2024

Superintending Engineer, P.H. Division, Bhanjanagar at

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement ports Superintending Engineer P.H. Division, Bhanjanagar

at Chatrapur

issue a notification soon. GRAP-3 restrictions include a ban on non-essential connon-essential construction struction activities and the work, stone crushing, and mining in Delhi-NCR, operation of BS-3 petrol and BS-4 diesel four-wheelers in the Delhi-NCR region. excluding activities related to

A fine of Rs 20,000 is imposed for non-compliance. The CAQM appeals to NCR

citizens to cooperate in implementing GRAP measures and follow the steps outlined in the Citizen Charter to sustain and improve overall air qual-

On Friday, Delhi recorded a The Delhi government's transport department will minimum temperature of 7.4

normal winter range, as reported by the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Light rainfall is predicted throughout the day. GRAP is the Centre's air pol-

degrees Celsius, within the

lution control plan implemented in the region during

the winter season, categorising actions into four stages: Stage I - 'Poor' (AQI 201-300); Stage II - 'Very Poor' (AQI 301-400); Stage III -Severe' (AQI 401-450); and Stage IV - 'Severe Plus'

(AQI>450).

'Manoranjan may be mastermind behind Parliament breach'

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police Special Cell 1 suspects Manoranjan D, one of the six people arrested in the Parliament security breach, to be the mastermind behind the conspiracy, hatched to send a message to the ruling government by doing "something big," said a source privy to the probe. In a related devel-opment, the Delhi High Court on Friday stayed a trial court's order directing the city police to supply a copy of the FIR to an accused in the Parliament security breach case.

According to police, Lalit Jha, another accused, has revealed to the interrogators that Manoranjan was the one who motivated other members to do

something big and planned the breach in the parliament. However, his, Jha's, role was only to destroy the evidence after the act. Manoranjan was arrested along with Sagar from inside the parliament on December 13. Both had jumped into the well of the Lok Sabha and opened yellow colour canisters hidden in their shoes. Manoranian, a native of Mysore, had quit engineering to engage in social work. Though he was unemployed, he managed to visit Cambodia, the source said.

Jha was produced before the court on Friday from where he was sent to 14 days of police custody. Police told the court that they needed to confront Iha with other accused and col-

Wednesday before leaving for

a 10-day Vipassana meditation

course, Kejriwal said the sum-

mons were issued to him "at the

behest of political rivals who

wish to silence the voice of

opposition to the ruling dis-

pensation at the Centre to cre-

ate sensational news in the final

few months leading up to the

parliamentary election in early

to mid-2024". Kejriwal

denounced the ED's summons

on Thursday, branding it as

"illegal" and "politically moti-

vated," reiterating his commit-

ment to transparency. Kejriwal

asserted that he has nothing to

hide, expressing his compliance

with legal summons but insist-

dence related to the case. According to the source, Jha told police that Manoranjan had sent tickets to him and others on WhatsApp to come to Mysore in Karnataka a year ago. Another officer said the doctors on Friday started conducting the psychoanalysis tests on all six.

The accused were taken to a forensic lab where they underwent the test, which is supposed to help interrogators ascertain their mental condition, the person said.

Police said the accused have revealed that they were upset with unemployment and the farmer and Manipur crisis. They are yet to reveal the proper sequence and reason



side Parliament, police said. In a related development, the Delhi High Court stayed the trial court's order directing the city police to supply a copy of the FIR to Neelam Devi, after the counsel for police contended that in sensitive matters

like these an accused has to approach the police commissioner who forms a committee to decide the application for providing a copy of the FIR and, if it is denied, they can move the court for relief. The high court noted the sub-

mission of the police that it is 16 and 18 of the UAPA have

and as per a judgment of the Supreme Court, the FIRs in sexual offences, offences pertaining to insurgency, terrorism and of that category, and offences under POCSO Act are not to be uploaded on website of the authorities. Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma

issued notice to accused Neelam Devi on the police's plea challenging the trial court's December 21 order directing the probe agency to furnish a copy of the FIR to the counsel for the accused as per law. 'This court, having considered the directions contained in the Supreme Court order, is of the opinion that as per the statement made at bar, section

present accused person, therefore, the FIR is not to be uploaded. In addition to the same, as per this judgment itself and the mandate of the directions the copy of the same could not have been given to the accused without following the procedure laid down.... "In view thereof, the execution

of the order dated December 21 stands stayed till the next date of hearing, that is, January 4. Issue notice to the accused for the next date," the high court said. Delhi government standing counsel (Criminal) Sanjay Lau contended that in sensitive matters, the accused has to approach the police commissioner who forms a committee to decide the application for

and, if it is denied, they can move the court for relief. However, the trial court erred in directing the police to provide the FIR copy to the accused and overlooked and bypassed the judgment of the Supreme Court as per which FIR cannot be supplied to the

accused in sensitive cases. "This is happening in several cases, the order of the Supreme Court is being flouted. This is a very sensitive matter, the security of Parliament has been breached by some persons.

'This is a second or third case where such directions have been passed and now the higher authorities want to challenge in the high court," the police's

fittings were missing – the stairs were poorly lit and bro-

ken. Rohini Court Complex is

used by a large number of

Judges, lawyers and their judi-

cial staff. It is the responsibility of the Government to ensure

they do not face any inconve-

nience while discharging their

ED issues 3rd summons to Kejriwal to Atishi expresses anguish over deplorable appear on January 3 in Excise scam

The Enforcement Directorate has issued a fresh summons to AAP convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for questioning for January 3 in the excise policy-linked money laundering investigation. According to sources, this is the third notice to Kejriwal, after he refused to appear before the ED on two earlier summons for November 2 and December 21. The chief minister is currently undertaking a Vipassana meditation course in Hoshiarpur district of Punjab for 10 days. If the AAP chief skips the summons for a third time on January 3, the ED will have the option of seeking a non-bailable warrant against

While refusing to depose on the second summons, Kejriwal wrote to the investigating officer of the case that the notice issued against him for personal appearance was "not in consonance with the law" and it should be withdrawn.

In a letter to the ED on

unjust, echoing a similar sentiment from a previous sum-

"I am ready to accept every legal summon. However, this ED summon is also illegal and politically motivated like the previous summons," Kejriwal

'Summon should be withdrawn. I have spent my life with honesty and transparency. I have nothing to hide," Kejriwal added. Earlier, Kejriwal was summoned by the ED on November 2 but he skipped the questioning alleging the notice was illegal and politically moti-

Kejriwal sent his six pages reply to the ED on Wednesday in which he said the summons do not specify whether he was being called as "a witness or a suspect" or as the "chief minister, Delhi or the Aam Aadmi Party's national convener". He said the fresh summons -issued on December 18 -should be revoked, withdrawn, and recalled.

"The timing of your summons leaves much to desire and

strengthens my belief that the summons being sent to me are not based upon any objective or rational yardstick but for extraneous considerations at the behest of political rivals who wish to silence the voice of opposition to the ruling dispensation at the Centre to create sensational news in the final few months leading up to the Parliamentary elections in early to mid 2024," read the reply. 'Your summons appears to be a fishing and roving enquiry. In similar circumstances, where individuals are neither informed about the case details

nor the capacity in which they are being summoned by the Enforcement Directorate, High courts have declared such summons of Enforcement Directorate invalid and quashed the summons," the reply said. The AAP national convener

stressed that he is "holding a sensitive constitutional post as an elected leader and incumbent Chief Minister of the Government of National

condition of Rohini Court premises

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

aw and PWD Minister LAtishi on Friday expressed anguish over the deplorable conditions of the Rohini Court premises. She directed the Principal Secretary of the Public Works Department (PWD) and the Law Department to jointly prepare a detailed maintenance contract draft for the Rohini Court Complex by December 30. The Law Minister on Friday

inspected the Rohini Court premises following complaints from judges and lawyers about poor facilities and maintenance in the court complex. During the inspection, the Law Minister found that the condition of the court premises was pitiable. There is a major problem of seepage throughout the building, causing water to seep through the walls and ceiling. Due to seepage, the walls have become damp and dirty, and paint and cement are peeling off. She discovered that the false ceiling was also in poor condition, with several panels



overhead.

In a letter to the Principal Secretary (PWD) on Friday, Delhi Minister Atishi noted, Yesterday I visited Rohini Court Complex along with Justice Rekha Palli, Building Maintenance and Construction Committee (Rohini Court Complex), after receiving several grievances from Judges and Lawyers regarding poor management of the facilities in the court complex." I was shocked to see the dilap-

idated condition of the court building. The entire building water percolating through the walls and the ceiling. Due to the seepage, the walls were damp and dirty with paint and cement chipping off the walls," she added. PWD minister Atishi further

stated that false ceilings inside the premises were also in bad condition and several panels were missing with wires hanging overhead. The toilets, especially the ladies' toilets, were dirty and

unhygienic. I visited the base-

ment of the building, which

was in a poor state, Electrical

duties," Atishi noted. "Besides, the Court is also visited by thousands of people, who come to these courts to resolve their legal issues on a daily basis. People who come to the court are basically aggrieved and come looking for justice. To inconvenience them further would be inhuman," she added. Noting that it is a joint responsibility of the PWD and the Law Department to maintain such buildings, Atishi said, "Majority of these issues can be simply resolved by having a comprehensive facility management system, in the form of an Annual Maintenance Contract. The facility manager can look into the day-to-day issues faced by the judges, lawyers and general public and resolve them in real-time."

Graft in DJB causes as much loss as total Delhi budget: Bidhuri

charged that due to the corruption, incompetence and ineffectiveness of the Kejriwal government, the loss of Delhi Jal Board has become as much as the total budget of Delhi. He also demanded a CBI probe into the functioning of the Delhi Jal Board as he Delhi Jal Board has not been audited after 2017-18. Bidhuri said the total bud-

get of Delhi for 2023-24 was Rs 73 thousand crores and the deficit of Jal Board has also crossed Rs 73 thousand crores. The situation is still not stable and the financial condition of Delhi Jal board is such that it does not have money even for minor repairs, Bidhuri said. Only last week, Rs 537 crore has been released but the outstanding bills of contractors only worth more than Rs 1,000 crore. Bidhuri said Delhi Jal Board had a surplus of Rs 600 crore in 2013-14, but due to wrong policies and corruption, the Jal Board has reached ruin in just nine years.

Bidhuri said in the recent session of the Delhi Assembly, he had asked the government a question on the deficit of the Jal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI Board, in which the answer came that in the year 2022-23 eader of Opposition in itself, the Delhi Jal Board has Leader of Opposition in losen, the Delhi Assembly Ramvir incurred a debt of Rs 73, 196.55 year i.e. 2023-24, it must have reached Rs. 80 thousand crores. Bidhuri reminded that the budget presented by the Delhi government for 2023-24 was a total of Rs 73,760 crore, that is, even if the entire budget of Delhi is spent on the Delhi Jal Board, its deficit will not be covered. He said the Jal Board has become a mine of corruption in which no matter how

much revenue is invested, its losses keep increasing. A total of Rs 6342 crore was given to Delhi Jal Board in this year's budget. Even this did not work. Recently, in the affidavit filed by Delhi Water Minister Atishi before the High Court, it has been said the Jal Board does not have money even for minor

repairs, he said Last week, Rs 537.1 crore has been released for the Jal Board, but it is like a drop in the ocean because the outstanding amount of more than Rs 1021 crore is due to the contractors who have completed the Jal Board projects and submitted the bills. Owing to Delhi Jal Board not having money for payment, they have stopped working further, Bidhuri said.

Signature View Apartments unfit for habitation: MCD

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he Municipal Corporation}}_{\text{ of Delhi (MCD) has issued}}$ dents of Signature View Apartment in northwest Delhi's Mukherjee Nagar, asking them to vacate the society by Monday declaring it "unfit for human habitation' Built in 2007-09 with 336 with

Middle-Income Group (MIG) and High-Income Group (HIG) flats, the apartment complex has some construction issues and the Delhi Development Authority has decided to demolish it.

The notice, dated December 18, says the society is dangerous and uninhabitable and the residents should vacate it in seven days.

The Residents' Welfare Association (RWA) said they are ready to vacate provided they are paid rent by the authority till the time new flats are constructed. The decision to dismantle the towers was taken on the advise of a structural consultant engaged by the DDA after the residents' complaints of poor quality construction.

The DDA roped in the National Council of Cement and Building Material (NCCBM) to suggest remedi-



al measures and on its recommendations, structural consultant of IIT-Delhi was engaged. Building material samples were tested at the Shri Ram Institute of Industrial Research (SLR), Delhi.

"The structural consultant suggested that distress in the structure (of the building) appears to be due to chloride in the structure (higher then permissible) which is cause of deterioration of concrete and corrosion of reinforcement and towers be vacated and dismantled as soon as possible.

"As per communication received from DDA and structural audit report, the towers of Signature View Apartment are dangerous and unfit for human habitation," it said.

It has been reported that houses/flats in the towers A, B, C and D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L are in dangerous condition and in any way dangerous to any person occupying, passing by and also in the neighborhood, the



Delhi airport excess baggage service helps passengers save ₹7 crore since its inception

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Since its inception in 2020, Delhi Airport's Excess Baggage Service has handled around 1.7 lakh kilogram of luggage, thus helping passengers save approximately Rs 7 crore on excess baggage. This innovative service has not only elevated the passenger experience but also helped them save an average of over Rs 1200 per passenger, highlighting its costeffectiveness and financial

According to Delhi International Airport Limited

airport, passengers will have the option of getting their luggage delivered by air or by road. If a passenger chooses delivery by road then baggage would reach the destination within 4-7 days. The baggage will be delivered within 72 hours by It further said domestic routes

such as Bangalore, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Kerala, and Guwahati have emerged as the most sought-after choices among passengers. International routes to Australia, the USA, Canada,

(DIAL) which operates Delhi and Dubai have experienced increased demand since the initiation of international services in early 2022. 'The service strategically cov-

ers routes connecting major metro cities, tier 2 cities, and select destinations like Kerala and Shillong. Addressing diverse user segments, including individuals arriving from abroad seeking domestic transfers, holidaymakers, wedding/exhibition attendees, and general users managing excess baggage at the airport, it spans over 25,000 PIN codes in India, encompassing both domestic

and international locations," it

Priced attractively starting at just Rs 99/- per kg, the service provides a pocket-friendly option for passengers. Excess baggage delivery is offered at less than 1/5th of the typical excess baggage cost, making it a highly cost-effective solution for travelers. Passengers also enjoy the flexibility to choose between air and road delivery options, with road delivery guaranteeing baggage arrival within 4-7 days and air delivery ensuring a swift arrival



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Dhankar justifies suspension of MPs

fter an acrimonious end to Athe Winter Session over suspension of several MPs from Opposition benches, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar is learnt to have reached out to top Opposition leaders — Mallikarjun Kharge and Sharad Pawar - by writing letters where the chairman has justified the suspension of members from the Upper House by terming it "unavoidable" due to their "extreme degree of misconduct" and he had "risen to the occasion" when the temple of democracy was "sacrileged".

In a letter to Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, the Rajya Sabha Chairman said rendering the House dysfunctional by making a demand to the Chair that cannot be acceded is unfortunate and against public interest.Dhankhar wrote to Kharge



Parliament was not in sync with parliamentary practices and has also sought an interaction with him, sources said on Friday. This comes a day after the Rajya Sabha was adjourned sine die on Thursday, a day ahead of

In another letter to NCP supremo Sharad Pawar, Dhankhar also voiced his anguish over the "widespread perception of 'politicisation" of the issue of security breach in Parliament on December 13 instead of dis-

not elected a deputy speaker.

The Constitution mandates

Lok Sabha to elect a deputy

speaker after the elections as

soon as possible.

play of "collective concern" on the incident. "When temple of democracy is sacrileged, surely, you'd agree as concerned senior Parliamentarian, that the Chairman has risen to the occasion," he said.

Pawar had written to the Rajya Sabha Chairman seeking his intervention on the issue of suspension of members from the House for displaying placards and raising slogans demanding Home Minister Amit Shah's statement on the security breach in Parliament when two protesters jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber and set off

Winds of change blowing strongly in India's favour: IAF chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

AF chief V R Chaudhari on Friday said the world is at a pivotal juncture and winds of change are blowing strongly in India's favour adding India's rise in the Global South marks a "pivotal point" in international affairs.

Making these assertions at a seminar on "India and Global South: Challenges and Opportunities," organized by Centre for Air Power, he emphasised India's proactive

role in raising the concerns of the countries of Global South "Rooted in a rich historical tapestry, the country's emergence from colonial shadows to a prominent global player brings forth a myriad of challenges and opportunities," chief "Understanding the complex

dynamics at play is crucial in

navigating a future shaped by

interconnectedness," he said. "As we navigate these uncharted skies, air power being a key component of national power, would undoubtedly play a pivotal role and also serve as a symbol of national strength, a tool



he added.

Chaudhari said the IAF may easily act as a catalyst for progress, fostering strategic partnerships and contributing to the collective advancement of the Global South.

"Our air power engagements with the countries of the Global South have resonated across the board and allowed us to exchange best practices, improve interoperabil-

ity and build trust," he said. The IAF chief noted that these engagements are crucial for tackling shared security regional stability.

"We have increased the footprint of training and cooperation with these nations," he

On the global geopolitical developments, the Chief of Air Staff said the landscape of international relations is constantly shifting and traditional power structures are increasingly being challenged by new players.

"The threat of global conflict looms large, fuelled by ideo-logical divisions, resource scarcity and climate change. This has created interconnected challenges like economic disparity and resource exploitation," he said. The IAF chief observed that

"black swan" events like COVID-19, and conflicts being witnessed across the world have aggravated the situation.

Chaudhari spoke on the relevance of air power and the need for IAF to act as a catalyst for progress, fostering strategic partnerships and contributing to the collective advancement of the Global

IAF's increased footprint during regular training engagements with partner nations has resulted in sharing of best practices in operations and maintenance.

He also mentioned the role played by Indian Military Advisory Teams and courses offered through Indian Technical and Economic

Reliance Retail

realises Modi's vision

of Go Vocal for Local

which had paved the way for increased cooperation by conducting training for more than 200,000 officials in both the civil and defence sector. Chaudhari said in the past nine years, IAF had trained more than 5,000 foreign trainees from countries of

the Global South. He also added that indigenous aerospace platforms such as LCA, LCH, Akash Missile systems and radars offer competitive and reliable options for air forces of the Global South, boosting India's economic and technological

He reiterated IAF's role in international relief and rescue operations, which had further strengthened India's leadership role in the Global South. The event also included the launch of two books.

Contemporary and Future Dynamics" authored by Air Marshal (Dr) Diptendu Choudhury (Retd) and "Aeroengine Fundamentals and Landscape in India: A Way Forward" authored by Air Vice Marshal Suresh

Half of Bills passed by LS discussed for less than 2 hours each, says report



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $\mathbf{H}^{ ext{alf}}$ of the Bills passed by the 17th Lok Sabha so far were discussed for less than two hours each and only 16 per cent of them were referred to parliamentary standing commit-tees, data compiled by think tees, gata compiled by think tank PRS Legislative Research shows. The report came a day after the conclusion of the Winter session — the last full-fledged session of the 17th Lok Sabha.

According to an analysis by PRS Legislative Research, 172 bills were discussed and passed Sabha, of which 86 bills in the Lok Sabha and 103 bills in the Rajya Sabha were discussed for less than two hours each.

Similarly, of the 172 bills, only 16 bills in the Lok Sabha and 11 in the Rajya Sabha saw more than 30 members taking part in the debate. The report stated that no bills were referred to House committees in the Winter session. The proportion of bills referred to committees has decreased from 71 per cent during the 15th Lok Sabha and 25 per cent in the 16th Lok Sabha to 16 per cent during the 17th Lok Sabha.

It is also on its way to becom-

Rajya Sabha elections for 3 seats from Delhi, 1 from Sikkim on January 19



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $\begin{array}{ccc} T^{he\ Election\ Commission} \\ T^{(EC)} & \text{on} & \text{Friday} \\ \text{announced\ elections\ to\ four} \\ \text{Rajya\ Sabha\ seats\ } - & \text{three} \end{array}$ Between December 14 and 21 of the Winter session, 100 MPs were suspended from the Lok Sabha and 46 from the Rajya Sabha. This accounts for 19 per from Delhi and one from cent of the strength of each House and is the highest num-Sikkim — will be held on January 19.

ber of suspensions in any Lok The six-year term of Sanjay Singh, Sushil Kumar Gupta and Narain Dass Gupta (all Sabha term so far. All questions that were asked from the Aam Aadmi Party) by suspended members were removed from the list of quesends on January 27 next year. tions listed for responses. Since The term of Hishey Democratic Front) ends on first group of MPs was suspended, 12 per cent of the February 23 next year. In a questions were cancelled in statement, the EC said the the Lok Sabha and 13 per cent election to fill up the four in the Rajya Sabha. In this sesvacancies will be held on January 19 (Friday). sion, Trinamool Congress MP

in the Lok Sabha Mahua The nomination process will Moitra was expelled on start on January 2 with the issuance of notification and grounds of ethical miscon-January 9 will be the last In the past, MPs have been

date to file papers. The polling will take place from 9 am to 4 pm and the expelled from Parliament on three other occasions. In 2005, counting of votes will comeleven members were expelled from Parliament for taking mence from 5 pm. Singh is in money in exchange for asking judicial custody after being questions. Prior to that, one arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case linked to the member each was expelled in

Delhi excise policy. He has been under suspension from the Rajya Sabha since July 24 for unruly behaviour in the House.

The EC noted that the National Capital Territory of Delhi has been allocated three seats in the Rajya Sabha. The three vacancies in Rajya

Sabha from Delhi are being filled by holding "three separate elections in accordance with the law on the subject as each of these three vacancies fell under three different mined at the time of the initial constitution of the Rajya Sabha in 1952 itself", the poll panel said.

The decision of the commission to hold three separate elections was challenged in the Delhi High Court in 1994 in the A K Walia Vs the Union of India and Others case on behalf of the Indian National Congress, contending that all the three vacancies should be filled by holding a common election as the elections to the Rajya Sabha are held under the system of proportional representation, the poll panel noted.

Centre using technology to deliver hassle free services, says Jitendra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh on Friday said the Centre is making maximum use of technology to ensure hassle-free delivery of services to the citi-

He said transparency, accountability and citizen-centricity became the hallmark of the country's governance model ever since Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over in

"The era of working in silos is long over. The government is making maximum use of technology to ensure hassle-free delivery of services to the citizens. Capacity building programmes enable us to be ready for that," Singh said.

Addressing Dr Rajendra

Prasad National Convention III (series of memorial lectures) on 'G20 people centric governance and public policy, organised by the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) here, governance will evolve into an increasing role of the citizens in the decision-making process. Beginning with India's vaccine success story in January, Singh said, the year gone by with just a week left, witnessed Prime Minister Modi's citizen-centric governance model.

'India's prestige as a space power was well-established by the flawless landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the virgin south polar region of the moon," he said.

Talking about India's emergence in the comity of nations, Singh said that India was earlier not taken seriously, but now



the world has veered around to the agenda set by Prime Minister Modi and India at the

Over 200 meetings of the G20 were held at 65 cities across India during the course of the year. Assuming a leadership role on climate change, PM Modi stressed on Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) With the target of net zero by the year 2070, as committed by PM Modi, India is well set on course to achieve its staggered emission targets," Singh said.

"From issues like terrorism, cyber security to anti-corruption, the G20 meetings chaired by India throughout the year The minister said India is today

among the leading five or six nations in the world using quantum technology.

Our CPGRAMS (Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System) public grievances portal, DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) and SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) programmes are cited the world over as technology-driven people-centric reforms," Singh said. Today the world is ready to be led by India," he added.

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a significant step towards realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Go Vocal for Local, business conglomerate RIL's retail arm Reliance Retail has collaborated with the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojna — National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), a government's flagship to enable local artisans of the Self Help Groups (SHGs) to showcase their products on its e-commerce platform Jiomart.

It will also help set-up and support the rural SHGs artisans to navigate and operate their account on the marketplace.

ciated with the DAY-NRLM will get to widen their market and visibility and offer their curated products to customers of JioMart across the country, Additional Secretary, Rural Livelihoods, Union Ministry of Rural Development Charanjit Singh said after a pact was signed in this regard at an event here on Friday.

"This collaboration will enable SHGs to be on-board as sellers onto the e-commerce fold on JioMart and this initiative will further boost the Ministry's provision under the SARÁS collection to be available to a larger consumer base.

Researchers develop Al

visibility and offer their curated products to customers of JioMart across India. As part of the partnership between MoRD and JioMart, once onboarded, all SHG sellers associated with the DAY-NRLM will get to avail benefits and guidance in growing their businesses online," said Joint Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development Swati Sharma. Commenting on the venture, President and Chief of Public Policy and Regulatory, Reliance Retail Limited, Dr. Ravi Prakash Gandhi said that partnering reflects the government's 'Make in India' initiative align and further strengthens

"With this alliance, SHGs will

get to widen their market and

our commitment. We aim to transform the digital retail ecosystem in the country and through this collaboration we want to empower growth and also facilitate digitization of millions of

The DAY-NRLM is a flagship poverty alleviation program of the Government and is the world's largest initiatives to improve the livelihoods of the rural poor while JioMart is Reliance Retail's e-tail arm boasts to have one of India's largest home-grown e-market-

place destinations.

CORRIGENDUM

Reference to publication of ICICI Bank for case ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs Prashant Choudhary & Anr., CS (COMM) No. 1894/22 of December 20, 2023 published in The Pioneer (English) and The Pioneer (Hindi). Due to inadvertent mistake, "Note: DD/PO of EMD amount is to be made in favour of ICICI BANK LIMITED payable at Delhi and all bidders need to submit original DD/PO along with self-attested KYC at the auction site to participate in the auction." was not mentioned. We therefore, requesting to please read "Note: DD/PO of EMD amount is to be made in favour of ICICI BANK LIMITED payable at Delhi and all bidders need to submit original DD/PO along with self-attested KYC at the auction site to participate in the auction." and remaining content is unchanged.

1978 and 1976

Date : December 22, 2023 Authorized Officer Place : Delhi/Ncr **ICICI Bank Limited**



SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

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

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

	Kamlesh/	Villa No 47 of Vill Haldwani Talii Tehsii Haldwani Uttarakhand- 263141/ December 20, 2023	Rs. 61,47,159/-	Ghaziaba
		rowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day no vill be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of pu		

Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession

the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002

Date: December 22, 2023 Place: Ghaziabad

Name of the

Borrower/ Loan

Account Number

Authorized Officer **ICICI Bank Limited**

Branch

in Demand Notice (Rs.)

Friday shortest day, longest night of year due to winter solstice

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

 Γ^{riday} was the shortest day and longest night of the year due to 'Winter Solstice" that occurred at 8.57 am. This time transition happens on December 21 or December 22 every year as part of the season change. As a result, the shortest daylight hours occur in the Northern Hemisphere. The Winter Solstice was also the beginning of Chillai Kalan, the 40-day harshest winter period in Kashmir when there are maximum chances of snow and rains. In Delhi, the Sun rose at 7.09 am, and set at 5.29 pm, making the day 10 hours, 19 minutes, and 17 seconds long.

In Amritsar, the Sun rose at 7.29 am and set at 5.30 pm, making the day 10 hours, 05 minutes and 13 seconds long. In Gangtok, the Sun rose at 6.21 am and set at 4.46 pm, making the day 10 hours 24 minutes and 59 seconds. In Kolkata, the Sun rose at 6.12 am and set at 4.57 pm, making the day 10 hours, 45 minutes and 07 seconds. In Mumbai, the Sun rose at 7.07 am and set at 6.06 pm, making the day 10 hours, 59 minutes and 29 seconds. In Kanyakumari, the Sun rose at 6.28 am and set at 6.17 pm making the day 11 hours, 39 minutes and 22 seconds. In Bengaluru, the Sun rose at 6.39 am and set at 5.59 pm, making the day 11 hours, 21 minutes and 53 seconds. The Winter Solstice is also the

shortest day and longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, and the longest day and shortest night of the year in the Southern Hemisphere.

During the winter solstice, the Northern Hemisphere receives indirect sunlight, and the day is shorter than 12 hours, while the Southern Hemisphere receives direct sunlight. It is the beginning of summer in the Southern Hemisphere.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

NEW DELHI

 $R^{\text{esearchers}} \ \text{at the Indian} \\ R^{\text{Institute of Science (IISc)}}$ in Bengaluru have developed an artificial intelligence (AI) tool that can detect carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS), a nerve-related disorder. CTS occurs when the median nerve in the wrist is compressed, leading to symptoms such as numbness, tingling, or pain. The AI tool developed by IISc researchers in collaboration with Aster-CMI Hospital, Bengaluru detects CTS by identifying the median nerve in ultrasound videos.

CTS is one of the most common nerve-related disorders. specifically affecting individuals who perform repetitive hand movements, such as office staff who work with keyboards, assembly line workers, and sportspersons, they

Currently, doctors use ultrasound to visualize the median nerve and assess its size, shape, and any abnormalities. However, interpreting ultra-

tool to detect nerve disorder sound images and videos can other structures, and the be challenging, especially in regions where the boundaries

of the nerve are not clear. To address this challenge, the researchers developed an AI tool based on a machine learning model with a transformer architecture.

The model was originally designed to detect multiple objects in YouTube videos but was modified to focus on tracking the median nerve in ultrasound videos. The researchers collected and annotated ultrasound videos from both healthy participants and individuals with CTS to train the model. Doctors currently use ultrasound to visualise the median nerve, and assess its size, shape, and any potential abnormalities.

"But unlike X-rays and MRI scans, it is hard to detect what is going on in ultrasound images and videos," said Karan R Gujarati, a former MTech student at IISc.

"At the wrist, the nerve is quite visible, its boundaries are clear, but if you go down to the elbow region, there are many boundaries of the nerve are not clear," said Gujarati, first author of the study published in the journal IEEE Transactions on Ultrasonics, Ferroelectrics, and Frequency Control.

Tracking the median nerve is also important for treatments that require doctors to administer local anaesthesia to the forearm or block the median nerve to provide pain relief. "Imagine a video of an autonomous car. If the car is moving on the road, you want to track the car," said study corresponding author Phaneendra K Yalavarthy, Professor at CDS. "In the same way, we are able to track the nerve throughout the video," Yalavarthy said. The model was also able to automatically measure the cross-sectional area of the nerve, which is used to diagnose CTS. This measurement is performed manually by a sonographer.

"The tool automates this process. It measures the crosssectional area in real time," said

Video of Karnataka CM in ultra luxury private jet goes viral

PTI ■ BENGALURU

¬he opposition BJP on Friday came down heavily on the Congress government in Karnataka for flaunting their "rich fortunes and luxury lifestyles" following a viral video on social media showing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his cabinet colleague B Z Zameer Ahmed

Khan in a private jet. The CM hit back by questioning the flying preferences of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In the viral video, Siddaramaiah is seen seated in a swanky private jet along with Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan and Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, among others. In a post, Minister Khan is seen

walking inside the jet with a popular bollywood song playing in the background. Karnataka BJP President B Y

Vijayendra in a post of 'X' said: "If bigotry had a face, @INCKarnataka govt would be the Best of it! At a time, when whole of Karnataka is reeling under severe drought, farmers staring at the worst of crisis with loss of crops & no rainfall & hardly any development works taking off, all that taking off, all that @CMofKarnataka & his team of cabinet ministers could think of is flaunting their Rich Fortunes & Luxury Lifestyles over the

poor damsels of the State!"
"By the way, they were traveling in this luxurious aircraft to seek funds for drought relief works! What a crude mockery of our distress! Splurging the Taxpayers' money comes so easy for @INCIndia ministers!" @INĆIndia Vijayendra said in the social media post.

Asked about Vijayendra's tweet on the chief minister travelling in a luxury jet, Siddaramaiah Draws sharp reaction from BJP



counter-questioned, "How does Narendra Modi travel? You tell me first. Please ask this question to the BJP people. Which plane does Narendra Modi travel in? He travels alone. Why does he travel alone? BJP leaders will keep saying something silly." Later, the CM took to 'X' and slammed the BJP, claiming that the Prime Minister himself undertook 74 foreign trips. "The hundreds of crores of money spent by the BJP who

brought down the coalition government (of Congress and JD-S) through 'Operation Lotus', flew the MLAs around Delhi and Mumbai in a special plane, stayed in luxury hotels for weeks

and had fun, were not collected by the BJP leaders as labourers in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee project, but the tax money earned by the poor people of the state."

He wondered whether the BJP leaders had any moral rights to object to his traveling in a special flight to discuss the state's drought situation with PM

"From June 15, 2014 to September 2023, the Prime Minister has made 74 foreign trips. According to figures from the Prime Minister's official website, the average cost per trip is Rs 8.9 crore. The country ranks 111 on the hunger index. When the people of the country are suffering from hunger, it is said that the Prime Ministers travel abroad by special plane and have fun," Siddaramaiah

the Gita festival, and since 2016, this festival is being organised at an international level. Assam is the partner state of the festival this year, he said The message of the Gita should

reach every corner of the country and the world, Shah said and added that for the past seven years, the festival is being successfully organised.

The BJP comes out with its poll manifesto with the belief that the country's great culture should always be taken forward, he said. Policies were decided by keeping the country's great culture as a guide, Shah said.

He also spoke about the scrapping of Article 370 and said its abrogation enabled the complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the Indian Union. Referring to past BJP manifestos, Shah highlighted that the party always said that the Ram temple should be built and the practice of instant triple talaq be

In Modi's tenure, he said, the

Solutions to all problems of society in Gita: Shah

PTI KURUKSHETRA

The solutions to society's problems are in the Bhagavad Gita and its message should reach every corner of the country and the world, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Fridav.

He was addressing a gathering at the Sant Sammelan after visiting the International Gita Festival here in Harvana.

The home minister said after 75 years of independence, many seers and mahatmas have revived the knowledge of the Bhagavad Gita. "I have met many scholars around the world, and all believe that solutions to all the problems of the whole world lie in the Gita's message," he said

'We are sitting here on the holy land of Kurukshetra. More than 5,000 years ago, Lord Krishna also gave the message of the Gita to Arjun," Shah said, referring to the Mahabharata.

Solutions to problems of people and society as well as the nation and the world lie in the message of the Gita, he said.

The minister said that in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had expressed his desire to hold

construction of the Ram temple (in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya)



International Geeta Mahotsav 2023 in Kurukshetra

tion of Lord Ram's idol will take place on January 22.

He also talked about the Kashi Vishwanath corridor in Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi, the Mahakal Lok corridor in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain, and the inauguration of the Mata Sharda Devi temple in Kashmir. The home minister also highlighted the installation of the 'Sengol', a historical sceptre from Tamil Nadu, in the Lok Sabha chamber of the new Parliament build-

"I am happy that seers sitting here have dedicated their lives to guiding society," he said in his address at the sammelan. Shah also said he has seen many ups and downs in life, but the teachings of the Gita have always guided him.

I have seen many ups and downs, but as my mother taught me the Gita in my childhood, I never experienced any disappointment and pain," he said. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, yoga guru Ramdev and Swami Gyananand Maharaj among others were present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, the Gujarat government on Friday launched a supplementary textbook on the Bhagavad Gita' to be added to the curriculum of classes 6 to 8 from the next academic year with a minister saying the move is aimed at connecting students to India's rich, diverse and ancient culture and knowledge

Minister of State for Education Praful Pansheriya said the decision has been taken under the framework of the new National Education Policy (NEP) drafted

by the Centre three years ago The state education department has taken a decision under the NEP-2020 "to include the spiritual principles and values embodied in Shrimad Bhagayad Gita' as a supplementary text-book in the curriculum of Class 6 to Class 8," Pansheriya said in a post on micro-blogging site X.
Thanking Chief Minister
Bhupendra Patel for the decision, he further said, "Through this academic decision, students will feel proud and connected to the rich, diverse, ancient culture and knowledge systems and traditions of India through the teachings of 'Shrimad Bhagavad Gita." The supplementary textbook on the revered scripture, which is part of the epic Mahabharata, will instil moral values among student, he maintained. "This decision taken under the 'National Education Policy 2020' under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji will play an important role in improving values among students," Pansheriya added. The textbook was launched on the occasion of Gita Jayanti, a Hindu observance marking the day the Bhagavad Gita conversation took place between Arjuna, a Pandava and warrior prince, and Lord Krishna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra. Talking to reporters later, Pansheriya said this is the first part of the textbook which is meant for the students of classes 6 to 8 and will be soon sent to schools across the state. Two more parts, for students of classes 9 to 12, will

Biren thanks Modi for acknowledging Manipur importance

PTI IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Friday thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for acknowledging the importance of Manipur and naming a defence warship after the state capital Imphal. Addressing the curtain raiser ceremony of the Commissioning of INS Imphal, Indian Navy's stealth guided missile

and all the navy officials for tak ing this initiative. "It is a proud moment for all Manipuris and we will all stand for a strong and united India... thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi for acknowledging the importance of Manipur and naming a defence warship after Imphal," Singh said at the

programme held at Kangla here.

destroyer, he also thanked

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

The commissioning of INS Imphal not only adds another dimension to our country's maritime capabilities but also stands as a testament to the indomitable spirit of our armed forces," he later said on X.

"This warship, named after our vibrant states capital, Imphal, reflects the unity and strength that define us as a nation... May INS Imphal sail with pride, safeguarding our nation and contributing to the peace and security of our region," he said in the post.

Equipped with BrahMos surface-to-surface missiles and antisubmarine indigenous rocket launchers, the ship was delivered to the Indian Navy on October 20 by Mazagon Dock Shipbuil ders Limited (MDL), Mumbai. On the ethnic strife in the state, the chief minister said peace has

Women safety priority

PTI JAIPUR

hief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma said on Friday that women's safety is the priority of the government. He also instructed police officers to take action in cases of organised crime and paper leaks. Sharma held a high-level meet-

ing of police officers at the Chief Minister's Office. In the meeting, the chief minister said that cases of harassment of women have come to light on a large scale in Rajasthan in the

last few years. The government's priority is to bring back the honour and glory of the state by protecting women. He said the department should take all necessary steps for this.

The chief minister said the spe cial investigation team (SIT) formed to investigate government recruitment paper leaks will take effective action and give justice to the youth. Sharma directed police officers



He said that various types of crimes have increased in the last This has had an adverse impact on the image of the state. People's confidence in the police will have to be strengthened again. He said that the state govern-

ment will provide every kind of

cooperation to police officers. Sharma held detailed discus-

sions with the home department and senior police officers on various issues related to crime control and law and order of the

Chief Secretary Usha Sharma said that women's safety is the main priority of the state govern-ment. For this, work will be done with proper coordination at every level. Director General of Police Umesh Mishra said that the police is committed to providing security to the common people by preventing all types of

Tourists throng Kashmir for Christmas, New Year

Kashmir in droves to celebrate Christmas and welcome the New Year, with hotels at the famous destinations in the valley sold out for the weeks ahead, especially in anticipation of snowfall

Officials said tourists are making a beeline to Kashmir, especially to the famous ski resort of Gulmarg, in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, and Pahalgam, in south Kashmir's Anantnag.

Describing it as a positive indication, Tourism Secretary Syed Abid Rasheed Shah said he was confident that the winter months would be successful for Kashmir's tourism

"The way the numbers and trends are coming, with both domestic as well as foreign tourists, my expectation is that the winters will be a grand success. Destinations like Gulmarg and Pahalgam are already sold out. Gulmarg is totally sold out for Christmas and the New Year's Eve. This is a very positive indication," he said.

Gulmarg, the tourist destination at an altitude of 8,000 feet, $50 \, \mathrm{km}$

north of summer capital Srinagar, is also known as the

Shah said warm hospitality of the people of Kashmir and all the stakeholders have played an important role in reviving tourism. The tourism department has

lined up various activities to enrich the experience of New Year revellers as a number of programmes have been planned for the New Year's Eve, including a musical evening, a firecracker show, night skiing, and torch skiing.

Asif Burza, a young hotelier who is the managing director of Ahad Hotels and Resorts - a chain of hotels across various destinations in the valley - said the recent snowfall has increased tourist influx to Kashmir.

'The tourist arrivals and bookings are looking great. Hotels in Gulmarg are fully booked, while occupancy in Pahalgam and even in Srinagar is very good," Burza told PTI.

He said the tourism players are expecting the footfall to improve further with snowfall in the

coming days. "Hotels are fully booked for the last ten days of December and



the first week of January," he

Rauf Tramboo, the president of Travel Agents Association of Kashmir (TAAK), said the bookings for December-end and January were very good.

The numbers for Christmas and New Year are very good. The bookings are better than the last year. A good number of tourists are visiting the valley," he

He said while there was full

occupancy in Gulmarg, the numbers were better for Pahalgam and Srinagar as well. The TAAK president said Kashmir has become an allweather destination and tourist arrivals have stretched all year

"This year, the tourism season for Kashmir has extended to eight-nine months, unlike before when it was for two-three months only," he said. Attributing the increase in

tourist arrivals to the change in the narrative around Kashmir over the last few years, Tramboo expressed hope the industry will develop on a positive note and a huge influx of tourists will be seen in the next year, especially with Kashmir getting connected to the railway map of the

He said a good number of foreign tourists were also showing a keen interest in Kashmir and if the travel advisories by some countries are lifted, "we could Secretary of the tourism departbecome the number one travel ment there is a lot of positivity However, hotelier Burza said

domestic tourists matter the

most for the economy as they have good capacity to pay. 'The paying capacity of domestic tourists has increased and they have contributed to econ-

omy. The tourism that matters, that contributes to the economy, is domestic tourism because domestic tourists have a good capacity to pay and spend not only on hotels, but local arts and crafts as well," he said.

The hotelier said Kashmir is the preferred destination for highend domestic tourists. Crediting the support from the

film industry, as many movies and TV series have been shot in the valley in recent times, for an increasing influx of tourists, Burza expressed hope of an increased footfall in the coming

"We are getting a good support from the film fraternity. Leo, which has done well at the box office, was shot at Pahalgam for two months. Many more projects are lined up and that is giving us hope for the last quarter of the financial year," he said.

Kashmir.

'Many new destinations of Kashmir have received awards and appreciations this year. So, there is a huge positivity, there is a huge element of hope and growth and development in the tourism sector.

"Tourism is going to the places which are off-beat destinations and people from all over the world are going there. Trekking has been revived. People are now visiting many such destinations where they were not going before. We have also promoted border tourism at a larger scale," Shah said

He said the winter season is one of the core focus areas, and other than Gulmarg which is the famous winter destination of the country, this time the department is focusing in a big way on destinations like Sonamarg, Doodhpatri, Bhaderwah, and Sanasar.

"We are focussing on diversification of the tourism portfolio in terms of products of tourism. destinations, and in terms of improving the livelihoods of the people," Shah added.



be made available soon, said the

Shiv Sena (UBT) will contest 23 of 48 Maharashtra Lok Sabha seats: Raut

PTI MUMBAI

hiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Friday claimed his party will contest 23 of the 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra. Talking to reporters, Raut said a detailed discussion took place before the meeting of the opposition bloc INDIA in the national capital earlier this week during which he, along with Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders Uddhav Thackeray and Aaditya Thackeray, held talks with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, senior leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, as well as AICC general secretary K C

Venugopal. 'We will contest 23 seats because we have always been contesting on the same number," Raut

The Shiv Sena (UBT) is part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi, which also comprises the Congress and the Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party. These parties are also part of the Indian National Days Importal Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA). He did not comment on the

number of seats the Congress

and NCP contest will contest. The seat-sharing has almost been decided. That (talks) will take place in Delhi because there is no single (Congress) leader in Maharashtra to take decisions and if there are leaders they don't have the authority to take decisions. They have to again ask Delhi," Raut added. In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the undivided Shiv Sena contested 23 seats in alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party and won 18. Of these 18, a total of 13 are now aligned with Chief Minister Eknath Shinde post the split in the Sena in June last year.

Must work to remove all remnants of colonial legacy: Himanta

PTI GUWAHATI

ssam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Asarma on Friday urged the people to erase all remnants of colonial legacy and work together to build an 'atma nirbhar

He appealed to the people of Assam to pledge to create a movement encompassing all sectors, from agriculture to Information Technology (IT), so that the state can achieve economic self-sufficiency

Addressing a meeting at Gohpur in Sonitpur district to mark the birth centenary of freedom fighter Kanaklata Barua, Sarma said, "As India moves towards 100 years of independence, we must all work together to dismantle all remnants of our colonial legacy. We must work together for creating an 'atma nirbhar Bharat' economically"

Seventeen-year-old Kanaklata was shot dead by the police during the Quit India Movement in 1942 while leading a group to hoist the Tricolour on the Gohpur police station premises.



Sarma maintained that the current regime in New Delhi, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, has been working to do away with the colonial legacy.

He cited replacing the colonial era criminal justice laws with new acts, shifting to the new Parliament building and renaming of roads as instances where Modi and Shah have shown how the country is coming out of the

colonial legacies. "All remnants of colonial rule have to be erased and replaced with an atma nirbhar

Bharat", the CM added.

"India won't build its economy based on imported products, but will develop its own capabilities to create its own legacy," the he asserted.

Paying tributes to the memory of freedom fighters like Kanaklata and others, Sarma maintained that though the political freedom they had strived for has been achieved economic freedom is yet to materialise. He underlined the importance Mahatma Gandhi had laid on both political and economic freedom and exhorted the people of the state to work for it.

"Assam has to get rice, lentils, potatoes, onions from outside. When prices of potatoes and onions are increased by some traders outside the state, we carry out agitations here. But we don't take to growing these on our own land," he said. He urged the people not to create 'movement

of protests and agitations' but a movement of boosting own production and capabilities in all sectors, ranging from agriculture

Students protest killing of former MLA by insurgents in Arunachal

PTI ■ ITANAGAR

7arious students' organisa-V tions under the aegis of All Arunachal Pradesh Students Union (AAPSU) on Friday staged a rally here to protest the killing of former Congress MLA

Yumsem Matey.
Denouncing the act of rebel groups in the three districts of Tirap, Changlang and Longding, hundreds of students marched from Akashdeep complex to Raj Bhavan holding anti-insurgency banners and placards.

The protesting students later submitted a five-point memorandum to Governor Lt Gen K T Parnaik (Retd). The demands

of the students' organisations include securing peace and normalcy in Tirap, Changlang and Longding (TCL) region, to fast track the investigation of the MLA killing case through NIA. They also demanded immediate release of village chief of Chop village in Longding district, sealing of the international border and expelling of insurgent groups to secure peace in TCL region and three battalion forces to check cross-border crimes in each district.

Thursday decided to transfer the case relating to the brutal killing of Matey, to the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

The government has requested

The state government on

the Union Home Ministry to take up the matter with the NIA to probe the incident, following a request from the state police department, Deputy Secretary in Home Department, Likha Sampu said in a statement here. On December 16, Matey was shot dead by unknown assailants near the Indo-Myanmar border in the Lazu circle of Tirap district. Matey, a former Congress legislator, along with three of his followers had gone to the village for some personal work when someone took him towards a jungle on some pretext and fired at him killing him on the www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Theatre of the absurd

With a number of acts that bring it no glory, a Parliament session ends rather unceremoniously

he just-concluded winter session of Parliament has, sadly, nothing to show in terms of furthering or strengthening democracy. It did witness a flurry of activity, ranging from impassioned speeches to breaches of decorum and the passage of crucial Bills, not to forget the smoke bomb that set into motion a chain of events leading to the suspension of a record number of Opposition MPs. A major takeaway, apart from cash-for-query accused Mahua Moitra's expulsion and the suspension of MPs, was the passage of a few significant Bills, particularly those related to criminal laws and the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners. But the passage of these important Bills without any discussion was overshadowed by the record number of suspension of MPs for "unruly behaviour" following the security breach. Their fault: demanding a statement from Prime Minister Narendra Modi or Home Minister Amit Shah on the issue, albeit in



a rather unruly manner. The Speaker acted swiftly to suspend almost one-third of the Lok Sabha, probably to set an example. But his action set a wrong precedent instead. Manoj Kumar Jha, an RJD MP, and Congress leader Shashi Tharoor called the suspension "a badge of honour." Mahua Moitra's expulsion earlier would also go down as the fastest judgement by the Speaker, 90 minutes to be precise, as the hallmark of winter session. However, nothing beats the suspension of MPs for demanding a just debate on breach of security in Parliament.

On the sidelines also, there was no dearth of controversies. Trinamool Congress' (TMC) suspended

MP Kalyan Banerjee was seen mimicking Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar while Congress leader Rahul Gandhi filmed the act. Of course, it did not go down well with the ruling dispensation but then an MP cannot be suspended while under suspension. The Opposition has claimed that the Government's move was an attempt to stifle debate. The Opposition pressed for a statement on Parliament security breach but the Government, in turn, accused it of intentionally disrupting proceedings. In response, the Speaker took disciplinary action, including the suspension of members. The imposition of suspensions is a mechanism to maintain order and discipline, but it also sparks debates about the balance between freedom of expression and maintaining decorum in the hallowed halls of democracy. Amidst the political drama, Parliament managed to address a few critical legislative matters. The session's adjournment after a series of high-profile events marks a significant chapter in India's parliamentary history. As the political dynamics evolves before the general elections due next year, the last session of import of this Lok Sabha will go down in the annals of history as the most dramatic, traumatic and cryptic session



tee shows his skills on 'Nagar Kirtan' procession, ahead of the 'Sahibzade', in Amritsa

Global conflicts fuel Sino-Russian cooperation



China and Russia, the two states, at loggerheads with the US have found a common cause. In their shared world view the US doesn't take centre stage

istory is witness to the fact that time undoes strongest and the weakest alike. Where the West drifts further away from Russia, China steers strategically closer to Moscow than ever before beckoning a time of a desired world order, one that can be a popular alternative to the US-dominated one. The China and Russia partnership has diversified into a strategic alliance that can enmesh all their allies in a comprehensive bracket of flourishing economic prosperity.

A partnership with a vision Though no formal alliance ties the two, Sino-Russian relations have forged a dependable bond despite sharing a past of disputes and differences. Putting the tumultuous period of the 1960s behind them, post-Soviet Russia and China have diversified their engagements into many streams of collaboration, from formal support in the UN General Assembly to regional security exercises to expansive trade supply. West Asia is the most recent example of their unified views as both parties take a stance of titrated neutrality.

Both the Chinese Communist Party and the Kremlin support the 2-state solution in the Israel-Palestine conflict. The timeline of this West Asian conflict comes as a breather for Russia as the global gaze shifts its attention from Ukraine to Palestine, which consequently gives the China-Russia duo more time to scale up and reinforce their shared views on conflicts through fulsome shows of their efforts toward building peace in the war zone. Statements enumerating Russia's undulating efforts towards a peaceful resolution in West Asia dot headlines as the Kremlin both criticizes Hamas and offers aid to Palestine. Maintaining a precise balancing act, Russia and China manage to push and pull each other's weight on the scales of global scrutiny and show a face of powerful sol-

One of the cornerstones of the partnership is their economic collaboration. As the United States pursued protectionist policies and trade wars, China expressed criticisms and grievand Russia sought to strengthen ances against the US. Even as

their economic ties. Ever since Russia's isolation from the West after it declared war on Ukraine, China has stood as its strongest supporter economically reporting a 23% jump in its crude oil exports from Russia from the previous year. In a recent agreement, Chinese Premier Xi Jinping and Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin decided to trade in local currency. With China's heavy energy demands and Russia's rich resource supply this agreement facilitates smoother trade and interdependence

Though China and Russia promote strategic autonomy they have continually enhanced their security and military cooperation via joint military exercises and the exchange of military technologies that are unavailable to China otherwise. The recent combat exercises in the Sea of Japan and near Alaskan waters are a sign that the Ukraine war has only brought Beijing and Moscow closer together validating the US' growing anxiety towards China's growing influence.

Xi and Putin had already released a joint statement, weeks before the Ukraine invasion -a strategic move at securing geopolitical support as suggested by experts and academicians- announcing a no limits" strategic partnership between the two states that also



EVEN AS THE

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR RAGES ON, THE TWO MAINTAIN A **SYNONYMOUS** CRITICISM OF US INVOLVEMENT IN WEST ASIAN AFFAIRS **EVEN THOUGH CHINA** SHOWS RESTRAINT IN MAKING EXPLICIT REFERENCES

the Israel-Hamas war rages on, the two maintain a synonymous criticism of US involvement in West Asian affairs even though China shows restraint in making explicit references. The continual strengthening of bonds between the two is evidence of successful withstanding of international pressure and isolation. The China-Russia partnership is birthed from the insecurity of a Western-centric world order spearheaded by the US. Both nations have strategically and consciously crafted their diplomatic and economic engagements as counterbalances to the US' sphere of influence and containment strategies which they criticize as contributing to deteriorating regional stability. They continue to push for a new world order of intense economic collaboration through more native, multilateral institutions such as the BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), and the BRI forum and are steadily accumulating support for the same.

Perfectly coupled as high energy demand and high resource supply calibre states respectively, China and Russia have already invested significant diplomatic and economic efforts into seamless energy cooperation. The Power of Siberia II gas pipeline and the Yamal natural gas project are prominent examples of the

Beijing also focused highly on the energy cooperation between Russia and China, a strategy repeatedly executed by the Kremlin since Ukraine's invasion as China accommodated the largest share of Russian oil exports in recent years. The two envision energy cooperation that promotes greater Eurasian integration and extends to East Asia. A spell of doom or a lesson in power projection for the US? As China and Russia strengthen their alliance, they assert their influence in regions traditionally dominated by the US, such as Central Asia and the Arctic with a combined power projection in the area. Their diversified and conscious economic engagements

same. Putin's recent visit to

could pose a threat to Washington's unilateral tendencies of power hoarding. Sino-Russian vision promises a data-backed increase in economic prosperity by up to 4% through their projected plans like the BRI and North Sea Route alternative. In a world that is streamlined to the capitalist system of economic growth, such a prospect might be difficult to turn away from amidst rising diplomatic complications and proxy wars. (The writer is a researcher

with regional blocs and states

unclaimed by US influence

and an expert on international relations, *views are personal)*

ding competition. Interestingly, this otherwise

'gentleman's game', is turning into a more and

more profitable business endeavour with each

year passing that also underscores the commer-

cialization that the game is turning into a cash

The flip side of the matter is that the IPL has

turned into a brand. This scenario should, how-

ever, not be allowed to turn this marquee event

into the one obfuscating the real essence of the

sport given that for the IPL to last long with cred-

ibility, what matters most is the 'striking balance'

between the pecuniary gains and the sports spir-

it which helps keep the ball of cricket enthusi-

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

asts' craze rolling!

cow, with a huge fan-following as well.

HE EDITOR

Security risk management for a secure future



GenAI is a dual-edged sword. On the one hand, it is a security risk, on the other it promises improved threat detection and predictive capabilities

enAI brings a paradigm shift in cyberse-curity, with its capabilities to emulate human understanding, and learnings and the promise of both enhancing IT security and preventing new potential vulnerabilities. It can be a partner in protecting IT environments while being used to create new attack vectors. The stakes for IT and security are high, posing the question of what organizations need to do to unlock value responsibly.

The Dell Technologies Generative AI Pulse Survey reveals that 37% of IT decision-makers report some organizational hesitancy when it comes to GenAI adoption. Security concerns are among the top five contributors to hesitancy toward GenAI implementation. As with any emerging technology, there are risks we must manage while making sure these technologies reflect our human values. At the same time, GenAI also offers a great deal in helping us protect our IT environments.

Addressing GenAI risks As the capabilities of GenAI expand, security is a top-of-



mind for everyone. Hackers can use the speed and automation in which GenAI works, uncovering vulnerabilities faster, evolving malware in real-time, and building better phishing emails and digital spoofing. According to Dell Technologies Innovation Index report 2023, only 34% of Indian businesses are currently employing a holistic end-to-end security strategy integrating both hardwareand software-based protections. GenAI systems require proper security measures to help from becoming the target of attacks.

Securing GenAI begins by implementing an infrastructure rooted in trust, starting at the device level and spanning to the data and user. The goal is to have robust access control measures that prevent damaging access and potential misuse of the system. To secure data, capabilities such

as data classification, encryp-

tion and secure data storage and transmission need to be in place. Human involvement is crucial for regular audits, identifying system anomalies, mitigating bias, and adhering to ethical guide-

GenAI & cybersecurity

While the industry works to address the risks of GenAI, it holds promise to become an ally in cybersecurity, opening avenues to help better protect organizations in the face of threats. As GenAI analyzes vast amounts of security data for an enterprise, makes predictions and is continuously learning, cybersecurity teams can better address threats. GenAI can then predict future threats or identify vulnerabilities since it learns from past incidents and threat intelligence feeds.

Automation can transform how we approach security, especially in the prevention and detection control areas. By automating threat detection, GenAI reduces the time to discover and respond to attack attempts. Automating routine cybersecurity tasks, such as incident reporting or threat-sharing efforts, allows security teams to focus on

more strategic tasks. Professionals work on what matters the most with faster access to insights they can act

Content creation may not be the first feature that comes to mind when one thinks about GenAI and cybersecurity, but this is a relevant capability for security awareness training. Leveraging GenAI for personalized training modules, using user roles, past behaviours, and common threats can reduce human error, a key factor in security incidents.

An optimistic view Throughout human history, we've managed the risk of innovation while advancing human progress. The key lies in using its benefits while proactively and vigilantly addressing the risks. Robust security measures, continuous monitoring and a flexible, ever-evolving approach to data privacy and ethics are recommended. As we dive into the GenAI era, the relationship between AI and cybersecurity will continue to be one of symbiotic evolution.

(The writer is VP, Infrastructure Solutions Group, Dell Technologies India, views are personal)

INDIA BLOC PROTESTS Sir — INDIA bloc MPs on Thursday marched from Parliament to Vijay Chowk

to protest the suspension of opposition law-makers, with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge asserting that the Prime Minister and the government had violated parliamentary privilege by not speaking on the security breach issue inside the House. Carrying a huge 'Save Democracy' banner and placards with messages like 'Opposition MPs Suspended' 'Parliament Caged' and "Democracy Expelled' written on them, the lawmakers took out the march. The opposition wanted to speak on the issue but the Prime Minister and Home Minister did not turn up either in the Lok Sabha or the Rajva Sabha, Unfortunately, the Home Minister and Prime Minister did not come to the House to apprise about the security breach. They spoke about issues which should be spoken about in the House, and not outside. Opposition MPs are repeatedly requesting Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to allow the lawmakers to speak on the security breach issue, Kharge said, alleging that the ruling party members were disturbing proceedings. Kharge urged the government to "behave democratically." INDIA bloc leaders will protest at Jantar Mantar on Friday against the suspension of MPs and nationwide protests will also be held in all district headquarters against the government's "immoral and illegal" behaviour of this government. In an apparent reference to the mimicry issue and Dhankhar's remarks on it, Kharge said, " The Rajya Sabha Chairman has brought casteism to Parliament by raising an issue. A political row broke out on Tuesday after Trinamool Congress leader Kalyan Banerjee derisively mimicked Dhankhar during the opposition's protest on the stairs of Parliament against the MPs' suspension, drawing strong condemnation from the ruling BJP. With these fresh suspensions, the total number of members suspended from the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha since

December 14 has gone up to 143.

IPL: Profit over Cricket



th the annual cricket razzmataz, the IPL(Indian Premier League)knocking at the New Year's door following the IPL auction wherein Australian sensation Mitchell Starc outstripped one and all his peers in the auction race by proving himself to be the most expensive buy at around Rs 25 crore in a bid-

After two men jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber on December 13 and released smoke from canisters, the opposition has been disrupting House proceedings demanding a statement from the gov-

ernment on the security breach. Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

DOES NOT HURT TO KNOW HINDI

Sir — DMK party is tasting its own medicine with Nitish Kumar, Bihar's Chief minister rebutting and attacking DMK MP for not knowing Hindi. Showing ignorance of not knowing the national language after being an MP for several years is rather strange. Nitish Kumar lost his cool when Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) leader TR Baalu asked for a translation of his speech which was delivered in Hindi during the INDIA bloc leaders meeting. DMK supremo M K Stalin and TR Baalu were also present when Nitish Kumar was addressing the INDIA bloc leaders. We call our country Hindustan and Hindi is our national language and at least MPs must

C K Subramaniam | Chennai

Sir — The decision to confer the Arjun

Award to Athletes like Satwik Sairaj,

CONFERRING ARJUN AWARD

Chirag Chetty, Mohammed Shami, Hockey player Krishan Bahadur and others is recognistion of their talent. However, the most amazing and cynosure among the major awardees is the para player Sheetal Devi. At the same time, the conferring of the Dronacharya Award to the five coaches is a welcome move. Although these prestigious awards are been conferred every year, the point of glee is that young talent like Sheetal Devi is among those the recipients. Also, it's been a little late, but better than never for Chirag and Satwik to get this sports honour. This time it has been a privilege for the mix of young and experienced players to get the honour and prove their worthiness for the Arjun Award. From boxing to badminton to cricket to archery to wrestling, the ceremony will be an exciting one, and therefore as a sports lover, we can love and cheer everyone among athletes for their success and triumph in clinching such a prestigious honour from the government itself.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

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FIRST COLUMN

ELECTION TIME IN INDIA AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD

It is in the best interest of the region that politically stable governments get elected



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

t is an interesting and maybe, high decibel political noise time in India's neighbourhood, with almost all its neighbours and Bharat going for general elections in 2024. While domestic politics do not impact diplomatic relationships it is a different game when it comes to India and its

India is deeply engaged with Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka on many fronts and all of them are going in for elections next year. All three of them also have to balance out their relations with China, vis a vis India, to maintain stability in their domestic economies, while not compromising on their long-term bilateral relationship with India. Bangladesh with which India shares an extremely intimate geographical embrace, is the first one to go into polls in the first two weeks of the new year.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who shares an excellent relationship with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has ruled the country for fifteen years and is almost certain to return to power for the fourth time. Bangladesh is one of the most crucial allies India has in the region and both have serious stakes in maintaining a free open rules-based Indo-Pacific region. Bangladesh geographically sits in a critical part of the Indian Ocean serving as an important port of transit. Its geographic location and proximity to many Indian northeastern states allow it to provide a crucial land route for trade, and human movement connecting the northeastern part of India to South East Asia and beyond.



Prime ministers of both countries had a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit held in Delhi in September. In a press statement, both parties mentioned "the operationalization of the Agreement on the use of the Chattogram and Mongla Ports and commissioning of the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline". They also expressed appreciation for the operationalization of the settlement of bilateral trade in INR and encouraged the business community on both sides to utilize the mechanism. They looked forward to beginning negotiations on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), covering trade in goods, services, and protecting and promoting investment.

Last month Bangladesh and India inaugurated three critical fracture projects including "The Akhaura - Agartala Cross-Border Rail Link; Khulna - Mongla Port Rail Line; and Unit - II of the Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant where India promised to invest nearly \$2bn in Bangladesh." China is Bangladesh's largest trading partner and India comes a distant second. India is aware that a stable reliable democratic partner is India's best bulwark against an aggressive, money-pushing autocratic dragon, waiting to push any boundaries to press India more on its strategic bor-

Meanwhile, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar was delivering a foreign policy outlook for India in the new century to business leaders at an industry association event. He said "The nature of how trading rules have been implemented over the last two to three decades actually has raised a lot of question marks about its effectiveness and the credibility of the regime. A large part of my attention, the economic side of my attention, is very much on how we deal with the world economically, how we support our businesses, how we support our consumers, how we increase our employment". With no direct references to the ongoing and upcoming dance of democracies in India and its neighbourhood. it is essential to continue the bilateral dialogue on strategic interests even though it may get subdued under the shrill noise of campaigns. It may be worth mentioning that India's not-so-friendly neighbour Pakistan also faces a general election next year and it is in India's best interest that they too get a stable government.

(The writer is a political analyst, views are personal)

COP28: High on rhetoric, less on action



The COP 28 offers no credible action. On meeting the 'funding gap', save a token amount for Loss and Damage Fund (LaDF), there was nothing to show



he just concluded 2023 United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP28), in Dubai, has pledged to "transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science". The 'net zero' refers to a scenario wherein the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) into the atmosphere equals their removal.

Historically 'indiscriminate' and 'excessive' use of fossil fuels – a generic term for major fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas - mostly by the developed countries led by the USA and EU bloc countries has over-whelmingly contributed to GHGs. According to Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy RK Singh, "developed nations emit 22 tons per capita of GHGs against India's emission level being a mere 2.1 tons per capita".

Yet, any commitment to action in this area wasn't even mentioned in the outcome documents of the previous COPs. Against this backdrop, the very mention of 'shifting away from fossil fuels' in the COP28 declaration and its endorsement by all the 198 participating countries is in itself a great accomplishment. But, the good news ends here. The mere inclusion of a reference to fossil fuels in the text has no meaning if it comes without credible commitments particularly by the major polluters in the past (read: developed countries) backed up by 'action plans' in different areas and financial and technological support to the developing countries for making energy transition to new and renewable sources of energy. None of these figures are in the outcome docu-

Even worse, we see an acceleration in investment activity by the USA and other major oil and gas-producing countries for expanding fossil fuel extraction. In fact, within two days of the end of COP 28, the summit president Sultan al Jaber, who won laurels for helping hammer out the agreement, has said "his own company (read: Abu Dhabi National Oil Company or ADNOC) will continue to invest in fossil fuels". According to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the exploration and production plans of producer governments will



INDIA WHICH HAS PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE IN SHEPHERDING

DELIBERATIONS AT COP 28 COULDN'T HAVE GOADED THE DEVELOPED **COUNTRIES INTO** UNDERTAKING REDUCTION COMMITMENTS

ON OIL AND GAS

add 69 per cent more output than what is consistent with even a less-ambitious 2 degrees C warming

India which has played a pivotal role in shepherding the deliberations at COP 28 couldn't have goaded the developed countries into undertaking reduction commitments on oil and gas. This is because it depends overwhelmingly on imports 85 per cent in the case of crude oil and 50 per cent in gas for meeting its consumption requirements and most of it is sourced from the OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) besides the USA. If the latter cut their production drastically to meet climate goals, this would adversely affect the former by reducing global supply and increasing prices.

According to a briefing by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), during CY 2022, countries provided a record US\$1.3 trillion in subsidies to support their proliferating fossil fuel production and consumption systems. Sans the with drawal of these subsidies, it won't be possible to phase out these fuels. COP 28 declaration calls for "phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that do not address energy poverty or just transitions".

This formulation is vague and susceptible to multiple interpretations. For instance, the industry could justify the continuation of fossil fuel subsidies in the name of addressing energy poverty or even supporting the transition to 'renewable energy citing inadequate storage capacity which is essential for sustainable supply from the latter.

The COP28 text calls for "accelerating efforts towards the phasedown of unabated coal power" while not referring to oil and gas. The developed countries are being 'too clever by half'. They are already on their way to abandoning coal. During CY 2023, consumption of coal in the USA and EU bloc coun-

each whereas in India and China, it will increase by 8 percent and 5 percent respectively. India and China together with Indonesia account for 70 percent of global coal demand. Given the above, it suits the developed countries to go for accelerated phase-down of coal. In contrast, India depends on the use of coal for around 75 per cent of the total power generation. According to Singh, even after massive expansion in renewable source-based capacity (solar, wind etc), the share of coalfired capacity will remain substantial at about 33 percent by 2030. This includes 78-80 GW (gigawatts) of additional charcoal-the capacity to be added during this period.

tries is expected to fall by 20 percent

This new capacity addition would have been in jeopardy if Indian negotiators hadn't forced the deletion of an earlier draft text that talked about 'limiting new coal plants' All along, India has exhorted devel-

oped countries to follow the principle of 'common but differentiated responsibilities. Put simpr wants them to take the lead in achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 saying historically they have been the biggest polluters even as the contribution of developing countries is minimal. This is nowhere reflected in the outcome document of COP 28.

The document talks of tripling global renewable energy and doubling energy efficiency improvements in sync with the ambition to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Centigrade above pre-industrial levels threshold. But, it doesn't spell out measures to achieve this. The poor and developing countries neither have access to technologies needed for making the transition nor there is any sign of financing commitments by developed countries. According to a UN report, about US\$ 4.3 trillion per year needs to be invested in clean energy till 2030, increasing thereafter to US\$

5 trillion a year till 2050, to be able to reach net zero emissions by 2050. Of this, developing countries, excluding China, would need at least US\$2.4 trillion a year. The offering from rich states to poor nations is minuscule when compared to these mammoth requirements.

The COP 28 also gave a call to enhance adaptation action and support under the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA). Under adaptation programs, countries are required to respond to anticipated climate change impacts in a multitude of areas such as erecting buildings and infrastructure that is 'safer' and more 'sustainable'; replanting forests and restoring damaged ecosystems; diversifying crops to enable farmers to better able to adapt to changing climates and so on. Here also, the outcome was satisfactory. The adaptation funding gap has been estimated at US\$ 215 – 387 billion annually up to 2030. But, there was no commitment to it. The outcome document did not say how the adaptation finance can be scaled up and now the rich countries can be held to their obligations.

The summit adopted an agreement for a new Loss and Damage Fund (LaDF). This fund will provide financial assistance to vulnerable countries, including India, that are already experiencing the devastating impacts of climate change, such as rising sea levels, extreme weather events etc. The fund will be operational by 2024 with an initial corpus of over US\$400 million. To conclude, COP 28 was big on rhetoric but little in terms of 'credible' action. On meeting the 'funding gap, sans a token amount for LaDF, there was nothing to show. As for India, while pursuing its clean energy transition goal, it was able to

ing power generation requirements. (The writer is a policy analyst, views are personal)

retain the flexibility to decide the

'energy mix' suited to its needs -

including the use of coal for meet-

Empowering India's farmers through the neo-cooperatives

India's visionary cooperative economic framework catalyses inclusive development, global integration, and social prosperity

n Kisan Diwas today, there is a critical need for a large-scale communication initiative to educate and empower marginalized farmers in rural areas about the innovative Cooperative Economic Framework. This framework, conceptualized by Team India, aims to revive the Cooperative organization in Amrit Kaal and enable farmers to benefit from the vision of "Sahkar se Samridhi" set by the newly Ministry formed

Cooperation. The Cooperative Economic Framework marks a significant shift, renewing the Social Contract between the government, the masses, and other stakeholders. With 290 million Cooperative Members in India, this sector is poised to



embrace a comprehensive at the PACS level, aims to vision of inclusive development, challenging traditional economic forecasts.

The transformation involves Primary reimagining Agriculture Cooperative/ Credit Society (PACS) as Multipurpose entities, facilitating inclusive business ventures at the grassroots level. This paradigm shift not only catalyses indifferent growth and job creation but also empowers farmers with unprecedented bargaining

A monumental initiative within this framework is the World's Largest Decentralized Grain Storage Plan in the Cooperative sector. This plan, involving the creation of warehouses, custom hiring centres, and primary processing units ing rice and sugar to multiple

leverage technology like Blockchain to issue E-tokenized warehouse receipts. This innovation has the potential to revolutionize the entire food grain value chain, reducing wastage and transportation costs while ensuring fair prices for farmers. Cooperatives are now enabling farmers to operate Retail Petrol/Diesel outlets, LPG Distributorships, and Jan Aushadhi Kendra, opening avenues for income generation and contributing significantly to GDP. The newly formed Multi-State National Cooperative Export Society is also playing a crucial role, with 2,625 PACS/cooperative societies from 22 States and UTs already members. This

cooperative is actively export-

countries, with profits returning to farmers through dividends. Farmers in rural India need not rely on moneylenders for microloans, thanks to the availability of credit through various institutions competing to support farming communities. The Cooperative Economic Framework, with its emphasis on regenerative agriculture and improved access to credit, is yielding positive results for farmers.

As the world grapples with challenges and turns away from values of trust and solidarity, India's Cooperative economy stands out as a potential solution. The newly formed World Cooperative Economic Forum, led by Dileep Sanghani, aims to democratize the global value

Exchanges and Economic Zones. This forum, focused on exports and employment, could significantly impact the socio-economic profile of marginalized populations world-

The hope is that by 2024, the United Nations will recognise India's PACS to APEX model as a neo-cooperative Framework, integrating Indian cooperatives with global counterparts. The use of modern technology like Blockchain and E-trading could make this integration a powerful tool for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in creating social and solidarity frugality and reducing poverty.

Introducing Information and Communication Technologies chain, creating Cooperative (ICTs) through Cooperatives

in remote areas enhances productivity, connectivity, and sharing. knowledge Cooperatives can play a crucial role in the profitable and social development of emerging markets, and their competi-

tiveness needs strengthening through legal, non-supervisory, and executive support, access to finance, and human capital development. The potential transformation

of PACS into Mini Mandis opens new marketing opportunities, fostering rural economic growth. The Cooperative Economic framework aims to create a network of PACS-led Cooperative Economic Zones, promoting decentralized production and

a centralized processed Indian

Agri-Export market. This

approach could also spur the

manufacturing of Drones and other profitable farm enterprises within these zones.

On this Kisan Diwas, it's time to celebrate the vision of "Sahkar se Samridhi" that has made this Cooperative movement possible. The contributions of visionaries like the Late Tribhuvan Das Patel and Sardar Patel, who laid the foundation, are integral to the realization of this modernized Gram Swarajya powered by blockchain technology. As India sets a new tune for a Social and Solidarity economy, it is hoped that the ripple effect reaches the global North and resonates with modern Development economists. (The writer is secretary gener-

al CNRI and member PM-MSP Committee; views are personal)

14 die in Prague university shooting | Gaza death toll surpasses 20k

Three foreign nationals among wounded

Three foreign nationals were among the 25 people wounded when a student opened fire at a university in the Czech capital, Prague, shooting dead 14 people before killing himself, authorities said Friday. It was the worst mass shooting in Czech history. Interior Minister Vit Rakusan said police in Prague worked overnight and all the 14 who died in Thursday's attack have been identified. The Institute of Music Sciences confirmed that its head, Lenka Hlavkova, was among the dead.

The Czech Foreign Ministry confirmed that three of those wounded were foreigners — two from United Arab Emirates and one from the Netherlands. The bloodshed took place at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University, where the 24-year-old shooter was a student, Prague Police Chief Martin Vondrasek said. Petr



in Prague, Czech Republic, Friday.

Matejcek, the director of the police regional headquarters in Prague said the gunman killed himself on the balcony of the university building when police officers approached him. The gunman's name has not been

Authorities warned that have boosted security at

schools and other "soft targets" — usually public facilities that are difficult to secure — in a preventive measure. University rectors also said they would work with police experts on more preventive measures to increase security around cam-Police have released no

details about the dead and wounded or a possible motive for the shooting at the building. Rakusan said on Thursday that investigators didn't suspect a link to any extremist ideology or groups. Officials said they believed the gunman acted

Vondrasek, the police chief, said they believe the man killed his father earlier on Thursday in his hometown of Hostoun, just west of Prague, and that he had also been planning to kill himself. He also said the gunman was suspected of killing a man and his 2-month-old daughter on December 15, in

Prague. Police said the shooter had legally owned several guns and that he was heavily armed during the attack.
Leaders from many coun-

tries, including the United States, and the UN Secretary-General conveyed their condolences. The Czech government declared Saturday a national day of mourning to honour the victims.

Previously, the nation's worst mass shooting was in 2015, when a gunman opened fire in the southeastern town of Uhersky Brod, killing eight before fatally shooting himself.

The building where the shooting took place is located near the Vltava River in Jan Palach Square, a busy tourist area in Prague's Old Town. It is just a few minutes' walk from the picturesque Old Town Square, a major tourist attraction where a popular Christmas market attracts thousands of

UN Security Council vote on aid deliveries and terms for a cease-fire was delayed again late Thursday, after days of high-level negotiations. The United States, which

October 7 attack.

enclave.

has veto power, has pushed back against calls for an immediate cease-fire and giving the UN sole responsibility for inspecting aid deliveries. Israel, citing security grounds, insists it needs to be able to screen goods entering Gaza.

More than half a million

people in Gaza — a quarter of the population — are starving,

according to a report Thursday

from the United Nations and

other agencies describing the

crisis caused by Israel's bom-

bardment and siege on the

territory in response to Hamas'

Despite the emergency, a

The US said it would back a revised resolution that calls for "creating the conditions" for a cease-fire, rather than an immediate end to fighting. Other countries support a stronger text and said diplomats would need to consult their governments before a vote, which is expected later

Martin Griffiths, the UN humanitarian affairs chief, lamented the world's inaction.

'That such a brutal conflict has been allowed to continue



Palestinians stand around a car targeted in an Israeli airstrike on a car in Rafah, Gaza Strip on Friday.

and for this long — despite the widespread condemnation, the physical and mental toll and the massive destruction — is an indelible stain on our collective conscience," he wrote in a post on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter.

Israel, shielded by the United States, has resisted international pressure to scale back its offensive and has said it would press on until Hamas, the militant group that has ruled Gaza for 16 years, has been destroyed.

The military has said that months of fighting lie ahead in southern Gaza, an area packed with the vast majority of the enclave's 2.3 million people, many of whom were ordered to flee combat in the north in ear-

lier stages of the war. Since then, evacuation orders have pushed displaced civilians into ever-smaller areas of the south as troops focus on the city of Khan Younis, Gaza's second-largest. The military said late Thursday that it is sending more ground forces, including combat engineers, to Khan Younis to target Hamas

militants above ground and in

On Friday, the military ordered tens of thousands of residents to leave their homes in Burej, an urban refugee camp, and surrounding communities, within the territory that Israel originally told people to flee to.

The air and ground campaign also continued in the north, even as Israel says it is in the final stages of clearing out Hamas militants there. Mustafa Abu Taha, a

Palestinian farm worker, said ground battles and air strikes have continued in his hard-hit Gaza City neighbourhood of Shijaiyah, adding that many areas have become inaccessible because of massive destruction from air strikes.

They are hitting anything moving," he said of Israeli

In the city of Rafah, on the border with Egypt, an air strike on a house killed six people, including an infant, according to Associated Press journalists who saw the bodies at a hospital. Rafah is one of the few places in Gaza not under evacuation orders, but has been targeted in Israeli strikes almost

Turkiye detains 304 with suspected links to ISIS

Ankara (AP): Turkish security forces have rounded up 304 people suspected of links to the Islamic State extremist group in simultaneous raids across Turkiye, the interior minister said on Friday.

Ali Yerlikaya said the suspects were detained in 32 provinces but the majority of them were in Turkiye's three largest cities, Istanbul, Ankara

The operation, codenamed "Heroes-34," was conducted jointly by the police intelligence and counter-terrorism squads, Yerlikaya said on the X social media plat-

There was no information on the suspects' nation-

The militant group has carried out a string of deadly attacks in Turkiye, including a shooting at an Istanbul night club on January 1, 2017, which killed 39 people during New Year celebrations.It was not clear if the latest operation was part of a security sweep leading up to the New Year festivities. "There will be no respite for the terrorists for the sake of the peace, unity and solidarity of our beloved nation," Yerlikaya said. "With our security force's superior efforts, our fight will contin-

His ministry posted a video on X showing images of the raids, including anti-terrorism police breaking down a door, handcuffing suspects and leading them into police

35, SONIPAT - 131001, HARYANA.

Place: SONIPAT

bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in

France completes military withdrawal from Niger

Abuja (AP): France on Friday completed the withdrawal of its troops after they were asked to leave Niger by the country's new junta, ending years of on-the-ground mili-tary support and raising concerns from analysts about a gap in the fight against jihadi violence across the Sahel region of Africa.

The last French military aircraft and troops departed Niger by the December 22 deadline set by the junta which severed ties with Paris after the coup in July, the French Army General Staff told The Associated Press by

France already announced

its diplomatic mission in Niger for "an indefinite period." However, the country would continue to be involved in the Sahel — the vast expanse south of the Sahara Desert which has been a hot spot for violent extremism although differently, President Emmanuel Macron said Thursday during a visit to a base in Jordan.
"I decided on some

the death toll could rise. Early

on Friday, with the scene of the

shooting still sealed off by the

police, people could be seen

lighting candles to mourn the

victims at an impromptu vigil

by the university headquarters.

Police said on Friday they

important reconfigurations," Macron said.

"We will continue to protect our interests over there but our armies won't be as present permanently, will be less stationary and also less exposed," he said. The departure of the French troops will

Sahel worse off" in terms of overall counterterrorism efforts as Niger was seen as the last remaining Western partner in the decade-long fight against jihadi groups in the region, said Ryan Cummings, director of Africafocused security consulting company Signal Risk. Some 1,500 French troops

were training and supporting the local military in Niger, which had been envisioned as the base for counterterrorism operations in the region after anti-French sentiment grew in Mali and Burkina Faso, both run by juntas that have also

forced French troops out. But after deposing Niger's

President Mohamed Bazoum, the nation's junta led by Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani severed military relations with France and other European countries. Instead, he sought defense cooperation with Russia, whose private mercenary Wagner Group is already active in parts of Africa but faces an uncertain future there following the death of its leader, Yevgeny Prigozhin.

The withdrawal of foreign military missions is already affecting security in Niger, where the number of attacks has surged, according to Oluwole Ojewale with the Dakar-based Institute for Security Studies.

Pacific storm dumps heavy rains in California's coastal cities

Santa Barbara (AP): Torrential rain flooded homes and streets in Southern California's coastal cities Thursday, stranding some drivers in typically idyllic Santa Barbara and compounding holidav travel headaches.

swamping areas in the cities of Port Hueneme, Oxnard and Santa Barbara, where a police detective carried a woman on his back after the SUV she was riding in got stuck in knee-deep

Rainfall rates exceeding 3 inches (7.6 centimeters) an hour unleashed flash flooding about 1:30 a.m. in Ventura County, the National Weather Service said. Later in the morning, streets began filling with The downpours targeted Ventura and Santa Barbara as the storm delivered anothcounties northwest of Los er deluge. By midday, the rain dents ventured outside to look at the damage

Sven Dybdahl, owner of olive oil and vinegar store Viva Oliva in downtown Santa Barbara, said he had trouble finding dry routes to work

Thursday morning, but most of the heavy rains and flooding had receded shortly before 11 a.m. He said he was grateful that the weather is only expected to be an issue for a few days at the tail end of the holiday shopping season, otherwise he'd be worried about how the rains would affect his store's

"It will have an impact but thankfully it's happening quite late," he said. The city of Port Hueneme issued evacuation orders for residences on four streets and warned of potential evacuations on four other

About 60 houses were affected by the orders, all in a senior citizen community, said Firefighter Andy VanSciver, a Ventura County fire spokesperson. An evacuation center was set up at a college gymnasium. Three people from the senior community were taken to hoscaution, and there were multiple rescues of drivers from

flooded vehicles, he said. The city of Oxnard said in a social media post that many streets and intersections were heavily impacted.

Activists dressed in national costume act in a Christmas performance a few days before Christmas at a city central railway station in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Thursday.

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

Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. 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 Indiabulis Housing 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 "whatever there is" basis on 25.01.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of the control of the Secured Creditor, Through The Control of the Secured Creditor. The Control of the Control

Rs. 33,73,620/- (Rupees Thirty Three Lakh Seventy Three Thousand Six Hundred Twenty only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLVAS00447934, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 18.12.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other

related loan document(s) w.e.f. 19.12.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from PRASAD ALIAS PRASAD P.K. and

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 21.00.000/- (Rupees

Twenty One Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 2,10,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Ten Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

FLAT NO. 1003 MEASURING 1549 SQUARE FEET ON 10TH FLOOR, TOWER - 8

IN THE PROJECT KNOWN AS ANSAL GREEN ESCAPE SITUATED IN SECTOF

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

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 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 08.01.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 16,37,497/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Thirty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Seven only) pending towards the Loan Account No. HHLDCP00356305, by

way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 18.12.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other

related loan document(s) w.e.f. 19.12.2023 along with legal expenses and othe

charges due to the Secured Creditor from SHEKHAR KUMAR SINGH and BHOLA

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 10.00.000/- (Rupees Ter

Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

PROPERTY BEARING NO - RZ-23, AREA MEASURING 40 SQ. YDS. I. E., 33.45 SQ. MTRS., FF (BACK SIDE / NORTHERN SIDE UNIT), KHASRA NO. 4, SITUATED AT REVENUE ESTATE OF VILLAGE BINDAPUR, IN THE COLONY KNOWN AS SOUTH-EXTENSION - II, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI - 110059.

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

on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullsho

UK family visa salary threshold hike to be in 'incremental stages'

Authorized office

Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

The UK's proposed hike in the minimum annual salary threshold for British citizens and permanent residents to be eligible to sponsor a spouse or partner on a Family Visa will take place in "incremental stages", the government has told

Parliament.The update came on Thursday in reply to a written parliamentary question in the House of Lords, stating that the threshold will initially rise to GBP 29,000 in early 2024 from the current level of GBP 18,600 and then be followed by two further increases. The move has been branded a "rowing back" by the Opposition after Home Secretary James Cleverly had told the Commons earlier this month that the threshold will jump to GBP 38,700, in line with the minimum salary requirement for the Skilled Worker visa route. Latest Home Office documents now say that while the intention

over time. "The MIR (Minimum Income Requirement) will be increased in incremental stages to give predictability," said Home Office Minister Lord Andrew Sharpe in his Lords

remains to align both thresh-

olds, it will be done in stages

raise the threshold to GBP 29,000, that is the 25th percentile of earnings for jobs which are eligible for Skilled Worker visas, moving to the 40th percentile (currently GBP 34,500) and finally the 50th percentile (currently GBP 38,700 and the level at which the general skilled worker threshold is set) in the final stage of implementation," he

He reiterated Cleverly's stance that the MIR had not been increased for over a decade and therefore no longer reflected the level of income required by a family to ensure they are self-sufficient and do not need to rely on public "Family life must not be

established here at the taxpayer's expense and family migrants must be able to integrate if they are to play a full part in British life... It is intended that this change will contribute to reducing net migration when it is introduced in spring 2024," he added. Labour's shadow home secretary Yvette Cooper, who had warned of rushed weddings between now and spring 2024 by those desperate to circumvent the new rules, accused the government of failing to properly assess the impact of the

Palestinians prepare tor somber Xmas amid war

AP NEW YORK

Tt's normally a moment of pure joy for the Rev. Khader Khalilia: the excitement, the giggles, the kisses, as his young daughters — in their Christmas pajamas — open their gifts. But this year, just the thought of it fills Khalilia with

"I'm struggling," said the Palestinian American pastor of Redeemer-St. John's Lutheran Church in New York. "How can I do it while the Palestinian children are suffering, have no shelter or a place to lay their

Thousands of miles away, near Jesus' biblical birthplace of Bethlehem, Suzan Sahori has been working with artisans to bring olive wood Christmas ornaments into homes in Australia, Europe and North America. But Sahori is in no mood for festivities: "We're broken, looking at all these children, all this killing."

tor of Bethlehem Fair Trade

Artisans, an organization sell-

In a traditional season of merriment, many Palestinian Christians — in Bethlehem and beyond — are gripped Land. with helplessness, pain and worry amid the Israel-Hamas war. Some are mourning, lobbying for the war to end, scrambling to get relatives to

safety or seeking comfort in the Israel. Christmas message of hope. In the occupied West Bank, Sahori, executive direc-

ing crafts, will pray for peace and justice. She's grateful she's but wonders if that could change. She's also angry.

"The joy in my heart is stolen," she said. "I'm saying, God, how are you allowing all these children to die?' ... I'm mad at God; I hope He forgives

In better times, she finds the Christmas spirit in the Bethlehem area unmatched: It's in songs cascading into streets bedecked with lights, markets displaying decorations, and the enthusiasm of children, families and tourists snapping photos with towering Christmas trees.

Now, it's all quieter, somber. Tree lighting ceremonies she attended last year have been scrapped. The heads of churches in Jerusalem have urged congregations to forgo "any unnecessarily festive activities." They encouraged priests and the faithful to focus on Christmas' spiritual meaning and called for "fervent prayers for a just and lasting peace for our beloved Holy

Thousands of Palestinians have been killed in Israel's ongoing offensive in Gaza,

launched after Hamas' October 7 killings and hostage-taking in Days before Christmas, the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem said two Christian

women at a church compound

in Gaza were killed by Israeli

sniper fire. The Israeli military said troops were targeting Hamas militants in the area; it said it was investigating the incident and takes such reports

very seriously. Khalilia is striving to comfort the distraught amid his distress.

"It's hard to watch. It's hard to do your job," he said. "People are looking for us to walk with them in their suffering." He worries about family in the West Bank; a brother lost his income working for a hotel as travel cancellations pummeled tourism.

Khalilia, who's from a town near Bethlehem, said his daughters will likely get fewer presents, with the savings going toward helping children in Gaza. Many in the US, he said, don't realize that Palestinian Christians exist some ask if he converted from Islam or Judaism. He tells them, "When you

sing O Little Town of Bethlehem' on Christmas Eve, remember that Jesus was born in my hometown." There are 50,000 Christian

Palestinians estimated to reside in the West Bank and Jerusalem, according to the US State Department's international religious freedom report for 2022. Approximately 1,300 Christians lived in Gaza, it said. Some Christians are also citizens of Israel. Many Palestinian Christians live in diaspora communities.

S'pore reported 965 COVID-19 cases last week

Singapore (PTI): The number of fresh COVID-19 cases in Singapore jumped to 965 in the past week, up from 763 the previous week. The number of patients admitted to intensive care units (ICU) went up from 23 to 32 in the same period. These are the highest numbers of new weekly hospitalisation and ICU admission for COVID-19 patients in 2023, TODAY newspaper reported on Thursday.

Most COVID-19 patients here are infected by JN.1, a sublineage of the coronavirus' Omicron subvariant BA.2.86. With the JN.1 variant, winter conditions in the northern hemisphere and more people choosing not to wear masks have fueled the increase in COVID-19 cases, TODAY, citing experts, reported. Based on the available inter-

national and domestic data, there is no clear indication now that BA.2.86 or JN.1 are more transmissible or cause more severe disease than other circulating variants, according to the Ministry of Health (MOH). The estimated number of COVID-19 cases from December 10 to 16 was also the highest recorded for the year, with 58,300 cases for epi-week 50, up from the previous record of 56,043 cases in the preceding week. The MOH's published figures show that the seven-day moving average estimated daily number of cases has been drop-

ping in recent days.

BOUNDED BY:

Authorized office Indiabulis Housing Finance Limited

WEST : PLOTNO.22A For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provide on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. Fo bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in

PLOT NO. 22A NORTH : PASSAGE 08 FT.

Cipher case: SC nod to | Will address reservations on level playing field: SC Imran, Qureshi's bail

In a relief to jailed former prime minister Imran Khan ahead of elections, Pakistan's Supreme Court on Friday approved his and close aide Shah Mahmood Qureshi's bail in the cipher case related to the alleged leakage of state

The apex court also directed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders to submit surety bonds worth Rs 1 million each, the Dawn newspaper reported. The order was issued by a threemember bench headed by Justice Sardar Tariq Masood and comprising Justices Athar Minallah and Syed Mansoor Ali Shah on a set of PTI petitions ahead of the February 8 general elections.

The case is based on the allegation that a diplomatic document sent by the Pakistan embassy in March last year was mishandled by Khan, 71, and Qureshi, 67, and they violated the secrecy laws of the country.

However, Khan will remain in jail as he is convicted in the Toshakhana corruption case about the concealment of details of state gifts. During Friday's hearing, Justice Masood observed that the statement of a witness is taken on oath, but Azam Khan's - ex-principal secretary of former premier Khan who is a key witness in the case statement was taken without one, the Express Tribune newspaper said.

He then inquired if an investigation was conducted regarding Azam's prolonged disappearance. Referring to the National Security Council's (NSC) meeting held over the matter during Shehbaz Sharif's tenure as premier, Justice Masood inquired why the then-premier claimed that the cypher document was missing if during the meeting it was suggested that a demarche should be issued.

"Mashallah, Islamabad High Court has already given a decision on the matter. The only job that appears to be remaining is providing [the accused] a noose" Justice Masood remarked, expressing his displeasure with the proceedings in the lower court. The acting chief justice then wondered how two NSC meetings were held on the issue if the cypher was missing.



During the court proceedings, the top court also heard the petition against Khan and Qureshi's October 23 indictment. At the outset of the hearing, Justice Masood remarked that the indictment that was challenged was already nullified by the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on November 21.

As a result, Khan and Qureshi's October 23 indictments in the case also stood null and void, and the trial was conducted again. Justice Masood said that the fresh indictment will not be affected by the previous proceedings that were declared invalid by the IHC. At this, Khan's counsel Hamid Khan argued that the trial was taking place on the previous chargesheet. Justice Masood noted that

the petition against the old chargesheet has become infructuous. "If you have an objection to the fresh indictment then challenge it in the high court," the judge told the To this, Hamid requested

era trial in the cipher Khan's other counsel Barrister Salman Safdar said that Hamid had made amendments to his petitions, requesting the court to take it

the court to wait for the IHC's

decision against the in-cam-

as a fresh one. The court then adjourned the hearing on the plea against indictment and took up the bail petitions. Speaking to the media following the SC verdict, PTI lawyer Barrister Salman Safdar said the cipher case has reached its conclusion. He said the federal government failed to prove that the cipher case is a serious offence that carries a maximum penalty of death sen-

tence or life imprisonment. Safdar said when nothing was found in other cases against the PTI leaders then the government used the cipher case against them for "political

"Supreme Court has made some observations [regarding the cipher case] which will make it difficult for the government to defend [the case] in the trial court," he added. The cipher case has become zero, nothing is left in this now," he said. The Federal Investigation Agency's charge sheet alleges the document was never returned by Khan. The PTI has long held that the document contained a threat from the United States to oust Khan as prime minister.

The Special Court (Official Secrets Act) had begun the cipher trial afresh last week at the Adiala district jail after Khan and Qureshi were indicted for a second time in the case on December 13. Khan and Qureshi, who is also behind bars, were first indicted in the case on October 23. Both had pleaded not guilty. The trial was being held at the Adiala Jail and four witnesses had alre-a-dy recorded their statements when the Islamabad High Court termed the government's notification for a jail trial "erroneous" and scrap-ped the entire proceed-

The IHC had endorsed Khan's indictment, disposing of his plea against the same, but had also instructed the special court judge to ensure a "fair trial". Khan was ousted through a vote of no-confidence in April 2022. More than 150 cases have been registered against him since his ouster from power.

FEBRUARY 8 ELECTIONS IN PAK

 $F^{\text{ormer Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan's party on}$ Justice Athar Minallah and Friday said that the election Justice Syed Mansoor Ali, commission has assured that it directed the PTI to submit its complaint to the ECP at 3 pm would address its concerns regarding a lack of a level playon Friday and ordered the ing field in the February 8 genattorney general to facilitate the eral election. Pakistan Tehreektwo sides to address the issue. e-Insaf (PTI) lawyer Shoaib It also asked the top election Shaheen made the remarks body to examine thoroughly after a party delegation met and address all concerns raised by the PTI. The party had alleged that its top leadership was in jail and its candidates with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) here following the directives issued by the were being harassed, making it difficult for candidates to file Supreme Court earlier in the A three-member bench of their nomination papers for the the Supreme Court instructed elections being held on the top election body to address February 8, 2024.

Speaking to the media after meeting with the ECP, PTI lawyer Shaheen said, "They prime minister Khan's party (ECP officials) have promised that the grievances will be addressed," the Dawn newspa-ous notice" of the matter and Justice Sardar Tariq Masood,

per reported. Expressing hope that the commission would play its role in ensuring free and fair elections, Shaheen said it assured the party that all the complaints that had been raised would be resolved.

Separately, the ECP also issued instructions to the Islamabad chief commissioner, Islamabad and Sindh police chiefs and all four chief secretaries and provincial election commissioners regarding candidates' nomination papers, according to the report. The letters said that various complaints were received about electoral candidates facing difficulties obtaining and submitting nomination papers, with snatching of documents also

the law on such matters be taken to inform the electoral watchdog. Earlier, during the petition hearing, lawyer Shaheen said that the PTI candidates were not provided with the nomination papers and were not allowed to submit them. He said that Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) orders were still being issued against their leaders despite the issuance of the election schedule, Geo News reported. "The party's concerns about not having a level playing field seem valid," Justice Minallah remarked during the hearing. He also stated that the conduct of the ECP showed that "there is no level playing field." On Thursday, PTI chief Gohar Khan filed a petition stating that the party should be allowed to contest elections without any discrimination.

High Court (LHC) ordered that all political parties should have a level playing field after the PTI party claimed that its candidates were allegedly denied nomination papers by the 'state agencies.' The court also ordered the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) to ensure "complete freedom of speech" to all political leaders in the media. Hearing Khan's petition against the ban on his name and speeches on TV channels, Justice Mirza directed the PEMRA to "ensure a level playing field for all political parties in broadcasting their content and speeches." PTI founder and former prime minister Khan, 71, served as prime minister of Pakistan from August 2018 to April 2022. He was ousted through a vote of noconfidence in April 2022.

Imran Khan's nomination papers submitted

Disqualified and jailed former prime minister Imran Khan on Friday had his nomination papers submitted at Mianwali, his home constituency in Punjab province, for the February 8 general elections.

the concerns of jailed former

about the lack of a level playing

field in the upcoming elec-

tions. The bench, comprising

Khan, the 71-year-old founder of the Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was convicted in what is known as the Toshakhana corruption case on August 5 this year, a charge that also disqualified him from contesting any elections for five years. Khan filed a plea in the Islamabad High Court, which turned it down, prompting his party to move the Supreme Court.

The cricketer-turnedpolitician did get a bail from the apex court but he remains in jail on account of his arrest in two other cases.

On Friday, PTI leader Umar Bodla appeared on behalf of the former prime minister and submitted Khan's nomination papers for the National Assembly's NA-89 constituency, according to Geo News. According to the revised poll schedule announced by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), the prospective candidates could submit their nomination papers by Sunday. The scrutiny of nomination papers will be held from December 24 to 30. "Khan's legal team says that the

to jail and had him disqualified, gave a baseless judgment," Geo News added.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's election commission on Friday extended the deadline for filing nomination papers for the February 8 general elections by two days till Sunday after major political parties sought more time to complete the time-consuming exercise.

According to the schedule issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), potential candidates are required to file nomination papers from December 20 to 22. The top election body began accepting nomination papers from prospective candidates on Wednesday. The deadline for the filing of papers was set to expire at 4:30 pm on Friday. However, in a press release on Friday morning, the electoral watchdog announced that nomination papers can now be filed till Dec 24 (Sunday). It said the decision was taken in response to requests from political par-ties and to facilitate the candidacy process.

'Political parties must submit priority lists for specific seats to returning officers within the stipulated time," it said. With little than over a month left for polls, the electoral watchdog has entered election mode. Last week, the commission issued the elec-

district court, which sent Khan tion schedule, putting an end to uncertainty surrounding the exercise.

Returning officers will examine the nomination papers from December 25 to 30, as specified in the schedule. The statement underscored that "all activities as listed in the election schedule released on December 15 will be held as planned". The electoral watchdog also confirmed that the amended schedule was available on the ECP website. The statement further emphasises that the changes did not affect the poll date and that elections would be held on February 8.

In Lahore, PML-N Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz Sharif reportedly received nomination papers. She is expected to contest elections from a national or provincial assembly constituency from Lahore and submit nomination papers on Friday.

After fresh delimitation, the National Assembly would consist of 336 seats, including 266 general seats, 60 seats reserved for women, and 10 for non-Muslims. Those contesting for the National Assembly would have to submit Rs 30,000 with nomination documents, while the fee for a provincial assembly is Rs 20,000. A candidate is legally allowed to submit a maximum of five nomination papers.

Six labourers killed in attack in Pak northwest



Bodies of labourers killed in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province

PTI ■ PESHWAR

Unidentified militants shot and killed at least six labourers who were working on the construction site of a police station in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Friday, police said. The tragic incident took place in Wana, South Waziristan Tribal District.

The labourers were killed after being shot at point-blank range by unidentified mili-tants while they were in their tents. As many as 6 labourers, who worked on the construction site of a police station were killed, police said. District Police Officer South Waziristan Farmanullah con-

firmed the incident and said that the police are investigating the killings from every angle. However, no group has claimed responsibility for the attack. Caretaker Chief Minister of the province justice Retired Arshad Hussain has condemned the killing of six labourers and prayed for their eternal peace. In August, at least 11 labourers were killed and two injured in a terrorist attack in the same district. Recently, Pakistan has been hit by a wave of terrorist activities orchestrated by various terror outfits. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province was the most affected by terror attacks in November, recording 51 attacks with 54 deaths and 81 injuries.

AP SEOUL

 $N^{
m orth}$ Korea may have started operating a light-water reactor at its main nuclear complex in a possible attempt to establish a new facility to produce bomb fuels, the UN atomic agency and outside experts said. If correct, the assessment would show that North Korea has taken a step to implement leader Kim Jong Un's repeated vows to build more nuclear weapons in response to what he described as intensifying US-led military threats.

The International Atomic Energy Agency has observed increased levels of activity at and near the light-water reactor at the Yongbyon nuclear complex and since mid-October, a strong water outflow from its cooling system, IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi said on Thursday. The observations were consistent with the commissioning of the reactor, Grossi said.

"The LWR, like any nuclear reactor, can produce plutonium in its irradiated fuel, which can be separated during reprocessing, so this is a cause for con-

Joe Biden is set to sign an exec-

utive order giving the US

Treasury Department the

authority to target financial

institutions that facilitate

Russia's efforts to bolster its

defence industry. The new

sanctions authority is meant to

gum up the Kremlin's push to

restock the Russian military's depleted arsenal after nearly 22

months of fighting in Ukraine.

Russia has already lost over

North Korea's reported use of a nuclear complex reactor might be an attempt to make bomb fuels

further development of (North Korea's) nuclear program, including the construction and operation of the LWR, is a violation of UN Security Council resolutions and is deeply regrettable."

The International Atomic Energy Agency has not had access to Yongbyon or other locations in North Korea since the country kicked out the agency's inspectors in 2009. The IAEA has said it uses satellite imagery and open source information to monitor developments in North Korea's nuclear program.

Observers say light-water reactors are best-suited for electricity generation, but North Korea could adapt one at Yongbyon to produce plutonium for weapons. Shin Jongwoo, a military expert at the Seoulbased Korea Defense and Security Forum, said the

cern," he said. "I repeat that the Yongbyon complex isn't used for producing civilian energy so outsiders suspect the reported light-water reactor operation is related to the North's nuclear weapons program. North Korea has talked

> about bolstering its nuclear strength and building more tactical nuclear weapons to be mounted on ballistic missiles. So (the light-water reactor operation) is suspected to be activities" to extract plutonium, Shin said. Plutonium is one of the two key ingredients used to manufacture nuclear weapons, along with highly enriched uranium. Yongbyon has long produced plutonium from its widely known 5-megawatt reactor, and the light-water reactor would be an additional plutonium-producing source. Yongbyon has an uranium-enrichment facility as well. Construction of the light-

> water reactor began a decade

to discuss support for Ukraine

ago. It is known to have a bigger capacity than the 5megawatt reactor, meaning it could produce more bomb fuel, according to Lee Choon Geun, an honorary research fellow at South Korea's Science and Technology Policy Institute.

Lee said plutonium is better suited for miniaturised nuclear warheads. Some experts say North Korea has been working to build warheads small enough to be placed on short-range missiles targeting South Korea. Grossi said recent observations indicate that the water discharge seen in October is warm, an indication the reactor has reached criticality. But without access to the facility, the IAEA cannot confirm the reactor is operating. In 2019, during a summit with then-President Donald Trump, Kim Jong Un offered to dismantle the

Yongbyon complex if he won extensive sanctions relief. But the Americans rejected Kim's offer because it would be a limited denuclearization step that would leave North Korea's already-built nuclear weapons and covert nuclear facilities intact. After his diplomacy with Trump fell apart, Kim has

arsenal and building more hightech weapons in what experts believe is a bid to increase his leverage in future diplomacy with the US. In a key political meeting in December 2022, Kim ordered the "exponential" expansion of the North's nuclear arsenal.

FORM G
INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR TERIYAKI BUILDERS PRIVATE LIMITED
OPERATING IN TRADING BUSINESS AT NEW DELHI
(Under sub-regulation (1) of regulation 36A of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India
(Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)

SL.	RELEVANT PARTICULARS			
1.	Name of the corporate debtor along with PAN & CIN/ LLP No.	Tertyaki Builders Private Limited (Formerly Known as Oasis Suppliers Private Limited) PAN No.: AABCO4960F CIN: U51909DL2011PTC377749		
2.	Address of the registered office	Registered Office: 865, Ground Floor, Shop No. 2, Gali No. 7, Govindpuri, Kalkaji New Delhi, South Delhi-110019		
		Earlier Registered Office: 740 GF, Janta Flat, GTB Enclave, Dilshad Garden, Delhi, North East Delhi- 110093		
3.	URL of website	Not Applicable		
	Details of place where majority of fixed assets are located	No Fixed Assets of Corporate Debtor as per the provisional financial statements as on CIRP Commencement date i.e. 29th August, 2023		
5.	Installed capacity of main products/ services	NIL		
6.	Quantity and value of main products/ services sold in last financial year	NIL		
7.	Number of employees/ workmen	5		
8.	Further details including last available financial statements (with schedules) of two years, lists of creditors are available at URL:	Details can be sought by email to Resolution Professional at cirp.teriyakibuilders@gmail.com		
9.	Eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(h) of the Code	Details can be sought by email to Resolution Professional at cirp.teriyakibuilders@gmail.com		
10.	Last date for receipt of expression of interest	08/01/2024		
11.	Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	15/01/2024		
	Last date for submission of objections to provisional list	20/01/2024		
	Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants	29/01/2024		
	Date of issue of information memorandum, evaluation matrix and request for resolution plans to prospective resolution applicants	03/02/2024		
15.	Last date for submission of resolution plans	04/03/2024		
16	Process email id to submit Expression	cirp.teriyakibuilders@gmail.com		

This Form G is an extension of the original Form G published in The Pioneer (English Edition and Dainik Savera Times (Hindi Edition) on 2nd December, 2023. The Last date for submissio of EOI is now extended till 8th January, 2024. The abovementioned timelines are subject to the approval of the Hon'ble NCLT for extensi of the time of CIRP Process beyond 25th February, 2024.

Sudhanshu Gupta Resolution Professional of M/s Teriyaki Builden Frivate Limited) (Formerly Known as Oasis Suppliers Private Limited) Regn. No.—IBBI/IPA-002/IP-Nb0216/2017-18/10668 Address: 311, Aganwai Chamber-2, Plot No. 30, 31, Veer Savarkar Block, Opp. Metro Piliar No. 53, Shakarpur, East Delhi-110092 Email Address: 8g. 1973@redfimali.com Contact No.: +91-9811547321

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 (Enforcemen 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 Indiabulis
Housing 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 there is" basis on 08.01.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery c Rs. 21,79,028/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Twenty Eight only) pending towards the Loan Account No. HHLGRG00242059, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 18.12.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 19.12.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from SANJAY SRIVASTAVA and ARCHANA

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 11,80,000/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh Eighty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,18,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Eighteen Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10%

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF UPPER GROUND FLOOR, REAR RIGHT HAND SIDE (THE SAID FLOOR) ADMEASURING 41.81 SQ. MTR. BUILT ON PROPERTY BEARING NO. 125 OUT OF KHASRA NO. 351, SITUATED IN VILLAGE BINDAPUR, DELHI, AREA ABADI NOW KNOWN AS COLONY T-BLOCK EXTENSION, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110078, DELHI WITH PROPORTIONATE RIGHTS OF LAND UNDERNEATH, COMMON STAIR CASE ENTRANCE, PASSAGE & SUBMERSIBLE, WITH ALL COMMON RIGHTS OF THE BUILDING, INCLUDING RIGHTS APPURTENANT THERETO WITH COMMON

ONE CAR PARKING SPACE AT GROUND FLOOR. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshome

Authorized officer 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 (Enforcen 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 Indiabulis 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 "whatever there is" basis on 08.01.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 27,50,854/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Fifty Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Four only) pending towards Loan Account No. HLAPDMT00296530, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 18.12.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and othe related loan document(s) w.e.f. 19.12.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from Sachin Srivastava (Proprietor, Sky Tone Sale Devices), Madhuri Srivastava and Priyanka Srivastava

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 34,08,000/- (Rupees Thirty Four Lakh Eight Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 3,40,800/- (Rupees Three Lakh Forty Thousand Eight Hundred only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price

MEASURING 86 SQUARE YARDS, BEARING PART OF PROPERTY NO. X-28 (OLD NO. 1531-A), PART OF PLOT NO. C-32, OUT OF KHASRA NO. 386 AND 387 SITUATED IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE ULDHANPUR, IN THE ABADI OF NAVEEN SHAHDARA, ILLAQUA SHAHDARA, DELHI - 110032 TOGETHER WITH COMMON PARKING SPACE AND WHICH IS BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS:-EAST: ROAD 24 FEET WIDE NORTH: PART OF PROPERTY

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

A BUILT-UP PROPERTY ON FIRST FLOOR UPTO THE CEILING LEVEL. AREA

WEST: PLOT NO. C-23 SOUTH: PLOT NO. C-33 For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor I.e. www.indiabulishomeloans.com. For

Authorized office

bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

13,000 pieces of equipment, including tanks, drones and missile systems, according to a US assessment. The White House said Biden plans to sign

expect financial institutions will undertake every effort to ensure that they are not witting or unwitting facilitators of circumvention and evasion," Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said in a statement announcing

the order later on Friday. "We

"And we will not hesitate to use the new tools provided by this authority to take decisive, and surgical, action against financial institutions that facilitate the supply of Russia's war machine." The latest effort to tighten pressure on Russia

comes just weeks after Biden

and G-7 leaders met virtually

as rancor spreads in Washington over the cost of backing Kyiv in a war that has no end it sight. The White House has been locked in talks with key lawmakers to approve more money for Ukraine.

Joe Biden set to sign executive order aimed at

financial facilitators of Russian def industry

Biden has proposed USD 110 billion package of wartime aid for Ukraine, Israel and other national security priorities. GOP lawmakers have declined to approve the money until the White House agrees to major immigration and US-Mexico border policy changes.

The Defence Department says

it has nearly run out of avail-

Ukraine's defense. The G-2 leaders said in a statement following the December 6 meeting that they would work to curtail Russia's use of the international financial system to further its war in Ukraine and target "Russian military procurement networks and those who help Russia acquire machine tools, equipment and key inputs."

Russian defence spending rose by almost 75 per cent in the first half of 2023, and Russia is on track to devote a record amount to defense next

Dated: 22.12.2023 Place: Delhi

India strongly objects to pushing talks on investment facilitation at WTO

ndia has strongly objected to efforts of certain coun-investment facilitation at the WTO, saying the agenda falls outside the mandate of the global trade body and cannot be deliberated in formal meet

According to the statement of the Indian delegation in a meeting of the General Council of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), held during December 13-15, negotiation on investment does not belong to the WTO.

"I would like to reiterate that Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD), which supposedly facilitated investment, did not pertain to multilateral trade relations. Investment per se is not trade, the statement said.

It added that investment covers a wide range of assets or enterprises subject to a separate universe of obligations.

"The negative mandate did not allow the Members, desirous of IFD, to pursue it in a multilat-



eral forum upon a consensus,' the statement said.

It added that certain members began an informal process that did not have any legal sanctity, and now, at the end of their informal process, they are back to consensus seeking on their outcome of an informal process the foundation of which is devoid of consensus.

"What could be more ironic in

the treaty-embedded right of members to start consensusbased negotiations on mandated issues, and then at the end of such unrecognized and unlawful process, seeking consensus from those very members whose treaty-embedded right was intentionally vitiated in the first instance," it added.

The General Council is the

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highest decision-making body of the WTO after the Ministerial Conference (MC), which meets once in two years. The MC 13 meeting is scheduled from 26 to 29 February 2024 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Member countries who are pushing for the proposal include Chile and Korea. Earlier also, India raised its

serious concerns over bringing issues related to investment facilitation within the ambit of WTO saying that these are bilateral matters and can not be decided at multi-lateral forums. The statement said that it is a matter of "serious concern" that the proponents of IFD are trying to force their interests into the rule-based WTO multilateral system in violation of

As far as the investment aspects of trade are concerned, the agreement on TRIMS (Trade-Related Investment Measures) and the GATS (General Agreement on Trade in Services) already deal with trade-related investment aspects in goods and services,

respectively. The TRIMS deals with certain trade-related investment measures that can restrict and distort trade.

The GATS dealt with the supply of services through commercial presence in the territory of any other member, which was related to trade in services and not purely invest-

Peak power demand to touch 3.5 lakh MW by 2030-31: Minister

India added that if some countries want to negotiate the subject, they should do it outside the formal structure of the WTO.

It said that the document placed by those countries is an outcome of an "illegal" process nurtured in a rule-based multilateral system, and "therefore, we would not like it to be placed before the ministers". Trade ministers of the 164 countries would gather in Abu Dhabi for MC 13.

Negotiation on investment does not belong to WTO. India's concern emanates from the fact that proponents of IFD, a joint statement initiative (JSI) process, should not be attempting to bring a nonmandated, non-multilateral issue to the formal process in the WTO in violation of the WTO framework and fundamental rule of consensus-based decision-making for starting a negotiation," the statement

There has not been any Ministerial mandate for starting negotiations on investmentrelated matters, it added.

Finance Ministry asks banks to monitor top 20 IBC cases

The Finance Ministry on Friday asked heads of public sector banks to monitor and review the top 20 Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code cases as part of their bad assets management. During a meeting with managing directors and CEOs of pub-

lic sector banks (PSBs), Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi asked them to review the top 20 cases monthly for their resolution. Besides, he also asked them to

monitor cases long pending for admission and resolution under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). The meeting also reviewed the

working of the National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL).

Going forward, the finance minister would also review the functioning of banks on various

NARCL, a government entity, was incorporated in 2021 with a majority stake held by Public Sector Banks and the balance by private banks with Canara Bank being the sponsor bank.



Bank of India as an Asset Reconstruction Company under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. The Cabinet in 2021 cleared a

proposal to provide a government guarantee worth Rs 30,600 crore to security receipts issued by NARCL. As per the provision, NARCL

would pay up to 15 per cent of the agreed value for the bad loans in cash and the remaining 85 per cent would be government-guaranteed security

TOP GAINERS **BSE Sensex** Change -+241.86 Tata Motors 2.01 Maruti Suzuki Bajaj Finance ICICI Bank HDFC Bank

Stock markets climb for 2nd day on buying in IT; **Sensex rises 214 points**

Stock markets extended gains for a second day on Friday following buying in IT stocks and firm trends in the US markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 241.86 points or 0.34 per cent to settle at 71,106.96. During the day, it jumped 394.45 points or 0.55 per cent to 71,259.55. The broader or 0.44 per cent to 21,349.40. Among the Sensex firms, Wipro jumped over 6 per cent, the most among the frontline companies. HCL Technologies, Tata Motors, Maruti, Tata Steel, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro and JSW Steel were the other major winners.

State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, HDFĆ Bank, Axis Bank and IndusInd Bank were among the laggards.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geoiit Financial Services, "The 'buy on dips' strategy continues to drive investors during the subdued week. Mid and small caps remain in the limelight, benefiting from ease in oil prices and the anticipation of a potential rate cut in CY24, supported by slower-than-expected US GDP growth and weakness in the dollar, signalling early rate

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge jumped 1.04 per cent and midcap index climbed 0.74 per cent.

Among the indices, realty rallied 2.52 per cent, IT jumped 1.93 per cent, metal (1.92 per cent), teck (1.75 per cent), auto



(1.25 per cent).

Bankex and financial services

Tapse, Senior VP (Research),

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark declined 376.79 points or 0.52 per cent and the Nifty dipped 107.25 points or

tled with gains while Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong Seoul ended lower.

ing on a mixed note. The US markets ended in the positive territory on Thursday.

crude climbed 1.01 per cent to

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,636.19 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. The BSE benchmark jumped 358.79 points or 0.51 per cent to settle at 70,865.10 on Thursday. The Nifty rallied 104.90 points or 0.50 per cent

in domestic IT stocks aided sentiment in local indices. Although markets were a bit wobbly, markets stayed in positive territory in the second half as other sectoral stocks from metal, oil & gas, auto and realty pack rallied behind the markets," said Prashanth

Global oil benchmark Brent

USD 80.19 a barrel

(1.37 per cent) and healthcare

were the laggards.

"Overnight gains in the US

Mehta Equities Ltd. 0.49 per cent.

In Asian markets, Tokyo set-European markets were trad-

government is taking various measures to meet the increased demand, Union Minister R K Singh has said. The peak demand has gone up from 1,35,918 MW in 2013-14

The peak electricity demand in India is expected to touch 3,50,670 MW

mark by 2030-31, and the

to 2,43,271 MW in September 2023. This is a rise of almost 79 per cent and the demand has been met, the minister for power said on Thursday. A series of concerted mea-

sures have led to 70 per cent increase in generation capacity from 2,48,554 MW in March 2014 to 4 25,536 MW in October 2023, he said in

"As per 20th Electric Power Survey (EPS) report published in November 2022, the peak electricity demand in the country in 2030-31 is expected to be 3,50,670 MW. We have taken steps to meet the increased demand for power in the country," Singh said. The minister said 27,180 MW of thermal capacity is under construction, 12,000 MW has

been bid out and 19,000 MW is under clearances. The total anticipated thermal capacity addition by 2031-2032 will be 87,910 MW. The demand has increased

rapidly due to rapid economic growth in recent years, providing new connections to 2.86 crore households and increase in hours of supply from 12.5 hours in 2014-15 to 20.6 hours in 2022-23 in rural areas, and the supply in urban areas is 23.8 hours, he said.

Thus, the total capacity under construction including thermal, renewable, hydro and nuclear stands at 1,32,148.5

The total capacity addition by 2031-32 is likely to be 4,64,124 MW, Singh said.



Bank for rooftop solar projects

LoC with World

PTI NEW DELHI

State Bank of India (SBI) on Friday said it has signed a USD 165 million (over Rs 1,300 crore) Line of Credit (LoC) with the World Bank for promoting rooftop solar project in the country.

The LoC is for supporting

grid-connected rooftop Solar PV Projects in residential and institutional sectors, SBI said in

a regulatory filing. Earlier this week, SBI signed a 200 million euro (about Rs 1,800 crore) LoC with the (EIB) for supporting climate

Organised food, grocery retailers topline seen clipping at 14-15 per cent next fiscal

Ahealthy demand from small towns will help brick-and-mortar food and grocery retailers log 14-15 per cent revenue growth next fiscal in spite of rising competition from e-commerce plat-

forms, says a report. Last year, the segment clipped at a record 30 per cent and the projected 14-15 per cent years of strong growth on the trot. This year the industry is expected to clip at 15 per cent, Crisil Ratings said in a note on

But modest demand from the discretionary segment comprising general merchandise such as crockery, home appliances and utensils, and apparel, due to inflationary pressures, will keep their operating margins range-bound at 6-6.5 per cent in the current and next fiscals, down from 6.9 per cent fiscal,

report said. Food and non-food grocery

merican electric automak-

Aer Tesla's plans to produce

energy-storage batteries in

China moved forward on

Friday with a signing ceremo-

ny for the land acquisition in

Shanghai, China's state media

Construction of the factory is

scheduled to start early next

year with production to come

on line by the end of the year,

segments contribute 75-77 per cent of revenue for F&G retailers, and the balance from discretionary products, which offer relatively higher margins.

Strong cash flows and steady working capital cycle will limit the players' dependence on external debt, ensuring strong balance sheets and stable credit profiles, said the report based on an analysis of six players Rs 2.4-lakh-crore organised F&G market.

According to Poonam Upadhyay, a director with the agency, healthy demand outlook and low penetration will ensure mid-teen revenue growth this fiscal and the next. She also expects area addition to increase 20 per cent cumulatively over fiscals 2024 and 2025 on top of a substantial 40 per cent increase in fiscals 2022 and 2023.

Meanwhile, retailers are also expanding into omnichannel platforms to compete with commerce players.

The factory won't build bat-

teries for cars but for electric

utilities and other companies to

store power. Such storage units

have become increasingly

important with the growth in

solar and wind energy, which

only generate electricity when

weather conditions are favor-

able and need to store it for

when residential and com-

produce 10,000 of Tesla's

mercial users need it.

Tesla moves forward with plan to build battery factory in China

AP BEIJING

Agency said.

Megapack units annually for ment's increasing control.

LIC shares settle 4 per cent up; reach 52-week high

PTI NEW DELHI

ife Insurance Corporation Lof India (LIC) stock ended nearly 4 per cent higher on Friday after the insurer got more time to comply with the minimum public shareholding

The stock rallied 7.25 per cent to reach its 52-week high of Rs BSE. It later ended at Rs 793.10, up 3.73 per cent. At the NSE, shares of the company ended at Rs 792.20, climbing 3.62 per cent. During the day, it jumped 7.39 per cent to Rs 821 -- its 52-

week high level. The company's market valuation also climbed Rs 18,057.88 crore to reach Rs 5,01,635.57 crore. The government has granted a one-time exemption to LIC to achieve the required 25 per cent Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) within 10 years, the state-owned insurance company said on Thursday.

The Tesla project is a rare

piece of good news for the

Chinese economy, which has

seen a sharp drop in foreign

The Commerce Ministry said

this week that foreign invest-

ment in the first 11 months of

this year was down 10 per cent

compared with the same peri-

The new factory will initially Foreign companies are worried and the then-foreign minister

about the Chinese govern-

mechanism would enable

instant receipt of funds and

investment this year.

od last year.

Megapack units annually for sale worldwide, Xinhua said.

ment's increasing control over business on national security

that the instant settlement the new mechanism could lead

India's forex reserves jump by \$9.112 bn to \$615.971 bn

India's forex reserves jumped USD 9.112 billion to USD 615.971 billion in the week ended December 15 and the quantum of increase is one of the highest for a week, according to RBI data. In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had risen USD 2.816 billion to USD 606.859 billion.

In October 2021, the country's forex kitty reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion. The reserves took a hit as the central majorly by global developments since last year.

For the week ended December 15, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased USD 8.349 billion to USD 545.048 billion, as per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data

released on Friday. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound, and ven held in the foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves were up USD 446 million to USD 47.577 billion

and other grounds, as well as

growing US restrictions on

China is a major market and

manufacturing centre for Tesla,

and the company's CEO, Elon

Musk, has built close ties with

Chinese officials even as US-

China relations soured. In May,

he met the commerce minister

technology

with China.



during the week, the RBI said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up USD 135 million to USD 18.323 billion, the apex bank said. India's reserve position with the

IMF rose USD 181 million to the rupee amid pressures caused ing week, the apex bank data

CAIT FLAGS MISUSE OF DATA BY MAKEMYTRIP

BUSINESS BRIEF

NEW DELHI: The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has alleged misuse of Indian travelers' data by online travel company MakeMyTrip and expressed concern about data security and uneven competition in travel and tourism sector. CAIT has urged the government to examine business module of such companies and take necessary action, if required. CAIT has raised a big question mark on some big companies having Chinese investments in travel companies operating in India's travel and tourism sector. It has alleged that this has disrupted the domestic environment in this sector and by collecting huge data of travelers' through transactions; the possibilities of misuse or transfer of data are high

POWERGRID ACQUIRES 2 TRANSMISSION PROJECTS IN RAJASTHAN



New Delhi: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) - a Maharatna CPSU under Ministry of Power, has recently acquired two Project Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) Ramgarh II Transmission Limited and Beawar Dausa Transmission Limited for the Transmission System Projects for evacuation of power from REZ in Rajasthan (20GW) under Phase-III, Part C1 and Part H respectively after competing with various private sector players and emerging as successful bidder in tariff based competitive Bidding (TBCB) process.

NATIONAL REHABILITATION EXAMINATION BOARD **HOLDS CONVOCATION**

New Delhi: In a landmark convocation ceremony organized by the National Rehabilitation Examination Board, an entity affiliated with the Rehabilitation Council of India under

the Department of



convergence of empowerment narratives unfolded at the Dr Ambedkar International Center in New Delhi. Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Pratima Bhaoumik, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, emphasizing the significance of inclusivity. The Secretary of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and the Joint Secretary were also notable participants in this distinguished programme.

Sebi floats consultation paper, proposes same-day trade settlement

PTI NEW DELHI

apital markets regulator Sebi on Friday floated a consultation paper proposing to introduce same-day settlement of trades on stock exchanges and real-time settlement on an optional basis

This is in addition to the existing T+1 settlement cycle in secondary markets for equity cash segment. Sebi, which has trimmed the settlement timelines to as short as one day after transaction, is looking to shorten the same further. In its consultation paper, Sebi

proposed introducing "the facil-

of funds and securities on T+0 and instant settlement cycle on optional basis in addition to the existing T+1 settlement cycle in secondary markets for equity cash segment". T+0 would mean settlements

ity for clearing and settlement

on the same day and instant settlement would ensure that trades are settled immediately. Sebi, in its effort to keep pace with the changing times and carry out its mandate of development of securities markets and investor protection, shortened the settlement cycle to T+3 from T+5 in 2002 and subsequently to T+2 in 2003.



Further in 2021, T+1 settlement was introduced in a phased manner which was fully implemented from January 2023.

Board of India (Sebi) has sought comments from the public till January 12 Sebi said

securities, and eliminates the risk of settlement shortages since both funds and securities will be required to be available before placing the order, and strengthen investor protection. "Providing the option for instant settlement will help establish Indian equities as an asset class with the features of resilience, low cost and time for transaction, superior in all ways to emerging claimants of alternative asset classes," Sebi said. On the other hand, Sebi said there are potential concerns as

to liquidity fragmentation and affect efficient price discovery; increase the cost of trading, as funds and securities need to be made available upfront before placing the orders; and result in divergence in the price of same security in T+0 or instant settlement cycle, and T+1 settlement cycle. Mitigating the concerns, Sebi

suggested that on liquidity fragmentation, there will be participants who can access both T+0 (or instant settlement) and T+1 markets and would bridge price and liquidity gaps between the two segments.

Shooters Sift, Rhythm win again

Kiran joins winners circle at national shooting trials

PTI NEW DELHI

Cift Kaur Samra and Rhythm Sangwan became the third and fourth shooters to win both the ongoing national selection trial match es when they registered victories in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions and women's 25m pistol competitions here on Friday. Navy's Kiran Ankush Jadhav also joined the winners circle, with a victory in the men's 10m air rifle T2 trial.

Sift has been in the form of her life and gave another glimpse of that with a stunning 595 in qualification, which included a perfect 200 in the first kneeling position

Bhakti Bhaskar Khamkar, who also shot well to finish second, was five points behind. Sift's score was one more than her national record score set in the Asian Games earlier this year and one less than the world record.

In the eight-woman final, she shot 464.8, to give Olympian and state senior Ānjum Moudgil of Punjab no chance, as the lat



ter finished with 461.7. Priya of the Army was third.

In the women's 25m pistol T2 trials, Manu Bhaker topped the qualifiers by firing a 590, but it was Rhythm who yet again piped her to the top spot with 35 hits as against the Youth

Olympic champion's 32.
Just like in the T1 trials,
Rhythm's qualifying score of 578
and seventh place left a lot to be
desired, but she was top gun
when it mattered the meet when it mattered the most. Former World Cup final gold medallist and world number one Heena Sidhu finished third overall with 27 hits and was second in the qualifiers with a high score of 586.

In the men's 10m air rifle, Kiran Jadhav shot brilliantly throughout the day, first posting a table-topping 633.4 and then nailing the final with a solid

One 10.9 adorned his 24-shot scoreboard while his lowest in the final was a 10.1 for his 17th shot. Assam's Hriday Hazarika was second with 250.5 while Lagad Saurav Gorakh of the Navy was third.

Sonia, Kalaivani make winning start National Boxing Championships



PTI ■ GREATER NOIDA

World Championships silver medallist Sonia Lather of Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) and Tamil Nadu's S Kalaivani started their campaigns with dominating victories on the opening day of the women's Boxing National

Championships here. Sonia started the bout aggressively against Mahi Lama of Madhya Pradesh in the 57kg opening round match before securing a comfortable 5-0 win. Kalaivani, last edition's silver medallist, also proved too strong for Milano Mj of Kerala in the 48kg match.

Kalaivani's relentless attack forced the referee to stop the contest in the third round and declare her the winner.

Kalaivani will next square off against Haryana's Gitika, who beat Meraj Begum of Telangana after the referee stopped the contest (RSC), in the next

Rinku (52kg) and Tannu (57kg) were the other boxers from Haryana to register victories and progress into the round of 16. Meanwhile, the 2021 Asian Youth Championships silver medallist Nivedita Karki (48kg) of Uttarakhand dominated Veronica Sohshang of Meghalaya to secure a RSC win in round 2.

Madrid, Barcelona still alone in fight for Super League

AP MADRID

Real Madrid and Barcelona are struggling to find allies in their fight to revive the Super League project.

The Spanish powerhouses were quick to claim victory and praise the decision by the European Union's top court on Thursday to rule against the attempt by UEFA and FIFA to block plans for the breakaway competition.

But as the hours passed, there were no signs that they would get anybody else to join their crusade despite the favorable ruling. Madrid and Barcelona faced an uphill battle trying to convincing other clubs to get back on board, but they were not likely to give up anytime

"Allow me to tell the European clubs that we are at the dawn of a new era that will allow us to work freely, on the basis of constructive dialogue, without threats, without acting against anything or anyone, and with



the aim of innovating and modernizing football in order to continue sustaining the fans' passions," Madrid president Florentino Pérez said in a statement.

The Super League deal would be especially important for Barcelona, which could poten tially solve its financial difficulties if the competition was to be formed. The club said it was time to take action and invite "the parties to engage in a new phase of discussions." "As one of the clubs driving the Super League project, FC Barcelona feels that the sen-

tence paves the way for a new elite level football competition in Europe by opposing the monopoly over the football world, and wishes to initiate new discussions as to the path that European competitions should take in the future," the Catalan club said.

But none of the other 10 clubs involved in the original project expressed their desire to return. Italian club Juventus had been one of the three holdout clubs until finally withdrawing earlier this year. Although its new management took steps to move away from the project, former president Andrea Agnelli, one of the Super League's architects and whose family still owns the club, made a cryptic post on X - formerly known as Twitter - referencing a Juventus slogan that translates as "All the way to the fin-ish," accompanied by lyrics from a U2 song. Madrid's and Barcelona's rival

Atletico Madrid was one of the clubs to quickly reinstate their stance against the new compe-

"The European football community does not support the European Super League," Atletico said in a statement. 'Germany, France, England, Italy, Spain (except for Real Madrid and Barcelona), oppose the Super League. We advocate for protecting the broader European football family, preserving domestic leagues, and securing qualification for European competitions through on-field performance each season."



Indian shooting team not to compete in season opening Cairo World Cup

PTI NEW DELHI

India will not be competing In the season-opening ISSF World Cup in Cairo from January 24 as the national federation wants to give the shooters some "rest" and not "exhaust them" in a busy year, which also has a couple of Paris Olympic qualifica-tion events still to go. However, the decision to

skip the competition was taken only recently and has left a few top shooters, who planned their competition schedule well in advance, in a bit of a quandary.

National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) Secretary General Sultan Singh said the matter was being discussed by the "coaches, sports science team and everybody, and according it has been run through".

The Cairo World Cup will be held in all three disciplines — pistol, rifle and shotgun — and will conclude on February 1.

"We want to give them rest and not exhaust them. Everything is run through the training structure. We don't take any decision on the training part of it without keeping the shooters as well as coaches (in the loop). "All the shooters are aware of it; it is as per the laid out policy. All the shooters are cog-

nizant of this," said Singh. NRAI assistant secretary, Nimit Chopra, indicated the coaches wanted the shooters not to exhaust themselves in a busy year.

"Coaches want their shooters to rest and not participate in all the competitions. We have the Jakarta competition (Asia Olympic Qualification Rifle/Pistol, January 5-18) in which the full 'A' team is going," said Chopra. The Cairo World Cup

World Cup. Now they will miss both," the shooter said.

(January 24-February 1) is immediately after the Olympic quota competition in Jakarta. The decision (not to send team) was taken last week only. also not sending the 'B' team, the reason being if we don't

send 'A' team and only send 'B' team, then there are some QROG (Qualification Ranking Points for Olympic Games), which the 'B' team can accumulate and it will be a disadvantage for the 'A' team (when the Olympic selection trials take place in May next year). That is why we have decided no one will

go there (Cairo)." NRAI will conduct a series of trials to select the Paris Olympic Games squad in May where only those topping in the exercise will represent the country, irrespective of whether they have earned the Games quota places for the country or not. In shooting sport, an Olympic quota is won by the country and not by an individual. Índia will, hówever, be sending its team for the ISSF World Cup (Rifle/Pistol) in Granada, Spain from February 10 to 18. But there are only two events — 10m air rifle and 10m air pistol for

seniors and juniors — scheduled there. A shooter told PTI on condition of anonymity that the scheduling should be done well in advance so that shooters have seamless preparations. 'We train for certain competitions and skip others. Our training is very, very systematic and any change can upset our form and rhythm. So, accordingly the federation should consider these things. Some shooters would have opted out of the Jakarta com-

petition and trained for Cairo

Real Madrid finds its way to victory Can Man City Premier League dominance end?

AP MADRID,

With a late goal after a lack-luster performance, Real Madrid found its way to victory and to the top of the Spanish league standings.

Lucas Vázquez scored with a header in stoppage-time and Madrid pulled off a 1-0 win on the road against Alaves to reclaim first place after Girona conceded a late equalizer in its 1-1 draw at Real Betis earlier on Thursday.

45 points but Madrid was ahead on a tiebreaker. Defending champion Barcelona was third, seven points off the lead. The Catalan club edged last-place Almeria 3-2 at home on Wednesday.

Madrid and Girona are tied on

Madrid got the late win despite playing with 10 men from the 54th minute after central defender Nacho Fernández was sent off with a straight red card for a hard foul

"It was a complicated match, and with a player down everybody thought that maybe today we were going to lose," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "But this team finds energy out of nowhere. We held tough and in the end we got rewarded."

Vázquez was left free inside the area to score the winner with a header after a well-placed corner-kick cross by Toni Kroos. Alaves coach Luis García was livid by the bench after the goal, kicking objects, throwing his jacket, screaming and even grabbing a staff member by the jacket and shoving him back to his

"We can't let Lucas finish by himself like that," he said afterward. "You can't let the game slip away from you like that, against 10 men, in the final minutes." Jude Bellingham and Rodrygo, the leaders of Madrid's attack this season, were kept in check during most of the match in a poor performance by Ancelotti's



team at Mendizorroza Stadium. Neither team was able to create many significant scoring

Nacho was initially shown a yellow card after stepping on an opponent while going for the ball, but video review called the referee and it was determined the Madrid defender deserved a straight red card.

After Nacho was sent off, Ancelotti was forced to replace Luka Modric with midfielder Aurélien Tchouaméni, who went into Nacho's position in the middle of the defense Madrid has been playing with a

squad depleted by injuries, especially in defense. Last Sunday, David Alaba became the third Madrid player to tear an anterior cruciate knee ligament. Éder Militão and goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois also sustained the same type of injury

Antonio Rüdiger started alongside Nacho in defense on Thursday

Forward Rodrygo had to be helped off the field with another apparent injury in stoppage time, though Ancelotti later said the Brazil forward was just

Madrid has conceded only 11 goals so far this season, the best mark among all Spanish league clubs. It is unbeaten in its last 17 games in all competitions.

AP MANCHESTER

While Manchester City is away, its Premier League title rivals have been getting into position to try to end the three-time defending champions' domestic dominance.

Pep Guardiola has spent this week in Saudi Arabia, aiming to add the Club World Cup to the treble of trophies his team won in 2023. But back home, its title defense is faltering after a run of just one win in six games in England's top divi-

And having won the trophy in five of the last six seasons, City appears to face a wider challenge to its supremacy than at any point under Guardiola. Fourth-place City trails leader Arsenal by five points and doesn't return to league play until Dec. 27 at Everton.

Arsenal led the league for 248 days last season before finally being overtaken by City, but



this time there are challenges from several angles, with Liverpool and Aston Villa both in contention.

It remains to be seen what lessons Arsenal has learned after pushing City so close last season. No team has led the Premier League for as long in a campaign without winning the title

Arsenal spent heavily to build on its rapid progress last year, with Declan Rice joining for a reported \$138 million transfer from West Ham in the offsea-

It is paying off so far as Mikel Arteta's team sits atop the Premier League and will be guaranteed to retain first place by Christmas if it beats Liverpool at Anfield on Saturday. Liverpool trails Arsenal by one point.

Arsenal has already shown its credentials by beating City twice this season, first in a penalty shootout in the Community Shield and then in the league at Emirates Stadium A win against Liverpool would

be further evidence that it could go one better than last year. **LIVERPOOL**

Of the likely challengers to City, Jurgen Klopp is the only manager who has gotten the better of Guardiola through Liverpool's title triumph in 2020.

Second-place Liverpool's resurgence has come as a surprise given it missed out on Champions League qualification last season and has seen a host of star players depart over

the past 18 months. But Klopp looks like he has put together a squad that is capable of challenging again - and his team is still in contention to win four trophies this season, having advanced to the semifinals of the League Cup and the round of 16 in the Europa League. Liverpool plays

Arsenal next month in the third round of the FA Cup.

AP JEDDAH (SAUDI ARABIA)

 $S_{\text{soccer were made stunning}}^{\text{audi Arabia's ambitions in}}$ and clear in 2023, and its upcoming 11-year journey toward hosting the men's World Cup promises much more of the same.

In an interview Thursday with The Associated Press, Saudi soccer federation president Yasser Al Misehal said sport and society in the oil-rich kingdom are going through transformational changes ahead of staging soccer's biggest event in 2034.

"We are trying to do everything for our people, for our economy and also we want to host as many people from all different places in the world," Al Misehal

Soccer has taken a prominent place in the Vision 2030 plan launched in 2016 to modernize the Saudi economy and

Saudi Arabia stellar soccer year society for a future beyond the oil production that fuels its host for the 2034 World Cup in spectacular wealth.

The program was driven from its start by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, then little known outside the region and now a key player in global politics.

The Saudis' statement year in soccer started with hiring Cristiano Ronaldo to a Saudi club and is ending with the current best team, Manchester City, playing for a title in

Jeddah. The Club World Cup final Friday closes the first FIFA tournament played in Saudi Arabia this century, and just weeks after the biggest hosting prize was all-but guaranteed.

October and within days there was only one candidate. The final FIFA decision must

wait until late next year, but there is little doubt Saudi Arabia will add the 2034 World Cup to hosting the 2027 Asian Cup in men's soccer and up to five straight editions of the Asian Champions League finals mini-tournaments through

One question for future years is if all 104 games at the World Cup will be played in Saudi stadiums - or will neighboring and nearby states be given some games to host.

Such an expansion would fit a relationship. pattern for bold plans from the "The answer is that it's going be

crown prince and FIFA President Gianni Infantino who have built a close working

Saudi-only," Al Misehal said, noting that with "a lot of cities and a lot of stadiums that we have, our plan now is just to be

pared to neighboring Qatar, which hosted a 64-game World Cup last year almost entirely in the city of Doha connected by metro lines, can be a key difference between the two tourna-"You will find different cul-

tures, different people, different atmosphere," Al Misehal said of his home country, adding Qatar "did a great job. Logistics-wise it was perfect." Comparisons between how two traditionally conservative Muslim-majority societies prepared for a decade to host their World Cups will be inevitable. In Qatar, issues of access to alcohol at stadiums and displays of LGBTQ symbols such

as rainbows flared with a spon-The size of Saudi Arabia comsor, some European teams and fans even after games started. Qatari organizers took a tougher stance on site after years of offering assurances. 'We welcome everybody, we

> respect everyone but at the same time we have our own values, our own culture," Al Misehal said. "Wherever we travel we always respect the values and culture of people that we see abroad and we expect the same from our visitors.

> The pace of recent reforms in Saudi society, he suggests, has been "much, much more than what we've done in the last 80 vears.

The pace of change in soccer

has been remarkable, if not yet as disruptive as the LIV project Ronaldo's arrival in January as

a free agent on a reported \$200 million annual pay deal was the spark for lavish recruitment from European clubs that cost about \$900 million in transfer fees alone. The coach of European champion Italy, Roberto Mancini, was lured over to the Saudi national

of the transfer market are expected in January, likely from the same clubs now majority-owned by the \$700 billion Public Investment Fund. "I have been approached per-

More high-end offers at the top

sonally by several clubs from different parts of the world offering to transfer their players," Al Misehal said, noting the deals are welcomed by the selling clubs for their own investment plans.

DEEPTI, POOJA PUT INDIA WOMEN IN COMMAND

A sturdy 102-run unbeaten stand between Deepti Sharma (70) and Pooja Vastrakar (33) restored India Women's command against Australia on the second day of the ongoing one-off Test, stretching the home team's first-innings lead to 157 here on

India reached 376/7 in reply to Australia's 219 with their resolute batting show spruced up by Smriti Mandhana's 74, Jemimah Rodrigues' 73 and a fine 52 from debutant Richa Ghosh. Deepti and Vastrakar came

together after India lost four quick wickets for a mere 14 runs to cede advantage to Australia, as their resistance flattened the visitors who used eight bowling options with only Ashleigh Gardner (4/100) making an

The right-arm off-spinner Gardner, coming off an eightwicket spell in the women's Ashes Test, troubled the Indians the most as she kept nibbling away with crucial wickets while being persistent with probing But the Indians eventually wrested back control, riding on the splendid partnership between Deepti and Vastrakar, who were a mere five runs away from recording the best eighth-wick-et stand for India Women's ever

when stumps were drawn. While Deepti cracked nine fours to make 70 not out off 147 balls, it was Vastrakar whose ascend as one of India's dependable players continued.

Having returned figures of 4/53 on the first day, Vastrakar reached 33 not out from 115 balls with four boundaries. However, the highlight of the

day was youngsters Ghosh (52) and Rodrigues (73) taking apart the Australian bowlers with dis-dain, putting on 113 runs for the side's second-best partnership for the fourth wicket.

In her maiden outing with the bat in Tests, Ghosh put on a fine show of attack and resilience alike, cracking seven fours in her 104-ball innings while producing strokes on both the sides of the pitch.

But Ghosh also had Ellyse Perry to thank who spilled a sitter at



mistimed one off Gardner having reached 14. However, she became the 14th

Indian batter to score a fifty on debut, joining Rodrigues and Shubha Satheesh to have done so in the span of last 10 days or

Rodrigues displayed her control and finesse especially with the sweep shot, collecting a majority of her runs (63 per cent) on the leg side while making a fine 73 off 121 balls with nine hits to the fence.

Notching up a second consecutive fifty in as many Tests, Rodrigues appeared primed for a maiden century too but she had only herself to blame after hitting one straight to Annabel Sutherland at extra cover off Gardner.

With the pitch providing variable bounce, each of the Indian batters who got runs show-cased immaculate approach in anticipating the bounce and trusting their defence, which was not the case for a few oth-

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur (0) lasted for only two balls as ery from Gardner which kept low and struck her pads in

front of the leg stump.
India slipped further and lost the advantage when Yastika Bhatia
(1) seemed to have committed herself too early into the shot to

miss a sweep off Gardner and was adjudged leg-before. Earlier in the day, overnight batters Mandhana and Sneh Rana (9) brought up their 50-run stand for the second wicket before Gardner cleaned up the

Smriti was also lucky as an outside edge off Garner flew past the diving Beth Mooney at the first slip.

But there was heartbreak for Mandhana when she was run out, having danced down the track and hitting to backward point looking for a single.

Mandhana was a little hesitant but seeing her partner Ghosh sprinting from the other end, she made a dash but fell short when the stumps were broken by Gardner while collecting a quick throw from Kim Garth. The Indian vice-captain made 74 off 106 balls with 12 fours.



Elgar to retire from international cricket after Tests against India

PTI JOHANNESBURG

 Γ ormer South Africa captain Dean Elgar on Friday announced his retirement from international cricket at the conclusion of the upcoming two-Test series against India, commencing in Centurion on December 26. Elgar made his debut in 2012 and has played 84 Tests. The left-handed batter has scored 5,146 runs at 37.28 with 13 centuries and 23

"Elgar will fittingly end his international career with the two Test matches - the first to be played at his home ground in Centurion from 26-30 December and the second at the venue where he scored his first Test runs, Newlands Cricket Ground in Cape Town, from 03-07 January," said Cricket South Africa (CSA) in a statement. The 36-year-old also played eight ODIs, with his last appearance in white-ball cricket com-

"Having had the privilege to do it for 12 years internationally is simply beyond my wildest

PTI ■ PAARL (SOUTH AFRICA)

ODI ton.

win on Thursday.

happy and grateful?

tors' pecking order.

"So going through all that and coming here I think doing what I did today, I think I feel really

Samson was also not picked for

the Asian Games, indicating

that he is really low in the selec-

On Thursday, however, he took

things in his own hand and

scored his maiden ODI centu-

ry to help India win the third



dreams. It has been an incredible journey that I have been fortunate enough to have,

"As they say, 'all good things come to an end', and the Indian home series will be my last, as I have made the decision to retire from our beautiful game," he said.

"A game that has given me so much. The Cape Town Test will be my last. My favourite stadium in the world. A place I scored my first Test run against New Zealand and hopefully my last too," he

Elgar also had a successful stint as South Africa's Test captain, winning nine out of 19 matches, while losing seven and drawing

South Africa's director of cricket, Enoch Nkwe, said, "He is a real old-school cricketer that can dig in, absorb and fight. I have no doubt the game will dearly miss him. "He has always given everything for his country and never showed any fear, no matter the opposition. He was always there to take on the challenge, leading as captain when the country needed him most," Nkwe

overs where I think (Keshav) Maharaj, was bowling the best. I think both the ends were a bit

tight. That's when we thought that we need to go on and take

Asked how he kept his calm dur-

ing the knock, Samson said, "I

'It's very important to make real-

ly good decisions. When you are

calm and when you are aware of

your thoughts, emotions of your

physical being and mental being

that helps me to make some really good decisions." The home

side looked on course for victo-

ry before the Indian pacers, led

bv left-armer Arshdeep Singh,

bowled the South Africans out

"I think the power-play, the way South African openers bat-

ted, I thought they are taking the

But after that when our fast

bowlers came in between, and

the ball I think was maintained

game away five overs before.

for 218 in 45.5 overs.

some risks at the moment."

very naturally to me.



Khawaja to challenge ICC reprimand

Says armband was for a bereavement

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Dewildered by the ICC's deci-**D**sion to reprimand him for wearing a black armband during the first Test against Pakistan, Australia's Usman Khawaja on Friday said he will contest the charge as he had told the governing body it was for a "personal bereavement".

Khawaja had worn a black armband during Australia's 360run win over Pakistan in Perth last week. He had arrived for a training session on December 13 with "all lives are equal" and "freedom is a human right" inscribed on his batting spikes and had reportedly planned to wear them during the inaugural Test.

"The ICC asked me day two (of the Perth Test) what (the black armband) was for, I told them it was for a personal bereavement. I never ever stated it was for anything else," Khawaja told reporters

"I respect the ICC and all the regulations they have, I will be asking them and contesting them ... From my point of view, that consistency hasn't been done vet."

"The shoes were for a different matter, I'm happy to say that, but

the armband (reprimand) made no sense to me," he added. The opener added that the global governing body had not applied the rules consistently.
"I followed all the regulations

and past precedents - guys have put stickers on their bats, names on their shoes, done all sorts of things in the past without ICC approval and never been reprimanded."

The ICC's regulations prevent players from displaying messages of political, religious or racial causes during international matches.

However, players can wear black armbands to mark deaths of former players, family members or other significant individuals

after taking prior permission from the governing body. wearing a black armband in

playing penalty. Khawaja also denied he had "any hidden agendas" when he arrived for a training session with "all lives are equal" and "freedom is a human right" inscribed on his batting spikes, apparently in reference to the

Perth carries no financial or

war in Gaza. "I don't have any agendas other than trying to shine a light on what I feel really passionately, really strong about. I'm trying to do it in the most respectful way

as possible," said Khawaja.
"What I wrote on my shoes was, really I thought about it for a

while, what I was going to write. I made sure that I didn't want to segregate different parts of the population, religious beliefs, communities. "Hence why I kept religion out

of this. I want to be really broad over my speaking because I'm talking about humanitarian issues. I'm talking about article one of Unified Declaration of Human Rights. That is literally the crux of it," added Khawaja. "The reason I'm doing it is because it hit me hard. I told Nick (Hockley, Cricket Australia chief) literally just this morning that when I'm looking at my Instagram and I'm seeing kids, innocent kinds, videos of them dying, passing away, that's what

"I just imagine my young daughter in my arms and the same thing. I get emotional talking about it right now again. And for me, that's the reason I'm doing this. I don't have any hidden agendas.

hit me the hardest.

'If anything, you know, if anything, this brings up more negativity towards me. People come and start attacking me. I don't get anything out of this. I just feel like it's my responsibility to speak up on this.

Kohli returns home due Last 4 months mentally challenging: Samson to family emergency

GAIKWAD RULED OUT OF SERIES

PTI ■ CENTURION

7irat Kohli has returned to India due to a family emergency but the senior batter will be back in time for the first Test against South Africa starting here next week.

Kohli had travelled to South Africa as part of the Indian squad for the two-Test series, which will begin at SuperSport Park on December 26.

"Virat Kohli has returned to India due to a family emergency. But he will be back before start of the first Test," a BCCI source told PTI on Friday. It is understood that Kohli had already taken permission from BCCI brass about his short leave.

"Virat had already left on Thursday and it was pre decided. Virat didn't take part in the three day intra squad match where India and India A players took part," the source added. No one in BCCI however could

Kohli had missed out on a Test match during the last away series in South Africa due to a back injury. He will be back in the Rainbow

Nation on December 24 and will take part in the pre-match train-

Meanwhile, Indian batter Ruturai Gaikwad was ruled out of the two-match series, which is a part of the World Test Championship cycle, after frac-

turing his finger.
"Ruturaj Gaikwad has been ruled out of the two-Test series with ring finger fracture," the source added Gaikwad had injured his finger

while trying to take a catch during the second ODI against South Africa earlier this week. That Gaikwad was ruled out of the first Test.

Grateful for maiden ODI ton, says batter



were challenging for me mentalgame and clinch the series 2-1 ly," Sanju said after the 78-run against South Africa

Í've been blessed in my genes. My father is also a sportsman, so how much ever setbacks you have, I think there's always no other way to come back and bounce back... Think how much you can work on yourself and how you can come back more strongly," he added.

Elevated to the number three spot, Samson, who scored a measured 108, joined forces with Tilak Varma (52) to take

India to a competitive target. Honestly, I think I was not looking at the scorecard. Until I had a partnership with Tilak till then I just wanted to play and like go with the merit. I just watched the ball and bat and the boundaries and the scoring options ultimately happened. "So I was just focused on the

process and playing one ball at a time and then I think the scorecard kept on ticking. "When Tilak came in when we

both had a tough four or five

nicely by all the teammates... The fast bowlers also hit some prop er areas to get those crucial wickets of David (Miller) and crucial wickets were important for us."

but an inspired West Indies side bowled and fielded with accuracy and

for 11 in the fourth over, scooping Holder to Oshane Thomas at short

Akeal Hosein.

Salt was next to go in the seventh over, straight after his first six. Gudakesh Motie came round the wicket and hit the top of middle stump. No third successive hundred for Salt - he scored 38 off 22 balls. Moeen Ali added 23 off 21 and Liam

the last five wickets for 11 runs.

After smashing 19 sixes then, England Hosein shared five wickets for 44 runs. They dismissed five of the top six bat-

T20 series from England West Indies wins

AP ■ TAROUBA (TRINIDAD)

The West Indies held its nerve in the last over to beat world champion England and win their Twenty20

England, defending a measly 132 all out, bowled brilliantly at the death to raise the tension and earn a glimmer of hope at Brian Lara Stadium.

Fast bowler Reece Topley took out West Indies captain Rovman Powell in a two-run 17th over, and mediumpacer Sam Curran nabbed Andre Russell in a two-run 19th over.

The West Indies was still favored going into the last over, but needed nine

Jason Holder scored three runs off the first delivery by Chris Woakes with Rehan Ahmed saving a run on the boundary behind square, then Shai Hope smacked his first six over deep point to finish the match.

West Indies made 133-6 and won by four wickets with four balls to spare. The home side also won the one-day international series 2-1.

Hope led the West Indies chase with a run-a-ball 43 not out. But it was wobbling after eight overs when they were 54-3.

Sherfane Rutherford joined Hope in the middle and overtook the latter with his first six back over Adil Rashid's head to reach 20

Rutherford smacked Curran over the fence at fine leg then was caught by Curran on 30 to give Rashid 2-21 off his four overs. The West Indies was left needing 34

from 30 deliveries, and Ahmed conceded 11 runs in the next over to relieve the pressure. But it came straight back on when Topley dismissed Powell to finish his

England fought well after a batting

four overs with 2-17.



performance that was a shadow of what it produced in the series-levelling win on Tuesday on the same

hit only five on the sticky, used pitch. Opener Phil Salt top-scored for England was all out for less than half England again in an unchanged team

England captain Jos Buttler was gone

Will Jacks hit the first six of the innings then was out next ball, bowled by

Livingstone 28 off 29, his caught and bowled to Motie starting a collapse of Motie and fellow left-arm spinner

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