

# NEW CHAPTER: Peace, normalcy begin in Manipur: CM

IMPHAL, Dec 2 (PTI)

MANIPUR Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Saturday said that a new chapter heralding peace and normalcy has begun in the State with the recent signing of a peace agreement between the Centre and the State's oldest militant outfit United National Liberation Front (UNLF). The peace agreement was signed in New Delhi on Wednesday, ending a six-decade long armed struggle involving the outfit.

Speaking at the reception programme of the UNLF cadres, the CM said, "I am really happy... A new chapter has begun to usher in peace and bring unity in Manipur."

"I also urge people to extend



Manipur CM N Biren Singh with State Legislative Assembly Speaker Thokchom Satyabrata Singh, MP Leishemba Sanajaoba, United National Liberation Front (UNLF) acting chairman Moirangthem Nongyai and UNLF general secretary Chabungbam Thanil applauds as a white dove is being released, symbolising peace, during the signing of a peace agreement between Government of Manipur and UNLF, in Manipur on Saturday. (PTI)

the same effort, encouragement and support they provided to the UNLF for joining the peace talks, to other groups as well," Singh said.

The Chief Minister said precious lives of civilians, insurgents and police personnel have been lost in the decades-long insurgency in the state.

"Due to violence, several key people have lost their lives. Because of the policy of previous governments that encouraged killings as the only solution instead of engaging in peace talks, 2,000 valuable lives have been lost. The life of every individual, be that of an insurgent, a civilian or a police personnel, is precious," Singh said.

He said that the process of the peace agreement with

UNLF had started three years ago. "Without the support of the people of Manipur, this peace deal would not have materialised. I thank the UNLF and its armed wing MPA for agreeing to sign the pact," the CM said. Singh said, "99 percent of the people of Manipur are happy with the signing of the deal," and urged the "remaining one per cent" to be part of the celebrations and not criticise the pact.

"Instead of engaging in politics, let us encourage all to work for the welfare of both the country and the state," he said.

Singh appealed to the UNLF to play a responsible role in the current crisis of the state and help bring unity among the people.

# Aditya-L1's solar wind particle experiment payload begins op

# ISRO

BENGALURU, Dec 2 (PTI)

THE Aditya Solar wind Particle Experiment payload onboard India's Aditya-L1 satellite has commenced its operations and is performing normally, ISRO said on Saturday.

ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C57) on September 2 had successfully launched the Aditya-L1 spacecraft, from the second launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

Aditya-L1 is the first Indian space-based observatory to study the Sun from a halo orbit around first Sun-earth Lagrangian point (L1), which is located roughly 1.5 million km from Earth.

In a statement, ISRO said Aditya Solar wind Particle Experiment (ASPEX) comprises two cutting-edge instruments 'the Solar Wind Ion



Spectrometer (SWIS) and SupraThermal and Energetic Particle Spectrometer (STEPS).

The STEPS instrument was operational on September 10, 2023. The SWIS instrument was activated on November 2, 2023, and has exhibited optimal performance. "SWIS, utilising two sensor units with a remarkable 360° field of view each, operates in planes perpendicular to one another," the statement read. According to ISRO, the

instrument has successfully measured solar wind ions, primarily protons and alpha particles. A sample energy histogram acquired from one of the sensors over two days in November 2023 illustrates variations in proton and alpha particle (doubly ionized helium, He<sup>2+</sup>) counts, the agency said.

"These variations were recorded with nominal integration time, providing a comprehensive snapshot of solar

wind behaviour," ISRO said.

The directional capabilities of SWIS enable precise measurements of solar wind protons and alphas, contributing significantly to addressing longstanding questions about solar wind properties, underlying processes, and their impact on Earth, the space agency explained.

"The change in the proton and alpha particle number ratio, as observed by SWIS, holds the potential to provide indirect information about the arrival of Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) at the Sun-Earth Lagrange Point L1," ISRO said. Enhanced alpha-to-proton ratio is often regarded as one of the sensitive markers of the passage of interplanetary coronal mass ejections (ICMEs) at the L1 and hence considered crucial for space weather studies.

# Thank you, Dubai: PM Modi shares glimpses of COP28 climate summit

NEW DELHI, Dec 2 (ANI)

AFTER participating in the Conference of Parties-28 (COP28) in Dubai on Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared a video of the COP28 and reiterated his commitment to work together for a better planet. Sharing the video on the social media platform X, PM Modi highlighted key moments.

The video included glimpses of his bilateral meetings, interactions with global leaders, and his summit speech focusing on the contribution of all countries against climate change.

In the video, PM Modi was also seen shaking hands and engaging with many world leaders on the sidelines of the COP28 World Climate Action Summit in Dubai.

"Thank you, Dubai! It's been a productive #COP28 Summit. Let's all keep working together for a better planet," PM Modi wrote in the post.

## Modi reacts to 'Melodi'



PM Narendra Modi with Prime Minister of Italy Giorgia Meloni at the COP28. (PTI)

NEW DELHI, Dec 2 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday reacted to a viral selfie his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni took

with him on the sidelines of the COP28 meet in Dubai, saying "meeting friends is always a delight".

Meloni had on Friday posted the selfie on X with the remarks, "Good friends at COP28" followed by hashtag 'Melodi',

a mix of the two leaders' surnames.

The warm picture of the two leaders smilingly into the camera has gone viral since.

On the sidelines of the summit, PM Modi met with King

Charles III. PM Modi called King Charles as significant

voice in fight against climate change.

"Earlier today in Dubai, I had the opportunity to interact with King Charles, who has always been passionate towards environmental conservation and sustainable development. He is an important voice in the fight against climate change. @RoyalFamily," said PM Modi in a post on X.

PM Modi met with the Vietnamese Prime Minister, Pham Minh Chinh and both leaders shared views on various issues.

"Met Prime Minister of Vietnam, Mr. Pham Minh Chinh and had a great conversation on various issues," PM Modi posted on X.

PM Narendra Modi landed at Delhi airport on Friday late night after a landmark visit to Dubai. He wrapped up his day-long visit to the UAE on Friday evening after participating in the World Climate Action Summit of the COP28.

# WHO has lost its independence

## 'India should **exit** global health body'

NEW DELHI, Dec 2 (PTI)

EMINENT British-Indian Cardiologist Dr Aseen Malhotra has alleged that the World Health Organisation (WHO) has completely lost its independence and suggested that the Indian Government should ignore its advice on various issues and exit the global health body.

Talking to PTI, Malhotra, who gave a lecture at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here on "The Corporate Capture of Medicine and Public Health" recently, also claimed that regulators do not independently evaluate data related to drugs.

"Drug regulators, such as the FDA, who are supposed to evaluate drugs, receive 65 per cent of their funding from big phar-

ma. The regulator in the UK gets 86 per cent funding from the pharma companies. So this is a gross conflict of interest. Patients and doctors think these organisations are independently evaluating the data, but they are not doing that. Till we remove these commercial conflicts of interest from health policies and decision making, we are not going to progress," Malhotra said.

As for the WHO, Malhotra said the organisation has completely lost its independence.

"Seventy per cent of the funding of the World Health Organisation comes from commercial entities.... As long as the WHO is getting industry funding or funding from vested interests, it should not be considered independent and the Indian Government should

ignore its advice. Those commercial entities are not interested in your health, they will make money by deception," he said.

The WHO should be independently funded, otherwise governments, doctors and the public cannot have confidence that their recommendations are based on the best available evidence, Malhotra said.

Medical knowledge is under commercial control but most doctors do not know that, he said, adding, "What that means is that the information doctors use to make decisions for patients, specifically when it comes to drug prescription, has been biased and corrupted by big pharma whose only interest is to produce profit for the shareholders and not to give you the best treatment."

# 3 anti-submarine warfare ships launched at Cochin Shipyard

KOCHI, Dec 2 (ANI)

THE first three ships in the series of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW SWC) built by Cochin Shipyard for the Indian Navy were launched.

The three ships were launched after completion of initial construction work. These ships will be equipped with advanced underwater weapons and sensors, and over 80 per cent indigenous content, Cochin Shipyard Limited said in press note.

The first three ships in this series, CSL Yard nos BY 523, BY 524 & BY 525 shall bear the name 'INS MAHE, INS MALVAN and INS MANGROL' upon



commissioning into the Indian Navy. The vessels are 78.0 m long, 11.36 m wide with a draught of about 2.7 m. The displacement is about 896 tons, with a maximum speed of 25 knots and endurance of 1800 nautical miles, it added.

The vessels are designed to fit indigenously developed, state-of-the-art SONARS, for underwater surveillance. Concurrent launching of the three ships is yet another milestone achievement for Cochin Shipyard Ltd. The first ship of the project is planned to be ready for delivery by November 2024. Despite the crisis of the COVID pandemic and the war in Ukraine, the timely launching of the ships is considered

a great success.

After the ceremonial pooja, the first vessel was launched by Anjali Bahl, the second vessel was launched by Kangana Berry, and the third vessel by Zarine Lord Singh. The launching of the three vessels were carried out in the presence of Chief Guest from the Indian Navy, viz. Vice Admiral Sanjay J Singh, Vice Chief of Naval Staff.

Vice Admiral Suraj Berry, Commander-in-Chief and Vice Admiral Puneet Bahl, Commandant INA. The Chairman and Managing Director, CSL, Directors of CSL, Senior officials of Indian Navy and CSL, Classification Society representatives were present at the occasion.

# Israel shifts offensive to crowded southern Gaza

200+ killed  
in 24 hours

Freed ultras  
back in action

Total deaths  
cross 15,200

TEL AVIV, Dec 2 (Agencies)

**AS VIDEOS** of Palestinians celebrating with the freed terrorists have gone viral, despite Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir's instructions to police to employ "an iron fist" to prevent such glorification, Israel on Saturday pounded targets in the crowded southern half of the Gaza Strip and ordered more neighbourhoods designated for attack to evacuate, driving up the death toll even as the United States and others urged it to do more to protect Gaza civilians.

The Almagor Terror Victims Association previously released a study that found that 80 percent of Palestinian terrorists released in political deals resumed their violent activities.

At least 200 Palestinians have been killed since fighting  
*(Contd on page 3)*



**ENSURE  
ENABLING  
ENVIRON**

# Ready to discuss all issues: Govt to Oppn ahead of Winter Session

■ **Delhi Bureau & Agencies**  
NEW DELHI, Dec 2

**AHEAD** of the Winter Session of Parliament, the Government on Saturday asserted that it was ready for a discussion on all issues provided the Opposition ensures an enabling environment in the House.

The impending expulsion of Trinamool Congress (TMC) member Mahua Moitra from the Lok Sabha, three bills to replace criminal laws and a proposed law for the appointment of Election Commissioners are issues set to dominate the Winter Session.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh presided over a meeting of floor leaders of political parties in Parliament on Saturday.  
*(Contd on page 3)*



Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister of State for Law and Justice, Parliamentary Affairs and Culture Arjun Ram Meghwal, Congress MPs Jairam Ramesh, Pramod Tiwari and Gaurav Gogoi and others during a all-party meeting at the Parliament House before the commencement of the Winter Session in New Delhi on Saturday. (PTI)