WORLD 5 UN HUMANITARIAN CHIEF CALLS GAZA 'UNINHABITABLE'

GOYAL REMAINS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT

\$2 TRILLION EXPORT TARGET

AGENDA 9 DECARBONISATION **FRONTIERS**

NEW DELHI, SUNDAY JANUARY 7, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹4



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INDIA ENTERS HALO O

Modi dedicates historic solar mission milestone to scientists

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

India on Saturday achieved a historic milestone in space as the Aditya-L-1 spacecraft, the country's space-based observatory designed to study the Sun, reached its final destination approximately 1.5 million kilometres from Earth. The observatory was launched on September 2nd of last year.

Announcing the success of this mission, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said it is a testament to the relentless dedication of scientists who have realised one of the most complex and intricate space missions

Modi said he joins the nation applauding



ISRO's PSLV-C57 carrying Aditya-L1, India's maiden solar mission spacecraft, lifts off from the launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota

extraordinary feat. "India creates yet another landmark. India's first solar observatory, Aditva-L1. reaches its destination. It is a testament to the relentless

dedication of our scientists in realising one of the most complex and intricate space missions," the Prime Minister said on X.
"I join

join the nation in

applauding this extraordinary feat. We will continue to pursue new frontiers science for the benefit of humanity," he said.

President Droupadi Murmu congratulated the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for successfully placing India's first solar (ÎSRO) observatory, Aditya-L1, into its destination orbit, and said the mission will benefit all of humanity.

"Another grand feat accomplished by ISRO! As part of India's maiden solar mission, Aditya L1, the observatory has been placed in the final orbit and reached its destination at Lagrange Point 1," Murmu said in a post on X.

Continued on Page 2

One Nation, One Election panel seeks public opinion

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

dhe Law Commission, examining the issue of holding simultaneous elections in the country, may explore the possibility of conducting the three-tier democratic exercise in two phases within a single year. According to sources, in the first phase, Lok Sabha and Assembly polls could be conducted, while in the second phase, local body polls might be organised.

It has sought public discourse on the issue before reaching a final decision. This approach, the sources said, is practical, taking into account the diverse climatic conditions of

the country. In August 2018, the previous Law Commission endorsed Narendra Modi Government's proposal to conduct simultaneous polls for the Lok Sabha and Assemblies, saying it would prevent the country from being in a constant poll mode. Continued on Page 2

Advantage BJP in Kerala, influential Christian leader poised to join party

The January 3 visit to Thrissur by Prime Minister Narendra Modi could be a game-changer in Kerala politics. The BJP, yet to win a Lok Sabha seat from the State, is likely to register its first-ever victory in 2024 elections.

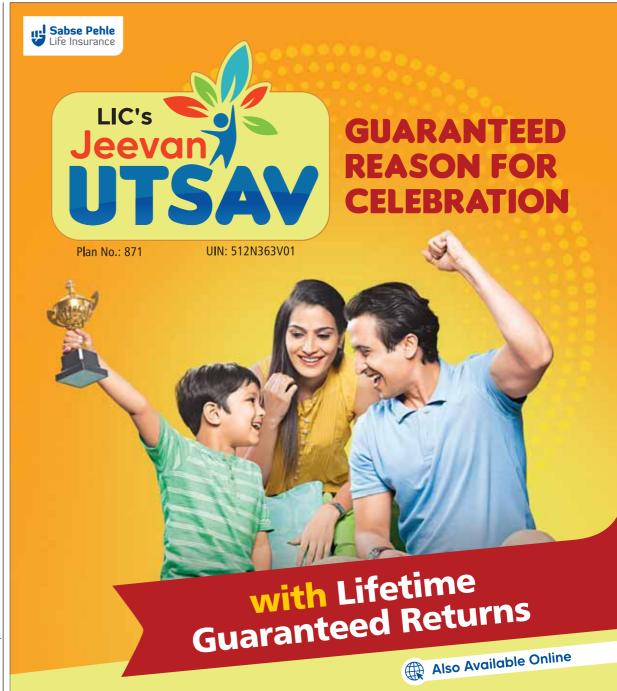
PC George, a seven-time MLA and a veteran leader of the Kerala Congress (a party representing the interests of the Catholic community as well as the Church), is all set to join the BJP. George disclosed his plan in a TV

panel discussion on Friday night, saying he would not hesitate to join the BJP.

"As of the current date, the BJP is the only political outfit interested in the progress of the country, and I am not averse to the idea of joining it," said George

The Christian leader lost last Assembly poll, marking his first-ever loss, as Islamist extremists issued a diktat to community members not to vote for him due to his stance against the infamous Love Jihad incidents, which are on the rise in Kerala

Continued on Page 2



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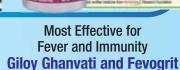
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Global conversation has shifted towards India, says Jaishankar

🛪 xternal Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday said the global conversation has shifted towards India, with many talking about the changes that have taken place in the country over the past decade. While addressing the Viksit Sankalp Bharat Yatra here, Jaishankar said he told foreigners that what has changed in the country during the period is the

"Because, as foreign minister, I go around the world. The rest of the world is actually today talking about us. They are asking today how it is that you are able to do. "Because it was the same India 10, 20 or 30 years ago. What has changed in India? And I tell them that what has changed in India is the vision," he said.

Noting that people of the country now have Aadhaar and bank accounts, he said the right use of technology has helped the country make remarkable achievements in various fields.

"We have aadhaar....Because we have bank accounts. By having bank accounts we have actually changed not only governance, but also society. By connecting it to the phone, we have ensured direct benefits. So we have actually used technology," the External Affairs Minister said

In the last 10 years, Jaishankar said the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has done "tremendous work" to change India and the lives of people. If the work is to be continued, we have to create 'Viksit Bharat,' he added. Many problems that Indians encounter like health, water,



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Union Minister of Stae for External Affairs V Muraleedharan and SBI Chief General Manager A Bhuvaneshwari takes a pledge (Sankalp) during a 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' event, in

electricity, house, education and so on, are the same in many other countries, including the developed world as well.

"They are not only India's problems...They are everybody's problems," Jaishankar said, adding that it is even a problem in the developed world. Jaishankar said he was finishing 46 years in the government.

"But, the last 10 years for me, five years as a minister and five years before that, have been actually the most satisfying years, for me. Because, I have seen a complete

change in how the government performs," he said. Under the Modi government, the bureaucracy is more sensitive and bankers are more friendly towards the customers. Union Minister V Muraleedharan was also present during the programme.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is being undertaken across the country with an aim to attain saturation of flagship schemes of the government by ensuring that the benefits of these schemes reach all targeted beneficiaries in a time-bound manner.

DGCA orders inspection of emergency exits on all Boeing 737-8 Max aircraft

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has directed Air India Express, Akasa Air and Spicelet to "carry out a one-time inspection of the emergency exits immediately on all Boeing 737-8 Max aircraft currently operating as part of their fleet". The regulator issued this directive as an "abundant precautionary measure" following an Alaska Airlines B737-9Max saw a mid cabin emergency exit assembly and portion of the plane's fuselage blow out shortly after take off in the US. No Indian carrier operates the B737-9 variant of the Max yet and they have the B737-8 Max in their fleets.

A senior DGCA official said the latest directive is an abundant precautionary measure. "DGCA has directed all the Indian air operators to carry out a one-time inspection of the emergency exits immediately on all Boeing 737-8 Max aircraft currently operating as part of their fleet," the official

"Pursuant to the Alaska Airlines incident involving Boeing 737 -9 Max aircraft, there have been no inputs /guidance from Boeing so far. None of the Indian air operators have Boeing 737-9 Max as

part of their fleet yet. However, as an abundant pre cautionary measure, DGCA has directed all the Indian air operators to carry out a onetime inspection of the emergency exits immediately on all Boeing 737-8 Max aircraft

currently operating as part of their fleet," the DGCA said in a statement. No, these one-time checks will be done during the night halt of aircraft," the official

said. Currently, Air India Express, SpiceJet and Akasa Air have Boeing 737-8 Max planes in their fleets. The directive emphasizes the need for immediate action and underscores the commitment to ensuring the safety and security of air travel within Indian airspace. Emergency exits play a critical role in ensuring passenger safety during unforeseen circumstances. A window on an Alaska Airlines flight traveling from Portland, Oregon to Ontario, California shattered, resulting in a cabin pressure loss. This incident compelled the pilot to conduct an emergency landing back at Portland

The incident transpired on Alaska Flight 1282, a Boeing 737-9 MAX certified by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in November 2023, merely two months before the incident, as indicated by online FAA

International Airport on

Friday evening.

Dhankhar exhorts vouth to become instruments of change in India

PTI ■ HAMIRPUR (HP)

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, during a visit to Himachal Pradesh's Hamirpur on Saturday, inaugurated the 500th Ek Se Sreshtha education centre and exhorted youngsters to become instruments of change to take India to the top by

"Development has taken place in the country at a rocket speed under the present gov ernment and now the onus to bring India to the top is on the youth, especially the women, who have been empowered through various schemes and initiatives," he said.

Dhankhar, who was accompanied by Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur and Himachal Pradesh Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla, said about 10,000 girls are being imparted free education at these centres.

He added that 95 per cent of teachers at these centres are women, who are empowering the youngsters. Ek Se Sreshtha is an initiative

to ensure access to quality education and provide holistic development to students from all walks of life.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during the foundation stone laying of 'Gurukulam Evam Acharyakulam' at Swami Darshanand Gurukul Mahavidyalay in Haridwar on Saturday. Yoga Guru Ramdev, Union Minister of State (I/C) for Law & Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal, Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav and Uttarakhand's Pushka

Macaulay sent to India by British to enslave Indians mentally, says Rajnath

Union Defence Minister tude of disregard towards India's cultural and literary legacy, the said Lord Macaulay was sent to Union minister said the British traditional system of education and enslave people mentally. He said the revival of 'gurukuls'

was necessary to counter the effects of the Macaulay's system of education on Indian minds. However, the defence minister advised that these centres of learning should synthesise the traditional education of system with emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence and quan-

tum technology. "Macaulay was sent to India to enslave Indians even mentally by colonising their minds," Singh told a large gathering of seers and students at the foundation laying ceremony of the Patanjali

Talking about Macaulay's attialmirah in a European library as more than all of India's cultural and literary heritage.

The western education system was introduced in the country by Lord Macaulay.

The education system introduced by Macaulay spawned generations of Indians who grew up with a sense of inferiority about their own culture and traditions," Singh said.

The revival of the traditional 'gurukul' system of education is necessary to keep "our moral legacy alive", Singh said, adding these centres are to play an important role in the country's cultural development.

PM Jan Aushadhi Kendras find takers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

The Government's decision to allow Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) to function as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PM-BJAK) is finding huge takers

More than 4400 such entities from across the country have submitted online applications showing their keenness to take up the initiative which was approved last year. In fact, more than 2300 coop-

erative societies have already received initial approval and 146 of them are ready to function as Jan Aushadhi Kendras, said an official from the Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)

Encouraged at the response, the Union Ministry of Cooperation in collaboration with the NCDC is organizing a mega conclave here on Monday to deliberate threadbare about the potentials and challenges likey to be faced by the PACS who have taken such an initiative. The conclave will be chaired by Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah. The decision to permit PACS to open PM-BJAKs was taken in a meeting between Cooperation Minister Amit Shah and Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister Mansukh Mandaviya last year with an aim to increase the income of PACS, creating job opportunities, and providing affordable medicines, especially in rural areas. Mandaviya, along with Minister of State for Cooperation and Development of North Eastern Region (DONER) BL Verma, are also likely to address the conclave. The Jan Aushadhi Kendras are already operational across the country, offering a variety of medicines and medical devices at significantly lower prices (50 to 90 per cent cheaper) compared to branded alternatives. More than 2000 types of generic medicines and around 300 surgical items are made available through these Kendras to common citizens at affordable

prices. However, allowing PACS as PMBJAKS will provide new

opportunities to PACS for diversification and expansion of their economic activities, thus leading to increase in the incomes of millions of small and marginal farmers associat ed with them. Moreover, the network of the PMBJAKS will also expand.

More than PACS/Cooperative Societies from 34 States/UTs have submitted their online applications the Government's Department

Pharmaceuticals portal for this initiative, out of which, more than 2300 cooperative societies have already received initial approval and 146 of them are

ready to function as Jan Aushadhi Kendras," said an official from the NCDC.

Women brave weather to guard Indian border

PTI ■ TANOT (RAJASTHAN)

Patrolling the sensitive India-Pakistan border may be predominantly a male bastion, but a group of women have defied stereotypes and braved hurdles she added. to take up the job of guarding the international border in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district. Guarding the border in the desert's extreme weather conditions is a tough job but these women perform it with equal dedication, discipline and efficiency, a BSF official said. Constable Nancy Devi Jat, a res-

defied her family's opposition to join the forces 10 years ago. "My parents wanted me to take up a cosy profession but once I got selected for the BSF, I went ahead, despite opposition from

ident of Sikar in Rajasthan,

my parents," she told PTI. Her two male cousins were already in the force, but her famthe same job.

For Constable Archana Kashyap, a resident of Etawah in Uttar Pradesh, joining the force was a dream come true.

"There was nobody in my family in the forces, and since childhood, I wanted to serve the

nation," she said.

Both maintained that the major challenge they faced while patrolling this sector of the border was the extreme weather conditions. At times, they also came across vipers, which are common here.

"We are deployed on observation towers, and also for during summers when there are sandstorms," Jat said. During such situations they do the patrolling on camelbacks,

patrolling between border out-

posts. It becomes very difficult

"Duties are divided into four

shifts and we do all the shifts, including night patrolling. Long duty hours and away from home for months is a deterrent for many women from joining the BSF," Jat said.

Kashyap said, "When we are on duty, these issues do not matter as the protection of the nation is our top priority." Commandant of the BSF's 166

battalion that guards the border in this stretch, Virendra Pal Singh, said that women are deployed in each battalion in the sector, with each section having at least one female personnel.

"The deployment is made according to the requirement in posted in areas that require gate management with agricultural activities on both sides of the fence," he said. In this area, 36 women have been deployed. In this particular stretch, the population is sparse on both sides and there is no agricultural activity, Singh said.

The female personnel perform all sorts of duties and do not enjoy any special grace," he

'They only stay in separate barracks but have their meals in the common mess, and go through the usual rigorous physical exercises," he added.

Bihar to set up first incubation centre for gharials, turtles

PTI PATNA

The Bihar government has decided to set up the State's first incubation and interpretation centre for gharials and turtles, a senior official said on Saturday.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) will soon be signed with the Wildlife Trust of India, a charity organisation, in this regard, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden PK Gupta told PTI.

"The state government has given in-principle approval for establishing the state's first

'Incubation Centre-cum-Nature Interpretation Centre' for gharial and turtles in the Gandak river in Bettiah in West Champaran district," he

'The Los Angeles Zoo in the US state of California has agreed to strengthen the ongoing conservation effort through ex-situ incubation and further release of the hatchlings back to the river safely" he said

The Gandak river has become the second successful breeding site for gharials in India after the National Chambal Sanctuary on the Chambal

Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, he added. The Gharial Conservation Project in the Gandak river, launched by the state government in association with WTI in 2014, yielded positive results as 217 fish-eating longsnouted reptiles were sighted in its 284-km stretch as compared to just 30 before, Gupta

Forest officials in West Champaran have been asked to coordinate with the district administration, and complete all formalities for the transfer of the identified land to the

river near the tri-junction of Forest Department for the centre at the earliest," he said. Gupta said that ex-situ conservation is the process of protecting an endangered species outside its natural habitat.

> "For instance, by removing part of the population from a threatened habitat and placing it in a new location, an artificial environment similar to the natural habitat and within the care of humans such as zoological parks and wildlife sanctuaries. Ex-situ conservation measures are required for further increasing the numbers of gharials and turtles in Gandak river," he explained.

Advantage BJP in Kerala, influential Christian leader poised to join party

Continued from Page 1 George had quit the Kerala Congress due to the party leadership's decision to anoint Jose K Mani as the

successor to party founder KM Mani, the of the party. Interestingly, Father Shyju Kurian, a priest of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, joined the BJP last week. This marks the first time in the Church's history that a priest is joining the BJP. Speaking to The Pioneer, George expressed that the stance of the CPI(M) and the Congress supporting Hamas in the war against Israel is highly despicable dangerous. He stated, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the only world leader to condemn the Hamas terrorists who left a train of rape, murder, and mayhem in

Gaza. They massacred more

than 2000 innocent Jews, and

Minister

condemned the attack. The

Congress and the CPI(M),

which have been infiltrated

Modi

by Islamic terrorists, are busy officially declare his stance, organizing meetings as a mark of solidarity with the Hamas terrorists. Both the Congress and the CPI(M) have become a threat to the nation as they are echoing the voice of Islamic terrorists,"

said George. The veteran lawmaker is known to make statements only after a thorough analysis of all issues. He mentioned that Modi's stance that an independent Palestine was what India wanted has inspired the West Asian countries but not the opposition parties in India. added, Opposition party leaders are worried about the chances of them getting arrested for malpractices, corruption, and financial impropriety. The last ten years have been a period of unprecedented progress and a scam-free phase of the country's history. We have to make a change in Kerala," said George.

Although George is yet to landscape of the State.

the Christian community is optimistic about Peter, Kevin prospect. Christian president of Alliance for Social Action (CASA), stated, "His move to join the BIP reflects the ground reality in the State. Many leaders of the community would join the BJP once George makes his stance known. The Christians in the State have seen through the fake propaganda that their counterparts Manipur and other North Eastern States are under attack from the BJP and the RSS. This will not work anymore. The Christians are supporting the BJP because the sincere work and excellent leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi." Political pundits believe that if a section of the Christian community aligns with the

Hindutva party, it has the

potential to bring significant

changes to the political

INDIA ENTERS **HALO ORBIT**

Continued from Page 1

"Congratulations to the entire Indian scientific community for this great achievement! This mission will enhance our understanding of the Sun-Earth System and benefit all of humanity," she added.

Murmu also mentioned that the significant participation of women scientists in ISRO missions "takes women's empowerment to even greater heights.

The ISRO, on Saturday, successfully placed Aditya-L1 into its destination orbit, Lagrange Point 1. Lagrange Point 1 (L1) in the Sun-Earth system is approximately 1.5 million kilometres from Earth. Lagrange points are named after the

French mathematician and astronomer Joseph-Louis Lagrange. Over 125 days of travel, covering 1.5 million kilometres, and with a precise

orbit insertion, the Aditya-L1 mission has been successfully parked at an optimal spot in the vastness of space, providing an unobstructed view of the Lagrangian Point 1 (L1) is a stable point in space where the gravitational forces of

two large bodies, such as the Earth and

the Sun, balance the centripetal force

experienced by a smaller object, like a

satellite. It lies along the line connecting the two larger bodies and enables satellites to maintain a relatively constant

position.
The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C57) launched the Aditya-L1 spacecraft from the second launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota, on September 2 of last year. After a flight duration of 63 minutes and 20 seconds, it was successfully injected into an elliptical orbit of 235x19500 km around the Earth.

Subsequently, the spacecraft underwent a series of maneuvers and headed towards Sun-Earth Lagrange Point 1 (L1), escaping the Earth's sphere of influence. The spacecraft is equipped with seven payloads to observe the photosphere, chromosphere, and the outermost layers of the Sun (the corona) using electromagnetic, particle, and magnetic field detectors.

"Using the special vantage point L1, four payloads directly observe the Sun, while the remaining three payloads carry out in-situ studies of particles and fields at Lagrange Point L1, providing crucial scientific insights into the propagatory effect of solar dynamics in the interplanetary medium," according to the space agency.

The Aditya-L1 payloads are expected to offer the "most crucial information" to understand coronal heating, coronal mass ejection, pre-flare and flare activities, their characteristics, dynamics of space weather, and the propagation of particles and fields, officials said.

According to ISRO, the key objectives of the mission include understanding coronal heating and solar wind

acceleration, initiation of Coronal Mass Ejection (CME), flares, and near-Earth space weather. The mission also aims to gain knowledge of the coupling and dynamics of the solar atmosphere and obtain a deeper understanding of solar wind distribution and temperature anisotropy (non-uniformity in different

directions) Solar wind refers to a continual stream of protons and electrons from the sun's corona, or outermost atmosphere, while coronal mass ejections are huge expulsions of coronal plasma and magnetic field lines ejected from the sun. The major science objectives of the Aditya-L1 mission are:

Study of the Solar upper atmospheric (chromosphere and corona) dynamics. Study of chromospheric and coronal

heating, physics of the partially ionized plasma, initiation of the coronal mass ejections, and flares. Observe the in-situ particle and plasma

study of particle dynamics from the Sun. Physics of the solar corona and its heating mechanism. Diagnostics of the coronal and coronal

loops plasma: Temperature, velocity and

environment, providing data for the

density. Development, dynamics and origin of coronal mass ejections (CMEs).

- Identify the sequence of processes that occur at multiple layers (chromosphere base and extended corona) which eventually leads to solar eruptive events. Magnetic field topology and magnetic field measurements in the solar corona. - Drivers for space weather (origin, composition and dynamics of solar

One Nation, One Election panel seeks . public opinion

Continued from Page 1

current Commission, headed by Justice (retired) Ritu Raj Awasthi, is in the process of finalising its report on the possibility of conducting assembly and Lok Sabha simultaneously Meanwhile, the high-level committee on 'One Nation, One Election, led by former President Ram Nath Kovind has been assigned the task of recommending how Lok Sabha, assembly, and local body polls (panchayat, municipalities, parishad) synchronised.

In consideration of the terms of reference for the Kovind-led panel, the Law Commission has expanded the scope of its study to include the coordination of local body polls alongside national and state elections.

Bone chilling cold grips Capital

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

¬he national Capital woke up to dense fog on Saturday, accompanied by a bone-chilling cold wave for a third consecutive day while the maximum temperature settled at 15.2 degrees Celsius, four notches below the season's average. The National Capital Region, already grappling with chilly weather, experienced a further dip in temperature making it a challenging morning for commuters, prompting the India Meteorological Department (IMD)on Saturday to issue an advisory asking people to several layers of loose fitting, lightweight and

warm woollen clothing rather

than one layer of heavy cloth.

The minimum temperature set-

tled at 8.9 degrees Celsius, two

notches above the season's aver-

administration on Saturday ordered all schools in Noida and Greater Noida to observe holiday for students up to Class 8 till January 14 in view of the prevailing dense fog and cold

weather conditions In its advisory, the IMD asked people to cover their head, neck, hands and toes adequately as majority of heat loss occurs through these body parts. "Do not ignore shivering. It is the first sign that the body is losing heat. Get Indoors. Avoid or limit outdoor activities. Impact on agriculture, crop, livestock, water supply, transport and power sector at some places is possible due to cold and fog. Frostbite can occur due to prolonged exposure to cold. The skin turns pale, hard and numb and eventually black blisters appear on exposed body parts such as fingers, toes,

frostbite needs immediate medical attention and treatment." read the advisory

According to IMD, the maximum temperature in Palam and Ridge recorded at 14.6 degree Celsius, Lodhi Road at 15 degree Celsius, Ayanagar 15.6 degree Celsius, Jaffarpur 14 degree Celsius, Narela 14.6 degree Celsius, Pare 15.3 degree celsius, Pare 15.4 de Pusa 15.3 degree celsius, SPS Mayur Vihar 13.6 degree Celsius. Clear skies continue to elude Delhi on Saturday. The extreme cold spell is expected to last for three more days. The met office issues orange and yellow alerts for 'cold to severe cold day'. A little rise in temperature is likely early next week due to a western disturbance, potentially causing rain.

Meanwhile, the Gautam Buddh Nagar administration on



Saturday ordered all schools in Noida and Greater Noida to observe holiday for students up to Class 8 till January 14. Issued by District Basic Education Officer Rahul Panwar, the order stands applicable to all schools recognised by the state board, CBSE, ICSE, IB and others. "In compliance with the instruc-

tions given by District Magistrate Maneesh Kumar Verma in view of the dense fog and extreme cold, all the board (CBSE/ICSE IB, UP Board and others) affiliated schools (from Class nursery to 8) running in the district Gautam Buddh Nagar, will observe holiday till January 14," it stated." The order

should be strictly followed," Panwar added. Meanwhile, District Inspector of Schools (DIOS) Dharmveer Singh said the timings for Classes 9-12 will be 10 am to 3 pm during this period.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), dense fog continued to shroud the capital

at upper levels of the atmosphere. The current season is marred by an inversion layer, uplifted fog layer and gloomy days with less sun exposure, making daytime colder. IMD has issued a yellow alert for Delhi on Sunday. The visibility at Safdarjung, Delhi's main weather station.

Delhi's main weather station, and Palam was 500 metres at 5:30 am. The relative humidity stood at 100 per cent at 8:30 am. Train services were impacted due to fog with 14 Delhi-bound trains delayed, according to officials. The highest delay reported in trains arriving in Delhi is six hours. Over 30 flight disruptions and delays were reported till 8 a.m. at IGI Airport. Several flights were delayed in the North India delayed in the North India regions due to fog and harsh weather conditions Spicejet airline also issued an advisory to

passengers on flight delay caused by fog." "Cold Day to Severe Cold Day conditions likely to continue over Punjab. Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and Rajasthan during next 2 days and significant decrease thereafter," IMD wrote on X. This is increasing discomfort outdoors during working hours. December 2019 recorded 18 cold days, while January 2022 saw seven cold days. The IMD classifies it as a 'cold day' when the maximum temperature is 4.5°C or more below normal, with the minimum temperature also being below 10°C. It is a 'severe cold day' when the maximum temperature is 6.5°C or more below normal.

Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded at 315, in the 'very poor' category, at 9 am, according to Central Pollution Control

11 DMs, IAS officers to camp overnight in villages today

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to take stock of the condition of villages in Delhi and chalk out development plans in consultations with the residents, 11 respective District Magistrates (DM) and senior IAS officers will camp overnight in selected villages from Sunday till Monday. Monday.

With a view to comprehensively develop villages in Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has asked all the departments to depute senior officers for one night stay for a ground assessment of challenges and socio-economic conditions faced by people living in villages facing. This exercise comes after Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena's announcement on January two after a Samvaad @ Raj Niwas with representatives from 180 villages, that respec-tive District Magistrates (DMs) and senior IAS officers will be staying overnight in villages in their districts.

These officers will give a practical prescription for all round development and main

streaming of villages. Based on their report, the village development plan should incorporate all their focused activities for infrastructure development, economic activities promotion, keting of village products.

The exercise aims at chalking out the restoration and development plan for Delhi's villages, in consultation with the villagers, under the ambitious "Dilli Gramoday

Abhiyan", being executed by Delhi Development Authority (DDA) at a cost of more than Rs 800 crores

The selected villages in the 11 districts are Baprola, Tatesar Rural, Kheda Dabar, Fatehpur Beri, Pul Prahladpur, Chilla Saroda Bangar, Babarpur, Baquiabad, Baquiabad, Jagatpur, Samalkha and Palla, officials said here on Saturday. On day one of their visit in the

morning, the DMs and senior officials will hold 'Samvaad' with residents of the villages where they are staying as well as those in the neighbourhood over the first 03 hours, starting at 11 AM.

From 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm they will be visiting important sites for inspection as per the works identified during the preceding 'Samvaad' along with all officers concerned of various line departments, which include DDA, Revenue, DJB and MCD.

From 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, a 'Charcha' by night fire will be held along with all residents where they will be asked to share their grievances and

After breaking for the intervening night between 07.01.2024 and 08.01.2024, in the identified village they will again resume the second round of 'Samvaad' between 7:00 am to 11:00 am to share the tentative roadmap for the development of the villages, at

tive dialogue series -Samvaad @ Raj Niwas, Saxena had interacted with over 500 villagers representing 180 villages in the Capital on January

Delhi per capita income rose 158 per cent higher than national average: Atishi benchmarks in the public ser-

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's per capita income increased from Rs 3,89,529 to Rs 4,44,768 in the current financial year, making it 158 per cent higher than the national average, Delhi Finance and Planning Minister Atishi said on the release of its Statistical Handbook-2023 on Saturday. The handbook containing data on socio-economic parameters of the national capital was released by the Economic and Statistics department of the Delhi government.

The per capita income of Delhi increased from Rs 3,89,529 to Rs 4,44,768, while the national average per capita income is Rs 1,72,276. "This means Delhi's per capita income is 158 per cent more than the national average," said Atishi, adding despite various obstacles, the Kejriwal government has established new

vices sector in 2023.
Sharing handbook data, the Planning Minister Atishi stated that despite facing various challenges in the year 2023, the commitment of the Kejriwal government remained focused on the ment remained focused on the welfare of the people of Delhi and the progress of Delhi. As a result, new benchmarks have been established in the field of public services.

The handbook showed that more than 41 lakh commuters daily traveled on DTC and DIMTS buses in 2023. Currently, there are over 7200 DTC and DIMTS buses running on Delhi roads, all completely CNG or electric.

Delhi is leading the electric vehicle revolution in the country. In 2023, the number of electric buses in Delhi has increased to 1300, surpassing any other state



There has been a continuous increase in demand in the electricity sector in Delhi. In 2023, the number of electricity consumers increased by approximately 2.8 lakhs. Despite the increased demand, the Kejriwal government has successfully provided uninterrupted elec-tricity supply. The electricity consumption in Delhi increased by 859 million units (85.9 crores) in 2023. More than 3.41 crores electricity bills worth Rs 0.00 generated in 2022-23

In the water sector, this year saw an increase of over 1 lakh new consumers. The minimum wage for laborers in Delhi is the highest in the country. The Kejriwal government has set a minimum wage of Rs 17,494 for unskilled laborers, Rs 19,279 for semi-skilled laborers, and Rs 21,215 for skilled laborers. The government regularly increases the minimum wage for laborers every 6 months.

The Delhi government also takes care of the elderly, daughters, and people with special needs. In 2023, there were 4.07 lakh elderly pensioners, and 1.70 lakh girls benefited from the Ladli scheme. The government has provided financial assistance to 1,13,039 people with special needs. This year, 11,570 people have benefited from the Chief Minister's COVID-19 Family Financial Assistance

Events in Capital in honour of Ramlala

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Tn honour of the inauguration **L**ceremony of Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Sampoorna NGO is organising a grand painting event in Lodhi Garden on Sunday at 11:30 am.

The event provides both children and adults with a unique platform to immerse themselves in art and creativity, revolving around the theme "My Lord Ram"

The highlight includes the participation of 100 children adorned in costumes representing various deities, extending an inclusive invitation to children from orphanages

In anticipation of the consecra-tion ceremony of Shri Ramlala on January 22, the organisation has formulated a programme to illuminate 11 lamps in every household at 6 pm, said Shobha Vijendra, the founder of the This symbolic gesture symbolises unity and collective devotion, transcending the boundaries of economic status, caste, and religion. The primary objective of this campaign is to illuminate an impressive I crore and 11 thousand lamps across the Capital. Sampoorna's comprehensive campaign comprises an impressive array of 500 activities, all centred around the revered figure of Lord Rama.
This inclusive effort engages

individuals from diverse back-grounds, including affluent homes, impoverished house-holds, government and NGOrun residences, and those residing on the streets.

In addition to the lamp-lighting campaign, the organisation has curated various events such as painting competitions, poetry gatherings, flag presentations, amp distribution, Ram Path, Ram Yatra, and the upload of inspiring videos.

Class 8 dropout inspired by gangsters held with illegal pistol, live cartridges

n 18-year-old youth from Auttarakhand was arrested in Delhi's Rohini with two illegal firearms and live cartridges, police said on Saturday. They said Pradeep Singh, who Continuing with his interacinspired by the Lawrence Bishnoi-Goldy Brar gang and wanted to become like them. A police officer said Singh came in contact with a gang member via social media platforms and they provided him

with the firearms and asked him to wait for further directions. He was arrested from Rohini's Sector 23 with two illegal .32 bores firearms and nine live cartridges, the officer said. During interrogation, Singh told police that he was unemployed.

he went to his relative's place in Rajasthan's Bikaner where he studied till class eighth. In 2022, he went to Harvana's Gurugram and stayed with his "After reading stories of

Lawrence Bishnoi and Godly Brar, he started surfing them on social media. He came in contact with one of their gang members — Gangster Virender Pratap — and told him that he wanted to join their group," another police officer said.

ed him through Instagram and further connected to him through Bhanu Rana, on the Signal App, and prepared him to commit criminal activities in Delhi and NCR," the officer

DDA to host 2 days kite festival at Baansera

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

presence in a different avatar in Delhi this time. The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) will host a two-day kite festival at a sustainabilitythemed bamboo park here next week. International kite festival 'Patang Utsav' will be held on January 13-14 at 'Baansera' bamboo park, located at Sarai Kale Khan on banks o The festival will have major attractions including a theme pavilion, which will be set up for displaying "history of kites, in the form of a kite gallery showing use of kites during times of war, fighter kites, significance of kites in India," a senior official said. A classical 'Patang Bazaar' would also be put up for people to buy kites, the DDA said

The age old sport of flying kites may make its

in a statement, adding, "professional kitists will be coming to the festival showcasing innovative kites". Additionally, traditional food and handicrafts stalls shall also be set up for public along with cultural performances by folk artists show casing India's cultural diversity. Exclusive activities have been planned for kids

as well in the form of a kids zone, the officials said. "It will be an excellent recreational opportunity for people to visit the festival along with their family and kids to enjoy the festival on the auspicious occasion of Lohri, Makar Sankranti, Bihu and Pongal," it added. Makar Sankranti falls on January 14, and a large number of people fly kites in various parts of the country on that day. To enhance the ecological character of Yamuna



floodplains and make it more people friendly by making it attractive as a recreational and cultural venue, Delhi Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena had laid the foundation of 'Baansera' in August 2022 and it was developed in six months.

More than 25,000 special variety of Bamboo saplings, brought from Assam were planted here. 'Baansera' aims at providing the people of Delhi with the much needed public spaces in the capital on one hand, and also ensure that the rich biodiversity of the flood plain is preserved and maintained, the official said.

DDA's projects for restoration and rejuvenation of the floodplains of the Yamuna are being carried out as an initiative to enhance the ecological character of the floodplains and to make them accessible to the public at large. The 'Baansera' project, conceived and led by the LG himself, will take such initiatives to the next level, the officials said. In September 2023, Saxena had inaugurated a musical fountain at 'Baansera'.

Kejriwal cuts short Gujarat trip to hold Delhi Budget meet uled to leave for Gujarat on

Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal has cut short his three day trip to Gujarat by a day as he will preside over a crucial meeting related to the 2024-25 Delhi Budget on Saturday. Initially supposed to be a threeday trip, Kejriwal was scheduled to leave for Gujarat on Saturday to handle Lok Sabha-related party work there. During his visit to Gujarat,

Kejriwal is scheduled to address public meetings and meet party workers. He is also likely to meet jailed Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Chaitar Vasava, according to sources in the party. The chief minister was sched-



Saturday but now he will go there on Sunday because he has to attend an important budgetrelated meeting, they said. The process of preparing the Delhi government's annual budget is underway.The three-day Ğujarat tour will now be wrapped up Kejriwal's Gujarat tour was ann-

Doctors perform brain surgery on child in conscious state

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 $D_{\text{cessfully performed a brain}}^{\text{octors at AIIMS, Delhi successfully performed a brain}$ tumour surgery on a five-yearold girl while keeping her in a conscious state during the operation with the hospital claiming that she was the youngest patient in the world to undergo such a procedure. The procedure termed as 'awake craniotomy (conscious sedation technique) surgery for left perisylvian intraaxial brain tumour was performed on January 4, AIIMS said in a statement.

The child presented with a history of seizures and her brain MRI was done which showed a tumour in the left side of her brain adjacent to speech/language area, it said.

The surgery lasted three hours, including time taken for giving local anaesthesia to the child by neuroanaesthetists. The tumour was removed successfully by a team of neurosurgeons as she remained conscious throughout the procedure

"Technological adjuncts viz pre-

operative functional MRI brain, intraoperative ultrasonography, neuronavigation were used to localise tumour precisely during resection while mapping of functional areas was being carried out under awake conditions. Ice cold saline was used for the brain surface to prevent any seizures during the procedure," the statement said. The child is doing well and will

be sent home on Monday," it said. A long discussion was held between team members, patient's family and the child before taking a decision to go ahead with the surgery. They were counselled at length on steps of procedure, it stated. She was shown common objects. common animals and given some tasks for language and sen-

She is a first standard student and was quick in identifying the picture of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the surgery, the statement said.

sorimotor assessments before

during the surgical procedure liance of RRTS stations and

surgery, which were repeated

in two days, the officials said.

ounced amid claims by leaders of his party and him that he may be arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the Delhi excise policy scam case. Kejriwal has skipped three summonses of the ED to appear before it for questioning in the case. The third summons was issued on Wednesday last week and he skipped it calling it illegal.

Now, rapid rail premises, Namo Bharat trains can be hired for events, shooting films

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has come out with a policy to rent out Rapid Rail Transit System (RRTS) premises and the iconic Namo-Bharat trains for hosting events, including film shootings. This will cost only 2 to 3 lakh per hour. The schedule and booking fee for hiring NCRTC premises, including per scheduled hour of occupancy for commercial purposes, are Rs 2 lakh for all stations of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor, Rs 3 lakh for Namo Bharat trains and station, and Rs

2.5 lakh for depots and other As per the new policy, spaces, such as RRTS stations and Namo-Bharat trains, are now available for short-term hire for film shootings, documentaries and TV commercials as the architectural and design bril-

Namo-Bharat trains makes them exceptional choices for "To promote film shooting. RRTS and Namo-Bharat train as an accessible and attractive shooting venue and retain its brand image as the most pre-ferred RRTS system in the country and to showcase Delhi-NCR as one of the best shooting destinations in terms of modern infrastructure, heritage connect and demographic canvas in the national and international market," the policy said.
"With the proliferation of OTT platforms and the digital land-

scape, there has been a surge in the utilization of public transport systems, particularly metro rail systems, as backdrops for filming feature films, documentaries, and web series. NCRTC's decision to open its doors to such activities provides a lucrative opportunity for filmmakers seeking dynamic and modern shooting locations. RRTS's infrastructures boast international



design coupled with contemporary aesthetics and world-class facilities making them optimal choices for filmmakers aiming for visually captivating and versatile settings," the NCRTC said in a statement. It further said the architectural and design brilliance of RRTS stations and itate smooth airflow, adding Namo-Bharat trains makes both aesthetic charm and practhem exceptional choices for tical functionality. Meanwhile, film shooting. Drawing inspira-Namo-Bharat trains represent tion from the vibrant hues of the the epitome of modernity, boast-

tones, extending this captivating palette to their exterior facades. These stations offer well-lit and airy spaces, suffused with natural light.Further enhancing their visual appeal, beige perforated panels and louvres facil-

ing sleek designs and an array of passenger-centric amenities. With their aerodynamic profiles designed to minimize air drag at high speeds, these trains provide wide gangways, tinted panoramic windows, and an impeccably seamless travel experience, making them optimal settings for cinematic storytelling," it said. According to policy, NCRTC/ RRTS premises can also be rented for event purposes other than shooting. If Namo Bharat Trains are required during night hours (Non-revenue Hour) then booking of events can also be considered.

Filmmakers now have an inviting opportunity to tap into the futuristic appeal of RRTS Stations and Namo-Bharat Trains, elevating the visual narratives of their cinematic endeavors on par with global standards at competent charges. The 82 km-long Delhi-Ghazia-bad-Meerut RRTS Corridor stands as India's pioneering RRTS corridor to be implemented in the country. This corridor will encompass 25 stations, inclusive of two depot stations. Additionally, local transit services are slated to be offered on the RRTS network in Meerut, covering 13 stations within a span of 23 km to cater to local transit needs. On October 20, 2023, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi inau

gurated India's first RRTS and lagged off the Namo Bharat train. With this, the 17-kilometer-long priority section between Sahibabad and Duhai Depot was operationalized for the public. The 25 km stretch between Duhai and Meerut South RRTS station is the next section of the RRTS corridor set to be operationalized for the public after the priority Section. This section encompasses a total of 4 stations: Murad Nagar, Modi Nagar North, Modi Nagar South, and Meerut South. Trial runs on this section are ongoing.

Navy to track down pirates after foiling hijack bid in Arabian sea

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

aving thwarted hijacking of a merchant vessel and rescuing all 21 crew, including 15 Indians, the Indian naval forces on Saturday were investigating suspected vessels in the North Arabian Sea to track down the pirates involved in the incident.

Around five to six pirates hijacked Liberian flagged vessel MV Lila Norfolk on Thursday 300 nautical miles east of Somalia. It was sailing from Port Du Aco (Brazil) and was bound for Khalifa Bin Salman in Bahrain.

The Indian Navy deployed its destroyer INS Chennai following the incident and a Navy aircraft constantly tracked the

hijacked ship. The Indian warship intercepted the vessel in the North Arabian Sea at about 3.15 pm on Friday and asked the pirates to abandon the vessel. Later, Marine

commandos(MARCOS)boarded the ship and sanitized it besides evacuating all the crew Crew of the bulk carrier is now

engaged in restoring the propulsion system, power supply and steering gear of the platform, the Navy said on Saturday. "Thereafter, MV Lila Norfolk will recommence her passage to her destination under escort of the Indian naval warship," it said.

The Navy deployed a warship, maritime patrol aircraft P-8I, helicopters and and MQ9B

Predator drones to assist the vessel, MV Lila Norfolk, after it sent a message on the UK Maritime Trade Operations portal, saying unknown armed personnel had boarded it on Thursday evening

The Navy came out with a statement detailing its response to the hijacking attempt.

In a video shared by the Navy, three Indian crew members of the bulk carrier thanked the force for rescuing them. "I am proud of Indian Navy," said one of them.

of them.

The Navy said it swiftly responded to the hijacking incident by deploying considerable strength of assets, both ships and aircraft, with an aggressive intent to counter the attack by pirates.

"INS Chennai guided missile



destroyer arrived at the scene of action by 1515 hours. Continuous aerial recce of MV Lila Norfolk was undertaken by MO9B (Sea Guardian drone), rol (maritime patrol aircraft)and integral helicopters," it said in the statement. It said subsequently, the Indian Navy Marine Commandos boarded MV Lila Norfolk and undertook thorough sanitisation of the upper decks, machinery compartments and

living spaces/ 'The team did not find any pirates onboard. Forceful warnings by the Indian Naval aircraft to the vessel and likely interception by the Indian Navy warship, probably compelled the pirates to escape during the night hours," the Navy said.
"All 21 crew of MV Lila Norfolk

have been rescued and are safe. Indian Naval forces are investigating the suspected vessels in

the area," it said. "Presently, the crew of MV is engaged in restoring propulsion, power supply and steering gear," it said.

This is among a series of such maritime incidents witnessed in the strategic waters over the last few weeks. Liberian-flagged vessel MV Chem Pluto, with 21 Indian crew members, was the target of a drone attack off India's west coast on December

Besides MV Chem Pluto, another commercial oil tanker that was on the way to India came under a suspected drone strike in the Southern Red Sea on the same day. The vessel had a crew of 25 Indians.

350 NCC cadets joined Navy as Agniveers in last one year: Chief Admiral R Hari

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar on Saturday here praised the National Cadet Corps (NCC) and said about 350 NCC cadets have joined the Navy as Agniveers over the last year. He also said the NCC has consistently produced dedicated and determined bravehearts who "excel in the service of Bharat?

Addressing the cadets at the ongoing NCC Republic Day Camp, he also said that "a large number of women cadets" have joined the Navy as women Agniveers. They are enrolled under the Agnipath scheme introduced by the government in 2022.

Admiral Kumar, in his address, praised the legacy of the NCC and the values it ingrains among cadets. "Many of our finest officers and sailors started their journey as NCC cadets. So, over the last one year, about 350 NCC cadets have joined the Navy as Agniveers. We are looking forward to many more of them joining in the coming years," he

A large number of women cadets have joined as women Agniveers, the Navy chief said, adding the force looks forward to even more of them joining the Navy in the years to come, "taking forward the glorious

निविदा प्रपत्र की अन्य Key Dates यथावत रहेंगी।

SSA-12018/6/2023-MIS/I/397656/2024

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PUBLIC NOTICE



your duty and doing it well with distinction." Director General of the NCC, Lt General Gurbirpal Singh was present on the occasion.

He had told reporters on January three that the NCC cadets get "bonus marks" for the Agnipath scheme.

A total of 2,274 cadets will take part in the NCC Republic Day Camp 2024 here, which will see enhanced participation of girl cadets, Singh had said.

In his address, the Navy chief said, "It requires a lot of courage, determination, and sacrifice to spend time from your school or college days to be a part of the NCC, and contribute to the national ser-

While it gives them much in terms of building their character and personality, it also strengthens the patriotic fervour among the youth of the country, he said.

The NĆC R-Day Camp which "captures the essence of India", was inaugurated by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday and it will culminate on January 28 with Prime traditions of the NCC of doing Minister Narendra Modi's rally.

कार्यपालन यंत्री-08

Sd/- Mission Director,

Samagra Shiksha Axom

Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

PUBLIC NOTICE

कार्यालय, भोपाल विकास प्राधिकरण भोपाल

क्रमांक 1017/का.यं.-8/ई निविदा/भोविप्रा/24 भोपाल दिनांक 05.01.2024

निविदा संशोधन सूचना

8/ई निविदा/भोविप्रा/23 दिनांक 28.12.2023 के माध्यम से जारी निविदाओं के निविद

प्रपत्र क्रय का संशोधित दिनांक 08.01.2024, समय शाम 11:30 बजे रहेगा

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axom.

Interested bidder may visit GeM portal and submit

Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites bids through

GeM portavide : GEM/2024/B/4433903 Dated : 04-

01-2024 for supply and installation of hardware (IT

their bid in GeM portal accordingly. The bid is also

Equipment) for Digital Library in PM SHRI Schools.

available in SSA website : https://ssa.assam.gov.in

भोपाल विकास प्राधिकरण, भोपाल द्वारा ई-निविदा सूचना क्रमांक 1014/का.यं.

Centre notifies new guidelines for drugs recall

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Tn a bid to make the pharma ↓industry accountable and ensure quality drugs, the Union Health Ministry has notified the Revised Schedule M guidelines under which pharmaceutical firms will have to intimate the licensing authority about recalling a drug and also report product defects, deterioration or faulty production.

Till now there was no provision for informing the licensing authority about drug

The move comes in the wake of complaints of sub-standard Indian drugs and deaths abroad in the recent past. In fact, data available from the Central Drugs Standard Õrganisation Control (CDSCO) report based on testing of samples in various states across the country had found that at least 6 per cent of cough syrup samples belonging to 54 Indian pharmaceutical manufacturers failed the mandatory quality test for export till October

The notification aims to tighten the noose around the pharma companies as Schedule M part of Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 deals with 'Good Manufacturing Practices' to be followed by pharmaceutical manufacturing units in the country. The new guidelines issued

on December 28 state the manufacturer must be responsible for the quality of the products so that "they are fit for their intended use, comply with the requirements of the licence and do not place patients at risk due to inadequate safety, quality or effica-

The amended guidelines stress the need for stability testing of drug substances in accordance with recommended climate conditions with an aim to upgrade MSMEs at par with global standards, especially to those of WHO, and ensure production of globally acceptable quality of drug.



It also specifies that release of the finished product is conditional upon satisfactory results of these tests.

The licensing authorities shall be informed if a manufacturer is considering action following the faulty manufacture, product deterioration, a suspect product or any other serious quality problems with a product," as per the guide-

Besides, the licensee shall have a pharmacovigilance system in place for collecting, processing and forwarding the reports to the licensing authorities for information on the adverse drug reactions emerging from the use of drugs manufactured or marketed by the licensee. In order to have smooth tran-

sition from the present Schedule M to revised Schedule M, it has been decided to provide a transition period of six and 12 months for large manufacturers (over Rs 250 crore turnover) and MSMEs (less than Rs 250 crore turnover), respectively.

There are around 10,500 manufacturing units in the country out of which around 8,500 fall under the MSME (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) category. India is a major exporter of medicines to low/middle-income countries (LMICs) which require WHO GMP certification, an official

'We have around 2,000 units in the MSME category in the country having WHO GMP certification," he stated. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation

(CDSCO) has inspected 254 manufacturing units and 112 public testing labs in the last few months.

Major issues found during RBI inspections are poor documentation, lack of process and analytical validations, absence of self-assessment absence of quality failure investigation, absence of internal product quality review, absence of testing of incoming raw material and faulty design of manufacturing and testing areas etc, the official said.

Based on the above factors and to keep pace with fast changing pharmaceutical manufacturing and quality domain, there was a necessity to revisit and revise the principles and concept of GMP mentioned in current Schedule M. This would bring our GMP recommendations and compliance expectations at par with global standards, specially to those of WHO, and ensure production of globally acceptable quality of drug," the official said.

Robotics suit to enhance **Parkinson's** patients mobility

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

▼n what could be called a significant advancement in the field of medical technology, researchers have developed a robotic suit that has shown effectiveness in helping people with Parkinson's disease to move around more

The innovation, developed at Harvard and Boston universities, takes aim at "freezing" a common and highly debilitating symptom of the disorder, which sufferers say makes it feel like their feet are glued to the ground.

The wearable device, which is worn around the hips and thighs, gently pushes the wearer forward as the leg swings, resulting in a longer stride. This assistance has completely eliminated freezing in trials conducted indoors, substantially enhancing mobility. Parkinson's disease affects more than nine million people globally, with freezing being one of its most

challenging symptoms. This condition leads to people suddenly being unable to move their feet, often in midstride, resulting in staccato, stuttering steps that progressively shorten until move-

ment ceases. Traditional treatments, including pharmacological, surgical or behavioural ther-

tiveness. 'We found that just a small

amount of mechanical assistance from our soft robotic apparel delivered instantaneous effects and consistently improved walking across a range of conditions for the individual in our study," said Conor Walsh of Harvard University, who led the study. The team of researchers from Harvard's John A Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (Seas) and Boston University's Sargent College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences worked for six months with a 73-year-old Parkinson's patient who, despite undergoing surgery and pharmacological treatments, experienced frequent and debilitating

freezing episodes.

Provide Ayushman Bharat beneficiaries free medicines, says Parliament Panel

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

oming to the rescue of Colling to the rescue of several patients needing long term treatment in the chronic diseases such as cancer and kidney ailments, a Committee has asked the Government to consider providing medicines free of cost to all such beneficiaries of the Central health flagship, Ayushman Bharat — Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).

The observation follows the committee's interaction with the beneficiaries of Avushman Bharat when it noted that even if the patients were insured, they were bearing the high indirect cost that at times went beyond their abil-

ity to pay.
"To address the financial burden on poor patients and to achieve the objective of PMJAY, the Government needs to cover their indirect financial loss for a poor patient," said the panel. It has also recommended the

Government to tap the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding from the private sector to cater to the treatments which may cost more than ₹5 lakh limit of the scheme, in certain

The report observed that the cost of medicines, particularly in cases of diseases like can-



cer where long-term treatment is required, is a matter of concern.

"The Government should consider providing medicines free of cost to all the beneficiaries across the states through the PMJAY scheme," said the committee, while commending on support to the patients on their indirect cost and expenditure beyond the ₹5 lakh cover offered by PMJAY.

The committee also noted that some of the complex and high-end surgeries or chronic treatment cost more than the sum of ₹5 lakhs covered under the PMJAY. Also, some of the costly pro-

cedures and surgeries are not covered under the scheme. The panel also found that to address such issues, some of the hospitals have set an example by successfully attracting CSR funds and prifunds to bear the expenditure of beneficiaries for the cost of treatment over and above the insured sum of ₹5 lakhs.

The Government also needs to implement such practices across the country to make PMJAY more and more effective and beneficial for the poor sections of the society, it said. Also, there is a need to expand the treatment procedures covered under the PMJAY.

The Committee has come to know that some costly procedures and serious diseases are not included in the PMJAY. Further, the OPD expenses are not covered by the scheme and are considered only in the case of inpatients. "The Committee recommends that the coverage of procedures and surgeries under PMJAY needs to be increased. Further, the Committee suggests that the rates under the health benefit packages (HBP) of PMJAY must be revised frequently and kept updated vis-à-vis the present market rates," said the report tabled in Parliament in the recently concluded session.

India sees spike of 774 Covid cases in 24 hours

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

India has recorded a single-day rise of 774 Covid-19 cases while the number of the Union Health Ministry said on Saturday. Two deaths -- one each from Tamil Nadu and Gujarat -- were reported in a span of 24 hours, according to the Ministry's data updated at 8 am.

The number of daily cases was in double digits till December 5 but it began to rise again amid cold weather conditions and after the

emergence of a new COVID-19 variant, IN.1. Amid a steady rise in Covid-19 cases in India, global experts have warned that its latest variant IN.1 from the lineage of Omicron represents a 'very serious evolution' of Covid-19 virus.

After the major variants of COVID-19 like Alpha, Delta and Omicron, JN.1 very likely represents a new chapter in pandemic evolution, claimed the experts. a biology professor at the University of Guelph in Canada, JN.1 has ushered in "a new era". The highly transmissible vari-

ant is "on track to become the lineage from which most variants

are descended for the foreseeable future", Gregory was quoted as saying to Fortune. Maria Kerkhove.

COVID-19 technical lead said that the next sub-lineages of the Covid virus can "come from JN.1". "But we could also see something quite different. We

could see something like an

Omicron again," she warned.

WHO's

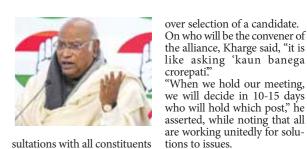
INDIA Bloc to decide in 10-15 days on allocation of posts: Kharge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday said leaders of INDIA parties would take a decision within 10-15 days on allocation of posts in the Opposition bloc, remarks that come amid speculation that the alliance could pick a convener ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

Addressing a press conference, he also said that all other matters including seat-sharing of the INDIA bloc would be resolved soon, with party sources indicating that this is likely to be concluded by the month-end.

Kharge said the Congress is working on all the 545 Lok Sabha constituencies and has appointed observers for all the seats, but which party will contest which seat and how many will be decided soon after con-



of the opposition alliance. Asked on how many seats the

party would contest, he said, "We have already finalised parliamentary observers for all the constituencies... We will go and assess in each Parliamentary constituency." "Ultimately, when INDIA alliance is there and negotiations are held in each state, the exact number will come out. But, we are trying to put in our

agreement among the partners

efforts everywhere," he said. The parliamentary observers will also step in if there is dis-

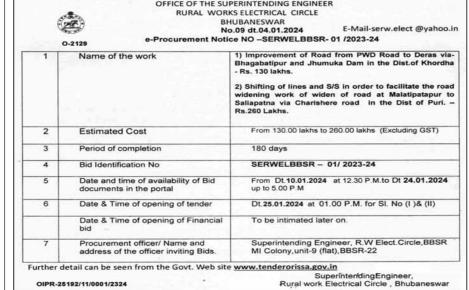
On seat-sharing talks, he said the Congress has already constituted a committee and its members are working, whose convener is Mukul Wasnik and Ashok Gehlot and Bhupesh Baghel are members. "Already our people are (doing

that)... They are doing their best and we had one meeting already at my residence. They are meeting every two days, on alternate days, to finalise what is to be done and where we have to demand seats. They are doing the formalities," Kharge

PUBLIC NOTICE Ny client Smt. Meeun Gupta W/o Pawan Kumar is the owner of properly bearing no. 706, area measuring 95 sq. yds. out of khasra no. 2383/1849/69 and 8760/2383/1849/691 stutated in the area of Village Arkardroom ai Int Abadd/Locality of Block no. 31, Visitwas Nagar, Shahdrara Delni-10032 vide registered sale deed executed by Sh. Pawan Kumar Gupta Sy/o Sh. D.P. Gupta in favour of Smt. Meene Gupta W/o Pawan Kumar as Doc. no. 1415 dated 22.05.1983, SR. Delhi. This above-mentioned property is under mortage with W/O Pawan Numira s boc. no. 1.41 to dated 22.09.1399. N Delhi. This above-mentioned property is under motages with PNB Bank, Krishna Nagar, Branch. Original Previous Chain Document of this property is, ePA executed by Sh. Narender Kumar Jain S/o Sh. Pal Jain in favour of Sh. Pawan Kumar Gupta S/o Sh. De Gupta and earlier chain documents have been lost and in this regard NCR no. IR no.1316289/0204 dated 0.60.1.0204 has been registered. If any person/bank/financial institution having any claim/right, Ilean, any objection whatsoever in regard to above property, should notified to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713. Kariardomar Gouth Jebhi-110092 alone with decometator PUBLIC NOTICE It is publically notified that the Flat No. G-906, 9th Floor. Tower-G, Amrapali Zodiac, Plot No. G-1003, 6th-03, Sector-120, Noida has been Sub allotted in the name of (1) Mr. Ram Prakash Son of Mr. Purushottam Singh and (2) Mrs. Jaya Singh Daughter Mr. Ram Pratap Singh Both are Resident of Flat No. 2604, Tower-3, Imperial Court, Jaypee Wish Town, Sector-128, Noida, had sold the said flat, on the basis of SPA to the following persons: A SPA was executed in favour of Mr. Om Prakash Son Of Mr. Purushottam Singh Resident of Flat No. 2604, Tower-3, Imperial Court, Jaypee Wish Town, Sector-128, Noida, SPA Executed at Atlanta 05-10-2022, Auly stamping at AlG G.B. Nagar U.P. Challan Sr. No. K700043 at dated 13-10-2022, Agreement to sell was not registered So with the help of the notice it is informed the transfer of the above flat goes in favour of (1) Mrs. Rinku Anand Saxena Wife of Amit Saxena and (2) Mr. Amit Saxena Son of Mr. A.K Saxena Resident of Flat No. 166-D, Pocket-1, Mayur Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi, if One/above partners has have any objection he/sne may submit his her. objection in the Group Housing Department of Noida Authority along-with sufficient proofs within 30 days of the publication this notice. Om Prakash PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given to the public at large, or behalf of our client, Mrs. Sita Devi alias Sita Dev Shukla Who-Mr. Vinod Kumar Shukla Rio 3 G 141, NH-3, N.I.T, Faridabad, Tehsil Badkhal, Dist Faridabad. (Mortgagor"), that the Schedulec Property purchase irrom Tehsildar Faridabad le/she was the owner vide Sale Certificate date 3.12.2019 Documents No. 7194, Book No.

Schedule of Property
Freehold Property No. 3G-181, area measurin
141.66 sq. yds., Situated at NH-3, N. I. T
Faridabad, Tehsil Badkhal, Distt. Faridabad Haryana, hereinafter referred to as "sai Sachin Maheshwari & Associates (SMA)

District Court Saket & High Court, New Delh 011-69653588. Mob.-9911380328



UN humanitarian chief calls Gaza 'uninhabitable'

AP UNITED NATIONS

⊣he UN humanitarian chief described Gaza on Friday as "uninhabitable" three months into Israel's war with Hamas, warning that famine was looming and a public health disaster unfold-

In a grim assessment of the devastating impact of Israel's military response to the horrific Hamas attacks on October 7, Martin Griffiths said that Gaza's 2.3 million people face "daily threats to their very existence' while the world just watches.

He said tens of thousands of people, mostly women and children, have been killed or injured, families are sleeping in the open as temperatures plummet, and areas where Palestinians were told to relocate have been bombed

"People are facing the highest levels of food insecurity ever recorded (and) famine is around the corner," Griffiths said. The few partially functioning hospitals are over-whelmed and critically short of supplies, medical facilities are under relentless attack, infectious diseases are spreading, and amidst the chaos some 180 Palestinian women are giving birth every day.

"Gaza has simply become uninhabitable," the UN undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs said

He said the humanitarian community is facing an "impossible mission" - trying to help more than two million people while UN staff and aid workers from partner organisations are killed, communica-

tions blackouts continue, roads are damaged, truck convoys are shot at, and vital commercial supplies "are almost non-exis-

Griffiths reiterated UN demands for an immediate end to the war and the release of all hostages, declaring that "It is time for the international community to use all its influence to make this happen."

The October 7 attack into southern Israel by Hamas, which controls Gaza, killed around 1,200 people, and its fighters and other militants took some 250 people hostage. More than 120 remain in cap-

Ísrael's air, ground and sea assault in Gaza, aimed at obliterating Hamas, has killed more than 22,400 people, two-thirds of them women and children,

according to the Health Ministry in the Hamas-ruled territory. The count does not differentiate between civilians and combatants.

The three-month conflict has displaced some 85% of Gaza's residents, and the United Nations has identified more than 37,000 structures destroyed or damaged in the war so far.

The UN children's agency UNICEF said Friday that most young children and pregnant women aren't getting enough nutrition, with fewer than 200 aid trucks entering Gaza every day - less than half the prewar level - and distribution ham-

pered by the fighting.

A survey by UNICEF found that 90% of children under the age of two are eating two or fewer of the five essen-

mainly bread or milk. A quarter of pregnant women said they only eat one food group

per day.

UNICEF says cases of diarrhea among children under the age of five have risen from 48,000 to 71,000 — an indication of poor nutrition. Normally, only 2,000 cases of diarrhea are reported each month in the Gaza Strip.

Israel cut off food, clean water, medicine, electricity and fuel deliveries to Gaza immediately after the Hamas attack. In response to US pressure it allowed a trickle of aid in through Egypt in late October, and the number of trucks has increased from about 100 to up to 200 every day.

Israeli authorities have repeatedly said there is enough

they have taken the necessary steps to allow aid in, blaming

any shortages on UN bodies. But UN associate But UN associate spokesperson Stephanie Tremblay reiterated Friday that "the current response is only meeting a fraction of people's

She repeated what UN Secretary-General said last month: "İt's a mistake to quote the effectiveness of the humanitarian operation in Gaza based only on the number of trucks. An effective aid operation in Gaza requires security. It requires staff who can work in safety. It requires good logisti-cal capacity and the resumption of commercial activity."

Tremblay said until those requirements are met, Gazans will not receive enough aid.

pressed ahead with its threat to

attack Hamas officials on

normalised ties in 2022 by

reappointing ambassadors

following years of tensions.

But those ties quickly deteri-

orated after the Israel-Hamas

war, with Ankara becoming

one of the strongest critics of

Israel's military actions in

diplomats from Turkiye over

security concerns and later

announced it was recalling its

diplomats for political reasons,

citing "increasingly harsh state-

ments" from Turkish officials.

Turkiye also pulled out its ambassador from Israel.

Israel-Hamas war was initially

fairly muted. But the Turkish

leader has since intensified his

criticism of Israel, describing its

actions in Gaza as verging on

"genocide".

Erdogan's reaction to the

Israel initially withdrew its

Turkiye and Israel had

Turkish soil.

SC to decide if Trump be kept off 2024 ballot

AP WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court said Friday it will decide whether former President Donald Trump can be kept off the ballot because of his efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss, inserting the court square-ly in the 2024 presidential campaign.
The justices acknowledged

the need to reach a decision quickly, as voters will soon begin casting presidential primary ballots across the country. The court agreed to take up a case from Colorado stemming from Trump's role in the events that culminated in the January 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol.

Arguments will be held in

early February.

The court will be considering for the first time the meaning and reach of a provision of the 14th Amendment barring some people who "engaged in insurrection" from holding public office. The amendment was adopted in 1868, following the Civil War. It has been so rarely used that the nation's highest court had no previous occasion to interpret it.

Colorado's Supreme Court, by a 4-3 vote, ruled last month that Trump should not be on the Republican primary ballot. The decision was the first time the 14th Amendment was used to bar a presidential contender from the ballot.

Trump is separately appealing to state court a ruling by Maine's Democratic secretary of state, Shenna Bellows, that he was ineligible to appear on that state's ballot over his role in the Capitol attack. Both the Colorado Supreme Court and the Maine secretary of state's rulings are on hold until the appeals play out.

Three of the nine Supreme

Court justices were appointed by Trump, though they have repeatedly ruled against him in 2020 election-related lawsuits, as well as his efforts to keep documents related to January 6 and his tax returns from being turned over to congressional committees.

At the same time, Justices Amy Coney Barrett, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh have been in the majority of conservative-driven decisions that overturned the fivedecade-old constitutional right to abortion, expanded gun rights and struck down affirmative action in college admis-

Some Democratic lawmakers have called on another conservative justice, Clarence Thomas, to step aside from the case because of his wife's support for Trump's effort to over turn the results of the election, which he lost to Democrat Joe Biden. Thomas is unlikely to agree. He has recused himself from only one other case related to the 2020 election, involving former law clerk John Eastman, and so far the people trying to disqualify Trump haven't asked him to recuse.

The 4-3 Colorado decision cites a ruling by Gorsuch when he was a federal judge in that state. That Gorsuch decision upheld Colorado's move to strike a naturalized citizen from the state's presidential ballot because he was born in Guyana and didn't meet the constitutional requirements to run for office. The court found that Trump likewise doesn't meet the qualifications due to his role in the US Capitol attack on January 6, 2021. That day, the Republican president had held a rally outside the White House and exhorted his supporters to "fight like hell" before they

Blinken opens Mideast tour as fears grow of Gaza war spreading

AP ISTANBUL

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has kicked off his latest urgent Middle East diplomatic mission in Turkiye, as fears mount that Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza may explode into a broader conflict.

Blinken's fourth visit in three months comes amid worrying developments outside of Gaza, including in Lebanon, northern Israel, the Red Sea and Iraq, that have put intense strains on what had been a modestly successful US push to prevent a regional conflagration in the weeks after the war began, and growing international criticism of Israel's military operation.

Blinken was meeting on Saturday with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan to discuss what Turkive and others can do to exert influence, particularly on Iran and its proxies, to ease

Atrade group representing TikTok, Snapchat, Meta

and other major tech compa-

nies sued Ohio on Friday over

children to get parental consent

USD 86.1 billion state budget

DeWine signed into law in July.

It's set to take effect January 15.

The administration pushed the

measure as a way to protect

children's mental health, with

Republican Lt. Gov. Jon Husted

saying at the time that social

media was "intentionally addic-

filed its lawsuit against GOP

Attorney General Dave Yost in

US District Court for the

Southern District of Ohio. It

The NetChoice trade group

tive" and harmful to kids.

to use social media apps.

pending law that requires

The law was part of an

AP COLUMBUS

soaring tensions, speed up and its allies to patrol the area humanitarian aid deliveries to and respond to threats, includ-Gaza and begin in earnest to plan for reconstruction and governance of postwar Gaza. much of which has been reduced to rubble by three months of intense Israeli bombardments.

The immediate difficulty of Blinken's task was under-scored just hours before his talks with Erdogan as Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah militia fired dozens of rockets at northern Israel, warning that the barrage was just an initial response to the targeted killing, presumably by Israel, of a top leader from the allied Hamas group in Lebanon's capital earlier this

Meanwhile, stepped-up attacks on commercial ship-ping in the Red Sea by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels have disrupted international trade and led to increased efforts on the part of the US

Tech companies sue Ohio over law

limiting kids' use of social media

ing possibly taking direct action against the group at its bases in Yemen.

The Houthis have carried out at least two dozen attacks in response to the Israel Hamas war in Gaza just since December 19, which have further heightened tensions and raised risks for the global economy.

In Istanbul, US officials said Blinken would be seeking Turkish buy-in, or at least consideration, of potential monetary or in-kind contributions to reconstruction efforts and some form of participation in a proposed multi-national force that could operate in or adjacent to the territory.

Turkiye, and Erdogan in particular, have been harshly critical of Israel and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for the prosecution of the war and the impact it has had on Palestinian civilians.

15 suspects jailed in Turkiye on charges of spying for Israel

AP ISTANBUL

Acourt in Istanbul has ordered 15 of 34 people detained on suspicion of spy-ing for Israel be held in prison awaiting trial, Turkiye's justice minister said late Friday.

The suspects were arrested on Tuesday for allegedly planning to carry out activities that included "reconnaissance" and "pursuing, assaulting and kidnapping" foreign nationals living in Turkiye.

Justice Minister Yilmaz Tunc said in a social media post that 26 suspects were referred to the court on a charge of committing "political or military espionage" on behalf of Israeli intelligence. Eleven were released under judicial control conditions and eight were awaiting deportation.

Israel's foreign intelligence agency Mossad is said to have recruited Palestinians and Syrian nationals inside Turkiye as part of the operation against

foreigners living in Turkiye, of "serious consequences" if it state-run Anadolu news agency

The agency cited a prosecution document as saying the operation targeted "Palestinian nationals and their families ... within the scope of the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict".

One suspect allegedly collected information about Palestinian patients recently transferred to Turkiye for health care. Turkive has accepted dozens of Palestinian patients from Gaza since the start of the Israel-Hamas con-

The suspects were detained in raids on 57 addresses in Istanbul and seven other provinces. Weeks earlier, the head of Israel's domestic Shin Bet security agency said his organisation was prepared to target Hamas anywhere, including in Lebanon, Turkiye and Qatar.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned Israel

walked to the Capitol. PM Hasina poised to win another term in elections today

 $B_{\text{polls on Sunday in which} \atop \text{Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina} }$ straight term in the absence of the main Opposition BNP which on Saturday began a 48hour nationwide strike against the "illegal government" amidst sporadic violence.

A total of 119.6 million registered voters are eligible to vote at Sunday's polls in more than 42,000 polling stations, according to the country's Election Commission.

More than 1,500 candidates from 27 political parties are contesting in the election besides 436 independent can-

didates. foreign 100 Over observers, including three from India, will monitor the 12th general election, which is being

held under tight security. The election commission said voting will start at 8 am and will end at 5 pm. The results are expected to start flowing from early on January 8. Prime Minister Hasina's ruling Awami League is expected to win for a straight fourth time as the main Opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of former premier Khaleda Zia, 78, who is under house arrest as a convict of graft charges, boycotted the

Hasina, 76, in a nationally televised address this week has urged the pro-democratic and law-abiding parties not to fuel

ideas that "disrupt" the coun-

try's constitutional process. The BNP has called for a 48-hour nationwide general strike which began at 6 am and

The number of vehicles on the street is fewer compared to other days, but despite fear of arson attacks, public vehicles were plying the streets.

The 27 political parties

that are contesting the elections include the opposition Jatiya Party (JAPA). The rest are members of the ruling Awami League-led coalition, which experts dub as "satellite parties."

As part of its vote boycott campaign, BNP has been calling countrywide general strikes. The party has been claiming no election under the incumbent government would

be fair and credible. BNP spokesman Ruhul Kabir Rizvi announced the strike, saying it was aimed to press for their demands for "resignation of the illegal government, establishment of a non-party neutral government and release of all party leaders

and activists from prison". Ahead of the elections, Hasina's government arrested tens of thousands of rival politicians and supporters, a move which rights groups have condemned as an attempt to paralyse the Opposition.

Prime Minister Hasina said the Awami League, whenever it came to power, ensured the economic and social develop-ment of the people of the country.

Alaska Airlines grounds 737-9 aircraft after midair window

plane landed.

AP ■ PORTLAND (US)

laska Airlines grounded all And All lines grounded and of its Boeing 737-9 aircraft late Friday, hours after a window and forced an emergency land-

ing force in the constitutional

The litigation argues that

obtain a parent's permission for children under 16 to sign up for social media and gaming apps free speech and is overbroad and vague.

their child's profile.

the organisation's litigation

centre, said in a statement. will fight to ensure all Ohioans can embrace digital tools with-

companies are determined to go around parents to expose children to harmful content and addict them to their platforms," Husted said in a state-

know their algorithms are harming children "with catastrophic health and mental



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak (centre) meets members of the public during a visit to Altrincham Market in Greater

Parties demand Pak polls be held on schedule

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

All major political parties in Pakistan, shocked by a controversial resolution passed by the Senate to delay the general elections scheduled for February 8 have displayed rare unity in demanding no change in the schedule of the polls. The stand from political parties from across the political spectrum followed a non-binding resolution passed by the upper house on Friday when only about 14 senators out of over 100 members were attending the session. The move resulted in an outcry that the national and provincial elections to be held on February 8 should not be delayed.

The resolution, tabled by independent Senator Dilawar Khan, cited harsh cold weather and security concerns in many areas across the country which he said could result in less participation in elections.

The Dawn newspaper reported on Saturday that demanding that the Supreme Court (SC) take immediate notice of the resolution passed by the Senate, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Barrister Gohar Khan said: "A resolution of 14 senators based on their personal opinions, has no legal or bindprocess of holding general elec-

Rishi Sunak was not entirely convinced about sendcountry and wanted to limit the numbers initially.

ing illegal migrants to Rwanda while their asylum claims were assessed during his time as chancellor, a UK media report claimed on Saturday. The 43-year-old British

Indian leader, who has been championing the scheme as Prime Minister, had significant doubts over the policy when he was finance minister in former boss Boris Johnson's Cabinet, the BBC report says based on papers it has seen from two years ago. The documents suggest

the cost of sending asylum seekers to the East African

scheme as a deterrent. "As chancellor, it was his

job to make sure it delivered and taxpayers' money was Sunak, who took charge at 10 Downing Street in

when the Rwanda policy was first announced in April 2022. The deal with Rwanda Sunak was concerned about has since been caught up in

gers and six crew members.

on Flight 1282, we have decid-

ed to take the precautionary step

of temporarily grounding our fleet of 65 Boeing 737-9 aircraft,"

Alaska Airlines CEO Ben

Each of the aircraft will be

Minicucci said in a statement.

returned to service after full

maintenance and safety inspec-

tions, which Minicucci said the

airline anticipated completing

"Following tonight's event

legal challenges and no asylum seekers have been sent from the UK so far. However, Sunak has

stressed that the scheme is a across the English Channel.

Johnson was trying to persuade Sunak – his chancellor

within days

the possible cause.

ed at 5:26 p.m.

- to sign off on more funding for the plan, the report

This was shortly before the agreement with the Rwandan government to process migrants in the African country was signed.

"They suggest Mr Sunak was concerned about the cost of sending asylum seekers to 5,000 in years two and three," according to the BBC report.

ing made by the website LiveATC.net. when they are available. The Federal Aviation Administration A passenger sent KATU-TV

also said it would investigate. in Portland a photo showing the The Boeing 737-9 MAX hole in the side of the airplane involved in the incident rolled next to passenger seats. Video off the assembly line and shared with the station showed received its certification just people wearing oxygen masks two months ago, according to online FAA records. and passengers clapping as the

The plane had been on 145 National flights since entering commer-Transportation Safety Board cial service on Nov. 11, said FlightRadar24, another tracking said in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter, that it was service. The flight from Portland investigating an event on the flight and would post updates was the aircraft's third of the day. Boeing said it was aware of

the incident, working to gather more information and ready to support the investigation.

The Max is the newest version of Boeing's venerable 737, a twin-engine, single-aisle plane frequently used on U.S. domestic flights. The plane went into service in May 2017.

Two Max 8 jets crashed in 2018 and 2019, killing 346 people and leading to a near twoyear worldwide grounding of all Max 8 and Max 9 planes. The planes returned to service only after Boeing made changes to an

implicated in the crashes. Last year, the FAA told pilots to limit use of an anti-ice system on the Max in dry con-

automated flight control system

ditions because of concern that

inlets around the engines could overheat and break away, possibly striking the plane. Max deliveries have been

interrupted at times to fix manufacturing flaws. The company told airlines in December to inspect the planes for a possible loose bolt in the rudder-control

Airport. The airline said the plane landed safely with 174 passen-

and piece of fuselage on one such plane blew out in midair ing in Portland, Oregon.

The incident occurred shortly after takeoff and the gaping hole caused the cabin to pressurize. Flight data showed the plane climbed to 16,000 feet (4,876 meters) before returning to Portland International

seeks to block the law from tak-

Ohio's law — which requires social media companies to — unconstitutionally impedes

media companies to provide parents with their privacy guidelines, so that families can know what content will be censored or moderated on

'We at NetChoice believe families equipped with educational resources are capable of determining the best approach to online services and privacy protections for themselves," Chris Marchese, director of

With NetChoice v. Yost, we rights being thwarted."

not unexpected.

in California and Arkansas.

"In filing this lawsuit, these

He alleged the companies

technology initiatives and Friday's lawsuit "cowardly but

out their privacy, security and The group has won lawsuits against similar restrictions

Husted, who leads Ohio's

health outcomes.

'Sunak had doubts over Rwanda scheme as Chancellor'

A source close to Sunak told the BBC: "The Prime Minister was always fully behind the principle of the

appropriately spent. October 2022, was the UK's Chancellor of the Exchequer in No. 11 Downing Street

key pillar of his strategy to tackle illegal migration to the UK and will also act as a deterrent to the thousands landing on the country's shores after making treacherous journeys in small boats

Now, the BBC's revelations indicate he was not entirely behind the scheme when it was first mooted. The No. 10 documents were prepared in March 2022 as former prime minister Boris

The airline provided no

The plane was diverted

immediate information about

whether anyone was injured or

about about six minutes after

taking off at 5:07 p.m., accord-

ing to flight tracking data from

the Flight Aware website. It land-

traffic controllers the plane had

an emergency, was depressur-

ized and needed to return to the

airport, according to a record-

The pilot told Portland air

the African country, and wanted to limit the numbers initially. They say, the 'chancellor wants to pursue smaller volumes initially, 500 instead of 1,500' in the first year, and '3,000 instead of

first hurdle in the House of Commons last month. However, with around 38 MPs of Sunak's own Conservative Party recorded

work," it adds.

view between No. 10 and 1

Downing Street on the effec-

tiveness of the proposed

scheme saying the chancellor believes the 'deterrent won't

of Rwanda Bill is now going

through its parliamentary

process after it cleared the

The controversial Safety

as not taking part in the vote, it is widely expected that the issue will reignite the deep Tory divisions over the policy as it progresses through further stages in the

"The documents describe significant difference of coming weeks.

Goyal remains optimistic about \$ 2 trillion export target

rnion Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday expressed optimism that the country will meet its ambitious USD 2 trillion export target by 2030, notwithstanding geopolitical headwinds and inflationary concerns.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Patsan Bhavan, which houses the Jute Commissioner's office and headquarters of Jute Corporation of India and National Jute Board, in New Town, Kolkata, Goyal acknowledged the challenging global

He cited the Ukraine war, the Israel conflict and issues related to the Red Sea as factors impacting trade.

"To address low food grain production and curb domestic inflation, we have implemented restrictions. However, despite all these challenges, India's exports will continue to



Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Textiles Piyush Goyal with BJP MP Locket Chatteriee during the inauguration of 'Patsan Bhawan', in Kolkata

grow, aiming at reaching USD 2 trillion by 2030 from the current USD 770-775 billion," Goval said

He highlighted the potential of the jute industry, stating that with "contribution from the jute sector and concerted efforts from the Centre and state governments, we can achieve new heights".

India currently exports around Rs 1,500 crore worth of jute. Goyal, who also holds the portfolios of textiles and consumer affairs, food and public distribution, urged industry players to increase the figure. He also asked the jute sector to showcase products at the upcoming Bharat Tex 2024, the world's biggest-ever textiles event, to be organised from February 26-29 in New Delhi. Goyal also highlighted the achievements of the central government and appealed to the people of West Bengal for their support in the upcoming general elections.

Red Sea crisis may push shipping cost by up to 60 per cent: GTRI

The increasing Red Sea crisis may impact trade as it is expected to push shipping costs by up to 60 per cent and insurance premium by 20 per cent, a report by economic think tank GTRI said on Saturday. This conflict could also result

in increased shipping costs (40-60 per cent) and delays due to rerouting (up to 20 days more), higher insurance premiums (15-20 per cent), and potential cargo loss from piracy and attacks.

The situation around the Babel-Mandeb Strait, a crucial shipping route connecting the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean, has escalated due to recent attacks by Yemen-based Houthi militants. Due to these attacks, the shippers are taking consignments through the Cape of Good Hope, resulting in delays of about 20 days.

The Houthi conflict's disruption of the Red Sea shipping lanes significantly impacts



Indian trade, especially with the Middle East, Africa, and Europe, the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said. It said that India, heavily reliant on the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait for crude oil and LNG imports and trade with key regions, faces substantial economic and security risks from any disruption in this area.

For overall merchandise trade with Europe and North Africa, about 50 per cent of imports and 60 per cent of exports, totalling USD 113 billion, might have used this route, it

It added that the conflict has

necessitated India to consider alternative routes, such as the longer Cape of Good Hope, which could lead to increased

energy costs. India might look to diversify its sources of crude oil and LNG, and explore alternative trade routes to reduce dependency on the conflict-prone Red Sea passage, it said.

"This conflict could also result in increased shipping costs (40-60 per cent) and delays due to rerouting (up to 20 days more), higher insurance premiums (15-20 per cent), and potential cargo loss from piracy and attacks," it said.

While India is implementing measures to ensure the safety of its ships in the Red Sea, the effectiveness may be limited as most Indian cargo is carried by global shipping firms, the report added.

"India must brace for an extended period of shipping disruptions in the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait. This requires a strategic blend of diplomatic, economic, and humanitarian measures to safeguard its interests. The situation demands a nuanced approach, balancing immediate needs with longterm geopolitical and economic considerations," GTRI Co-Founder Ajay Srivastava said. He suggested steps such as diversifying crude oil imports from regions like West Africa, the Americas, and the mediterranean; relying on ports outside conflict zones, like Oman and Djibouti, for transshipment and regional trade; and offering financial support and insurance schemes to Indian companies affected by trade disrup-



Textile mill associations urge Government for financial support

This situation has pushed many

spinning mills, particularly SMEs, into severe financial

stress, rendering them unable

to service debts and meet

In light of these challenges, the

textile mill associations have

urged the finance minister to

advise the banking sector to

extend financial support mea-

sures to the industry as a spe-

cial case, and extend the one-

year moratorium for repay-

ment of the principal amount

converting three-year loans

under EČLGS into six-year

term loans and extend neces-

sary financial assistance to mit-

igate the stress on working cap-

"We appeal to the FM to con-

sider our pleas favourably to

mitigate the unforeseen crisis

plaguing the spinning sector,

prevent job losses to several

lakh people, sustain the market

share, and achieve the envis-

Confederation of Indian Textile

Industry (CITI) Chairman

Rakesh Mehra added.

export targets,"

standing charges, it stated.

Textile mills associations have urged the government for financial relief to help them tide over the ongoing crisis owing to the slowdown in exports, along with quality control issues.

În an appeal to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday, the textile mill associations said the industry is going through acute financial stress, due to slowdown in exports — especially in the cotton-based segment - following external factors such as the prolonged Ukraine-Russia conflict and the recent Israel-

The prolonged economic impact of global conflicts, coupled with challenges like an 11 per cent import duty on cotton and issues related to Man-Made Fibre (MMF) Quality Control Orders, has led to a significant drop in capacity utilisation, ranging from 50 per cent to 70 per cent, for almost a year, the statement said.

Elevar, others PTI MUMBAI TureBay, a startup focused on solving primary healthcare in remote locations, has

raised Rs 62 crore in a series-A funding round led by Elevar Equity, existing investor as well as its founders and leadership team members. The fund will enable the health-tech innovator to continue creating access to high quality and affordable health-care in under-served locations,

CureBay raises

₹62 crore from

build an intelligent and robust health data platform and also to hire over 200 professionals including data scientists, healthcare experts, the startup said in a statement on Saturday. CureBay is also planning to expand its count of clinics from the existing 90 to over 200 across Odisha, Chhattisgarh and also enter Iharkhand, said its founder and chief executive Priyadarshi Mohapatra.

Jyotsna Krishnan, managing partner at Elevar Equity, said, rural households aspire to have affordable access to healthcare services. CureBay's blended distribution model, augmented with technology, is wellpositioned to address this gap in medically under-served locations are eager to pay for

timely, quality healthcare. Founded in 2021, CureBay has connected over 100,000 patients in under-served areas with healthcare providers through its tech-based model. Currently it has over 90 clinics, covering close to 32,000 villages in Odisha and Chhattisgarh.

E-way bill generation without | Digital identity B2B e-invoice details to be blocked from March 1

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $B_{above\,Rs\,5\,crore\,will\,not\,be}^{usinesses\ with\ turnover}$ able to generate e-way bill without including e-invoice details for all B2B transaction from March 1.

Under the goods and services tax regime, e-way bills are required for inter-state transportation of goods valued over Rs 50,000.

The National Informatics Centre (NIC) said on analysis it was found that some of the taxpayers, who are eligible for e-invoicing, are generating e-way bills without linking with e-invoice for B2B (business to business) and B2E (business to exports) transac-

In some of these cases, the invoice details entered separately under e-way bill and einvoice are not matching with respect to the certain parameters. This is leading in mis-match in the e-way bill and einvoice statements.

... to avoid such situations, e way bill generation will not be allowed without e-invoice details from 1st March 2024. This is applicable for e-invoice enabled tax payers and for the transactions related to supplies under B2B and exports, the NIC informed GST taxpay-

However, e-way bills for other transactions such as B2C and non-supplies will function as usual without any change, the

cards issued

PNS NEW DELHI

 B^{LS} International Services Limited, a globally recognised leader in providing administrative and consular services, has played a pivotal role in the successful implementation of Estonia's e-residency digital identity card programme since April 2021. As per the figures shared by Kaarel Kallas spokesperson of Police and Border Guard, Estonia "Over the course of two years, approximately 1,300 e-resident digital identity cards have been issued through BLS".

The Estonian Police and Border Guard Board (PPA) has consistently monitored and verified BLS International's adherence to the stringent process requirements of their contract, showcasing the high standards maintained in the issuance of these essential identity documents.

more than four hours by road.



E-commerce platforms cannot become haven for counterfeiters: HC

An e-commerce platform cannot become a haven for infringers of intellectual property and have such a system which provides an avenue to counterfeiters, the Delhi High Court has said. The court observed that e-com-

merce websites are commercial ventures and are inherently profit oriented, which is not objectionable, but they have to protect intellectual property rights of others.

not become a haven for infringers. Men are not angels. Where easy money is visible, the conscience at times takes a nap," said Justice C Hari Shankar in a recent order.

"E-commerce websites are commercial ventures, and are inherently profit oriented. There is, of course, nothing objectionable in this; but, while ensuring their highest returns, such websites have also to sedulously protect intellectual property rights of others. They cannot, with a view to further their financial gains, put in place a protocol by which infringers and counterfeiters are provided an avenue to infringe and counterfeit. Any such protocol has to meet with firm judicial disapproval," the judge stated.

The court's observations came while dealing with a lawsuit by sportswear brand Puma SÉ which alleged that e-commerce platform Indiamart was being used by various sellers to ped dle its counterfeit goods.

goods put up for sale on its

space-provider and would be willing to take down any listing put up by a counterfeiter when it is brought to its notice.

In its interim order, the court observed that counterfeiting is a well-known commercial evil, even in the virtual world, and e-commerce platforms are statutorily required to make reasonable efforts to ensure that infringing content is not posted on its website and the platform is not used for selling

It said that prima facie, the ecommerce platform in the instant case aided the commission of the unlawful act of counterfeiting and infringement and it cannot claim the benefit of "safe harbour" from liability under the Information Technology Act.

"There is nothing inherently illegal in IIL (IndiaMART IndiaMESH Ltd) providing a drop down menu from which prospective sellers, on the Indiamart platform, can select the brand which they intend to sell. If, however, there are not, in place, sufficient checks and balances to prevent counterfeiters from misrepresenting themselves as genuine sellers, the protocol cannot withstand judicial scrutiny," the court stated. The court directed taking down

of all infringing listings in relation to Puma on Indiamart while also asking the platform to not provide any of the registered Puma trademarks in respect of any goods as search options in the drop down menu presented to prospective sellers at the time of their reg

medicines in Uttarakhand in 34 minutes ney, the company said in a The same distance would take

Drone transported tuberculosis

Drone logistics company TechEagle on Saturday said tuberculosis medicine in just 34

During its flight from AIIMS Rishikesh to secluded regions like Chamba Community Health Centre and Hindolakhal Primary Health Centre, the drone navigated through complex terrains and elevations, achieving an altitude gain of over 2.5 km in a single 47-km jour-



Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Yojna, transported essential tuberculosis medicine, exhibiting the potential of drone technology in revolutionising healthcare logistics, it said. "TechEagle... Achieved a groundbreaking milestone by completing one of the longest drone delivery flights in collaboration with AIIMS Rishikesh," the company said.

TN Government 3rd Global Investors Meet set to begin on January 7

Tamil Nadu is all set to host **I** the third edition of the Global Investors Meet, and the first one by the ruling DMK government, from Sunday with a galaxy of leaders set to participate in it.

several multinational companies, over 450 international delegates, and representatives from 50 countries are expected to attend the two-day event. The previous editions of the Global Investors Meet (GIM) were held in 2015 and 2019,

land of vibrant cultural her-

Aland or violant scales

has undergone industrial evolu-

tion in the last two decades riding on the success of key sectors

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

they said

À host of representatives from

when AIADMK was the ruling party, under the chief ministers late I Javalalithaa and Edappadi K Palaniswami, respectively. The Ministry of Industries and Guidance Tamil Nadu—the state's investment promotion agency-, who are the organisers of the event, expect over 30,000 participants during GIM 2024 with Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal set to be part of the inauguration along with Chief Minister M K Stalin and his cabinet colleagues. "As the Tamil Nadu Global Investors Meet 2024 approaches, the air is thick with antici-



pation! With over 30,000 participants, our campaign - Titans of Tamil Nadu- has sparked widespread excitement," Stalin

"GIM 2024 will feature 450 plus international delegates, 170 globally acclaimed speakers, and representation from 50 countries underscoring Tamil Nadu's industrial prowess," he said in a social media post. "We also have an MSME pavil-

ion, Tamil Nadu ecosystem pavilion, several country pavilions and the StartupTN pavilion — providing a fantastic opportunity for delegates to witness the industrial marvel of the state and foster business collaborations," he added.

Minister for Industries TRB Rajaa welcomed the delegates who are scheduled to participate in the Global Investors Meet. "A Global Industrial Giant, a stable and progressive state. The best destination for your investments. Welcome to Tamil Nadu," he said

"For GIM, we have a totally different target apart from Rs 3 lakh crore worth of investments which have come in. We are expecting investments of a few lakh crores more to come in," Rajaa told PTI recently. Setting the ball rolling for GIM 2024 in 2023, Stalin unveiled the 'logo' for the Global Investors Meet. Symbolizing the Tamil word 'Tha', the logo also refers

to Tamil Nadu flourishing in all

its parameters.

The platform submitted that it was not the originator of the information relating to the

Bourse, inaugurated recently

Textiles, pharma, fisheries powered industrial revolution in Gujarat in past 20 years: Officials country's cardiac stents manutributes to around 75 per cent

like textile, pharmaceuticals, diamond and fisheries, offi-'To take advantage of our future, we will have to invest in the local supply chain. This is employment, said industry cials have said. Gujarat has future, we will have to invest in the local supply chain. This is become a global powerhouse in the way to build a developed the textile, apparel and garment India, and this is the way to fulsectors by contributing over 60 per cent of India's denim fabric, fil the dream of a developed spurred by the state's textile pol-India - to fulfil the dream of a icy launched in 2012. Since \$5 trillion economy," Prime Minister Narendra Modi had then, the size of its textile exports has grown 2.3 times, said at an event last year.

With a coastline of 1,600 km, The growth in textile manufac-Gujarat is also a powerhouse in the fisheries sector, contributing turing has positioned Gujarat as a driving force in the country's 17 per cent to India's total fish economic growth, officials said exports. In 2020-21, the state's ahead of the state's big-ticket fish production touched 8.74 lakh tonnes, officials said. Gujarat Vibrant Global Summit, which will be held next week. From fishing operations to proinsiders and government officials. "The central and the state governments have come up with a new gas machine for small fishermen which is benefiting them in many ways," said Jitu Kahada, leader of the fishermen community in the state. Gujarat's pharmaceutical industry is another big driver of the state's economy, officials said. As per official figures, Gujarat accounts for 53 per cent of India's medical devices manufacturing and 78 per cent of the



facturing. The sector also employs nearly 50,000 workers in over 4,000 manufacturing

'Gujarat makes a contribution of 30 per cent in the country's pharma sector. In pharma exports, Gujarat's share is 28 per cent. With a robust industrial infrastructure, Gujarat's chemical and petrochemical sector has witnessed remarkable growth," said Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel at an industry

As a result of proactive government policies, the state con-

of the country's total dye and intermediates manufacturing officials said

I believe that the support and the direction Gujarat has given us through the journey of the growth from a small-scale industry, all the major industries here, started off as small-scale industries, and today we have reached global heights and global scales," said Jai Shroff, CEO of UPL Limited, which provides sustainable agricultural solutions and services.

The world's largest diamond trading hub, the Surat Diamond

by PM Modi, symbolises Gujarat's dominance in the global gems and jewellery market, officials said "Surat's diamond has provided employment to 8 lakh people

since the beginning, now Surat diamond bourse is also providing employment to another 1.5 lakh people. I would like to congratulate all my friends in the diamond trading business who have worked day and night to give a boost to this industry," Modi said in Surat recently. The state's thriving dairy sector is now worth over Rs 1 lakh crore, with daily remuneration of Rs 200 crore to 36 lakh milk producers through the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), home to the globally recognised Amul brand, according to a govern-

Coco to face Elina in Auckland Classic final

AP AUCKLAND (NEW ZEALAND)

Coco Gauff will defend her title at the Auckland Classic against Elina Svitolina after beating fellow American Emma Navarro 6-3, 6-1 in the semi-final on Saturday.

Gauff needed only 62 minutes to sweep past fourth-seeded Navarro and now has won 18 straight sets and nine consecutive matches over two years in Auckland. She has lost only 15 games in four matches so far

Gauff's win in Auckland last

year was the start of a golden run which culminated when she won her first major title at the US Open. She seems in similar, compelling form this year, dominating matches with her serve and powerful ground

sunday pioneer

She set down 10 aces in 12 games in beating Navarro. "It's a good start to my 2024," Gauff said. "Emma's a great player. We've played each other when I was like 12 years old and she was 15 so it's our second time playing since then. So, it's really cool to play on this stage. I wish her the best for the rest of the season.' Gauff is 19, Navarro 22,

Gauff broke Navarro in the opening game of the second set and went on to win the set in 32 minutes in a controlled and dominating performance. Her deep ground shots allowed her to follow to the net where she dominated and used her powerful forehand with accu-

"I'm just being aggressive with my serve and return," Gauff said. "We played one set in practice over here before the



was playing really well, so I think I knew I had to be at my best to be able to win."

Gauff's opponent in Sunday's final will be second-seeded Svitolina, who needed two medical timeouts on her way to a 2-6, 6-4, 6-3 win over Wang Xiyu of China.

Svitolina dropped her serve in the third game of the first set and again, to love, in the fifth game to trail 4-1.

She received courtside treatment for a lower back injury and then left the court for a returned, she immediately broke Wang's serve but lost her own and lost the set 6-2.

Svitolina took the second set with a solitary break in the 10th game. She called for another medical timeout at the start of the third set but returned to hold serve and to break Wang for 3-1 and 5-1 leads.

Wang broke back in the seventh game, but Svitolina rallied and served out the set in the ninth game, which included a couple of aces.



Legend Mario dies at age 92

AP ■ RIO DE JANEIRO

Mario Zagallo, who won two World Cups as a player, one as a coach and another as an assistant coach for Brazil, has died. He was 92. The first person to win the World Cup both as a player and a manager, Zagallo is for many Brazilian soccer fans synonymous with patriotism, grit and glory.

Brazilian soccer confederation president Ednaldo Rodrigues said in a statement in the early hours of Saturday confirming Zagallo's death that Zagallo "is one of the biggest legends" of the sport.

No cause of death was released by the federation or

his family. "We offer solidarity to his family members and fans in this moment of grief for the departure of this great hero of our soccer," Rodrigues said. Several Brazilian clubs where Zagallo played and coached also expressed their sorrow for

his death.

Zagallo's social media channels called him "a dedicated father, a loving grandfather, a caring father-in-law, a loyal al and a great human being." "A gigantic hero. A patriot that leaves us a legacy of great achievements," the text added, without giving more details about Zagallo's death.

One of the most charismatic and superstitious figures in Brazilian football, he also was known for his fondness of the No. 13 and constant use of the phrase "You will have to put up with me" - voiced loudly at

He said 13 was his lucky number because it carries the last two digits of his birth year: 1931. He always highlighted any link, however coincidental, between 13 and his foot ball successes.

Zagallo played a role in nearly every major chapter in Brazilian football history, from its first World Cup title in 1958 to the tournament it hosted in 2014. Former Brazil coach Tite visited him to hear his advice before taking the team to the 2018 and 2022 World Cups.

He was Brazil's forward when it won the World Cup in 1958 in Sweden and 1962 in Chile, and one of the first players to act as a false winger playing between midfielders

Zagallo stopped playing pro-fessionally in 1965 and began his coaching career with Rio de Janeiro club Botafogo the following year.

in 1970, just before the World Cup in Mexico, he inherited a squad that included Pelés Jairzinho, Gerson, Roberto Rivellino and Tostão. Brazil crushed Italy 4-1 in the final champion.

And he was back at the helm four years later for the World Cup in France, when Brazi lost 3-0 to the hosts in a final marked by striker Ronaldo's unexplained convulsions criticized for letting Ronaldo

"He was cleared to play by the doctors," Zagallo said. have done the same thing. I wasn't going to be the one keeping him from playing in a World Cup final?

His final coaching role with the national team was as Parreira's assistant in 2006 Brazil was a pre-tournament favorite to win its sixth World Cup title in Germany. But the squad led by Ronaldinho, Kaká, Ronaldo and Adriano fell to France in the quarter-

Zagallo was one of the few coaches who had successful coaching stints with all four traditional Rio clubs Flamengo, Fluminense, Botafogo and Vasco da Gama. He began his career as a striker with Rio's America and later also played for Flamengo and Botafogo, one of the few Brazilian clubs which rivaled Pele's Santos in the 1960s.

and strikers

Named national team coach becoming the first three-time

He also coached Brazil in 1974, but without Pelé, the team finished in fourth place. Zagallo was assistant coach to Carlos Alberto Parreira when Brazil won the 1994 World Cup in the United States, again beating Italy in the

"Anyone in my position would

game, to explore the possibility of India participating in the trial of the 'Additional Video Review System' (AVRS).

The VAR technology, which was first used in EIFA avents in was first used in FIFA events in 2016-17, supports the decision-making process of the ref-

eree in four game-changing situations: goals and offences leading up to a goal, penalty decisions and offences leading up to a penalty, direct red card

PTI NEW DELHI

incidents, and mistaken identity.

The AIFF has written to the International Football Association Board, the body "Our prime objective here is to reduce the margin of error by empowering match officials that determines the laws of the with the technology to assist in their decision-making," All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Kalyan Chaubey said in a media release.

"While we will continue to work to implement VAR, I feel that, to begin with, AVRS can be a great option for a country like India. "AVRS would help us study the

impact of the technology, train our match officials with the new



AIFF evaluates possibility of implementing Additional Video Review System in India

concept, and assess its adaptation by players, coaches, and clubs álike" he added The President's recommenda-

tion aims to consider the exten-

sion of the existing technical infrastructure to accommodate an 'on-demand' video review request from the referees through a multi-angle, multicamera broadcast feed. Several countries across the globe use VAR in their domes-

tic club competitions after it was first introduced in Australia and the United States. However, its mass adoption is

limited due to financial and

infrastructure requirements set

out in FIFA's Implementation Assistance and Approval Programme (IAAP).

The President has suggested the AIFF Referee Department undertake the study to seek FIFA's suggestions and approval. Throughout a match, the VAR team constantly checks for clear and obvious errors related to four match-changing situations. The VAR team communicates with the on-field referee only for clear and obvious mistakes or serious missed incidents.

But it is ultimately the on-field referee who will take a call whether he needs help from the

Brazil young soccer talent expected to become top European transfer targets



AP ■ RIO DE JANEIRO

 $E^{\rm uropean\ clubs\ looking\ for}_{\rm deals\ in\ the\ January\ trans-}$ fer window will find future stars among the latest generation of young soccer talent in Brazil.

Two of them will soon be in Europe - Real Madrid's teenage sensation striker Endrick and Barcelona's target man Vitor Roque. But other players are still available in the Brazilian market.

Paris Saint-Germain already signed two of them - Sao Paulo defender Lucas Beraldo and Corinthians midfielder Gabriel Moscardo.

Here's a look at some of the other top young players in the Brazilian league

JOHN KENNEDY

The 21-year-old Fluminense striker scored his team's winning goal for its maiden Copa

Libertadores title in November and reminds fans of a younger Diego Costa; strong core, powerful shots and explosive temper. Olympique Lyon reportedly offered the Rio de Janeiro club 10 million euros (\$10.95 million) for him, but Fluminense refused. Kennedy sits on the bench most matches because his team's starter in the position, Germán Cano,

was recently elected the best

player in the Americas.

RIKELME The 20-year-old Cuiaba leftback is fast, tall and can cross. He was a starter for his team most of the season. Often compared to Renan Lodi, Rikelme scored one goal and had one assist in his latest Brazilian league match. Stats don't tell it all about the young footballer, though, as he also works as a playmaker. Portugal's Braga has reportedly made an offer for the young defender, but it was rejected. Cuiaba says it wants at least 4 million euros (\$4.383 million) to start negotiations for him.

THIAGO BORBAS

The 21-year-old Red Bull Bragantino striker came from Uruguay's River Plate for 4.8 million euros (\$5.23 million). Fans saw him struggle during the first half of last year. But then he settled and scored nine goals in 33 matches in the Brazilian league. Compared to Liverpool's Darwin Núñez, Borba started from the bench most of the season. Feyenoord is reportedly interested in the Brazil-based Uruguayan play-

WESLEY

The 20-year-old Flamengo right-back finally made fans hopeful they had found a replacement for veteran Rafinha, who left the club in 2020. Wesley played 36 matches in the Brazilian league, with one goal scored and one assist given. He has a lot of confidence, and intensive marking, as Cafu in his younger days. Local media reports Flamengo wants between 10 million and 15

million euros (\$10.95 million

to \$16.43 million) for him.

STÊVÃO The 16-year-old Palmeiras midfielder is regarded as one of Brazil's most promising players for the next number of years; "Little Messi" is his nickname. He wears number 10 in the club's under-17 team and scores goals just as easily as he assists. Paris Saint-Germain and Barcelona are reportedly watching him

Spectacular goals help Spurs, Fulham to narrow FA Cup wins

Brentford draws with **Wolves**



AP LONDON

Tottenham and Fulham won through to the fourth round of the FA Cup while fellow English Premier League sides Brentford and Wolves will endure a replay after they drew 1-1.

Spurs beat Burnley 1-0 with a late goal from Pedro Porro, while Fulham overcame Rotherham 1-0 with a first-half strike from Bobby De Cordova-Reid. In London, Wolves played almost the entire match with 10 men but came from behind to earn a replay against Brentford. Spurs hasn't won the FA Cup since 1991 and it made heavy work of a home tie against a side second to last in the league. Although Ange Postecoglou's team was on top throughout, Burnley defended stoutly and it wasn't until the 78th minute that Porro got the breakthrough. His shot from 25 meters out was a worthy match winner and one of several spectacular strikes among the three

Only five league places separate Wolves and Brentford so, on paper, their fixture was one of the most evenly matched. Brentford gained the momentum after just nine minutes when João Gomes was sent off for a bad foul. It took the lead shortly before halftime when Neal Maupay controlled a loose ball in the penalty box

Although Brentford dominated in terms of possession and shots on goal, Wolves never looked beaten and it drew level 19 minutes into the sec-ond period when Tommy Doyle's screamer gave Brentford goalkeeper Thomas Strakosha no chance.

Fulham dispatched struggling Rotherham more easily than the one goal suggested. Rotherham lies on the bottom

the second-tier Championship with just one win in its last 14 games, and it came unstuck after 24 min-utes when it lost possession while trying to play the ball out from the back.

De Cordova-Reid lashed an unstoppable drive into the top corner from 20 meters out. Rotherham goalkeeper Viktor Johansson saved his side from a worse fate.

On Saturday, cup holder Manchester City is at home to Huddersfield, and Sunderland takes on northeastern rival Newcastle.



Iga, Hubert lead Poland into United Cup mixed teams tennis final

No. 1-ranked Iga Swiatek won her singles match Saturday after Hubert Hurkacz gave her team the early lead over France to advance Poland to the United Cup mixed teams final.

Swiatek won 4-6, 6-1, 6-1 over Caroline Garcia while ATP No. 9-ranked Hurkacz's 6-3, 7-5 defeat of Adrian Mannarino gave them an unassailable 2-0 lead. For good measure, Poland later won the mixed doubles for a final 3-0 score line.

Australia plays Germany in the other semi-final later Saturday, with the winner to face Poland in Sunday's final, also at Sydney's Ken Rosewall Arena.

Swiatek said she need to make a "big adjustment" after her opening-set loss to Garcia.

"I was making bad decisions and I needed to be more composed," Swiatek said. "After the break after the first set, I came back more focused, so I'm pretty proud of myself."

Hurkacz won 31 of 36 points on his first serve and had 15

"He's really difficult to play against; I was just fighting for every point and I was able (to) stay positive and was really resilient today," Hurkacz said.

Top-seeded Poland lost just one match in the group stage of the tournament in Perth before beating China 3-0 to reach the final four for the second straight year.

In the Australia-Germany

semifinal, Ajla Tomljanovic is scheduled to lead the tie-off for the hosts against Angelique Kerber before Alex de Minaur takes on Germany's Alexander Zverev. Mixed doubles will see the Australian team of Storm Hunter and Matt Ebden take on Laura Siegemund and Maximilian Marterer of Germany, although late changes can be made.

Formula E cancels Hyderabad E-Prix which means that will not had been shrouded in uncertainty with Formula E raising

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

contract breach by the new

India was slated to be held on February 10. Formula E has alleged a breach of contract by the Municipal Administration

and Urban Development Department (MAUD) that falls under the control of Telangana government. "The cancellation comes fol-

 $F^{\text{ormula E has announced}}_{\text{the cancellation of the Hyderabad E-Prix, alleging a}}$ Telangana government. The second Formula E race in Hyderabad. However, KTR's BRS party

has been left with no choice lowing a decision by the Municipal Administration and Urban Development other than to formally give notice to MAUD that it is in Department (MAUD), under the control of the Government

Host City Agreement signed on 30 October 2023," Formula E said in statement on Friday. The inaugural electric race in the country was held in February last year with Telangana's then IT Minister KT Rama Rao playing a huge role in bringing the race to

lost the state election to Congress in December and the new government has not shown the same willingness to host the race. "Formula E Operations (FEO)

breach of contract." "FEO is considering its position and what steps it may of Telangana, not to fulfil the take under the Host City ment read.

Agreement and applicable laws. All of FEO's rights in that regard are reserved," the state-

Initially, a four-year agreement was signed between Formula E, Telangana government and Greenko, which has

pulled out of the event after

the inaugural edition. However since the change of guard, the future of the race

ed for the huge motorsport fanbase in India. We know that hosting an official motor-sport world championship

fresh concerns last week.

'We are extremely disappoint-

race is an important and prestigious occasion for Hyderabad and the whole country," said Co-Founder & Chief Championship Officer of Formula E Alberto Longo. "The President of the Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI), Akbar Ebrahim, and his team have been incredibly supportive in bringing Formula E back to Hyderabad.

They share our disappointment in the decision of the Government of Telangana

happen," he added. The inaugural race in the city had delivered an economic impact of nearly USD 84 mil-

"It is deeply frustrating that we cannot build on the success of the inaugural race last year, which delivered almost 84m USD in positive economic impact to the region," Formula E CEO Jeff Dodds said. "We are also disappointed for

our major Indian partners particularly Mahindra and Tata Communications. Racing in Hyderabad was important to showcase the benefits of adopting electric vehicles in a market where pollution from vehicle engines has a massive impact on public health and the environment.

INDIA WOMEN WARY OF AUSTRALIA BACKLASH

mercurial Indian Women's team will be keen to produce another all-round show as they look to seal the three-match series against Australia in the second T20I here on Sunday. Putting behind the disappoint-

ment of a 0-3 hammering in the ODIs — marred by poor efforts in all areas — India Women came out firing on all cylinders in the first T20 to thrash Australia by a huge nine-wicket margin for the first time in

Criticised for being sloppy in the ODIs, India were spectacularly athletic in the field on Friday, while the bowlers led by young Titas Sadhu did not allow Australia to get away at any stage in the first half of the opening

Shafali Verma (64 not out) and Smriti Mandhana (54) then shared 137 runs — India's best opening partnership against Australia in T20I history — to take them home

It was a near-perfect night for the 19-year-old Sadhu (4/17), who set the ball rolling with three powerplay wickets, while spinners Deepti Sharma and Shreyanka Patil too claimed two wickets each to support the young pacer.

sunday pioneer

young pacer.
The Indian team also brought up their fielding several notches higher to save plenty of runs.
The catching was good too with skipper Harmanpreet Kaur herself holding on to four

Even Titas did well on one occasion to snaffle her fourth wick-et when Ashleigh Gardner gave a return catch on her follow "Behind every match or every

good performance, there are hours of hard work that is for any given match," Titas told the média after the match. "I felt like our fielding effort was

brilliant because a bowler can't give her best until and unless she is supported by all the nine players inside the ground."

India's comprehensive win on Friday night at the DY Patil Stadium has put them in pole position to push for a first-ever series win against Australia at home, for they have beaten



2015-16.

But accomplishing this task would be easier said that done given India will have to show consistency and at the same time, watch out for Australia's fightback who will be determined to celebrate legendary Ellyse Perry's 300th international game.

"Really excited for Sunday, actually. I think it's a great opportunity for our team to celebrate someone who has been, you know, at the forefront of our game and sort of seen the evolution of women's cricket right around the world in Ellyse Perry," Australia captain Alyssa Healy said.

"The opportunity to be a part of her 300th fixture, everyone's really excited for her. She doesn't want to talk about it. I've already brought it up at break-fast this (Friday) morning. She doesn't want to talk about it. It makes her feel old."

Australia had their in-form batter Phoebe Litchfield notching up yet another significant score of 49 and teaming up with Perry again to set a platform for

But the visitors lost wickets in heaps on either side of the Litchfield-Perry rearguard,

which they need to address. The visitors also were not up to the mark on the field, giving away too many extras. In fact, Darcie Brown gave away 14 extras in the first over itself and Australia would look to be more disciplined with the ball.

SOUADS:

INDIA: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana (vc), Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Yastika Bhatia (wk), Richa Ghosh (wk), (WK), RICHA GROSH (WK), Amanjot Kaur, Shreyanka Patil, Mannat Kashyap, Saika Ishaque, Renuka Singh Thakur, Titas Sadhu, Pooja Vastrakar, Kanika Ahuja, Minnu Mani. AUSTRALIA: Darcie Brown, Heather Graham, Ashleigh Gardner, Kim Garth, Grace Harris, Alyssa Healy (c&wk),

Harris, Alyssa Healy (c&wk), Jess Jonassen, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Tahlia McGrath (vc), Beth Mooney (wk), Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Wareham.



Jhulan message to young Titas to just bowl fast works wonders for India

PTI NAVI MUMBAI

India pacer Titas Sadhu said the legendary Jhulan Goswami has been a big part of her life and her advice to concentrate on "just bowling fast" is a prin-ciple that the 19-year-old follows

Titas joined Goswami in recording one of the most successful spells for any Indian bowler in T20Is against Australia here on Friday, returning 4-0-17-4 to set up a commanding nine-wicket win in the first T20L

Titas' spell was the first time an Indian bowler had taken four or 3.5-1-11-5 against Australia at Visakhapatnam in March 2012. "I can tell you one thing. That was the first conversation I had with Jhulan di and she told me 'stop thinking about everything else, just bowl fast'.

"Because if you're a fast bowler, you have to bowl fast, and I think that has been a key,"Titas

said after the match. Titas said Goswami has been a constant presence in her life.

"Jhulan Goswami has been a big

part of my life because I first saw her when I was 13 and then she has been in constant presence, she said. "Right now, she is in Delhi with the Bengal team, which I'm supposed to probably join after this is done. Working with her is a great opportunity (which) not a lot of people have because you get that experience." "And how many players have

played like more than 100 matches for India and for 20 years? I'm not even 20 years old!," Titas expressed.

The right-arm bowler said it was tough for her to warm the bench for the entirety of the inaugural Women's Premier League season for the Delhi Capitals shortly after winning the first-ever women's U-19 World Cup for India.

"Especially coming from that U-19 high to sit (out) for the whole tournament. It was rough and the first couple of matches it was pretty clear that I probably won't get a chance until very late and

"I had this conversation with our trainer, Wayne. In men's IPL, there are 25 players and greats (players) sit out for two two-anda-half-months?

"Any experience or any opportunity you get, you have to make the best out of it and that actually became the key after the first two weeks. I just went in every practice to think I'll learn as much as I can," she said.

Titas declined she would be marked out by the oppositions particularly after recording a four-for against Australia.

"Cricket is a very humbling game, today's high can be tomorrow's low so you always come back to who you are."

"You come back to the ground and again, the next match is the next match (and) what you have done yesterday is gone," she

If India produce turning tracks, it will negate bit of their strength in seam attack: Bairstow

England wicketkeeper batter Johnny Bairstow feels if India opt for turning pitches during the five-Test series later this month, "it will negate bit of their strength in their seam attack"

England had lost the Test series 1-3 to India on spin-friendly tracks during their 2021 tour of the country. "India can produce different pitches: it doesn't have to turn. We've seen how potent their seam attack has been recently," Bairstow told Sky Sports.
"Look, I'm sure the pitches will turn: it's whether or not they'll turn from day one,

which potentially negates a bit of their strength in their seam attack. We know how strong they are," he added.
The 34-year-old added that he does not want

to overthink the challenge of facing spin bowling in India. "Obviously, the last time Axar and Ashwin played well. You forget that in that first Test match, the guys played really well, Rooty (Joe Root) got a double in the first Test match in Chennai and then conditions changed quite drastically."

ers are not only the key batters but also terrific

Both Rohit and Kohli have not played a T20I since

India's semifinal loss to England at the 2022 T20

"Sometimes, you get slow when you are 35-36;

your throw isn't that good anymore. So, there are

discussions over where to keep you while setting

the field. That's not a problem for these two

because they are still terrific fielders," he added.

The T20 World Cup is being co-hosted by the

In Rohit's absence, Hardik Panya has led the Indian

team in T20Is. The all-rounder had also taken over

West Indies and the USA from June 1-29.

fielders in the Indian team.

World Cup but the duo is

keen to return to the short-

'What makes me feel good

is their fielding. Virat Kohli

and Rohit Sharma are still

great fielders and will be of

great help on the field. In

addition to seniority in the

dressing room, they will contribute on the field, too,"

Gavaskar told Star Sports.

est format.

Gavaskar backs Rohit,

Kohli to play T20 World Cup

ing to Gavaskar.



'We know that it's the quality spinners, especially in India, we know that they are going to come at us. Whether Axar plays, whether he doesn't play. Whether Jadeja plays or Kuldeep plays, who knows?

We'll have to wait and see. But there's no point in overthinking things before their squad's announced before we see the pitch and the conditions that (are) in front of us. Bairstow said the onus will be on the entire team and not just the spinners to pick wickets. "I think it will be the whole bowling attack's effort to go out there to take 20 wickets but it's not just the spinners. The seamers have got a big job to do, the batters in

as the Mumbai Indians' captaincy form Rohit.

Whether Rohit will lead India in the shortest for-

the field have massive jobs to do." With fellow wicketkeeper Ben Foakes earning a recall to the England team for the series, Bairstow is unsure who will be donning the wicketkeeper's gloves in India. Tve not spoken to anyone about that. As long as I'm over there, as long as I'm fit and

firing, the selection decisions will be taken out of my hands. But look, I'm fairly happy with where I'm at, whether I'm keeping, batting or whatever it is." Defending champions England had a miserable ODI World Cup in India last year and with the Test series soon approaching, Bairstow wants to "get himself into a position where he can go and take on an Indian Test". "I've been getting my ankle right, just

training in the gym pretty hard, catching up with friends and family." "Having come back from the injury that I had, it was a pretty full-on summer... It's been great to just have a bit of a refresh, have a bit of time with the family and just to make

sure the ankle is as good as it can be." The five-Test series starts on January 25 in Hyderabad.



Former captain Sunil Gavaskar has backed Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli to play in the T20 mat if included in the team is yet to be known. But given Rohit's experience, he will still have a We don't know if Rohit will be captain, but what Australia to ever the case, any captain will surely benefit from "Kohli's form has been out-

David Warner scored 57 runs to help lead Australia to an eight-wicket victory over Pakistan on Saturday in his final test match, ending a 112test career as a winner on his

With Australia needing only 11 runs to claim its third consecutive victory in the three-test series, Warner was out lbw off the bowling of Sajid Khan. He walked off the Sydney Cricket Ground to loud applause as he

The only other wicket to fall in Australia's second innings was when opener Usman Khawaja was also adjudged lbw off Khan's bowling for a six-ball duck.

Australia responded with 299 and 130-2. Marnus Labuschagne scored 62 and was at the crease with Steve Smith (4) when the match ended.

Australia quickly took Pakistan's three remaining wickets on Saturday morning to set a 130run victory target with almost two full days remaining. After Josh Hazlewood (4-16) ran

through Pakistan on Day 3, the visitors offered little resistance before they were all out. Mohammad Rizwan (28) and Aamir Jamal (18) put on 42 for the eighth wicket, but Pakistan folded quickly once Nathan Lyon had Rizwan caught at leg

end the innings, finishing with figures of 3-36

Warner had earlier led the team onto the field to start the day, while "Thanks Dave" with his trademark leap also painted on

ond by 79 runs at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.



He should have played ahead of Shardul Thakur and series opener against South Africa but when Mukesh Kumar finally got his chance at Newlands, the Indian team realised what exactly it missed during the mauling in

In South Africa,

While the seasoned duo of Mohammed Siraj (7 wickets) and Jasprit Bumrah (8 wickets) did the bulk of the damage, Mukesh was the ideal third seamer with four wickets in the second Test, which included two top-order dismissals in the

second innings. He was bowling slightly back of length but was still able to move the ball late. "I think I have been able to ful-

fil the role assigned by the team management. I am satisfied with my bowling and best part is that I have worked hard and tried my best," Mukesh told reporters about his performance during India's series-levelling win.

A smart operator, Mukesh had quickly realised that despite being comparatively lesser in terms of pace generated by the two senior speedsters, he can't bowl too full on South African tracks.

"There's a lot of difference between bowling on these kind of tracks compared to Indian pitches," said Mukesh.

He elaborated his strategy. "In India, when you try to bowl fuller length the ball moves in the air, but here, if you try to bowl too full, you get smashed. "So we decided that we will bowl between 6 to 8 metre length (back of length). And since

there is lot of bounce on offer

you can get wickets.' Two days after India lost in Centurion, Mukesh bowled to skipper Rohit Sharma at the nets

for an hour. So what did the skipper tell you? "He always tells us about areas to bowl when we seek feedback in the nets. They would tell us 'if you pitch the ball in this particular length and channel you

Hailing from Bihar's Gopalganj district, Mukesh's late father,

Security Force) but he failed to clear the physical test before circuit in Kolkata.

Kolkata turned out to be the 'City of Joy' for Mukesh when former Bengal speedster Ranadeb Bose found the then talented but malnourished young man who was a cut above the rest.

"Ranadeb Bose has immense contribution in my development as a fast bowler. The coaches at NCA and him (Bose) are people I fall back upon if I face any technical issues with my bowling," Mukesh remembered

his first coach with respect and fondness. He is the first international

a celebrity. Kids, and aspiring cricketers, make a beeline to meet him but

the best part about being a 30year-old making his international debut is that his feet remain firmly rooted to the ground.

Yes, when I go back to Gopal ganj youngsters come and speak to me and ask me about their game and seek guidance. I do try and help them as much as I can. I have gifted a few bowling spikes to them," he said, smiling. Having lived at Eden Gardens' dormitory for a better part of two years of his apprenticeship as part of CAB's Vision2020 programme, nothing came easily to

"Patience and process were two aspects that I always concentrated upon. Also all tips given by my coaches from formative years have come in handy," he

Last year, Mukesh made his Test debut on July 20, ODI debut on July 27, and played his first shortest format game for the national team on August 3. Nearly five and half months

down the line, Mukesh is now 19 international matches old. How much of adjustment is needed?

"When you play for the country, you need to adapt and adjust to various formats. If you are playing white ball and need to play Test matches after that, then you also simultaneously need to practice with red ball."

Factionalism rears ugly head again to hurt Bihar cricket Cricket Association Secretary

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $F^{\text{actionalism is nothing new to}}_{\text{Bihar cricket and the ugly}}$ infighting that has been running well over two decades has robbed the state of some notable talents, besides attracting the ire of the BCCI

Bihar has already lost the services of Ishan Kishan, who was born and raised in Patna, and pacer Mukesh Kumar, who hails from Gopalganj, to Jharkhand

and Bengal respectively. They had to leave the homeland to pursue a cricketing career in a much more sustainable environment.

The latest episode in this unpleasant sequence panned on Friday at Patna when two teams turned up to play the Ranji Trophy Elite B group match against Mumbai at the Moin-ul-Haq stadium.

One team was selected by Bihar

Amit Kumar and another outfit came with the blessings of BCA President Rakesh Tiwary. Eventually, the side that had the backing of Tiwary and captained by veteran left-arm spinner Ashuthosh Aman played the match against the 41-time champions

"First of all, why should they select the Moin-ul-Haq stadium for this match? There are better facilities at the Urja Stadium in Rajbansi Nagar which is in Patna itself.

'Such episodes will only cause damage to Bihar cricket as we have a lot of talented cricketers, Aditya Verma, a former BCA official and the original petitioner during the 2013 IPL spot-fixing case, told PTI.

The squabbling in the BCA dates back to 2002 when the BCCI under its then president Jagmohan Dalmiya suspended retary of the BCCI.



the association run by former Chief Minister Lalu Prasad

The Dalmiya regime gave recognition to the faction led by Amitabh Choudhary, who later rose to become the acting sec-

In between, the pool turned murkier after former India allrounder Kirti Azad also formed the Association of Bihar Cricket, while Verma and Prem Ranjan Patel constituted the Cricket Association of Bihar. "At one time, there were four

(cricket) associations in Bihar. What had happened was that the administration went haywire and the money from the BCCI also stopped till the state was reinstated in 2018.

But in the meantime, the state lost many players to other states. Nobody can blame them as who wants to get caught in this messy situation where a young cricketer needs to bribe the officials to get a chance even in the selection trials," a veteran cricket coach said on condition

of anonymity. Verma concurred. "The administration under Tiwary is an utter failure. They are interested only

in politics, and not in cricket. We are trying to take legal recourse and find a way ahead for Bihar cricket, which cannot afford another round of mismanagement." he said ment," he said.

developing cricket. "We have given an opportunity to a 12-year-old player (Vaibhav

Suryavanshi), and I will not be surprised if he decides to move to another state soon so that he can develop into a better player," he added. Tiwary, however, remained unfazed.

elected. The secretary is suspended (by the court), so he cannot select the team. But the state has a lot of talents like Vaibhay and recently one player (Sakib Husain) was picked for the IPL (by KKR). We are trying to put up prop-

er infrastructure for the sport. It

will take some time, as we have returned only around six years back (to First-Class cricket). I am not really worried about all these allegations, as we have a job at hand," he added.

IPL and T20 were one of the most amazing tour naments for him," said Pathan.

ing 750 runs with 3 cen-

turies. So there is no doubt

about his limited-overs bat-

Former India pacer Irfan Pathan also feels that Rohit

and Kohli should be a part

of the Indian team for the

ting," he added.

T20 World Cup as a few pitches in the USA and

the West Indies are unknown commodities and

the duo's experience will be required on and off

'Personally, I would like to see Virat on the pitch

because when we talk about two years back, def-

initely he was not in his best form. But the last

The veteran coach agreed. "Several officials join the association only to make money. They are least interested in

"We have been democratically

Members Stand

Warner leads victory Centurion. **AP** ■ SYDNEY

standing in the last 1.5 years. He played unbelievably in the 2023 World Cup, mak-

home ground.

waved to the crowd

Pakistan scored 313 and 115 and

Lyon also bowled Hasan Ali to

the ground in front of the Australia won the first test in Perth by 360 runs and the sec-

can trouble us."

who used to drive a cab in

cricketer from Gopalganj, and in that part of the world, he is now

New Delhi, January 7, 2024

a the pioneer of the

"I don't want other people to decide who I am. I want to decide that for myself"



DECARBONISATION FRONTIERS

The G20 summit emphasises climate action, promoting eco-friendly practices rooted in India's LiFE movement. COP28 discusses carbon credits, market challenges, India's surge, and cooperative solutions for decarbonisation, WRITE SAGAR KISAN WADKAR and NAVEEN KUMAR SINGH

hroughout the G20 summit, a central theme revolved around addressing climate change, particularly through the endorsement of climate finance, technology, and equitable energy transitions for developing nations. The LiFE movement, grounded in India's sustainable traditions, promotes eco-friendly practices. During a special forum at the G20 Presidency COP28, the president underscored climate action as an opportunity for growth, urging global unity, action, and commitment to achieve the 1.5-degree goal while ensuring inclusivity for all.

CONCEPT OF CARBON CREDIT

In the ongoing discussions at COP28, the issue of carbon credits holds significant relevance. Carbon credits play a crucial role in international efforts to mitigate climate change,

serving as a unit of measurement for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Typically, one carbon credit is equivalent to one ton of carbon dioxide (CO2) or its equivalent. Once issued in the form of a carbon credit certificate by a government or any other recognised body, this carbon credit becomes tradable in nature. The concept operates by incentivising projects and initiatives that reduce or remove emissions, offering them carbon credits as recognition for their contribution to environmental sustainability.

HISTORY OF CARBON MARKET

The Conference of the Parties (COP), established as the supreme decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992 during the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, convenes annually to discuss strategies for combating climate change. The inaugural COP took place in 1995, marking the beginning of a series of meetings that have played a pivotal role in international efforts to address climate change.

In 1997, the concept of carbon commodification gained prominence with the Kyoto Protocol, and it further progressed with the Paris Agreement in 2015. Although the roots of carbon commodification trace back to the 1960s, its formal structure materialised after the Kyoto Protocol. While the instituted mechanisms cannot be labelled outright failures, they faced significant constraints. For instance, some developed countries did not ratify the protocol. Moreover, there was disagreement between developed and developing nations: emissions reductions were mandatory for developed countries but voluntary for developing ones. This was accompanied by the over allocation of emission allowances to certain countries, causing a surplus of carbon credits in the market and consequently driving down their value. This was further compounded by people's perceptions about the credibility of carbon projects.

Efforts were made to address these issues with the Paris Agreement in 2015, introducing global initiatives such as Nationally Determined Contributions and provisions for financial support to developing countries.

DELIBERATIONS DURING COP28

Currently, COP28 is in progress in the UAE, where discussions are underway to advance various work streams. The major agenda is to implement the Paris Agreement. COP28 is an opportunity to identify global solutions for limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees, as agreed during the Paris Agreement, inform countries' preparations for revised and more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) due by 2025, accelerate the green transition that is already happening and ultimately achieve the delivery of the Paris Agreement goals. These include crucial issues, such as

finalising the details of the loss and damage finance facility to assist vulnerable communities in coping with immediate climate impacts;
 working on a global financial goal to support developing countries in their climate change mitigation and adaptation endeavours;
 hastening both an energy transition and a just transition; and
 addressing the substantial emissions gap. The outcomes of these deliberations at COP28 will contribute to shaping the global response to climate change and steering the world towards a more sustainable and resilient future.

ISSUE OF CARBON MARKET AND NEED FOR INSTITUTIONALISATION

The carbon credits market, essential for mitigating climate change, is plagued by opacity due to its intricate structure. With numerous projects generating credits and

numerous projects generating credits a myriad of market participants engaging in trades, the lack of a centralised regulatory structure creates gaps in transparency. This multifaceted dynamic results in a situation reminiscent of "one step forward, two steps backward."

One of the critical issues lies in the absence of a requirement for disclosing the price paid for carbon credits. This lack of transparency allows organisations to potentially misrepresent their commitment to offsetting emissions. Some may purposefully miscalculate their carbon footprint or purchase cheaper credits that might not withstand standardised scrutiny, leading to

instances of "greenwashing."
A significant hurdle in today's carbon credit markets is the lack of standardised followup for projects that apply for carbon credits. Many projects, unable to meet their carbon mitigation commitments, sell their credits to third parties, falling short of achieving the ultimate goal of netzero emissions. This raises questions about the effectiveness of carbon credit initiatives and the proof for more strippent everywher.

need for more stringent oversight. Efforts have been made to enhance transparency in carbon credit prices by compiling trading data from market players and accredited registries like The Gold Standard, Climate Action Reserve, Verified Carbon Standard, and the American Carbon Registry. However, challenges persist, leaving room for potential fraud or dubious activity in emissions trading markets. As a major discussion, COP28 introduces the creation of a global carbon market which will be overseen by the supervisory body. This is indeed a welcome step as it tries to bring credibility and transparency to the carbon market.

INDIA'S CARBON MARKET SURGE

India has advanced its decarbonisation strategy by introducing two pivotal regulations aimed at tackling opacity: the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme and the Green Credit Programme Implementation Rules. Between 2010 and 2022, India not only issued 35.94 million Carbon Credits but also actively participated in trading these credits on the global international markets. Now the introduced regulations are supposed to provide more incentive to the corporate, NGOs, farmers and other individuals with the goal of achieving the country's nationally determined contributions.

The Carbon Credit Trading Scheme implemented by the Ministry of Power, Government of India caters to big players in the carbon landscape

working on "cap" and "trade" mechanisms. The Green Credit Programme Implementation Rules, to be implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, is meant to bring structural reforms and transparency in "Voluntary Carbon Market". These regulations provide a framework for transparent transactions and adherence to international standards. However, mere introduction of such regulations are not sufficient. As per a study conducted by Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and Transforming Agrifood Systems in South Asia (TAFSSA), the carbon projects being conducted at present are not able provide monetary benefits to the farmers which had been attributed to various factors like need of local implementation partner, limited awareness among farmers about carbon credits and lack of regulated marketplaces makes projects financially unsustainable. Thus, India requires a proper Institutional Management system for overseeing and managing carbon and green credits effectively. Now, it cannot be denied that carbon projects are only going to increase in the coming future with special focus on farmers and other micro level projects. The Green Credit Programme encompasses diverse sectors, including tree plantation, water conservation, sustainable agriculture, waste management, air pollution reduction, mangrove conservation, ecomark initiatives, and sustainable building and infrastructure. It seeks to create a market-based mechanism, offering Green Credits as incentives to individuals, cooperatives, urban and rural local bodies, private sectors, industries, and organisations for environmentally positive actions can be a game changer in this. The programme being voluntary in nature can bring more positives which is also evident as though still in draft stage many organisations have shown their interest in enrolling

COOPERATIVES-COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTION FOR DECARBONISATION

with the programme.

Cooperatives, as community-driven organisations, possess inherent mechanisms to address social, economic, and environmental concerns, making them ideal institutional frameworks for decarbonisation efforts. These cooperative structures inherently integrate efforts across these spheres, offering a comprehensive approach to tackle the challenges of reducing carbon emissions. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, cooperatives have demonstrated their resilience, further emphasising their effectiveness as versatile entities capable of enduring and adapting in challenging times. In India, we have two types of cooperatives: credit and non-credit. As per NCUI, 2018 statistical profile, there are 8,54,000 cooperative units in India, of which 1,77,000 units (20 per

effectiveness as versatile entities capable of enduring and adapting in challenging times.

In India, we have two types of cooperatives: credit and non-credit.

As per NCUI, 2018 statistical profile, there are 8,54,000 cooperative units in India, of which 1,77,000 units (20 per cent) are credit cooperatives. The remaining units engaged in a variety of non-credit cooperative activities, such as textiles, hospitals, services, industrial, producer, processing, dairy, fisheries, sugar, marketing, consumer, labour, housing, etc. The outreach of the cooperatives in the farm sector is quite high. About 98,000 PACS are

spread across 91 per cent of total villages of India. It is estimated that around 30 crore people including 13 crore framers in India are directly connected to cooperatives. India has recognised their importance and established a separate Ministry of Cooperation in July 2021 to provide administrative, legal, and policy frameworks to strengthen this sector. This has sparked renewed enthusiasm amongst cooperators and stakeholders. Numerous initiatives have been launched to bolster the cooperative movement, signaling a revitalised effort towards its enhancement and expansion. The key initiatives of aligning with decarbonisation strategies are as follows:

- Model bylaws for PACS, the fundamental agricultural cooperatives can drive India's decarbonisation strategy by fostering sustainable agricultural practices, reducing emissions, and supporting farmers' income;
- Three new multi-state cooperative societies in the areas of quality and climate-resilient seed production and distribution, organic farming and certification and export marketing. These multi-State cooperative societies focus on sustainable practices that reduce carbon emissions, encourage climate-resilient agriculture, and promote ecofriendly products in the market, collectively contributing significantly to the broader decarbonisation strategy;
- World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector aims to boost PACS infrastructure, reducing food grain wastage, enhancing food security, and empowering farmers economically, aligning with the decarbonisation strategy;
- The Solar Cooperative in Dhundi Village, Gujarat, serves as a pioneering model for India's decarbonisation efforts. It monetises solar energy, offers rural electricity solutions, and provides farmers with sustainable incomes. Its replicable nature aligns with India's goals of cutting carbon emissions and fostering clean energy practices nationwide;
- Bio-ethanol policy via sugar cooperatives can significantly contribute to the bio-revolution by utilising agricultural resources for clean, renewable fuel production, promoting sustainability, reducing waste, and fostering rural development;
- Similarly, housing cooperatives in different states are under redevelopment and given an opportunity they can go for green buildings which fall under the green credit programme of decarbonisation etrategy.

decarbonisation strategy. Thus, cooperatives, especially agricultural ones, indeed hold a distinctive chance to establish a sustainable food and agriculture value chain. This involves meeting the needs of an expanding global population while ensuring the wellbeing and economic stability of farmers. Achieving the 1.5 degrees Celsius goal offers business benefits and environmental gains, driving onfarm decarbonisation. Cooperatives' pivotal role extends beyond implementation, nurturing new ventures and integrating sustainable practices with carbon initiatives from COP 28, exemplifying a blueprint for a sustainable future.

(Sagar Kisan Wadkar is Adviser, Research & Study, NCUI; and Naveen Kumar Singh is Research Officer, NCUI, New Delhi)

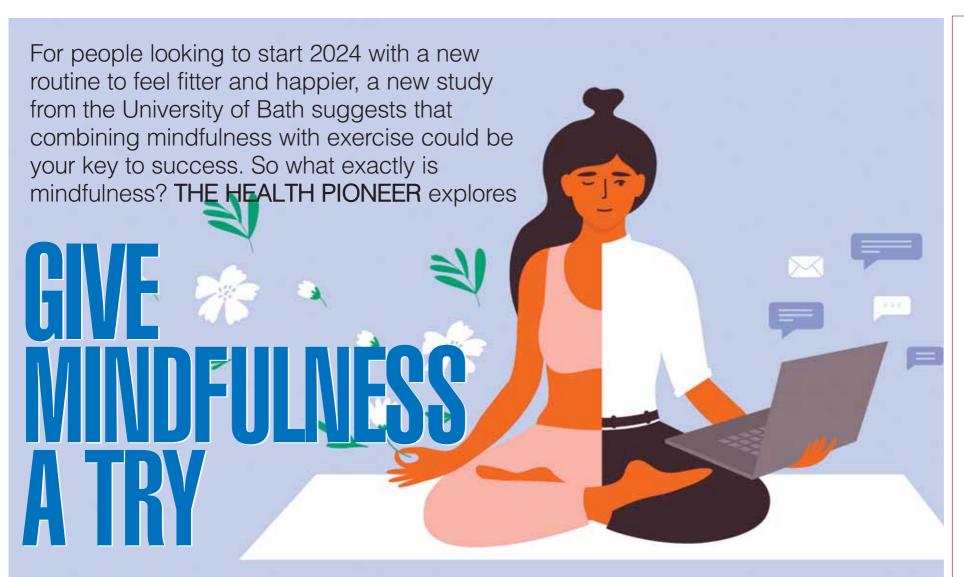


DEMANDING
MORE STRINGENT
OVERSIGHT AND
INSTITUTIONALISATION.
AMID DISCUSSIONS AT
COP28, COOPERATIVES
STAND OUT AS
VERSATILE ENTITIES
WITH INITIATIVES
ALIGNING WITH
DECARBONISATION

MODEL FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

STRATEGIES, OFFERING A

New Delhi, January 7, 2024



The study, published in the academic journal Mental Health and Physical Activity, suggests that life changes which combine both physical activity and mindfulness are most effective at lifting mood and improving health and wellbeing.

Both physical activity and mindfulness practice have well established psychological benefits. However, by reviewing existing research studies, this is one of the first to show how the positive effects can be increased when the two are combined. Its findings suggest that mindfulness can help to unlock exercise by helping to motivate people to start in the first place, whilst overcoming minor pain, discomfort or feelings of failure when exercising gets

Analysis of existing research found mindfulness to be highly effective at reducing worry, stress, anxiety, and helping people to live healthier, happier lives. The benefits for mental and physical health from mindfulness were found in people with and without health

The study was conducted by psychologist Masha Remskar, an expert in behaviour change, mindfulness and exercise based at the University of Bath, with support from the Medito Foundation – a mindfulness non-profit with a mission to build a more mindful

world.
Through its work, Medito has developed a mindfulness meditation app – a free alternative to paid-for services such as Headspace and Calm. It is collaborating with Bath to help improve people's mental wellbeing but also to help them get

Based on the research findings, the team have created and released the first of two mindfulness audio courses aiming to help people get into the habit of exercise. Later in 2024, they will release a second guide, focused on sustaining their exercise habit.

more active.

Masha Remskar from the University's Department of Health explained: "Starting

EXPERTSPEAK

Mindfulness is a practice involving purposeful awareness of the present moment without judgment. It originates from ancient Buddhist traditions but has gained significant popularity in modern positive psychology and wellness practices. It is useful in following conditions:-

• Stress Reduction:

Mindfulness helps individuals manage stress by allowing them to focus on the present moment rather than worrying about the past or future.

• Improved Mental Health: Studies show that mindfulness can alleviate symptoms of anxiety, depression, and other mental health conditions.

Enhanced Focus and Concentration:
Regular practice of mindfulness
meditation can improve attention and
concentration.

 Better Emotional Regulation: It assists in understanding and regulating emotions, leading to increased emotional intelligence.

 Physical Health: Mindfulness has been linked to improved immune function, better sleep, and lower blood pressure.

How to Practice Mindfulness:

 Mindfulness Meditation: This involves sitting quietly, focusing on the breath or bodily sensations, and observing thoughts without judgment.

• Mindful Breathing: Paying attention to

APER I SPEAR



DR SHWETA SHARMA
Consultant Clinical Psychologist
Manipal Hospitals, Gurugram
Joint Secretary - Indian Assocition
of Clinical Psychologists
Founder Director - Mansa Global
Foundation for Mental Health

each breath, feeling the sensations it brings, and gently guiding the focus back to the breath when the mind wanders.

Body Scan: Slowly scanning through the body, paying attention to sensations, tension, or discomfort in different

areas.

• Mindful Activities:
Engaging fully in daily
activities like eating,
walking, or cleaning by
paying attention to the
sensations, smells, and
feelings involved.

Some Tips f

Incorporating Mindfulness:
 Start Small: Begin with short sessions and gradually increase the duration as you become more comfortable.

 Consistency is Key: Regular practice is more beneficial than sporadic sessions. Aim for daily practice, even if it's just a few minutes.

 Non-Judgmental Awareness: Allow thoughts and feelings to arise without judging them as good or bad. Simply observe them and let them pass.

 Patience: It's normal for the mind to wander during mindfulness practice.
 Whenever this happens, gently guide your attention back to the present moment.

moment.

Mindfulness is a powerful tool that can significantly enhance one's well-being when practiced consistently. Integrating it into daily life can bring about a profound sense of peace, clarity, and emotional

TYPES OF MINDFULNESS PRACTICE

While mindfulness is innate, it can be cultivated through proven techniques. Here are some examples: Seated, walking, standing, and moving meditation (it's also possible lying down but often leads to sleep); Short pauses we insert into everyday life; Merging meditation practice with other activities, such as yoga or sports.

2024 with a resolution to exercise more can have really positive physical and mental health benefits. But we know that starting out can be tough and

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Publishers: KPACIDD & JP Gadkari

Price: ₹499.00

that it can also be hard to stick with it over time.

"Mindfulness is an approach that can help us 'train up' the psychological strengths we need to exercise and be more in tune with our bodies, as well as make exercising more interesting and help us recognise its

WHAT IS MINDFULNESS

Mindfulness is the basic human ability to be fully present, aware of where we are and what we're doing, and not overly reactive or overwhelmed by what's going on around us.

"This may be because becoming more mindful prompts us to think differently about our lifestyle, makes us more accepting and less judgemental of our own shortcomings, which can help to build healthy habits. "There is a huge potential to

help to build healthy habits. "There is a huge potential to use mindfulness to unlock the positive benefits exercise can bring."

Steven Yorke, co-founder at Medito added: "Mindfulness mobile apps are a great way to boost our mental wellbeing. Unfortunately, all too often companies put up paywalls, making the benefits of mindfulness inaccessible to some. "At Medito, we believe that meditation and mindfulness should be available free of charge, to anyone, forever. This

free.
"This collaboration with the University of Bath has been a great way to expand the range of mindfulness meditations we can offer, and it feels great to be at the cutting edge of mindfulness science while we

is why our mindfulness app,

Medito, is and always will be

do this."
Building on this work, the team are about to start conducting a larger trial to determine the effectiveness and optimal intervention moments for combining exercise and mindfulness.

However, yet another study undelines that acceptance is not about acquiescing to your fate, though—like getting a diagnosis of a terminal illness

and just accepting that you're going to die. That kind of "acceptance" leads to worse outcomes, says authors in a 2019 study "Psychological mechanisms driving stress resilience in mindfulness training: A randomized controlled trial."

Nor is it about accepting poor treatment from other people. It's more about accepting your internal experience—your thoughts and feelings—which informs you about how to respond to your external circumstances in a wiser way, say the authors. For example, if you feel angry and accept your anger in the moment, it may prevent you from lashing out at someone and help you see that your feelings aren't their fault.

FREE MEDITATION APPS WORTHY OF YOUR ATTENTION

Mindfulness apps are trending in a big way, promising to help you combat anxiety, sleep better, hone your focus, and more. In fact, the Wall Street Journal reports that more than 2,000 new meditation apps launched between 2015 and 2018, and offerings have only increased as a result of higher demand during the pandemic. According to the New York Times, mindfulness apps surged in 2020.

These are:

• Mindfulness.com

Available for iOS, Android, and web

Entry price: Free

Insight Timer
Insight Timer - Free
Meditation Apps
Available for iOS, Android, and
web
Entry price: Free

Smiling Mind
Free Meditation Apps - Smiling
Mind app screenshot
Available for iOS, Android, and
web

Entry price: Free

UCLA Mindful
Free Meditation App—UCLA
Mindful
Available for iOS and Android

Entry price: Free

Healthy Minds Program

Available for iOS and Android
Entry price: Free

MANIFESTING GOALS IN THE NEW YEAR

New Year is the time for resolutions and effectively setting intentions. Manifestation is not magical thinking – it is strategically harnessing the extraordinary power of the human brain. Science shows our brains filter reality based on what we focus upon. So, by concentrating consciously on a future result, we increase the likelihood of behaviours and perceptions automatically aligning to produce that outcome.

DR CHAM MD (Alterna Psychotherapis Founder & D

This emergence relies on the reticular activating system – the part of the brain filtering stimuli to determine what reaches our awareness. When we intensify mental imagery about a goal, neurons wire together forming maps which reorient senses and actions accordingly. Research on athletes proves training concentration expands possibility.

However, transformation requires more than visions alone. We must cultivate the feelings, habits and discipline which bridge current reality with realized dreams. Our brains instigate self-fulfilling prophecies based on deeply held beliefs, not surface wishes. So manifesting destiny unfolds by consolidating desire, emotion, and behaviours into an identity narrative we already inhabiting. Through psychologicoherence, focused motivation and continual micro-adjustments between plan and performance, we shift dreams into the

Here are some tips to achieve your goals through manifestations:

manifestations:

• Reflecting on the past:
Before manifesting new
goals, first take a
moment to reflect on the
previous year. What
worked very well? What
were the takeaways?
Reflecting on both
accomplishments and
challenges provides
valuable insights that
can help shape future

goals.
Setting clear intentions:
What do you hope to accomplish? What aspects of your life would you like to improve? These intentions assist in remaining focused and aligned with the actual desires. Set specific and attainable goals. Align your goals with your values and interests.

Making a vision board: A vision board is a powerful visual depiction of your hopes and aims. It's a beautiful combination of images, phrases, and affirmations that speak to your heart. Making a vision board serves as a daily reminder of your goals, increasing your will to see them through. Make a visually pleasing collage out of images and quotes that motivate you. Place the vision board in an area where it is visible daily.

Practicing visualisation: Visualisation is an important part of manifestation. Take time each day to clearly visu-



DR CHANDNI TUGNAIT MD (Alternative Medicines), Psychotherapist, Life Coach, Healer, Founder & Director of Gateway

alise yourself reaching your objectives. Consider the specifics—the sights, sounds, and feelings connected with achievement. This mental repetition prepares the mind for success and cultivates a positive mindset. Find a peaceful place to practice visualisation and involve all your senses in the process.

Breaking down goals into manageable steps:
Because large goals can be overwhelming, they must be broken down into smaller, manageable steps. This makes the journey less intimidating while giving a roadmap for growth. Make a timeline for each stage and recognise accomplishments along the way.

Cultivating a positive mentality: Because our thoughts affect our reality, having a positive mentality is essential for manifesting goals. Affirmations and encouraging thoughts should be used to replace self-doubt and negativity. Surround yourself with people who raise your energy, books that inspire you, or motivating podcasts. Challenge and reframe negative thoughts to cultivate a positive mindset.

• Embracing adaptability: Because life is unpredictable, goals may need to be adjusted along the road. Accept detours as chances for growth rather than setbacks and embrace adaptation with an open heart. On the route to manifestation, flexibility is a key skill.

• Cultivating gratitude: Gratitude attracts positive energy. Take time each day to show gratitude for the accomplishments, lessons learned, and assistance received. Gratitude shifts our viewpoint, allowing for more abundance in our lives

lives.
Manifestation is not a onesize-fits-all process, so identify the tactics that speak to
you and breathe authenticity into your path. Harness
your brain's creative power
this New Year by clarifying
the outcome, affirming selfefficacy, attentively perceiving signs of progress and
adapting efforts toward
embodiment. What the
mind conceives and
believes, it achieves. Resolve
to become your aspirations
- and through manifesting
intention, make it so!

BOOK REVIEW

BY ARCHANA JYOTI

Despite several government policies and welfare measures, a significant number of persons with disabilities (PwDs) especially those with intellectual developmental disabilities/ mental illness continue to be confined to their homes or resort to begging due to the absence of a proper support

Óbviously, either the policies are not being effectively implemented or are not aligned with the specific needs of this particular sector.

The Supreme Court's recent attention to this matter through a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) is indicative of the urgent need to address the lack of guidelines for the rehabilitation and social reintegration of mentally and physically challenged individuals after they turn 18. This resonates with the concerns of parents and caregivers who worry about the

Divyangs Still Await Social Inclusion

This book is a telling commentary on the present status of the PwDs in the country and is an essential read on the legislations and government policies and glaring gaps that need to be filled to ensure an inclusive society future of their wards when they are six topics, delves deep into various budget and the absence of heads of the author also stressed on skill budget and the absence of heads of the author also stressed on skill budget and the absence of heads of the author also stressed on skill budget and the absence of heads of the author also stressed on skill budget and the absence of heads of the author also stressed on skill budget and the absence of heads of the author also stressed on skill budget and the absence of heads of the author also stressed on skill budget and the absence of heads of the author also stressed on skill budget and the absence of heads of the author also stressed on skill budget and the absence of heads of the author also stressed on skill budget and the absence of heads of the author also stressed on skill budget and the absence of heads of the author also stressed on skill budget and the absence of heads of the author also stressed on skill budget and the absence of heads of the author also stressed on skill budget and the absence of heads of the author also stressed on skill budget and the absence of heads of the author also stressed on skill budget and the a

future of their wards when they are no longer able to provide care. If you are still clueless about what we are talking about then you must read the book 'Era of Awakening for People with Disabilities' authored by 94-year-old seasoned journalist JP Gadkari, fondly known as JP among his friends and those working for the uplift of the sector. Drawing from his personal experience as the father of an adult autis-

tic son and his extensive involvement

in the disability sector, JP sensitive-

ly highlights the shortcomings in

current government policies and leg-

islation. The book, categorized into

aspects of the lives of PwDs, including their rights, health, education, employment, social security, inclusion, awareness, and poverty and the gaps that persist, hindering the establishment of an inclusive society. One notable suggestion among many others from the author is the call for a 2021 census to obtain accurate data on the PwD population for better planning. The book also critically assesses the new proposed disability policy, appreciating the government's efforts to adopt a Rightbased approach but at the same time pointing out the lack of sufficient

budget and the absence of heads of important autonomous bodies like the Rehabilitation Council of India. Each section appears to analyze the government's actions or lack thereof in these areas, offering a critical assessment of the impact on the lives of PwDs. Part three titled 'Present situation' is a must read, emphasizing on what was expected in the UNCRPD and what exactly has been achieved in the past two decades in respect of multitude of issues like social security, skill development and employment, education, standardization of training of professionals among others.

The author also stressed on skill development training as an essental requirement given their limited capacity for academic education. He says that acquiring some skills through vocational training can help them get some kind of gainful employment so as to lead a dignified life. He suggests this should be entrusted to the National Trust.

Dr. Sudesh Mukhopadhyay, former head of the Rehabilitation Council of India(RCI), in the Foreword rightly describes the publication as a memoir of the journey from exclusion to inclusion for persons with IDDs, reflecting the struggle faced by parents and civil society to make the State and system more sensitive and responsive. The book emphasizes the impor-

tance of involving individuals with disabilities in creative processes, as demonstrated by the inclusion of the cover of the book which is designed by an young autistic graphic designer Ujjwal. This action sets an example for the broader theme of promoting inclusivity in society. In conclusion, the book provides a

comprehensive perspective on the challenges faced by PwDs in India, incorporating the voices of individuals with disabilities and their support networks.

The book serves as a call to action, urging the government and society to bridge the existing gaps and work towards creating a truly inclusive environment for all, particularly those living on the edge of the

Hamas Israel conflagration: Global peace bankruptcy

narrative that during a conflict, the state actor is actor, in tandem with the germination and sustenance of a spectacular effect. The state actor is steadily with the accoutered characteristics of power and resources, such as the military prowess of the high-riding establishment and the economic premise of the regime of the day. On the other hand, the non-state actor is hard-pressed for thus resources and consequently relies upon a spectacular impact, such as that of an insurgent action, which inflicts damage to the state's habiliments and its symbols of state power. This is the Simulacra effect of the non-state actor. The same model has been utilised by the state of Israel to rationalise its actions in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as well as the related Jewish settlements in the contested

The Israel-Palestine conflict is often scrutinised in an inquisitive quest to identify the culpable agent, leading to collateral damage and the mass destruction of human lives and the remnants of human civilisation. The prologue of "O Jerusalem" sets the stage in Israel, stating, "They knew the sound. For months before this afternoon in May 1948, the forlorn wail had symbolised the frontiers of their existence. It was the skirl of the British bagpipes, and now its call reverberated

The quintessential Political ancient stone passages, piping Contest Model, as away the few British soldiers away the few British soldiers advanced by Israeli scholar left inside the old walled city Gadi Wolfsfeld, posits the of Jerusalem. They marched in columns, silent and unsmiling, the rhythmic pitted against a non-state tramp of their boots blending with the dying notes of the bagpipes. At the head and the rear of each column, one soldier, a sten gun crooked in his elbow, broke the pattern of their unwavering stares, his restless eyes scanning the hostile stone facades around them. The Balfour Declaration,

penned by Arthur James Balfour, contained ambiguities that required interpreters and solution providers to attempt filling the gaps. Released in 1917, the declaration declared British support for the establishment of a national home for dispersed Jews in Palestine. It took the form of a letter from Arthur James Balfour, the British Foreign Secretary, to Lionel Rothschild, a leader of the Anglo-Jewish community. Despite this, there was a struggle to balance the two communities in Palestine. It was asserted that neither party should do anything to diminish the civil and religious rights of the non-Jewish communities in the land of Palestine. Thus, one can trace back to history to advance the argument that resolution were embedded in the two-nation theory, a concept that still perplexes present-day interlocutors.

There is no doubt that Hamas need for a humanitarian is considered a terrorist organisation of the non-state genre. The incident on Ceasefires, negotiated by October 7, where they caused neighbouring state actors like



mayhem and kidnapped Jews in south Israel, is cited by Benjamin Netanyahu as a justification for the IDF's aggressive actions and relentless attacks on northern Gaza in the early stages of the conflict. Prime Minister Netanyahu contends, "This is a fight till the finish, and the war will be carried on until the seeds of conflict the whole of the Hamas establishment is annihilated in Gaza Strip."

The UNSC has reprimanded Tel Aviv, emphasising the corridor to be provided to international aid agencies.

Egypt, have been proposed to facilitate this. Describing Israel's involvement as a ceaseless Armageddon would not be an overstatement, according to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Israel aims to destroy both Hamas' military and governing capabilities. Initially designated as a recalcitrant non-state actor due to its actions on October 7, 2023, Hamas has faced international criticism for the reported massive collateral damage in Gaza. While President Joe Biden expresses unwavering support for Tel

Aviv, he urges less intrusive

actions, emphasising the

prevention of incidents like the destruction of Shifa Hospital. Similar to the Ukraine-Russia conflict, the issue of collateral damage poses a challenge for the IDF, which contends that civilian facilities, including hospitals, serve as shelters for Hamas terrorists and concealment of their strength through tunnels.

The world awaits with bated breath to see how the global ecosystem will navigate the twin conflicts in Ukraine and Israel, especially with the pervasive threat of the pandemic looming. The credibility of international

United Nations and the ambiguous stance superpowers like the United States have come under scrutiny, notably with the aggressive actions of Houthi rebels in Yemen and the involvement of Iranian which agents, further escalates the conflict. The promotion of peace and stability must be orchestrated by the interlocutors in West Asia and the great powers collectively.

The United States of America has made it clear that it will stand by Israel regardless of the circumstances, and two warship groups have been stationed in the near vicinity.

President unequivocally expressed this intent to the international community, both at the UNSC and beyond. Collateral damage condemned by

Americans, as indicated by Biden's statement regarding the tragic news related to Gad Haggai. The United States has traditionally been a staunch ally of Tel Aviv, and the Jewish lobby, despite facing dehumanisation globally, has a significant influence in the political, social, economic life of America.

A relevant and timely White House release succinctly asserts, "Today, the world faces an inflection point, where the choices we make, including in the crises in Europe and West Asia, will determine the direction of our future for generations to come. What will our world look like on the other side of these conflicts? Will we deny Hamas the ability to carry out pure, unadulterated evil? Will Israelis and Palestinians one day live side by side in peace, with two states for two peoples?" IR theorist John Mearsheimer staunchly contends that the key pillar of US policy has been the nation-state of Israel, which, according to him, is an undeniable fact. Additional strategic imperatives and a higher moral perch have been incorporated into the US-Israel narrative, and this is prominently reflected in the contemporary crisis.

(The writer teaches at International Relations and International Organisations, Indian Institute of Public In recent years, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been marked by a complex interplay between state and non-state actors, notably employing the **Political Contest** Model developed by Gadi Wolfsfeld. This model illustrates the asymmetry in power and resources between state and non-state entities, exemplified by Israel's actions in West Bank. Gaza Strip. and Jewish



settlements.

MANAN DWIVEDI

PERSPECTIVE •

Dark realities of Xinjiang: Tough test for Uighurs

As reports of China's alleged human rights abuses in Xinjiang surface, a storm of international outrage erupts. Diplomats, politicians, and human rights organisations decry the treatment of **Uighurs**, accusing China of systematic oppression, torture, and brainwashing. Despite the global outcry and sanctions, China remains defiant. raising questions about the UN's ability to hold the authoritative



regime

accountable.

MAKHAN SAIKIA

⊥ attempting to sell the eliciting strong protests from Asia and East Asia. various quarters. Many of these visitors have witnessed and experienced outright violations of the basic freedoms of Uighur and other ethnic Muslims in Xinjiang Province.

China is maintaining several "re-education camps" or "vocational training centres" in Xinjiang. The purpose of establishing such camps is to deradicalise the locals in response to the growing Islamophobia in the region. Additionally, the Chinese Government asserts that these centres aim to improve labour skills and alleviate poverty in the province. Local officials strongly believe that these efforts are genuinely beneficial and contribute to restoring social stability, harmony, and prosperity to Xinjiang.

However, the reality is exceedingly harsh. Uighurs are enduring pain and untold misery. China is vehemently suppressing the Uighurs in Xinjiang Province, solely aiming to curb separatist tendencies among the people in this volatile region. This is Beijing's official explanation for the extensive security and surveillance measures throughout imposed Xinjiang. Beijing has been incarcerating millions of Uighurs in these re-education camps, subjecting them to systematic brainwashing, torture, and other degrading treatments. In 2021, Agnes Callamard, the Secretary-Amnesty International, accused Chinese authorities of dystopian creating hellscape on a staggering

The Uighurs find themselves at a cultural and historical crossroad, facing a severe test for survival under the Communist rule from Beijing. Nearly 12 million

The recent reports of China Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR), as it is officially Xinjiang story to diplomats, known in China, located in politicians, and journalists the northwest and serving as from friendly nations are a crossroads between Central

Last year, Chinese President

Xi Jinping visited the farwestern province and emphasised the need to maintain "hard-earned social stability" in the region. He conveyed to officials in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR) that Beijing intends to persist with its counterterrorism there. It serves as a litmus test for China, requiring a delicate balance between its global expansion agenda and the need to ensure domestic stability throughout the mainland and its overseas territories, including Hong Kong, Macau, and the South China Sea (SCS).

The UN has already accused China of serious human rights violations in Xinjiang. A long-awaited report, published in 2022 by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the XUAR, rightly pointed out that China is engaged in "serious human rights violations against the Uighurs" and other Muslim predominantly communities in the province. Beijing vigorously attempted to prevent the release of the Xinjiang report, but it was eventually made public by the UN human rights body just before the retirement of Human Rights Commissioner Michelle Bachelet. She visited Xinjiang in May of that year, and only after her visit was the highly sensitive report brought to the public's

However, for the Communist Party apparatchiks and its top leaders, this report was dismissed as nothing more than a "farce" orchestrated by

Western powers. human rights agencies, such as Human Rights Watch (HRW), assert that China is committing crimes against humanity in Uighurs reside in the Xinjiang Xinjiang. Following the

release of the report, Chinese officials maintained their abusive "strike hard policies", resulting in the suppression of fundamental freedoms for Uighurs and other Turkic Muslims. HRW strongly argues that UN member states should not remain silent in the face of such crimes against humanity.

concerned governments to: Work toward the successful adoption of a UN Resolution to investigate instances of crimes against humanity and hold those responsible accountable.

Additionally, HRW urges

B. Improve efforts to document individuals who are detained, imprisoned, and forcibly disappeared, and make attempts to reunite

C. Impose targeted sanctions Chinese officials implicated in serious abuses in Xinjiang. pursuing

Consider criminal cases under the "universal concept of jurisdiction," allowing a country's domestic judicial system to investigate and prosecute certain grave crimes, such as torture, even if they were not committed on its territory.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) also contends that the current Commissioner, Volker Turk, should act on the recommendations of the report from his office, previously provided by his predecessor. It is time to hold accountable those responsible for committing heinous crimes against the Uighurs and other minorities in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous

Region (XUAR). The pivotal question is whether the UN, in general, and the UN Human Rights (UNHRC), in particular, have the mandate to hold China accountable for massive human rights abuses in Xinjiang over the years. It is deemed impractical for any international agency, including the International Court of Justice (ICJ), to compel an authoritative regime like Xi's to cease human rights violations in Xinjiang. While sanctions have already been imposed by

various nations, including the

US, the UK, Canada, and the European Union (EU), on Chinese officials alleged to be involved in rights violations against the Uighurs and other Muslim minority groups in 2021, it is essential to note that this marked the first coordinated sanctions by EU Members against China since the historic Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989. In response, China retaliated with almost equivalent sanctions against some EU politicians and officials. 2020,

International Court of Justice (ICJ) joined over 300 other NGOs in urging the UN to establish establish a specific mechanism for systematically specific monitoring and reporting on instances of human rights abuses by China.

Notably, this collective call was followed by a similar appeal from 50 UN experts. Both groups emphasised China's systematic human rights abuses in Hong Kong, Tibet, and particularly in Xinjiang. They highlighted the Communist nation's efforts to conceal information about the deadly

COVID-19 pandemic and its continued attacks on those defending human rights. The joint letter expressed deep concern about China's global network of censorship, threats, surveillance, and blatant violations of UN

processes. Beijing, leveraging newfound power status driven by economic clout, wolf warrior diplomacy, and growing military strength, employs tactics to deny NGOs accreditation, attack UN experts, and undermine country resolutions at the UN Human Rights Council. These actions signal the authoritative Communist regime's attempt to establish its own system within the current West-led global governance paradigm, potentially shifting it to a China-led one in the future. This has prompted the West, especially the US, to initiate multiple confrontations with China, ranging from trade to information wars in recent

China sanctions as a threat to its sovereignty. Beijing dismisses

such sanctions as based on lies, disinformation, disregard for facts, and distortions. Consequently, China uses these sanctions to tighten its policing and surveillance tactics, particularly controlling the Muslims.

For the Uighurs, changing the status quo is an uphill task. The only plausible solution lies in generating global awareness through the efforts of human rights agencies, rights activists, the UN and its special organs, and concerned nations, shedding light on the atrocities committed against the Uighurs and other small Muslim groups in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR).

China must adhere to all international norms, allowing UN agencies to investigate the atrocities against the Uighurs. Beijing should not forget that it is an integral part of the international system and community.

scant regard for international norms, coupled with attempts to impose an authoritarian system over its people and allies, is disturbing.

This approach is not how China can counter the US and other emerging powers. President Xi must first set his own house in order before pointing fingers at others. Denying basic freedoms to the Uighurs and other Muslim minority groups is unacceptable. They are Chinese people and deserve the same rights as other

Chinese citizens. Their religion should not be treated as a barrier to enjoying the universal human rights enshrined in the UN Human Rights Charter. While it is crucial to contain radical and separatist tendencies among punishing the entire Uighur Muslim and collectively is not the

perceives these (The writer is currently president of the Global

solution.























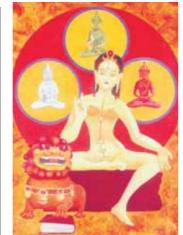




ARIES March 21-April 19

This week brings opportunities for financial gain, yet expect a busy schedule, possibly involving work-related travel. Midweek, unforeseen changes may occur, urging you to release unhelpful attachments and open up to more meaningful experiences. Be cautious, as a strong inclination towards acquiring material possessions might overshadow your judgment. This period isn't favorable for initiating new ventures; hasty decisions could lead to setbacks. Strive to maintain a positive outlook, as negativity might seem enticing. Emphasize inner growth and resilience to navigate through these challenges. Remember, the key to this week is balancing the pursuit of material success with personal well-being and emotional stability. Stay grounded and focused on what truly matters for a fulfilling journey ahead.

Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Mauve Lucky day Monday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This period will be marked by a sense of divine favor, casting you as the protagonist in a narrative filled with joy and healing. You'll experience a harmonious balance of mind, spirit, and body, enhancing your reputation. Brimming with courage, hope, and inspiration, you'll celebrate the conclusion of past challenges and embrace a transformation in your beliefs and ideas, signaling a brighter future. Expect significant changes like adopting a new routine, job, or even acquiring a new vehicle, opening doors to fresh experiences. The week's end promises joy within your family, possibly heralding commitments in personal or professional relationships. This time will be characterized by a flow of positive energy, bringing deep emotional and spiritual contentment.

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Lavender



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week, your focus should be on harnessing your inner resilience. This isn't about physical prowess, but rather the strength that comes from a deep sense of self-control and emotional stability. Your ability to navigate through challenging situations with a clear mind and a calm heart is key. You'll find inspiration and guidance from a wise and insightful individual, likely a woman, whose advice or example could significantly influence your decisions and life direction. It's a time for awakening and introspection. Engage in activities that foster spiritual growth, such as meditation or quiet reflection, connecting with a source of personal inspiration or guidance. Let go of idle fantasies and distractions; they won't serve you well in your current journey. Focus on clarity and purpose to guide your path

Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour Peach Lucky day Wednesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week, your creative abilities will play a key role in generating income. Harness the innate talents you possess to turn your aspirations into reality. The choices you make are likely to lead to positive outcomes. You have a unique gift for communication, allowing you to articulate your thoughts effectively and captivate your audience. This week promises to be fruitful, with success in various endeavors. Midweek, you may encounter some obstacles and delays in your plans. However, your patience and strong will are your greatest assets, guiding you towards achieving your objectives. Expect some encouraging news from distant places. This period is not just about financial gains but also about finding emotional satisfaction. Your efforts will lead to a sense of security and fulfillment. marking this time as particularly rewarding.

Lucky number 14 | Lucky colour Coral Lucky day Friday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week begins with you taking firm control over both personal and work-related matters. Your resilience shines as you navigate life's challenges with bravery. Expect to encounter some disagreements and pride-related issues, which call for thoughtful resolution. Embracing new perspectives and letting go of outdated beliefs will be beneficial. Changes might be on the horizon in areas like your career, living situation, and personal relationships. Be aware of potential health concerns or moments of intense stress. Initially, you might feel a strong urge for personal development and introspection. As the week progresses, a wave of positive vibes is likely to uplift you. You'll find vourself in a more comfortable, healthier state, with a sense of financial satisfaction. This period could also spark a desire for a more opulent lifestyle.

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Turquoise Lucky day Thursday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week is set to be a whirlwind of activity, touching every facet of your life. It begins with a focus on home matters, and for those seeking lifelong connections, significant developments may arise. Midweek brings a change of scenery with some travel. Professionally, you'll find yourself striving for excellence, dedicating extra hours to hone your skills and achieve your ambitions. This period could also herald the joyous news of a new family member. As the week wraps up, the results of your hard work will become apparent. Expect a positive shift in your financial situation, a testament to your efforts. For job seekers, the possibility of an enticing offer from a prestigious organization is high. This is a time to revel in your accomplishments and enjoy the sense of fulfillment that comes with them

Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Olive Lucky day Tuesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week, you'll find numerous reasons to feel joyful. With a sense of optimism and vitality guiding you, your journey through life seems brighter. Your positive energy not only uplifts you but also attracts others, as you have a knack for seeing the silver lining and spreading cheer. Midweek, you might face some challenging moments that could momentarily unsettle you. Remember, this is just a brief phase, and soon enough, a wave of positive changes will bring a sense of fulfillment. You'll likely be pleasantly surprised by the progress you've made, reflecting your efforts toward achieving your goals. Expect recognition for your work, possibly even connections or opportunities from beyond your current horizons. This period marks a significant step in your journey toward success and personal growth.

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Amber Lucky day Wednesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week brims with opportunities and a surge of creative energy. Those who seek balance and harmony are particularly poised to embrace the world with renewed vigor. You may find yourself inspired by a fresh idea or a sudden urge to achieve something significant. Your ability to juggle personal and professional responsibilities shines, indicating you're on a fruitful journey. Midweek brings moments of joy and familial bonding, marked by significant personal achievements and auspicious beginnings in both personal and professional spheres. These events bring a sense of accomplishment and happiness. As the week draws to a close, your resilience and unwavering determination stand out, serving as an inspiration to those around you. Your success is a testament to your steadfastness and inner strength

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Teal Lucky day Monday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week, you're set to experience a surge in professional success, leading to substantial financial gains. This prosperity allows you to generously fulfill your family's wishes and enjoy spending. Your inherent kindness extends to those around you, enhancing your connections. Your relationship with your partner is marked by heartfelt generosity, strengthening your bond. Children in your family bring joy, possibly through significant achievements in their careers or academics. However, it's crucial to be attentive to your well-being. You might encounter some emotional or physical fluctuations, requiring extra self-care. Staying aware of these changes will help you maintain balance and fully embrace this prosperous period.

Lucky number 5 | Lucky colour Indigo Lucky day Thursday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This period marks a significant phase where your actions lay the groundwork for future outcomes. Progress might be gradual, but your resilience will enable you to achieve much. Channel your energy effectively to accomplish your goals, and your efforts are likely to be acknowledged and appreciated. Utilize your diverse skills optimally this week, as your determination and perseverance will leave a lasting impression on those around you. You'll serve as an inspiration to others. Your communication skills will play a crucial role in building positive relationships with both superiors and colleagues. As the week concludes, a fresh wave of creativity will enhance your ideas, boosting your productivity in your chosen field. This is a time to relish and make the most of, creating joyful and memorable

Lucky number 1 | Lucky colour Grey **Lucky day** Friday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Despite your diligent efforts across various fields, it seems that the success you're striving for in your career hasn't materialized yet. Your dedication and enthusiasm are commendable, yet it appears that financial rewards might be As time progresses, the landscape looks set to improve, with promising opportunities on the horizon. Expect to receive encouragement and support from elder family nembers or mentors, who are keen to see you excel. Remember, what you truly deserve is bound to come your way. This period calls for patience; enduring efforts often lead to lasting and significant achievements. Visualize yourself on the verge of a breakthrough, as the fruits of your labor are close at hand, promising to bring not just transient success, but long-lasting fulfillment and growth.

ucky number 11 | Lucky colour Magenta Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week, you'll experience a blend of material success and a pursuit of inner calm. You'll be inclined towards activities that foster serenity, like deep reflection and home-based peaceful rituals. These practices will help balance your wellbeing. Midweek, however, may bring challenges in persona relationships, particularly with a significant other. Misunderstandings could lead to frustration or a sense of disconnection. This period calls for introspection and clarity about your life's direction. Be aware of a tendency to view situations more negatively, which could lead to unnecessary gloom. It's important to shift towards a more positive outlook. Remember, difficult times are not a cue to surrender but an opportunity to show resilience. Embrace these challenges as chances for personal growth and strengthening your resolve.

ucky number 12 | Lucky colour Ivory

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get into serious business. It is a common wish to over a stall. ¬un time is now over, and it is time to mon wish to expect that the year ahead proves rewarding and fulfilling. That, however, will depend on how well geared up and mentally alert we are to intelligently negotiate the callings of emerging times - take on challenges in strength and promptly grab opportunities coming our way and put in one's best into it. The exercise evidently must begin in mind. For, that is what drives a being. All happenings out in open originate in mind by way of arousal of desire and thereby related thoughts, ideation, articulation, and the will to act upon. Also, how we engage with the world around, or the way we react or respond to external stimuli, is directed by the mind. It is again our mind, which carries forward the legacy carried over from the past. That makes a deep imprint in our mind and psyche, which sets the terms of the way we per-

ceive issues in hand, and accordingly act upon. It will, therefore, be fair to surmise that mind defines the functional mandate of a being and then steers through the journey of life.

Coming as it may with Karmic carryover from the past, every being is born unique, each reflecting varying mental traits - desire, habits, attitudes, likes, dislikes, passions, and prejudices. We, thus, are born with a preconditioned mind. Accordingly, we develop our individualistic beliefs which drives our thought process. Also, it lays down the ground on which our perceptive and comprehensible abilities work. With such a restrictive vision, we fail to look at things in the right perspective due, and with obvious consequences. What further plays spoil sport with the thought process is our ahamkara. That doesn't let us look beyond for reality check. It is believed that ordinary mortals could hardly access

Redefine thought process for a better tomorrow



5 to 7 percent of the landscape of mind. Even that, if judiciously used, could help us negotiate with the usual callings of life with ease. More than that is subject to conscious efforts. The irony, however, is that we dissipate our energy and clutter

the thought process unnecessarily brooding and contemplating on sense of fear of future, unfulfilled desires, and unpleasant encounters we had. Consequently, we are not left with the space and energy necessary to objectively visualise the issues in hand. We then act, react, and respond on instinctive judgment without applying proper forethought, and with obvious consequences.

The other day when someone came for guidance, I asked: "What makes you so hopeless?" "Sir, my career is stagnant for quite some time. The work atmosphere is uncomfortable. Fresh job opportunities are not in sight. Domestic atmosphere is also inhospitable. I don't know how to go about." Informed the guy. Well, your astrological chart reveals that you have been a victim of your own thought process. "Sir, you don't know what I am going through. Please explain what makes you take such a view." He countered. Self-reflect on your thought trends, and you will find the answer.

The Sun is conjunct mischievous Neptune. Both are placed adverse to Jupiter and Mars. In the first place, it implies that you are stuck to illusionary beliefs and perceptions, distanced from ground realities. You are inherently an escapist who won't acknowledge truth on its first appearance and remain stuck to own line of thinking on hope against hope till pushed to the wall. Second, you have a swaggering ego, which binds you to self-defined dos and don'ts and not open to look beyond for reality check. It is difficult for you to digest things happening on unexpected lines. Third, mind signifying Moon tenanted in Gemini sign is ill-disposed off to erratic Rahu. That makes you wish to live on own exclusive terms in a demanding mode, not bothered about other's sensibilities and concerns. You lack focus. Although, you have a fertile mind, continuously breeding random thoughts, but carry vacillating tendency. You, thus, get caught up in selfinvited logic and counter logic. You, therefore, fail to take timely initiatives. Moon opposite Venus makes you emotionally volatile. You get overexercised even on trivial issues and keep unnecessarily mulling over them beyond due. Consequently, your sense of reasons takes a back seat. In the process, your indwelling potential, which though is immense, gets compromised under the shadow of heavily loaded negatives. "What's the way forward sir?" He asked. Well follow the process suggested in right earnest. That will help you redefine the thought process and tomorrow will be

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