

Hold local body polls sans **OBC** quota: HC to UP Govt

Yogi says 'will hold elections only after ensuring quota', UP Govt to move SC PNS LUCKNOW

The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court on Tuesday quashed the State Government's draft notification on urban local body elections and ordered holding the polls without reservation for the OBCs. The verdict passed by a division bench of Justice DK Upadhyay and Justice Saurav Lavania annulled the December 5 draft notification issued by the Uttar Pradesh Government providing reservation to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the urban local body elections. The bench ordered the

State Election Commission to immediately issue notification for the election. Unfazed by the HC order.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the elections would not be held before the grant of reservation to the OBCs and the State would go to the Supreme Court to chal lenge the High Court's order for immediate notification of elections, if need be.

"The UP Government will vation



constitute a commission as The State Government directed by the Allahabad High contended that it had con-Court that will conduct a surducted a rapid survey and said vey of OBCs as per the it was as good as the triple test. But the HC brushed aside the Supreme Court guidelines. We will not go for the elections argument that a rapid survey without ensuring reservation was as good as the triple test for the OBCs. If required, we The UP Government had earlier this month issued a pro-

will go to the Supreme Court against the High Court's order," Yogi said. for mayors of 17 municipal The verdict comes in the light of PILs challenging the 200 municipal councils and preparation of the OBC reservation draft without following the triple test formula prewithin seven days.

scribed by the Supreme Court. According December 5 draft, four may-The petitioners had pleaded that the State Government oral seats — Aligarh, Mathura-Vrindavan, Meerut and must follow the apex court formula and constitute a dedicat-Prayagraj — were reserved for OBC candidates. Of these, the ed commission to study the political backwardness of OBCs before fixing the resermayor's posts in Aligarh and Mathura-Vrindavan were reserved for OBC women.

SP, BSP, Congress tear into Yogi Govt

PNS LUCKNOW

The Samajwadi Party, the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Congress launched a scathing attack on the Yogi Adityanath Government over the decision of the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court, which ordered holding the local body polls without reservation for the OBCs.

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yaday slammed the Government and said it was the result of a conspiracy by the BJP Government to deprive the backward classes of reservation.

"The Allahabad High visional list of reserved seats Court directing conduct of the corporations, chairpersons of urban local body' elections without OBC quota is unfortunate. Relevant facts were 545 nagar panchayats and deliberately not placed before sought suggestions/objections the bench of the Allahabad High Court by the Uttar the Pradesh Government. The OBCs who constitute 60 per cent of the population have been deprived of their constitutional right of reservation," Yadav said on Tuesday. He added that the "BJP manipulated the issue of reservation for

the OBCs only for its political interests. BSP supremo Mayawati tweeted that the State Government had to finalise the process of elections by fixing the system of OBC reservation

on the basis of a triple test, following the instructions of the Supreme Court with full devo-tion and honesty, which didn't

happen. "The OBC society will def-initely punish the BJP for this mistake," she said.

The Backward Classes Department of the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee too slammed the Yogi Government, alleging that the present BJP Government is systematically denying the backwards and Dalits their rights in the civic elections.

Manoj Yadav, president of the backward classes department of UPCC, said the BJP and the Yogi Government wanted to end reservation. He said that under the guise of the HC order, the BJP was determined to end the reservation system for the deprived communities in the elections.

No foul play in citizens' death: Russian embassy

Antov, vocal against Putin's Ukraine attack, and his friend, found dead in 2 days in Odisha

PNS NEW DELHI

 A^{s}_{death} of two Russian citizens within a span of two days in Odisha at the same hotel, the Russian embassy said here on Tuesday the local police have not found any criminal link in the deaths.

This assertion came against the backdrop of reports alleging foul play.

The two deceased were identified as Pavel Antov and Vladimir Bidenov. Their postmortem was conducted on Monday.

Authorities and the Russian Embassy are treating it a suicide case. Antov, a multi-millionaire and elected politician, was reportedly highly critical of President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine and called it "terror".

We are in constant contact with the relatives of the deceased as well as with local authorities. As we know, police do not yet see a criminal component in these tragic events, the Russian Embassy said.

Antov, 65, was found dead in a pool of blood at a hotel in Odisha's Rayagada district on



Reports say he fell from the terrace of the hotel and died.

Antov was in Odisha for his 66th birthday celebrations. He was travelling with 61vear-old Vladimir Bidenov, his

Turov and Natalia Panasenko. They were also accompanied by an Indian tourist guide. Bidenov was found dead in

the same hotel just two days before Antov's death. He was found lying unconscious in his room on the first floor of the hotel.

As per police, Bidenov died due to a stroke and was cre-mated. His friend, Antonov, was depressed after Vladimir's death and he too died on December 25, the police further said.

The police are investigating

CAPSULE China ends Covid Nationwide mock drills assess Covid combat readiness KOCHHAR, HUSBAND ban on foreigners' IMA, top doctors with any increase in the number of coronavirus cases. "I reviewed the Covid urge Govt to allow response mock drill at arrival from Jan 8 people to take 2nd booster dose

PTI BEIJING

PNS 📕 NEW DELHI China will cancel inbound

Safdarjung Hospital. This mock drill was necessary to know how prepared our hos-pitals are," the minister said. "Covid cases are rising all

er the world

Saturday, December 24. Pavel's death from all angles including the possibility that he has fallen from the terrace

associate, and a couple, Mikhail

dead. Second tourist was mentally disturbed after his friend's cremation, he was found lying on hotel premises. When taken to hospital, he was found dead," the owner of hotel Sai International in Rayagada,

accidentally.

where the Russian tourists stayed, told the media. Pavel Antov is not the first high-profile Russian to have died a mysterious and sudden death. In September this year, oil boss Ravil Maganov died after falling to his death from the sixth floor of a hospital in Russia. He was reportedly on

"First tourist was found

unconscious, after medical

examination he was found

antidepressants.



FRESH MEASLES

Days after it faced nation-wide anti-government protests against its stringent zero-Covid policy, China in a

major shift of its coronavirus response policies has announced that it will scrap quarantine for international travellers from January 8 next year as it reopens its borders and comes out of international isolation after nearly three years

The National Health Commission (NHC) on Monday announced that Covid-19 management will be downgraded from Class A to B from next month, in the same category as less-severe diseases, such as dengue fever.

arrivals starting from January 8, 2023, it said

Previously passengers coming from abroad had to mandatorily stay in over two weeks of quarantine in government accommodations, which was gradually reduced to five days with three days' of observation.

These announcements come at a time when the country is grappling with a sudden spurt in coronavirus infections fuelled by the Omicron variant after the Xi Jinping regime relaxed its stringent zero-Covid policy earlier this month following a wave of anti-government protests.

India on Tuesday held Covid Lresponse mock drill across the country as part of precautionary measures to check its preparedness to deal with any surge in cases with Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya cautioning that the

country might witness a spike in cases and there is a need to be on the guard.

to

"It is important that the entire Covid infrastructure in terms of equipment, processes and human resources are at a state of operational readiness", Mandaviya said after reviewing the Covid response mock drill at the centre-run Safdarjung Hospital here to check its readiness to deal

might witness a spike in cases too. Hence it is important that the entire Covid infrastructure in terms of equipment, processes and human resources are at a state of operational readiness," he stated

Meanwhile, representatives of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) and other top doctors and public health experts on Tuesday urged the Minister to allow people to take their second coronavirus booster doses.

The meeting, over a video conference, was called to discuss the preparedness for any possible surges in the outbreak.



Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya speaks with a doctor as a medic collects swab sample of a woman, during a nationwide mock drill for Covid-19 preparedness, at Safdarjung hospital in New Delhi on Tuesday

CASES IN MUMBAI

Mumbai: At least seven fresh cases of measles were reported and 15 children hospitalised in Mumbai on Tuesday, an official from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation said

GOVT TWEAKS GST RULES FOR TAX CREDIT CLAIM

New Delhi: GST taxpayers will be required to reverse by November 30 the input tax credit (ITC) claimed in the last fiscal in case their suppliers fail to deposit the due tax by September 30 the Finance Ministry has said. The taxpayers can reclaim the ITC later following the deposit of taxes by the supplier. P10

On rethink, BJP to contest MCD mayor, deputy polls

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Taking a U-turn on its earlier stand on not contesting the mayoral elections in Delhi, the BJP on Tuesday named Rekha Gupta and Kamal Bagdi as its candidates for the posts of mayor and deputy mayor of the MCD. Gupta is a threeterm councillor from Shalimar Bagh, while Bagdi is a firsttimer from Ram Nagar.

The elections for the post of mayor and deputy mayor will be held on January 6.

The BJP has also named Kamaljeet Sehrawat, Gajendra Daral and Pankaj Luthra for the standing committee member

posts. The AAP has named Dr Shelly Oberoi and Aaley Mohammad Iqbal for the mayor and deputy mayor posts.

The AAP ended the BJP's 15-year-rule in the MCD winning 134 of the 250 wards in the civic body polls earlier this month. The BJP managed to win 104 wards. One indepen-



dent candidate joined the BIP Delhi's Pitampura area. Gupta, after filing her

on Monday. The Congress has nine councilors, while there are two independent councillors.

will contest the election with full strength. "I appeal to all The BJP's mayor candithe councillors that vote for date, Gupta, has been a general secretary and member of the development and betterment of Delhi. I hope they the party's national executive. will choose the right mayor She was the president of the for the city by listening to the Delhi University Students Union from 1996 to 1997. She voice of their conscience," she has a stronghold in North said

Maha resolution plans to Modi's brother, family injured merge Marathi-speaking in road accident near Mysuru K'taka villages into State PTI MYSURU

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Reiterating its stand that it would pursue its litigation in the Supreme Court for inclusion of 865 disputed border villages in the State, the Maharashtra Assembly on Tuesday adopted a resolution urging the Centre to implement the decision taken at the recent joint meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah with the Chief Minister of Maharashtra Eknath Shinde and Chief Minister of Karnataka Basavaraj Bommai in New Delhi.

In its resolution passed unanimously in the ongoing nomination, asserted that she winter session of the State Legislature in Nagpur, the Maharashtra Assembly expressed its solidarity with the Marathi-speaking people in border areas and asked Union Home Minister Amit Shah to seek an undertaking from the Karnataka Government for the safety of its people living in

the border areas. Condemning

Karnataka Government for its acts of "oppressing and ter-rorising the Marathi popula-tion" and also for its "anti-Marathi" stand in the border areas, the Eknath Shinde Government reiterated its claim for inclusion of 865 Marathi-speaking areas in Maharashtra.

the

While moving the resolu-tion on Maharashtra-Karnataka border issue, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said, "All the necessary efforts would be made in the Supreme Court for inclusion of

Belgaum, Karvar, Nipani, Bhalki, Bidar towns and 865 Marathi-speaking villages of Karnataka in Maharashtra under any circumstance." The resolution said, "The

Maharashtra Government stands firmly with the Marathspeaking people in 865 Marathi-speaking villages in the border areas.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's brother Prahlad Modi and family members sustained injuries when the car in which they were travelling met with an accident near here, police said on Tuesday.

According to sources, other than the driver, Prahlad Modi, his son, daughter-in-law and a grandchild were in the car.

They are said to have suffered some injuries and have been shifted to JSS Hospital for treatment.

As per the police, the injuries are said to be "minor" in nature.

The incident happened near Kadakola around 1.30 pm when their car, on the way to Bandipur, is said to have hit the road divider.

Mysuru Superintendent of Police Seema Latkar has visited the spot and the hospital, sources said.

A doctor at the hospital said, "all were stable with minor injuries when they came, they



PTI

Wrecked remains of the car after an accident in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi's brother Prahlad Modi and family members were reportedly travelling, in Mysuru on Tuesday

were immediately attended and are out of danger without any major bleeding. X-rays and CT scans have been done...Only the child has suffered a small fracture on left leg tibia, but it is not major and is being treated."

Member of Parliament treatment.

from Mysuru-Kodagu constituency Pratap Simha, who visited the hospital too, said the family that was on a private visit had sustained "minor" injuries, and the child has suffered a minor fracture, and is undergoing



Subsidence causes hotel building to lean in Joshimath

PNS ■ JOSHIMATH

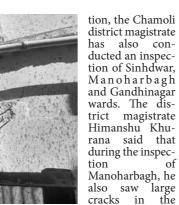
Continuing land in Joshimath has caused major cracks in two hotel buildings along the national highway in the Sinhdwar ward causing the building to tilt. More than a dozen families living in the vicinity of these buildings are now at risk. After a survey con-ducted by the local administration the residents of the buildings have vacated the

buildings under threat. The owners of buildings near the affected buildings have submitted a memorandum to the administration and sought measures for their security.

In view of the continued subsidence in Joshimath, the municipality is conducting a survey of all the wards. Of the



16 families living in homes damaged by subsidence, eight have left the damaged buildings. The municipal council chairman Shailendra Panwar said that the municipal team is conducting inspection in whichever ward from where complaints of subsidence are being received. Considering



farms. He said that a survey team had conducted an inspection in the past and had recommended work on the sewerage plan and drainage system. Work on these aspects is being carried out. The more affected areas are being inspected and necessary works will be expedited he said the seriousness of the situa

24-hour power supply being ensured across the nation: Singh

PNS 🔳 NEW TEHRI

The Union minister for Power and, New and Renewable Energy RK Singh averred that 24 hour power supply has been ensured in urban and rural areas in the country. He said that electricity was inadequate till 2015 due to of

which it was supplied for about 12 hours a day in many areas but now it is being supplied round the clock across the nation which is also boosting the nation's economy. Singh said this after arriving here for the three-day 4th Ranking & Open Canoe Sprint Senior championships to be held on the Tehri dam reservoir from Wednesday. Singh was welcomed by the Tehri MLA Kishore Úpadhyay, THDCIL chairman and

The maximum and minimum

temperatures are likely to be

about 23 degrees Celsius and

six degrees Celsius respec-tively in Dehradun on



arrival here. It should be mentioned here that about 300 participants from 21 States are participating in the sporting event. The championship is being organised by the THD-CIL in collaboration with the Kayaking and Canoeing Association of Uttarakhand, Indian Olympic Association, Uttarakhand Olympic Association and ITBP as technical partner.

pany officials on the matter

by pasting a notice outside

their office, said Sharma. He

said that the RTO has ordered

the representatives of Rapido

company to appear in the RTO office on December 29

along with all the documents

any potential anti-social elements under their respective police stations. The additional director general (ADG) of police, Law and Order, V Murugesan stated this on Tuesday while talking about the police preparation to ensure people indulge in New Year celebrations without causing any disturbance to law and order. He said that some tourist places of the State like Mussoorie, Nainital, Dehradun and Haridwar attract a large number of people for New Year celebrations, which usually increase the chances of untoward incidents due to the presence of some anti-social elements.

that potentially claim that the

government had issued a li-

PNS DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand police will with high definition cameras for surveillance purposes in famous tourist locations during the New Year's celebrations. All station in-charges have also been directed to make elaborate security arrangements to keep strict vigil over the movement of

U'khand police to use drones for surveil-

lance during New Year celebrations

use drones equip with high definition cameras for surveillance purposes in all such tourist places, said the ADG. He said that sufficient force will be deployed in all locations where crowd gathering is expected across the State. The police department would also deploy specialised PAC in tourist locations. He said that the police will also take action against any violation of law by an individual or establishments like hotels and restaurants in the name of celebrations causing disturbance in law and order. "We have made all arrangements to ensure safe New Year's celebration in all districts. I also appeal to all locals and those visiting the State for celebrations to celebrate the New Year without any violation of law. The police will take stringent action against such anti-social elements affecting law and order," said Murugesan.

clear its side on the matter

but none of the employees

came. He also said that senior

officials of the department

have been informed regard-

ing the matter and appropri-

ate action will be taken as per

the law if Rapido fails to

comply with the rules.

Considering this, police will



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अमृत महोत्सव

Maharaj invites tourists to make New Year memorable

Says State also encouraging snow wedding concept

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Tourism and Culture L minister Satpal Maharaj has said that people from across the country and abroad



visit Uttarakhand to spend the first day of the year in the mountainous regions. He said that visiting the mountains in Uttarakhand is a very good choice to make the first day of the new year memorable. Exhorting the tourists to visit Uttarakhand for celebrating the New Year, Maharaj said that if the weather goes as expected, tourists will be able to

that before coming to Uttarakhand for celebrating the New Year, they should make their bookings on time in hotels and homestays

Those who do not make their bookings on time may find it difficult to find accommodation in hotels or camps," he said. The minister said that tourists generally visit Dehradun, Mussoorie, Dhanaulti, Chakrata, Auli, Lansdowne, Nainital, Mukteshwar, Kausani and other places to celebrate the New Year. This year too large number of tourists are expected to

arrive in the State on the occasion. He said that the government is also encouraging snow-wedding in Uttarakhand with couples from across the nation coming here to get married amidst the snow. People planning to get married are contacting the authorities consistently to get married at Nainital, Álmora, Mussoorie, Joshimath and Triyuginarayan while enquir-

Severe cold day conditions **RTO** warns of action against Rapido in Dehradun PNS ■ DEHRADUN likely in plains today The Regional Transport Office (RTO) has pasted a

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State meteorological centre has issued an alert regarding the possibility of cold day to severe cold day conditions in the plains on Wednesday. Dense to very dense fog is also likely to occur in some parts of plains especially in Udham Singh Nagar and Haridwar districts. The cold day to severe cold

day conditions are likely to

Wednesday. The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in various parts of the State on Tuesday were 24.4 degrees Celsius and seven degrees



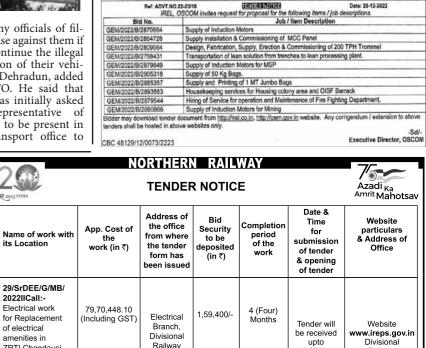
occur at a few places in the plains especially in Udham Singh Nagar and Haridwar districts today. The provisional State capital Dehradun is forecast to experience mainly clear to partly cloudy sky with mist likely to occur during the morning hours.

Celsius respectively in Dehradun, 11.5 degrees Celsius and 5.2 degrees Celsius in Pantnagar, 14.4 degrees Celsius and 2.7 degrees Celsius in Mukteshwar and 15.4 degrees Celsius and 3.4 degrees Celsius respectively in New Tehri.

cense allowing them to opernotice outside Rapido's office ate as a bike and auto in Dehradun for allegedly running its taxi and tworickshaw aggregator. The RTO has also warned the wheeler services without get-कार्यालय हरादन उत्तराखण्ड company officials of filting an aggregator license from the State government. ing a case against them if The regional transport officer they continue the illegal (administration) of the operation of their vehi-Dehradun division Sunil cles in Dehradun, added Sharma said that the Rapido the RTO. He said that company does not have a li-RTO has initially asked cence to operate as a bike and the representative of auto rickshaw aggregator as per the rules but despite that, Rapido to be present in the transport office to it has been operating for months blatantly. Considering this, the RTÓ has sought clarification from the com-

काञ्च 2023

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enjoy snowfall in the moun- ing about the places where tainous regions in the coming snowfall days. "I request the tourists ing days.

snowfall is likely in the com-

UPES wins Shaheed memorial tournament

PNS DEHRADUN



The 9th annual Shaheed memorial cricket tournament L hosted by UPES to pay tribute to the martyrs of armed forces and financially support their families, concluded on Tuesday with UPES winning the

tournament for the third time in a row. The tournament was organised to remember and support the family of martyr Naik Harendra Singh from Pipalsari village in Pauri district who made the ultimate sacrifice in October 2021 during counter insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir. The university chancellor The martyr's family was presented a cheque for Rs 2.51 lakh raised through the tournament. Besides raising money through the tournament, UPES will be supporting both the sons of martyr Naik Harendra Singh with free education and a job to one member of the family at UPES. Paying tribute to Singh, UPES chancellor Sunil Rai said "It is our privilege to be supporting the family of such courageous soldiers and an honor for us to be able to support the dependents. Supporting the family of late Naik Harendra Singh is our way of extend-ing gratitude towards his heroism and gallantry." A total of 10 teams participated in the tournament.



CM Pushkar Singh Dhami pedals after flagging off a cycle rally from Dehradun as part of the Mussoorie winter carnival on Tuesday

Pioneer photo

	📱 सिंडिकेट Syndicat	Notice		,	lhara Road, Dehradun , 9719209725,8630675595
sol	PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE OF V ction Notice is hereby given to the effect th d by holding Public Auction by inviting sea anches. Bids will be opened at Canara Bank	led bids. The Last Date for sealed bid	taken the possess & document submi	ion of the under m ssion: 27.01.2023	nentioned vehicle and will be
S.	Borrower/Branch/DP Code	Vehicles details	Liabilities	Reserve Price EMD Amount	Branch/Account No. For EMD
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Reserve Price. 4. EMD shall be deposited by way of DD in favour of Authorized Officer, Canara Bank at respective branches, Dehradun OR through online (RTGS/NEFT/ Fund Transfer) to credit of account number as mentioned above, on or before 27.01.2023 by 5.00 PM. 5. Bids shall be submitted off line in the prescribed format with relevant details (formats may be obtained from concerned branches). 6. A copy of the bid form along with the enclosure submitted shall be forwarded to the Authorized Officer of the respective Branch, Dehradun in sealed envelope. 7. The bids shall be opened at Canara Bank Regional Office, Dehradun on 30.01.2023 between 4 pm to 5 pm in presence of Branch Officials, All Bidders and two members from general public under chairmanship of Authorized Officer. 8. Sale shall be confirmed in favour of the highest bidder who shall be declared as "successful bidder", subject to confirmation of the same by the secured creditor. 9. EMD of the unsuccessful bidders shall be returned on the next business day. 10. The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD already paid), immediately on declaring him/her as the successful bidder and the balance within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. If the successful bidder fails to pay the sale price within the period stated above, the deposit made by him shall be forfeited and the secured assets shall be put forth on sale again. 11. All charges for conveyance, taxes, transfer of ownership and registration charges etc., as applicable shall be borne by the successful bidder only. 12. Authorized Officer reserves the right to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and conditions of the tender without assigning any reason thereof. **13**. The intending bidder shall also attach a copy of the PAN card issued by the Income Tax Department and his/ her identity proof and the proof of residence such as copy of the Passport, Driving license, etc. **14**. All disputes are subject to Dehradun jurisdiction only. Date: 27.12.2022 Place: Dehradun Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

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2	राज्य योजना 2022–23 हरिद्वार के विधानसमा क्षेत्र अन्तर्गत बहादराबाद– धन भगवानपुर गागलहेड़ी राज से ग्राम हकीमपुर तुर्रा में टाईल्स द्वारा सड़क निर्माण	। पिरान कलियर गौरी–पिरान कलि ज्य मार्ग के कि.मै सी०सी० इण्टरलो	के के यर— 1. 18 0.6	5 +	00.00 18% GST	9 माह	120 दिन	मार्ग कार्य हेतु 'डी' एवं उच्चतर में पंजीकृत
3	राज्य योजना 2022–23 हरिद्वार के विधानसभा क्षे अन्तर्गत ग्राम मुकर्र इण्टरलोकिंग टाईल्स द्वार	त्र पिरान कलिय बपुर में सील	ार के ०सी० 0.8	2 +	00.00 18% GST	9 माह	120 दिन	मार्ग कार्य हेतु 'डी' एवं उच्चतर में पंजीकृत
के क 1. नि रूड़व 2. नि	निविदादाता को निविद गर्यालय में मूल में उपलब्ध व विदा प्रपत्र की लागत कॉल ही के नाम बन्धक हो । निवि विदिदा की वैधता हेतु अन्ड क्षर सहित 120 दिन वैधता	कराना अनिवार्य ह तम 4 के अनुसार दा प्रपत्र एवं जी० रटेकिंग जो ₹ 1	ोगा, जिनके प्र का डिमांड बैंव एस०टी० की ध 00.00 मात्र क	स्तुत न कर इाफ्ट, जो वनराशि के ज नॉन ज्यू	ने पर नि ो कि अधि बैंक ड्राफ	विदा पर विच प्रेशासी अभिय ट अलग–अत	ार नहीं किर ान्ता, निर्माण नग दिये जा	ग जायेगा। । खण्ड, लो०नि०विल यें।
3. নি	स्रताक्षर सहित 120 दिन वैधता की अवधि इंगित करते हुये प्रमाण प्त्र । १. निर्धारित धरोहर धनराशि, जो कि अधिशासी अभियन्ता, निर्माण खण्ड, लो०नि०वि० रूड़की के नाम बन्धक हो । १. फर्म के रजिस्टेशन सर्टिफिकेट की प्रति संलग्न करें ।					हो ।		
5. <u>ড</u> <u>31.0</u>	क्त निविदा दिनांक 31.01. 1.2023 को अपराह्न 3:00 ब	2023 को अपराह 1जे तक शील्ड लि	<u>a 2:00 बजे त</u> फाफे खण्डीय	कार्यालय म	<u>में टैण्डर</u>	<u>बॉक्स में डाले</u>	<u>ो जायेगे एव</u>	<u>दिनांक 31.01.202</u>
	को अपराह्न 3:30 बजे निविदादाताओं के समक्ष खोले जायेगें, जिसके पश्चात् दिनांक 31.01.2023 को ही उपरोक्तानुसार प्राप नेविदाओं की प्राइस बिड Online माध्यम से खोली जायेगी। सहायक अभियन्ता, निर्माण खण्ड, लो०नि०वि०, रुड़की							

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uttarakhand 03



Pithoragarh DM to hold meeting |CM stresses on constructive and with Nepalese counterpart on stone pelting at border

PNS DEHRADUN

The Pithoragarh district magistrate Reena Joshi will hold a meeting with her Nepalese counterpart in two days in view of the stone pelt-ing incidents experienced in the past few days from across the border which has affected embankment work along the Kali river in Pithoragarh's Dharchula area. The sub divisional magistrate Divesh Shashni told The Pioneer on Tuesday that some anti-state elements have been pelting stones on workers building the embankment on the Indian bank of the Kali river between Nepal and Pithoragarh. He said that the district administration has been in constant touch with Nepalese authorities regarding these in-cidents and they have assured that they will take action in the matter.

He said, "We had already talked about differences the Nepalese officials have regard-



ing the construction along the Kali river. We have also contacted the chief district officer (CDO) of Darchula district of Nepal who is equivalent to a DM here about the stone-pelting incidents from their side. He has promised to take ac-

tion against the offenders." "Presently, he is out of station and is scheduled to return in two days. The DM Reena Joshi will hold a meeting with him in two days to discuss the stone pelting issue and clear any misapprehension the

Nepalese officials might have regarding the construction work along the river," added the SDM. He also said that construction work of the embankment along the river is presently in progress.

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swift disposal of files in secretariat

PNS DEHRADUN

hief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami attended meetings of the secretariat section officers and officials from the under secretary to the additional secretary level. He said that the sections should lay special focus on constructive notings in files for resolving the problems of the common people. There may be different views on files but focus should be on contributing to their disposal with a constructive viewpoint. The chief minister also announced that good governance awards will be presented at the secretariat level.

Dhami said that section officers should be given training at least once a year for better working and arrangement should be made for any other training which the offi-cials need for better disposal of work. A help desk should also be formed to guide citizens who reach the secretariat with issues. All basic facilities should be provided in the sections for better execution of works in the secretariat, he said. Along with sanitation, proper toilet facilities should also be ensured in the secretariat complex,



said Dhami. Chief secretary SS Sandhu said that the initial noting in any file is very important. The relevant rule should be mentioned without fail while making any noting in the file. In proposals which are very important in public interest, the noting should be made in a good way from the beginning. If rules are not clearly mentioned in such proposals, the constructive solution should be mentioned in the noting. He said that section officers will be taken on field visits

from time to time. Files important in public interest should be disposed of first, he added. Additional chief secretary Radha Raturi said that special focus is being laid on the e-office system. Officials concerned are now being informed by e-files, email and WhatsApp regarding meet-ings, she said.

The section officers suggested that files which are sent from the section to the under secretary, deputy secretary and joint secretary levels in which they mark some objection should not be sent back to the section but should be sent to the additional secretary and secretary. They also suggested that works should be made time bound for swift disposal of the files. The CM said that officials from the under secretary to the additional secretary level should also attend Chaupals at the village level from time to time. They should make regular field visits for better implementation of schemes.

STF nabs trio from Rishikesh for making counterfeit government identity cards

PNS DEHRADUN

 $T_{\text{task force (STF) nabbed}}^{\text{he Uttarakhand special}}$ three men from a common service centre (CSC) in Rishikesh for allegedly making counterfeit documents including Aadhaar cards, voter ID cards and PAN cards on fake documents for citizens of other States and Nepal. Many

dent of police Ayush Agrawal said the three accused including the CSC owner were arrested late on Monday evening after an Aadhaar card and voter ID was delivered to a Nepalese man, a police decoy for Rs 10,000. He said that the accused had forged all government identification docu-

Singh Saini, his brother Babu Saini and a native of Nepal Bharat Singh who was currently living in the Kalyasaur area of Pauri. The SSP said that use of fake documents for government identity documents is a serious matter of concern as these can be easily used by any person for anti-

> It can be used for purchasing mobile SIM cards by crimibe a big racket and many others are also poten-



Attention GST Taxpayers!

Please file your Annual Return in FORM GSTR-9* and FORM GSTR-9C[#] for F.Y. 2021-2022





TITI

national activities.

nals that cannot be traced back to them as they never submitted their identity documents to acquire the SIM cards. He said that the authorities are investigating the arrested accused to get information about how many such government identity documents they have issued since they started this scam. He said that it appears to

Before Due Date

आरत 2023 INDIA

residents from Nepal have allegedly been living in Garhwal division as citizens with the help of such counterfeit documents.

The STF senior superinten-

ments depicting the Nepalese man as a resident of a village of Pauri district. He said that the STF team arrested three men who have been identified as-CSC operator Lakshman

tially involved in issuing such documents. The STF will proceed on the matter as per the information revealed during the investigation, added Agrawal.

Mayor orders construction of public toilets under flyovers

PNS DEHRADUN

Dehradun mayor Sunil Uniyal 'Gama' on Tuesday directed the officials concerned to construct public toilets under flyovers in the city that fall under the Na-

tional highways. The mayor stated this in a meeting held by him on Tuesday with the officials of NHAI, the Public Works Department (PWD) and municipal officials in his

transferring the management work of street lights and electricity poles to PWD.

> He also instructed the officials concerned to issue a No Objection Certificate

> > (NOC) to the corporation for the construction of

> > vending zone under the Mohkampur fly-

> > over that falls under NHAI. The mayor di-



tional Highways Authority of India (NHAI). He also directed the officials to ensure regular cleaning of drains constructed along with the na-

office in the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD). He also said that NHAI should pay all its dues to the electricity department before

also started and such initiatives can make a significant difference in getting the city into the top 50 cleanest cities in the country.

PUBLIC NOTICE



rected the officials to expedite the construction work of public toilets under lyovers on the route of national highways in the city to ensure basic sanitation facilities can be provided to commuters. He said that Swacch Survekshan 2023 has

*Taxpayers required to file FORM GSTR-9

All GST taxpayers having Aggregate Annual Turnover above ₹ 2 Crore (during F.Y. 2021-22) except the following:

(i) Input Service Distributor (iv) Casual Taxable Person

(ii) TDS Deductor (iii) TCS Collector (v) Non-Resident Taxable Person

[#]Taxpayers required to file FORM GSTR-9C

A self-certified reconciliation statement in FORM GSTR-9C needs to be filed along with Annual Return in FORM GSTR-9 by the taxpayers whose Aggregate Annual Turnover is above ₹ 5 Crore (during F.Y. 2021-22)



Please Scan for details on GST Annual Returns

Late filing of FORM GSTR-9 and FORM GSTR-9C will attract late fee

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BJP slams Khurshid for likening Rahul with Ram

Stop using Lord Ram's name, riding roughshod over Hindu sentiments, says BJP to Congress

PNS NEW DELHI

With senior Congress leader Salman Khurshid comparing Rahul Gandhi "going out in T-Shirts in freezing cold" for his Bharat Jodo Yatra to 'Lord Ram' and describing him a "yogi doing tapasya", the BJP on Tuesday lashed out at him asking "if he would make similar analogies with other faith" and for putting "parivaar ki bhakti" (devotion to family) above "bhagwaan and rashtra ki bhakti" (devotion to God and nation).

The BJP also alleged that the Congress, when in power, had questioned the existence of Lord Ram and accused its leaders of repeatedly riding roughshod over Hindu sentiments.

"Will Salman ji ever make similar analogies for other faith? Can he?" BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla tweeted. It is important to note that this is the same Congress which has doubted the existence of Lord Ram and has filed an affidavit in the court stating that Sri Ram does not exist and is a mythological character, he



all this. They use the name of Sri Ram according to their convenience," he said. Khurshid had on Monday said: 'Rahul Gandhi is superhuman. While we are freezing in cold and wearing jackets, he is going out in t-Shirts for his Bharat Jodo Yatra. He is like a 'yogi' doing his 'tapasya' with focus.'

Khurshid, a former Cabinet minister, also likened Congress workers to Lord Ram's brother Bharat. "Lord Ram's 'khadau' (wooden slipper) goes very far. Sometimes when Ram ji is not able to reach, Bharat takes his 'khadau' and goes to places. Like that, we have carried the 'khadau' in Uttar Pradesh.

Now that 'khadau' has reached Uttar Pradesh. Ram ji will also come, this is our belief," he maintained while taking Lord Ram's name into responding to a question about

six of the 14 Lok Sabha con-

constituencies in the state.

statement.

the Gandhi-led yatra not passing through Uttar Pradesh till now.Asked about BJP's reaction to his remarks, Khurshid told reporters on Tuesday, "If I believe somebody is following the path shown by God, then what will I say if I have to praise him? How do you praise a person if he has attained such a height? Isn't this said that he is like God? No one can replace God but everyone can try to walk the path shown by him.

"Why should anyone object if I say someone is following that path and that people can again see the story they associate with God. If the BJP has never seen a good man, then it's their problem."

The yatra will enter Uttar Pradesh on January 3 through Loni in Ghaziabad. It will then pass through Baghpat and Shamli to enter Haryana.

'Kattar paapi' Sonia, Rahul should break silence on Vadra's graft: BJP

PNS 🔳 NEW DELHI

Demanding that Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi break their "silence" on corruption and money-laundering allegations against Robert Vadra, the BJP on Tuesday dubbed the Gandhi family as "kattar paapi parivaar'

It cited the Rajasthan High Court's rejection of Vadra's plea to quash a money laundering probe against him. The Congress slammed the BJP questioning why the ED has not filed a chargesheet in the case in the last eight years.

The Rajasthan High Court had last week rejected a petition seeking the quashing of an Enforcement Directorate investigation into the purchase of land in Bikaner by a company (Skylight Hospitality), linked to Vadra and his mother, through alleged shady means.

BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia described the purchase of land in Bikaner as fictitious and a complete fraud and facilitated by the Congress state government to benefit Vadra at the instance of the Gandhi

often claimed that the corrup-tion charges against Vadra are politically motivated.

"This is a 'kattar paapi parivaar' (extremely immoral family) of India. Its only work has been to do corruption and rab land to hand over to Vadra," Bhatia alleged and rejected the Congress's claim of a witch hunt against Vadra, claiming that it amounted to casting aspersions on the judiciary which has refused to quash charges against him.

"They are the most corrupt family in Indian politics. Three members of the family are out on bail in corruption cases.

It is a serious matter of concern for a government with zero tolerance for corruption," he said, in reference to the corruption probe against Sonia and Rahul, both former Congress presidents, in the National Herald case.

Bhatia cited the details of the case against Vadra in Rajasthan and said the Congress government there during 2008-13 acquired land and allotted it to non-existing family. Vadra is married to people. Huge parcel of land

Rahul's sister and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi. The Congress has ended up in the ownership of the company in which Vadra and his mother were partners the company in which Vadra and his mother were partners through a maze of transactions involving fictitious entities, he

alleged. "The then government headed by Ashok Gehlot bypassed laws and rules to appease Sonia Gandhi's sonin-law," he claimed, alleging that Vadra became the lead of a land mafia.

Gehlot is the current chief minister as well. Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala slammed the BJP and questioned why the ED has not filed a charge sheet in the case in the last eight years.

He claimed that the BJP is working overtime to throw spanners and obstacles in the way of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, from a malicious disinformation campaign about the Yatra and Yatris to taking cover behind Corona to secretly block the Yatra, and now, to level false allegations against the Congress government in Rajasthan and Vadra.

"Objective is clear – distract, mislead and misinform - from the focus on the issues of Inflation, unemployment, unequal distribution of wealth

Taking on the BJP's charge, Surjewala said, "BJP today indulged in fakery by stating two things. First, they said that between 2008-13 Congress snatched 1,000 bighas of land in Bikaner from farmers and allotted the same to two people - Hariram and Natharam, both of whom are fictional people. An FIR was then registered."

"Secondly, this land was then sold to Skylight Hospitality of Vadra and the Rajasthan High Court has rejected a case to quash the FÍR," he said. "These are devious and bogus attempts at

fakery and to peddle lies. The Congress government in Rajasthan did not take an inch of the land of farmers between 2008 and 2013 or allot it to Hariram and Natharam," he said, adding that the land was sold during the BJP government in

lage in February 2007 to

Hariram and Nathram.

Rajasthan. Surjewala claimed it was the BJP government that allotted land in Bikaner's Gajner vil-

EC begins delimitation of Parliamentary, Assembly seats on 2001 census in Assam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Election Commission $T_{(EC)}$ on Tuesday initiated the delimitation process of Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies in Assam and will use the 2001 census figures for the readjustment of seats.

The move follows request received from the Union ministry of law and justice. In its order, the EC said a ban has been put in place effective January 1, 2023 on the creation of new administrative units in the state till the exercise is completed.

Delimitation is the process of fixing limits or boundaries of the territorial constituencies in a country or a state with a

IN SHORT



Hitting out at the opposi-

tion party leaders for their

show of "sycophancy", the BJP

said comparing a person out on

bail in a corruption case, a ref-

erence to the National Herald

probe, to a God worshipped by so many people not only hurts

the feelings of Hindus but also

the entire society. BJP leader and SC advo-cate Nalin Kohli accused the

Congress of "conveniently

accepting and refusing the

existence of Lord Ram".

"Congress should resist from

legislative body. The term of the current Assam Legislative Assembly will end on May 20, 2026. The state has 14 Lok Sabha, 126 assembly and seven Rajya Sabha seats.

Sources said that earlier "Under the provisions of this month, the Assam govthe Delimitation Act, 1972, the last delimitation of conernment has written to the Centre saving that the law and stituencies in Assam was effectorder scenario in the state is ed on the basis of 1971 census figures by the then Delimitation Commission in now conducive for the EC to carry out the delimitation exercise to redraw the boundaries 1976. 1 assem mov assembly and parliamentary bly constituencies. Muslim voters in Assam account for about seats of Assam as per Section 8A of the Representation of the 37% of the state's electorate. The current assembly of People Act, 1950 has been ini-126 MLAs has as many 30 tiated following a request from Muslim legislators - 16 from the Union Law Ministry," it Congress and 14 from AIUDF. said.There will be a complete

Muslim voters hold the key in ban on the creation of new administrative units with effect stituencies of the state. "As from January 1, 2023 till the mandated under Article 170 of completion of delimitation the Constitution, census figures exercise in the state.

(2001) shall be used for the The delimitation of Assam's assembly constituenpurpose of readjustment of parliamentary and assembly cies is long overdue. The Delimitation Commission, Reservation of seats for which was set up in 2002 to the Scheduled Castes and readjust the division of assem-Scheduled Tribes will be probly and Lok Sabha constituenvided as per Articles 330 and cies on the basis of the 2001 332 of the Constitution of Census figures, completed the exercise in 25 states and Union India," the poll panel said in a Territories.

But the work was suspended in Assam following stay orders of the Gauhati High Court on a PIL challenging the validity of the 2001 Census report in 2007.

On February 28, 2020, the central government cancelled

More training on extradition matters needed: MHA Secy New Delhi: Union Home that requests from other coun-Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla on

Tuesday inaugurated Interpol Liaison Officers Workshop organised by CBI here. The theme of conference was "LRs/MLAT AND Extradition Matters".

The participants including Interpol Liaison Officers (ILOs) from States, Union Territories, other Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) and officers from CBI attended Workshop. Addressing workshop, Bhalla said Union Home Ministry has designed a new online portal on Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) / Letter Rogatory (LR) requests which can be utilised for purpose and assured further assistance, if needed.

For effective law enforcement in respect of crimes having transnational footprints, further impart training on LRs and MLATs to the personnel in law enforcement chain and offered all assistance, including organising workshops/conferences in States. The Union Home Secretary further stressed

tries for legal assistance should also be treated on priority as part of reciprocity. He invited feedback and practical suggestions towards improving efficacy of international cooperation channels for assistance in criminal matters.

It was underlined that LEAs should make use of informal channels of police cooperation for seeking and sharing infor-mation on I 24X7 platform of Interpol through CBI as NCB India (National Central Bureau). The workshop also focussed on utilising Interpol Notices and drafting requests on crime investigation cooperation.

The daylong workshop deliberated on subject "Presentation on Guidelines of MLA/LRs & Procedural aspects of drafting LRs/MLA requests; tion on new MLA/LI portal, Presentation on extradition guidelines & procedural aspect of drafting extradition requests; Informal Cooperation through Interpol and points to be kept in mind while making urge for Interpol Matters".

Centre, Manipur ink peace pact with ZUF towards making NE insurgency-free PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Centre on Tuesday L signed a peace agreement with a Manipur insurgent group, which agreed to give up violence and join the peaceful democratic process. The tri-

Home Ministry said fulfilling

the vision of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi of an 'insur-

gency-free and prosperous

Northeast' and under the guid-

NEW DELHI

partite agreement was signed armed group agreed to abjure by the Central and Manipur Governments and the violence and join the peaceful democratic process as estab-Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF) rebel group which most-ly operated in Manipur. In a statement, the Union lished by law of the land, the statement said.

The agreement provides for rehabilitation and re-settlement of the armed cadres. A joint monitoring group will be constituted to oversee enforcement of the agreed ground rules. This will be a significant

MHA OK'S NAME CHANGE OF 2 PLACES IN UP

New Delhi: The MHA has given its consent to change the names of two places - Mundera Baazar municipal council in Gorakhpur and Telia Afghan village in Deoria district - in Uttar Pradesh, following recommendations from the state government. The MHA issued no-objection certificates to change name of municipal council to Chauri-Chaura and that of village to Telia Shukla

SC STAYS NGT ORDER OF FINE ON KENDRAPADA

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has stayed an order of National Green Tribunal imposing a penalty of Rs 24 lakh on Odisha's Kendrapara municipality for failing to control discharge of waste water into Gobari river. A bench of Justices K M Joseph and BV Nagarathna issued notices to Centre, Odisha government and others while seeking their replies to plea.

EAM CONGRATULATES **KUWATI NEW FOREIGN MIN**

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday congratulated his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on his appointment as the foreign minister, saying he looks forward to working together for strengthening bilateral ties. In October this vear. Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah was appointed as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait.

YATRAS ON ANAEMIA **AWARENESS IN 5 STATES**

New Delhi: The Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecological Societies of India is undertaking a vatra across five States to raise awareness about mitigating the rising incidence of anaemia among women

deferred delimitation in Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh due to security issues, saying the exercise could be carried out "now" as previous circumstances cease to exist.

e of Union Home Ministe Amit Shah, the government of India and the government of Manipur entered into a cessation of operation agreement in New Delhi with ZUF that had been active for more than a decade. Representatives of the

Manipur, the statement said. The agreement was signed by senior home ministry officials and the government of Manipur and the representatives of ZUF in presence of Chief Minister N Biren Singh.

Plea in SC against KGB panel to examine grant of SC tag to converts

PTI NEW DELHI

A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the formation of a commission headed by former CJI K G Balakrishnan to examine giving Scheduled Caste status to people who claim to have historically belonged to the SCs but have converted to Christianity or Islam.

Constitution The (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 (amended from time to time) says that no person professing a religion other than Hinduism or Sikhism, or Buddhism can

be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Caste. The plea filed by advocate

Pratap Baburao Pandit contended he was a Christian of Scheduled Caste origin belonging to the Mahar community. The petitioner submitted that



the Union government has formed multiple commissions over the years and the appointment of a new commission will further delay the hearing of the issue in the apex court.

The top court is already seized of a number of petitions which were filed in 2004. "The petitioner is aggrieved because the main Writ Petition (Civil) No. 180/2004 and related petitions are pending for the past 18 years. The apprehension of the petitioner is that if the pre-

sent commission is allowed, the hearing on the main petition may be further delayed causing irreparable damage to the Christians of Scheduled caste origin, who are denied this SC privileges for the last 72 years. "It is also affecting the fun-

damental rights of the affected community, giving speedy justice is mandatory as per Article 21," the plea, filed through advocate Franklin Caesar Thomas, said. Besides Balakrishnan, the three-member panel includes retired IAS officer Ravinder Kumar Jain and member UGC Professor Sushma Yadav, according to a gazette notification issued by the Social Justice and Empowerment ministry.

The panel will examine the matter of giving Scheduled Caste status to new persons, who claim to have historically

belonged to the Scheduled Castes but have converted to a religion other than those mentioned in the Presidential Orders issued from time to time under article 341 of the Constitution.

The Centre had earlier told the apex court that the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 does not suffer from any "unconstitutionality" and the exclusion of Christianity and Islam was due to the reason that the "oppressive system" of untouchability was not prevalent in either of these two religions.

The government had said it has not accepted the report of the Justice Ranganath Misra Commission, which had recommended inclusion of Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims in the Scheduled Castes list, as it was "flawed".

SC to hear on Jan 2 pleas challenging State laws regulating conversions due to inter-faith marriage

New Delhi: The Supreme harassed under these laws court is scheduled to hear on across the country. As per the January 2 a batch of pleas challenging controversial State laws regulating religious conversions due to interfaith marriage

A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha is scheduled to hear the PILs filed by advocate Vishal Thakre and an NGO 'Citizens for Justice and Peace'.

The Supreme Court will also hear a plea by Muslim body 'Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind' which it had allowed last year to become a party to the petitions as it claimed a large number of Muslims are being

office report uploaded on the apex court website, so far no reply has been filed by the Centre or any of the states which have been made parties

to the litigation. On February 17, 2021, the top court had permitted the NGO to make Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh the parties to its pending petition by which it had challenged some controversial state laws regulating conversions due to interfaith marriages. The apex court had on January 6, 2021 agreed to examine certain controversial new laws of Uttar

Pradesh and Uttarakhand regulating religious conversions due to such marriages. It had, however, refused to

stay the controversial provisions of the laws and issued notices to both the state governments (Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh) on the petitions.

The pleas, filed by Thakre and the NGO, have challenged the Constitutional validity of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Ordinance, 2020 and the Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion Act, 2018 which regulate religious conversion of people in interfaith marriages.

Inspection of Maiden Pharma held over quality concerns

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

A gainst the backdrop of the controversy surrounding the quality of the cough syrup produced and exported by Haryana-based Maiden Pharma to Gambia, the DCGI along with State drugs officials has started conducting joint inspection of identified drug manufacturing units to ensure high standards of quality compliance with respect to drugs manufactured in the country. Though officials in the Union Health

Drugs Controller General of India

Ministry said that the step was initiated following directions from Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya and it had nothing to do with the Maiden Pharma case, sources said that the move comes amidst a Gambian Parliamentary Committee allegations that concluded that the cough syrups imported from India linked to

the deaths of 70 children were contaminated with toxic substances. "The Select Committee is convinced that Maiden Pharmaceuticals Ltd is culpable and should be held accountable for exporting the contaminated medicines that was linked to the death of at least 70 children in The Gambia in 2022," the Parliamentary panel had said.

officials, however said, the joint inspections are being conducted all over the country as per the Standard Operating Procedures. The serious complaint from the Gambia parliamentary committee had come days after the Union Health Ministry virtually gave a clean chit to the pharma firm.

A committee of two Joint Drugs Controllers has been constituted at CDSCO (HQ) to monitor the process of inspection, reporting & subsequent action so as to ensure compli-

The Union Health Ministry ance to the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules. This will ensure high standards of quality compliance with respect to drugs manufactured in the country, said the official. An action plan for nationwide inspection of manufacturing units which are identified to be at the risk of manufacturing Not of Standard Quality (NSQ) /adulterated/spurious drugs was made prior to carrying out inspections. The objective of drug regulation is to ensure safety, efficacy and quality of drugs available in country.

Consider posting staffer with 85% hearing disability to native place: Centre to Depts

New Delhi: The Centre has asked all its departments to explore the possibility of posting one of its employees with 85 per cent hearing disability to his native place in Kerala, according to an official order. The case relates to Vishnu S Nair (a person with benchmark disability or PwBD) with 85 % hearing disability in both ears. Nair, a regular Section Officer of the Central Secretariat Service, is present-

ly posted in the Ministry of

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). He had requested for a transfer to his native place Ernakulam district in Kerala due to his hearing disability. Nair had also approached

the Commission for Persons with Disabilities for its intervention to arrange for his posting in any government organisation near his home district, said the order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).

AIADMK will lead mega alliance for 2024 LS polls: Palaniswami

PTI CHENNAI

AIADMK interim general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami on Tuesday urged party members to strive hard and improve the tally in the 2024 Lok Sabha election and said the party would lead a mega alliance for the poll.

Palaniswami, who is confronted by estranged colleague O Panneerselvam over the leadership tussle, hopes to resurrect the party, surmounting all odds, and steer it to victory, a senior leader said.

"His agenda is to form an alliance and win the Lok Sabha polls decimating the DMK," he

At the district secretaries meeting held here, Palaniswami told the functionaries that the AIADMK will forge a mega alliance and that the party

members should strive hard to

ne pioneer

DEHRADUN | WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 28, 2022

ensure victory at the hustings. The party should be strengthened at the booth level and the members should focus more on people's issues, Palaniswami said at the meeting attended by several senior leaders.

The AIADMK leadership would decide on the number of seats to be allocated to the alliance constituents, he said.

"The year 2023 is very crucial for us. We hope to make a turnaround in our political fortunes and ensure the AIADMK registers a huge victory in the 2024 Lok Sabha election," for-

mer state minister D Jayakumar Speaking to reporters after the district secretaries' meet, Jayakumar reiterated that the alliance would be formed



Asked about the con stituents, he replied, "there's still a year to go. You will come to know about those parties."

"Honestly speaking there was no discussion about O Panneerselvam, V K Sasikala or T T V Dhinakaran at today's meet. Our sole objective is to under the AIADMK leader-

face the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and to defeat the DMK,' Jayakumar said. At the meeting, senior leader and former state minis-

ter Natham Viswanathan echoed the general feeling among the party members on not taking back Panneerselvam into the AIADMK.

Value education should be included in curriculum: Murmu

PTI HYDERABAD

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday stressed on the importance of teaching value education to children to make them good citizens.

Murmu, who addressed the students and faculty members of the Keshav Memorial Educational Society at a function organised as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav here, said parents also, in view of competition, focus on children studying the syllabus taught in their books.

"I say everywhere that value education should be added in our curriculum, our incidents in the society. system, our syllabus," she said. If value education is imparted from the beginning, implementation of National it will help in ushering in a Education Policy 2020 will cre-

good society, she said. She was responding to a query from a student that the absence of study of ethical values is leading to unwanted

only benefit the students as individuals, but will also contribute to the overall progress and development of the nation, she said.

Emphasising on the importance of reading, the President said the habit of reading is one of the most effective means for self-development. It is a skill

that would serve students well throughout their life, she said. 'In an age of internet and social media when attention span is getting shorter and communication is limited in characters, I will urge you to read more in order to improve your understanding and widen your perspective," she said.

Principals, teachers face CBI-ED in Bengal job scam

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

Anumber of college princi-pals and lecturers may soon come under the scanner of the Enforcement Directorate and Central Bureau of Investigation for their alleged role in the multi-crore school level recruitment scam.

According to sources the agencies have stumbled upon the names of some professors and college principals during the course of investigation and are preparing a list of these persons who have allegedly acted as intermediaries in the SSC and TET recruitment scam.

According to sources many of these functionaries had colluded with then TET chairman and Trinamool Congress MLA Manik Bhattacharya and then SSC chairman Subires Bhattacharyya.

Both of these persons are presently in jail along with former Bengal Education Minister Partha Chatterjee who was also the second senior most minister in the Mamata

Banerjee cabinet.

Though their exact role is not known it seems that these people acted as conduits who presented the names of would be appointees and also probably reached the cash they paid to the people higher up in the chain ... this was easier for them to do as they came from

the same education department ... besides they were on high posts which increased their credibility," agency

sources said. Scores of illegally appoint-people have already lost their jobs following directives issued by the Calcutta High Court.

Thousands of people purchased jobs in schools in what is being called a multi-layered scam.

While lakhs of aspiring candidates appeared for TET and SSC exams in successive years several thousands of them managed to purchase their jobs as school teachers in the primary, upper primary, sec-ondary and higher secondary

levels. On the other hand many eligible candidates despite having qualified the exams were bracketed in the waiting lists. The scam also took place in the appointment of Group C

and D employees. The candidates' marks were arbitrarily increased whereas thousands of OMR sheets written by them were destroyed in a bid to obliterate

the footprint of the crime. Notwithstanding, the investigating agencies in due course of investigation managed to recover a few thousand OMR sheets and hard discs of various exams from Uttar Pradesh.

While many of these OMR sheets showed that some candidates had obtained "Zero" mark. Mysteriously however, their marks were artificially increased in the website of the

According to sources these jobs were sold for anywhere between Rs 5 and Rs 30 lakh, Meanwhile, Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari on Tuesday said that the big thieves of Bengal who

had masterminded the scams would go to Tihar jail. Asking the people to pre-

pare for the panchayat elections Adhikari said "soon the biggest fishes that had perpetrated cattle smuggling, coal smuggling, teachers' scam and even usurped the poor people's houses in the PM Awas Yojna scheme would be banished to Tihar Jail.

"The ill-gotten cash from all these scams had finally found their ways to Kolkata where the TMC's top leadership gobbled

them up ... these people will never be spared ... you take care of the smaller thieves in the villages during the panchayat elections and we will take care of the

In a parallel development in a major blow to the ruling Trinamool Congress the Birbhum district vice president of the party Biplab Ojha on Tuesday joined the BJP.

He has been close to Birbhum TMC strongman and party national executive member, Anubrata Mondal who is currently in jail on charges of cattle smuggling.

I&B Min buildings' audit led to vacating 11 lakh sqft space in 20 cities: Thakur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELH

In her speech, she

xpressed confidence that the

ate a learner-centric educa-

tion system to foster critical

This shift in focus will not

thinking and creativity.

Union Minister Anurag Thakur on Tuesday said a space audit of buildings of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting led to vacating space of over 11 lakh square feet across 20 cities. During an informal interaction with reporters, Thakur said a space audit and efficient management of buildings carried out as part of the Swachh Bharat Abĥiyan also led to earnings of about Rs 22 crore. The space audit was started on September 29 by Thakur's visit to Doordarshan Kendra in Ahmedabad and concluded in Bhopal on Monday.

Personal inspection by Thakur in buildings housing offices of the ministry in Mumbai led to clearing of 90,000 square feet of space at prime locations which, if rent-



ed out, could earn the government crores in revenue. The vacated space is spread across 20 cities -- Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kurnool, Chennai, Thrissur, Thiruvananthapuram, Jabalpur, Chandigarh, Lucknow, Coimbatore, Panaji, Amritsar, Sambalpur, Bhawanipatna, Puducherry, Mangaluru, Berhampur and Bhopal.

arrested in the case of an explo-

sives-laden vehicle found near

industrialist Mukesh Ambani's

house in Mumbai last year, also

2021 directed the CBI to carry

CBI registered an FIR against

Deshmukh and others for

alleged corruption and misuse

comed the court's decision.

The NCP on Tuesday wel-

The high court in April

Based on this inquiry, the

levelled similar allegations.

out a preliminary inquiry.

The Ministry now plans to co-locate its various offices in the space vacated during the audit to bring about greater synergy among sister organisations and effective dissemination of information through integrated publicity plans, Thakur said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also mentioned the space audit carried out by the ministry in his 'Mann ki Baat' pro-gramme on December 25.

BSF jawan murdered by 7 members of family in Guj

He had gone to accused house to protest against er's objectionable video r

Deshmukh to walk out of jail, HC refuses stay on his bail

PTI MUMBAI

Deshmukh's lawyers Aniket Nikam and Inderpal Former Maharashtra Home Singh claimed that the CBI was court rejected his bail plea last trying to "overreach" the earli- month. He sought bail both on likely to walk out of jail on er order of the HC which had medical grounds and merits of

be granted.

PTI.

mitted," Nikam argued.

High Court, after hearing the

arguments, said that "no fur-

ther extension can be granted".

extend the stay, Deshmukh

could be released on bail on

Wednesday, his lawyers told

Waze's statement, no testimo-

With the court refusing to

Deshmukh approached the high court after a special CBI



bigger thieves."

PTI 🔳 KHEDA

42-year-old Border A^{42-year-ord} Security Force jawan was murdered allegedly by seven members of a family in Gujarat's Kheda district after he went to their house to protest while holding one of them responsible for circulating an objectionable video of his minor daughter on social media, police said on Tuesday.

The incident took place at around 10 pm on Saturday and the seven accused were arrested on Sunday, they said.

BSF jawan Melaji Vaghela, his wife and son went to the house of Dinesh Jadav at Chaklasi village in Nadiad taluka of the district to protest against the objectionable video of Vaghela's daughter, which they claimed was circulated on

social media by Jadav's son. "After a heated argument

over the issue, Jadav and his six other family members attacked Vaghela and his family members with sticks and sharp weapons," Nadiad's Deputy Superintendent of Police V R

Bajpai told reporters. Vaghela received injuries on his head and other body parts and died on the spot, he

His son Navdeep too suffered severe head injuries and his wife was also injured, the official said.

An FIR was registered on Sunday night at Chaklasi police station under various Indian Penal Code Sections including 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 504 (intentional insult) and 143 (unlawful assembly), he said.

All the seven accused were

arrested. They were sent to judicial custody on Monday, the official said.

An investigation was on into the incident. A forensic team was in the process of collecting evidence, he said.

The incident took place when Vaghela was visiting his family on a holiday before his transfer to Barmer in Rajasthan from Ambasan in Mehsana

Superintendent of Police Rajesh Gadhiya said.

High Court on Tuesday refused to extend its stay on an order granting him bail in a corruption case registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation

(CBI) Justice M S Karnik had granted bail to the 73-year-old Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader on December 12, but stayed the order for 10 days as the CBI sought time to challenge it in the Supreme Court.

The probe agency moved the apex court but the appeal would be heard only in January 2023 as the court is closed for vacation.

Last week, the high court had extended the stay till December 27 on the CBI's request

On Tuesday, the central extorted from bar owners in agency sought another exten-Mumbai at the behest of the NCP leader. sion

stated that stances another extension will

He has been in jail since November 2021 after the They are failing to make Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested him in an alleged out any urgency in the Supreme Court, and coming here seekmoney laundering case. ing stay. This cannot be per-

In April this year, the CBI arrested him in a corruption The vacation bench of the case.

Deshmukh, who has denied the allegations levelled against him, is in judicial custody at the Arthur Road Jail in Mumbai.

In October, the high court had granted him bail in the ED case.

The high court, while Former Mumbai police granting bail to Deshmukh, commissioner Param Bir Singh had noted that except for disin March 2021 alleged that missed police officer Sachin Deshmukh, the then home minister, had given a target to police officers to collect Rs 100 ny recorded by the CBI indicated that money was being crore per month from restaurants and bars in Mumbai.

In a statement, Mahesh Former assistant police Tapase, chief spokesperson of inspector Waze, who was the party, said, "It has been proved that Anil Deshmukh was wrongfully framed in a fake case and he will come out of the jail tomorrow after spending more than one year behind the bars. We will take his case to the people and make them aware of the injustice meted out to him."

The allegations against Deshmukh were politically motivated and no "money trail" was found, he said.

"The party extends its support to Deshmukh and we will continue to fight against the people who falsely framed him," Tapase added.

TMC's Mondal arrested for cattle smuggling gets bail in attempt to murder case



PTI DUBRAJPUR

court in West Bengal's ABirbhum district on Tuesday granted bail to TMC leader Anubrata Mondal in an attempt to murder case.

Mondal, arrested by the CBI in August in the cattle smuggling case, was booked by the police under IPC sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 325 (causing grievous hurt) and 307 (attempt to murder) on the complaint of a TMC worker

who alleged that he was assault-

ed The sub-divisional court in Dubrajpur granted bail to Mondal when he was produced, after the expiry of his ven-day police custody.

Public prosecutor Rajendra Prasad Dey said, "The investigating officer prayed for police custody but the court after examining the case diary and other records granted him bail. On behalf of the state, 1 opposed the bail petition.

Kashmiri Pandit staff move CAT challenging Vijayan meets Modi in Delhi

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/NEW DFI HI

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the latter's official residence in New Delhi, an official source said.

The Chief Minister's Office shared photographs of the meeting which is being held in the wake of farmers and residents of areas close to forested parts of the southern state protesting against implemen-tation of the one-kilometre eco-sensitive zones (ESZ) in those places.

Other than photographs of the meeting, no other details were released by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

An official source on Monday had said that the ESZ issue was likely to be discussed during the meeting. Besides that, the delay in

getting the Central govern



high speed rail project SilverLine, connecting Kasaragod in the north to Thiruvananthapuram in the south, and the financial crisis that has gripped the state during the time of COVID-19 pandemic may also be topics of discussion, the source had said. The state government has

ural disasters and pandemic, distorted policies of the Centre, the implementation of the GST without much contemplation, delayed distribution of GST compensation and imposition of cuts in the borrowing limit of the state by the Union government for the economic cri-

order prohibiting transfer from Valley

of official powers.

PTI 🔳 JAMMU

Protesting Kashmiri Pandit employees have approached the Central Administrative Tribunal against a Jammu and Kashmir administration order stating those granted employ-ment under the prime minister's special package cannot be transferred.

The move to approach the CAT's Srinagar bench comes days after Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha announced that the striking employees would not be given salaries, a statement criticised by all major political par-

Kashmiri Pandit employees have been on a strike for over seven months to demand their "relocation" from the Valley in view of targeted killings by terrorists

The protesting employees



have also sought interim relief from being forced to join work at their respective postings till the government provides them a secure work environment and releases their pending salaries.

The petition filed by Boopinder Bhat and Yogesh Pandita is likely to be listed for hearing after the tribunal resumes functioning on

They have challenged subrule 4 of rule 4 of the Jammu and Kashmir Kashmiri Migrants (Special Drive) Recruitment Rules, 2009, which provides that "in case the appointee migrates from valley again for any reason whatsoever, he shall lose the job without any notice and shall stand terminated".

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PAPER WITH PASSION

National parties?

Both the BJP and Congress units in Maharashtra and Karnataka have opposite views on land dispute

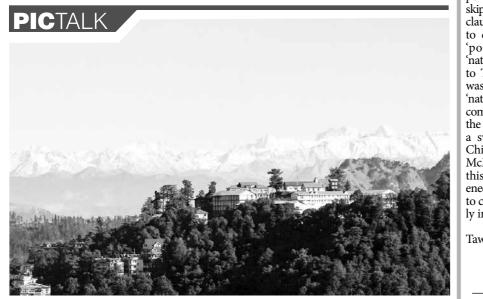
aharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has upped the ante by presenting a resolution on the decades-old border dispute with Karnataka in the state Assembly. IV I it enunciates Maharashtra's resolve to contest the pending case in the Supreme Court with full strength for the inclusion of each and "every inch" of 865 villages including Belgavi, Karwar, Nipani, and Bidar Bhalki. This is reminiscent of the resolution that both houses of our Parliament unanimously adopted on February 22, 1994, stressing that Jammu and Kashmir was an integral part of India, and that Pakistan must vacate parts of the state under its occupation. But Pakistan is an enemy nation that has illegally grabbed our territory; in the present instance, both states involved are Indian and following the Indian Constitution. In both states, the Bharatiya Janata Party, which prides itself on its nationalist credentials, is in power. Such a resolution is an affront to nation-



al unity. To be fair to Shinde and his deputy, Devendra Fadnavis, their Government was apparently responding to an equally deplorable resolution passed by the Karnataka Assembly a few days ago. Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai moved the resolution which was unanimously adopted by a voice-vote. "There is no compromise on the matters relating to Karnataka's land, water, language and Kannadiga's interest. The feelings of Karnataka's people and members [of the Assembly] is one of this subject, and if it is affected, we are all committed to unitedly take constitutional and legal measures to protect the interest of the state." Since both resolutions were unanimously adopt-

ed in the respective Assemblies, all parties, includ-

ing the BJP and the Indian National Congress, consented to their contents. A guestion arises: where do these *national* parties stand on the land dispute between the two states? The state units of BJP and Congress Maharashtra believe that "every inch" of the land in dispute belongs to Maharashtra; similarly, the state units of BJP and Congress Karnataka believe that "every inch" of the land in dispute belongs to Karnataka. What, pray, do the BJP and the Congress believe — that is, if they believe in anything other than power? For how long can national parties keep pandering to the groups which thrive on sentimentalism, be it region, linguistic, or religious? Governance is a serious business, which must be carried out with reliance on facts, commonsense, and reason; it cannot be allowed to run amok, following the vicissitudes of demagogic politicians. But, unfortunately, that is exactly what seems to be happening. Former Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray is of the view that the Centre should declare "Karnataka-occupied Maharashtra" areas as a Union Territory. Despite the inappropriate description of the dispute areas, his suggestion is worth examining; it can be a UT till the Supreme Court decides over the matter. It is, however, not just the duty of the Centre to sort out the dispute but also of the two national parties.



Restore deterrence along LAC for peace-

A 'Snow Leopard' style operation is needed to dissuade China from doing another Yangtse. The lasting peace can come only through quid pro quo.

am Madhav, once a powerful RSS voice who counted in the government, recently remarked that Indian action at Yangtse was only defensive but India is now prepared for China, adding that only Operation Snow Leopard against China was proactive. On the 15,000 feet high Yangtse plateau, the LAC follows Yangtse Ridge, the watershed where Indian border posts are located along a stone wall. Overlooking the plateau are the Yangtse heights which command a towering 360-degree view, especially of Tawang bowl 30 km away extending to Sela Pass where a tunnel is being built. It is one among several disputed areas resulting from the patchy marking of the McMahon Line on an 8-inch map and perhaps the only disputed area in Indian possession. This riles China as it was occupied by the bold actions of local commanders in Tawang when PLA infiltrated across LAČ into Wangdung/Sumdorong Chu in June 1986. Over time, Tawang developed into a fortress. It has the 341-year-old Galden Namgey Lhatse monastery, second only to Lhasa's Potala monastery, the world's largest Tibetan Buddhist place of worship. More importantly, the 6th Dalai Lama was born in Tawang which Tibet administered till 1950.

For China, the succession of the 14th Dalai Lama is linked to the status of Tibet and its control over Tawang. During the talks starting in 2005 over finding a political settlement to the border, skipping LAC identification, three clauses turned out to be key: 'not to disturb settled populations'; 'political compromise'; and 'national sentiment'. India's claim to Tawang's 'settled population' was trumped by China's use of 'national sentiment; and 'political compromise. The Chinese offer in the 1950s of a border solution was a swap: India conceded Aksai Chin while China accepted the McMahon Line. Unfortunately, this Chinese position has hardened from concessions in the west to concessions in the east, main-



crook, even by use of force, try to retake Tawang which was under its possession for two months in 1962. China's new border law 2022 equates territory with sovereignty and makes recovery of lost territory sacred

The PLA's attempt to unilaterally alter the status quo at Yangtse is not their first. They've done so regularly since 2016 to assert China's claim over disputed territory. According to the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, supported by satellite imagery Dec 2022 of Planet Labs, Chinese infrastructure has improved significantly in one year with a road now 150 m short of LAC with new villages coming up close by. China's infrastructure development along LAC has created an 'escalation trap' for India which it tries to compensate for with increased readiness and surveillance to reduce the risk of accidental escalation. On 9 December, the PLA operation started around 3 am in foggy conditions, expecting to overwhelm Indian troops who were forewarned and beat back intruders with clubs and sticks. Through these attempts, says ASPI, China is testing

India has gone silent on Doklam in Bhutan where in 2017, Indian troops allegedly 'illegally crossed LAC' into Chinese territory to prevent the construction of a road to the disputed tri-junction invoking its treaty obligations with Bhutan. Following an INDIA HAS GONE agreement, the Indian and Chinese disengaged after 73 days. But the Chinese feigned SILENT ON DOKLAM IN withdrawal and soon returned. According to Planet Lab's, imagery obtained this month **BHUTAN WHERE** Chinese village 9 km east of Doklam at Pangda is inside **IN 2017, INDIAN** TROOPS Bhutan with now a bridge over Torsa Nullah. This will create ALLEGEDLY a new red-line situation for **'ILLEGALLY** India with Indian troops at Dokla just meters away from CROSSED LAC' PLA at Doklam. India has allowed the Doklam front to **INTO CHINESE** reopen as Bhutanese would any day settle their differ-ences with China but for **TERRITORY TO** PREVENT THE India's security concerns in Chumbi valley. CONSTRUCTION It is increasingly clear OF A ROAD TO THE DISPUTED

China will neither clarify LAC nor settle the border question. It will repeat its 2020 tricks in East Ladakh in other areas as **TRI-JUNCTION** its infrastructure expands fur-**INVOKING ITS** ther. After withdrawal from Hot Springs in September, TRFATY China said it would not accept

used after every clash with Indian troops in shifting the onus of blame to India. High time India paused to rethink its China policy of diplomacy which has hit a cul de sac. PM Modi's handshake at Bali with President Xi Jinping has made little difference. Last week's 17th round of military talks produced a blank with zero progress on friction points Depsang and Demchok. It is the end of Disengagement without any Deescalation.

Madhav is wrong claiming India is prepared for China. Far from it. Deterrence has broken down and military diplomacy has also failed. The government's resolve to keep Parliament in the dark and Modi's reluctance to utter the 'C' word add to the complexity of the LAC dilemma. China is extracting maximum advantage from it. One way to rebuild deterrence is through QPQ (Quid Pro Quo) operations like Snow Leopard. Political will is needed for QPQ but so is a worthy allocation to next year's defence budget to boost deterrence.

(The writer, a retired Lt Gen, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, & founder member of the Defence

Snow-covered Himalayas mountain range after fresh snowfall, seen from Shimla

Nature's wrath

Extreme weather is playing havoc in the USA where such a big chill is being witnessed after decades

t least 48 people have already died and thousands of flights have been canceled in the USA due to storms and severe cold conditions which are being touted as one of the biggest chills in decades. The cold is so stark that it is posing danger not only to humans but to entire ecosystem. Though it has been over a week there are no signs of any let-up and it is feared that the worst is yet to come. Buffalo, New York is one of the severest hit areas by the storm which is causing high-speed wind, rains, and snow across the US. According to the forecasts, the extreme cold settling over the US this week will be biting, as a blast of arctic air and strong winds threaten to plunge several regions into subzero temperatures. Roughly 150 million people across the US are facing the frigid conditions, posing life-threatening dangers to anyone without shelter, wrecking havoc on holiday travelers and causing power outrages, and blocking supply lines. Since this



extreme weather is not normally witnessed in the USA it is not as prepared to face it as Canada where subnormal temperatures are routine. Govt agencies across the country are urging households to prepare for the worst, with strong winds adding to the possibility of disruption in power supply. People are being advised to keep extra supplies, including blankets, to face any eventuality. This could be life saver.

Ironically, worldwide stark winters are becoming less common. The dramatic and sudden shift in temperatures, can have a profound effect on adaptation, especially for plants, animals, and ecosystem. The extreme weather and storms may be direct con-

sequence of upheaval in climate change, and fall out of human actions and interference . But it's clear that the underlying impacts caused by global heating may make them harder to endure. The abruptness of the drop in temperatures is also expected to impact aquatic life. It may be intriguing to know that such conditions can prevail in warmer climates like ours as some scientists are indicating. What has been the reason for such a sharp decrease in such a short span of time is still being debated but the reason for so many deaths can be attributed to a lack of preparedness and lesser tolerance for extreme cold conditions. This extreme winter is also a reminder that no matter how technically advanced you might be, you cannot beat nature which can take away what it gives. Life!

y in Tawang. In no way China will compromise on ness to resist while eroding the Tawang and will by hook or status quo.

Indian willingness and readi

OBLIGATIONS WITH BHUTAN

the status quo of 2020 created Planning Staff, currently the by India's 'illegal crossing of Integrated Defence Staff; LAC.' This fiction China has views expressed are personal)

WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT ANYWAY?

PTI

Sir — This is in response to Prafull Goradia's article titled "The life & career of Mohammad Ali Jinnah" (December 24). Though it would be unfair to say that the Partition of India was the handiwork of MA Jinnah only, the whole world knows that the Muslim League leader played a pivotal role in that gory episode. Had Pakistan been achieved by taking resort to non-violence dialogues debates and the population of the sub-continent not got adversely affected; perhaps a favorable case could have been made for Jinnah.

But the fact remains that it was Jinnah's call of "Direct Action Day" that provoked the year-long Great Calcutta Killings and resulted in thousands of innocents being butchered to death. Jinnah's dream of Pakistan got fulfilled at the expense of the lives of millions. And those who survived the mayhem found themselves raped, widowed, orphaned, uprooted, and homeless overnight. After achieving his goal, Jinnah acted pious by promising equality for all Pakistanis, irrespective of their religious affiliation! But that rhetoric is not enough to absolve Jinnah of the deadly crime that he had perpetrated against humanity. So painting him as "originally secular" is meaningless in the context of his future deeds.

NEW GOVT IN NEPAL

Sir — Instability in Nepal for the last few decades has cast an ugly shadow on both its internal and external affairs. The November general election failed to produce a single candidate as no party could claim to form the govt despite Nepali Congress emerging as the single largest party. However, in a dramatic turn of events after weeks of speculation and negotiations were put to rest as former Maoist rebel leader Pushpa Kumar Dahal, Prachanda, is set to become the PM of the Himalayan state. His previous two terms in 2008_2009 and 2015-16 were the highlights in the recently con-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

he decision or initiative of the Congress leader Rahul Gandhi who invited Samaiwadi Party (SP) President Akhilesh Yadav, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati and Jayant Singh of Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) to participate in the Bharat Jodo Yatra (BJY), as per

political crisis over sharing of power. His decade-long armed struggle from 1996 to 2006 only ended with establishing peace in November 2006 by means of an agreement.

In a nation clouded by political and economic instability where smaller parties role as brokers by siding either with Mr Deoba or Mr Oli, it is no surprise then that its pressing problems like maintaining law and order, fighting corruption, creating jobs, improving economic conditions, providing health Kajal Chatterjee | *Kolkata* and quality education remain as elusive as ever. The new govt has its task cut out. The political changes may not bode well for India as the guerrilla leader's proximity to China and his pro-China stance will pose problems for a healthy relationship.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

SPORTSPERSONS' CAREERS

Sir — Sportspersons' careers often hang on slender threads, waltzing amidst swings in fortunes. None can be a better example of this fact than the two soccer giants - Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, whose contrasting campaigns

A good decision

sources for the unity of the country is a welcome step. A formal letter has been written by the Congress leader but its not received consent from these leaders.

The Bharat Jodo Yatra will resume on January 3 from Ghaziabad in UP and it is said that Congress wants all like-minded parties to participate in the Yatra which is already successful in other states with a very large participation of people from all castes, communities, and religions. Earlier, many non-Congress leaders and celebrities including actor and politician Kamal Haasan joined the vatra. It is high time leaders of political parties must join the Yatra irrespective of different ideologies.

Bhagwan Thadani I Mumbai

were marred in controversy owing to a cluded FIFA 2022 World Cup. While Messi reached the pinnacle of glory by winning the cup, in contrast, Ronaldo's extraordinary career has undergone a sudden, undeniable, and maybe irreversible shift. It is really sad that the Portugal star, post world cup, has been relegated to a state where he has millions of die-hard fans, yet still being lonely. Imagine a football giant, who everyone came to watch, yet was stuck on the bench often because of the rift in the relationship between him and Coach Fernando Santos. Or precisely, being Cristiano Ronaldo, yet not being wanted now.

Hitting the football into the net with regularity was what Ronaldo had been doing for years. But when he can't do that anymore, his value plummets. Sadly, just in the space of one world cup, Ronaldo's legacy has been battered beyond repair. As for Messi, completing the set of trophies with the summit clash of the game is not only phenomenal but also like cutting through the knife in the heart of Ronaldo.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

He (Vajpavee) was a rare combination of a politician, poet, fearless human being, and sympathetic leader who



had no enemies, like Ajatshatru. **Former President** — Ram Nath Kovind



implementation. I also thanked (him) for humanitarian aid and support in the UN. **Ukraine President**

— Volodymyr Zelensky



Vicky Kaushal



Management Committee and will have no stone unturned in fulfilling this responsibility to the best of my abilities.

Pakistan cricketer – Shahid Afridi

Rahul-ji. They

Gandhi Troll



Smriti Irani as the in-charge. She does not talk about when atrocities are committed against women. **Congress Social Media incharge** — Supriya Srinetra

DEHRADUN | WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 28, 2022 she ploneer

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FIRSTCOLUMN **HEALTHY, FIT INDIA IS MUST FOR WELLBEING**

Govt is addressing numerous critical health challenges



MONIKA ARORA

ealth is the building block for the prosperity of a nation. The Covid-19 has brought the focus back on healthy living and the need for robust health infrastructure, and the Indian government has been quick to respond. Even before the pandemic struck, the government was emphasising on the holistic health and well-being of all

With programmes like Ayushman Bharat and Mission Indradhanush, the government has been addressing numerous critical health challenges and promoting Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Another important but often ignored area for health programming has been women and adolescents. The health of the nation depends on the health of its women, children, and youth but health-seeking data among them in India is less than one per cent as per a study.

Similarly, only a few adolescents (5 per cent young men and 8 per cent young women) are aware of AFHC in India. Health Promotion among adolescents is the need of the hour as their empowerment is crucial to address the looming burden of overweight - obesity and NCDs among adolescents alongside the unfinished agenda of malnutrition and communicable diseases

POSHAN Abhiyaan is a path-breaking government flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers



CNNS data has highlighted huge overweight-obesity prevalence among 10-19 years in India with five per cent in both girls and boys. Over 17 million children, aged 5-19 years in India are affected by obesity. If left unchecked, these numbers will increase to 27 million by 2030-34. Thus, addressing the food environment to enable healthy choices for children and adolescents is crucial. Findings of a recent study conducted by the PHFI's research team with support from the WHO country office for India in 2021 highlighted that the advertising environment in and around schools is obesogenic, despite government and educational institutes guidelines on restricting the availability and accessibility of HFSS foods.

Another PHFI study conducted a content analysis of food advertisements on popular television channels among children and youth in India. The results revealed that a total of 88.6 per cent of 1735 food advertisements were for HFSS foods and a higher proportion of food advertisements were seen on children's channels (38 per cent) than on youth channels (23 per cent). The study highlighted that the majority (90-95 per cent) of advertisements broadcast on television channels targeting children and youth were of HFSS foods. These studies laid the foundation for designing and initiating the "Let's Fix Our Food" (LFOF) campaign to combat an obesogenic environment for children and youth. Better adolescent health can only be achieved by meaningfully engaging adolescents in intervention design and implementation. Recently, when multiple stakeholders convened nationally on the issue of addressing obesity among children and adolescents in India, it was noted that adolescents' voices were missing in these academic and scientific debates. It led to the launch of the 'LFOF initiative, which is co-created with adolescents. Under this initiative, their meaningful engagement in creating a healthy food environment in the country and leading to ownership of issues as campaigns are designed and delivered by the youth themselves. It will create health-promoting norms among adolescents, in families, and communities and will also support policies that will enable addressing malnutrition by addressing both ends of malnutrition: obesity and undernutrition. The time is ripe to come together and work towards the nation of our dreams, a healthier and happier India, by bringing all the relevant stakeholders for strengthening awareness and adoption of healthy behaviours around nutrition and physical activity among adolescents. (The author is Vice-President, Public Health Foundation of India)

Teachers should play role of friend, parent



analysis 07

A teacher's job is to equip the students to overcome the travails they face in their later life

here was a time when a teacher was looked upon as a role model by students. Apart from imbibing knowledge, students also copied their teacher's atti-tude and character in their private life. A teacher is considered at par with God; whatever they deliver is considered divine by the students and the parents. They were the sole provider of knowledge for students. Before the implementation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act 2009, corporal punishment by teachers was never considered a punishable act.

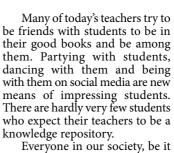
There are instances where parents supported the action of the teachers, for they knew that teachers punish students only for their betterment. Situations have changed recently, and parents consider even compelling a student to learn as a grave crime! If a student commits suicide, authorities make the teacher a culprit, and the media also goes against the teachers. A true teacher should act as a guiding light in the life of students, correcting them when they make mistakes and acting as a philosopher to provide tips to manage the travails in life.

But in today's digital era, the public perception of teachers has changed a lot. They are no longer considered a provider of knowledge. For today's generation, Google and YouTube are the knowledge sources. Even a kindergarten child knows how to use these on a laptop and smart-phone. Today's children learn to attain every skill through the internet. They learn foreign languages, learn music and other skills easily using apps available on the internet.

Suppose the purpose of a university is to facilitate the advancement of knowledge and the development of high cognitive skills in the community. In that case, Google can aptly be called a 'Google University'.

In this era of 'Google University', a teacher is considered secondary, mostly to act as an intermediate between humans and machines. For teachers to survive in this new world is challenging, especially for school and college teachers.

Teachers in the earlier generations ranked based on their knowledge in their domain and their attitude. Today if a teacher has to earn respect in the knowledge domain, they need to overpower the Google University. This is a difficult task for many. The attitude of a teacher in the present generation is hard to define. Indian society gives high respect to teachers and the teaching profession. Our tradition considers teachers at par with God, and hence they expect some qualities from a teacher that a student can emulate. Truthfully speaking, most teachers are just moving with the trends of the society and never try to keep their individuality at the forefront. They try to satisfy the needs of the present generation of students.



'GOOGLE UNIVERSITY', A students or teachers, has become an attention seeker through social TEACHER IS media. Seeking attention is the basic human instinct. Toddler CONSIDERED basic human insulici. routiler seeks attention from their parents; SECONDARY, a student seeks attention from their teachers; a teenager from friends MOSTLY TO ACT of the opposite sex, a professional from their peers; in every sphere AS AN of life and every stratum of soci-

INTERMEDIATE ety, people have become attention seekers

The quantum of posts available on various social media platforms like Instagram, Facebook, or BETWEEN HUMANS AND MACHINES. FOR Pixstory is ample proof of this. A TEACHERS TO digital society is no exception. Teachers dancing with students, SURVIVE IN THIS Partying with students, or even

IN THIS ERA OF

tions like any other person. The authorities should check whether the teacher is doing their profession judiciously. Even though a good teacher should be a friend to a student,

they should know where to draw the line. They should know how to keep a distance from students. Too much closeness to students may be misused by some.

Many institutions have put forth a dress code for teachers, driven mainly by the prevailing traditions in that society. The dress code also gives dignity to the profession and helps demarcate teachers from students. Otherwise, it would be tough to identify a young teacher from a student. Imagine how our army men/ women would look without proper uniforms.

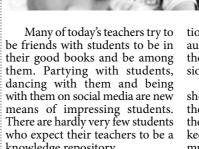
The unwritten rules and codes of ethics formulated by society are based on the experience our ancestors gained through their experience. The teachers are dealing with students, who are mostly in the age group of adolescents or teenagers. Their brain is fluid NEW WORLD IS dating students and posting their and is driven by the temptations caused by body chemicals. Many times the outward behaviour a student expresses is beyond their control. It's the duty of every teacher not to instigate their physiological status to extremes. In a recent affidavit filed by the Kerala University of Health Sciences at the Kerala High Court, it was stated that "absolute freedom on attaining the age of 18 may not be appropriate and good for the society, and maturation is fully accomplished

at the age of 25".

In this digital communication world, a teacher must be more cautious in their attitude and behaviour on social media, as their students are constantly monitoring them. In this era, it is the duty of teachers to teach students how to behave on social media and how to tackle crimes associated with it. They should teach students how to use the internet judiciously.

With the emergence of AI technologies, all creative things like writing, drawing, compositions, etc., where human brains need to be used, can be done using the internet within minutes. In this situation, evaluating a student and developing content for teaching is

an arduous task for the teachers. A teacher's job is not only to complete the syllabus or pass examinations but to equip the students to overcome the travails they face in their later life. A good teacher should play the role of a good student, friend and parent. Only if they consider themselves a student will they be curious to learn more from their domain. Similarly, they should be a good friend to students, listening to their concerns. They should also play the role of parents showing empathy and correcting them when they make mistakes. The problem we face in our education system is that we lack teachers who are passionate about the profession. Many have taken up the job either by accident or by peer pressure. Teaching is a divine profession, and teachers should show divinity by inculcating the spirit gained from our rich heritage.



notos and videos on social media CHALLENGING, has become a new norm in this ESPECIALLY FOR new world. Many teachers play appeasement politics with their students for their survival. SCHOOL AND

Of course, like any other per-COLLEGE son, a teacher has a professional as well as private life. There is no need to intrude into their private life. TEACHERS That doesn't make sense to have the teacher and student consum-(The author is a science ing alcohol together or taking a communicator and smoke together. There are excellent teachers who have their tempta-

YOU CHANGED THE ENTIRE [PCB] CONSTITUTION TO BRING IN ONE PERSON, NAJAM SETHI, AND TO ADJUST HIM. I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD. - EX-CHAIRMAN OF PAKISTAN CRICKET BOARD **RAMEEZ RAJA**



THE CRICKET REGIME HEADED BY RAMIZ RAJA IS NO MORE. THE 2014 PCB CONSTITUTION STANDS RESTORED THOUSANDS OF CRICKETERS WILL BE EMPLOYED AGAIN. THE FAMINE IN CRICKET WILL COME TO AN END. — CHAIRMAN PAKISTAN CRICKET BOARD NAJAM SETHI

Next year will be crucial for India on several counts

academic)

Economy, politics and foreign affairs will hog limelight with keen global interests in 2023 in Ukraine, food and fuel

youth population.

hat is in store for the year 2023? Will it be good or bad? For the past three years, the world has faced an unprecedented pandemic, Covid-19, which has devastated the globe. Crystal-ball gazers are hoping for a better scenario next year. They expect the economy's health will be restored and hope to resolve the war-like situation in Ukraine.

But the famous French astrologer Nostradamus predicted that in 2023 the Ukraine crisis might lead to a world war. He foretold a temperature rise and heralded the arrival of a new Pope, a civil war in America, civil unrest in the world, and a Mars landing.

The Economist magazine notes the global interlocking challenges, including the war



(The author is a senior

journalist)

KALYANI SHANKAR

prices, the fight against infla-India, the upcoming nine tion, the transition to renewstate elections are the most able energy, and China's significant in 2023. It will uncertain post-pandemic decide the fate of several parpath. India might overtake ties and their leaders, including Congress, the BJP, and China as the world's most populous country next year. It has the world's largest other regional parties. The strength of Rahul Gandhi will be tested in these polls On foreign policy, India after his current Bharat Jodo will host the prestigious 18th yatra ends in February.

Nine states will go to polls G20 Heads of State and Governments summit on over the next 12 months. They September 9-10, 2023 in New are-Meghalaya, Tripura, and Delhi. As part of the Summit, Nagaland in February; India will hold more than 200 Karnataka in May; events spread across major Chhattisgarh, Madhya metro cities. Prime Minister Pradesh, Mizoram, Telangana, Modi plans to showcase himand Rajasthan in November. self and India in a grand show The government might also to project himself as a world hold elections in Jammu and leader ahead of the 2024 polls. Kashmir. The results will be a The coronation of King precursor for the 2024 Lok Charles 111 is a colourful Sabha polls. Who wins and

event next year. Politically, for who loses will impact the electorate and the workers' morale.

The ruling BJP is making all efforts to expand its base. For the Opposition, it is vital to ensure that non-BJP parties win to stop the BJP juggernaut. There is a direct fight between the BJP and the Congress in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh. In Karnataka, there will be a triangular contest between BJP, Congress, and JDS. In Telangana, a triangular fight will be between TRS, Congress, and BJP. In Tripura, too, there will be a triangular fight between the BJP, the ongress, and the Left Front. Ŏf these, the BJP rules

Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. Both are critical for Congress and the BJP. And so are Chhattisgarh and ernment from the BJP.

Rajasthan, the only two states Congress currently holds. The BJP wants to wrest Telangana from chief minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao, who fancies himself as the challenger to Modi. Confident because his party has maintained over 40 percent vote share, establishing its formidable position in Telangana, KCR wants to perform a hat trick. Though he has finished the Congress and Telugu Desam, to his dismay, the BJP has emerged as the main opposition party in the space vacated.

The immediate focus is on Karnataka. The BJP has high stakes as that is the only state the BJP is ruling in the south. The Congress-JD(S) combine has a chance to wrest the gov-

Tripura, Meghalaya, Nagaland, and Mizoram are poll bound in the Northeast. The BJP currently rules Tripura. In Meghalaya and Nagaland, the BJP-backed governments are in power. The Mizo National Front government is ruling in Mizoram. The once pre-eminent Congress is almost finished now.

Will Congress revive its strength? Will Rahul Gandhi emerge stronger? The Himachal Pradesh win this month has boosted the morale of the Congress. It has allowed a chance for Congress to unite the Opposition.

The opposition parties have realised that Modi will get a third term unless they combine. They will decide on the prime ministerial candidate only after the polls. There are at least half a dozen contenders, mostly the egoistic regional satraps like Mamata Banerjee, KCR, and Arvind Kejriwal.

The return of covid with a new variant is a new threat. India managed to contain the pandemic by vaccinating a billion plus people. Still, the government should be on guard against any new variants.

On the economy, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Union Budget on February 1. Inflation and price rise are two critical issues. The World Bank expects India's GDP growth to be better than expected, but inflation would stay above 7 per cent.

Overall, 2023 might bring us better prospects in most spheres.



Russia says it shot down Ukrainian drone near airbase

The Russian military reportd Monday that it shot down a Ukrainian drone approaching an air base deep inside Russia, the second time the facility has been targeted this month - again revealing weaknesses in Russia's air defenses.

Russia's Defense Ministry said debris killed three servicemen at the Engels air base, which houses Tu-95 and Tu-160 nuclear-capable strategic bomber planes that have struck Ukraine with missiles in the 10month-old war.

Russia's Baza news outlet reported that four people were wounded and said a fire had broken out, with explosions, sirens and flashes on a video it posted on its Telegram channel. The Defense Ministry claimed no Russian aircraft were damaged. It wasn't clear whether the drone had been launched from Ukraine or Russian territory

If the drone had been launched from Ukraine, it would have traveled more than 600 kilometers (370 miles) to reach Engels, located in Russia's Saratov region on the Volga River. Shooting the drone down

al

after such a long trip inside Russia again raises questions about the effectiveness of Russia's air defenses, particularly those intended to protect its most strategic military assets such as warplanes capable of carrying nuclear weapons.

In keeping with the Kyiv government's long-standing practice of not confirming cross-border attacks but welcoming their results, Ukrainian air force spokesperson Yurii Ihnat didn't directly acknowledge his country's involvement in Monday's incident in an interview on Ukrainian television, but said: "These are the consequences of Russian aggression."

He added: "If the Russians thought that the war wouldn't affect them deep behind their lines, they were deeply mistaken.

Russia has suffered numerous cross-border attacks during the war on its main territory, as well as on the Crimean Peninsula, which it illegally annexed in 2014. The incidents have outraged Russian military bloggers who say they show the country's weak air defenses

and security systems in gener-



incident that couldn't be independently confirmed, Russia's Tass news agency reported Monday that the country's security forces had killed four Ukrainian saboteurs attempting to enter the Bryansk region from Ukraine. The report claimed the infiltrators carried explosive materials when they were caught Sunday.

The cross-border attacks on Russian military and other strategic sites prompted In another cross-border Russian President Vladimir

governor, Serhiy Haidai, said Putin to order almost weekly missile and weaponized drone Russian forces have withdrawn attacks on Ukraine's energy from their military command operations post in the town of infrastructure, causing widespread blackouts that also Kreminna as Ukrainian forces knocked out heating and water were approaching after months of intense fighting. Russia's Defense Ministry didn't comsupplies in increasingly frigid weather. The attacks, which began in October across much ment on the withdrawal claim. of the country, have been occurring as ground fighting focused on Ukraine's southern Kreminna and several other areas in September after they

and eastern regions. In eastern Ukraine on Monday, Luhansk's Ukrainian

Luhansk region, which is almost entirely under Moscow's control, and is on an important supply route for Russian forces and serves as a gateway for movement into other strategic positions. Earlier, Haidai reported

that Russia had withdrawn its occupying government administration from Svatove, 51 kilometers north of Kreminna.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address Monday that "the situation there is difficult. painful. The occupiers are expending all the resources available to them - and they are considerable resources - to squeeze out at least some advance.'

Haidai told Ukrainian television on Monday that Russian forces in the region are "suffering huge losses and medical facilities are overwhelmed with wounded soldiers." The Russian army is redeploying paratroopers from the Kherson region to the area, he added.

In neighbouring Donetsk region, partially occupied by Russia, fierce battles continue around the city of Bakhmut, which Russian forces have been trying to seize for weeks to consolidate their grip on Ukraine's

PTI UNITED NATIONS

Before relinquishing its

non-permanent seat in the 15-

31, 2022, India presided over

the powerful UN body in

December with the country's

first woman Permanent

Representative to the UN

Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj

sitting in the President's seat at

Just about two months

into India's second year of its

Council as elected non-per-

the horse-shoe table.

east. Zelenskyy said last week Bakhmut was the hottest spot on the war's 1,300-kilometre front line.

Ukrainian officials have maintained ambiguity over previous high-profile attacks, including drone strikes on Russian military bases earlier this month.

On Dec. 5, unprecedented drone strikes on Engels and the Dyagilevo base in the Ryazan region in western Russia killed a total of three servicemen and wounded four others. In retaliation, Russia launched a massive missile barrage in Ukraine that struck homes and buildings and killed civilians. Elsewhere on the battle-

field, at least four civilians were wounded in Russian shelling of five Ukrainian southeast regions over the past 24 hours, according to the deputy head of Ukraine's presidential office, Kyrylo Tymoshenko. Overall, the intensity of the shelling from Sunday night into Monday was significantly lower.

For the first time in weeks, Russian forces didn't shell the Dnipropetrovsk region, which borders the partially occupied southern regions of Kherson and Zaporizhzhia, its governor,

Valentyn Reznichenko, reported on Telegram. "This is the third quiet night in 5.5 months since the

Russians started shelling" the areas around the city of Nikopol, Reznichenko wrote. Nikopol is located across the Dnieper River from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, which is under the control of Russian forces and whose six reactors are shut down.

Ukrainian-controlled areas of the neighboring Kherson region were shelled 33 times over the past 24 hours, according to Kherson's Ukrainian Gov. Yaroslav Yanushevich. No casualties were reported.

On Sunday, Russian forces attacked the city of Kramatorsk, where Ukrainian forces are headquartered. Three missiles hit an industrial facility and damaged residential buildings, but no casualties were reported, according to local officials.

On Saturday, a deadly attack on the city of Kherson, which Kyiv's forces recaptured last month, killed and wounded scores of people. Local residents are lining up to donate blood for the wounded, Yanushevich said Monday.

Ukraine FM aims for February peace summit Amid Ukraine conflict, COVID-inflicted crises, India emerges as voice of Global South

AP KYIV

Ukraine's foreign minister said Monday that his nation wants a summit to end the war but he doesn't anticipate Russia taking part, a statement making it hard to foresee the devastating invasion ending soon.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba told The Associated Press that his government wants a "peace' summit within two months at the United Nations with Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as mediator.

The UN gave a very cautious response.

"As the secretary-general has said many times in the past, he can only mediate if all parties want him to mediate," UN associate spokesperson Florencia Soto Nino-Martinez

said Monday. Kuleba said Russia must face a war-crimes tribunal before his country directly talks with Moscow. He said, however, that other nations should feel free to engage with Russians, as happened before a

Zelenskyy's visit to the US last week, and he revealed that the US government had made a special plan to get the Patriot missile battery ready to be operational in the country in less than six months. Usually, the training takes up to a year. Kuleba said during the

interview at the Foreign Ministry that Ukraine will do whatever it can to win the war in 2023. "Every war ends in a diplo-

matic way," he said. "Every war ends as a result of the actions taken on the battlefield and at the negotiating table.'

Commenting on Kuleba's proposal, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told the state RIA Novosti news agency that Russia "never followed conditions set by others. Only our own and common sense. A Kremlin spokesman said

last week that no Ukrainian peace plan can succeed without taking into account "the realities of today that can't be ignored" - a reference to Moscow's demand that Ukraine recognise Russia's sov- at an international court. ereignty over the Crimean

on board."

At the Group of 20 summit in Bali in November, Zelenskyy made a long-distance presen-

tation of a 10-point peace formula that includes the restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity, the withdrawal of Russian troops, the release of all prisoners, a tribunal for those responsible for the aggression and security guarantees for Ukraine.

Asked about whether Ukraine would invite Russia to the summit, he said that Moscow would first need to face prosecution for war crimes

"They can only be invited to this step in this way," Kuleba

Other world leaders have also offered to mediate, such as those in Turkey and Saudi

Arabia. The foreign minister again downplayed comments by Russian authorities that they are ready for talks.

"They (Russians) regularly say that they are ready for negotiations, which is not true, because everything they do on the battlefield proves the oppo-

site," he said. Russian President Vladimir Putin claimed few days ago that his country is ready for talks to end the war in Ukraine, but suggested that the Ukrainians are the ones refusing to take Despite Putin's comments, Moscow's forces have kept attacking Ukraine - a sign

"opens the door for other coun-

Russian forces relocated to

Kreminna is in the eastern

pulled back from the Kharkiv

region in eastern Ukraine.

He said that the US government developed a programme for Ukrainian troops to complete training faster than usual "without any damage to the quality of the use of this

During Russia's ground and air war in Ukraine, Kuleba has been second only to Zelenskyy in carrying Ukraine's message and needs to an international audience, whether through Twitter posts or meetings with friendly foreign officials.

On Monday, Ukraine called on UN member states to deprive Russia of its status as a 2021-2022 term on the permanent member of the UN Security Council and to manent member, Russian exclude it from the world body. President Vladimir Putin Kuleba said they have long launched a 'special military "prepared for this step to operation' in eastern Ukraine

India emerged as a voice of the Global South during its two-year term in the powerful UN Security Council, which acrimoniously deliberated on Russia's invasion of Ukraine that led to unprecedented levels of global food and fuel insecurity as the world continued to grapple with inequalities amplified by the pandemic.

> envoy Ambassador T S Tirumurti in February underscored New Delhi's call for urgent de-escalation of tensions and cautioned that the situation was in danger of spiralling into a major crisis.

In statements in the Council and the General Assembly throughout the year, India consistently called f emergency special session of the General Assembly. Assembly, the most represen-tative body of the United India consistently called for an immediate cessation of hostilities and an end to violence. Nations, convened the rare New Delhi emphasised that emergency session on dialogue and diplomacy are the February 28 on Russia's aggresonly way forward and actions sion against Ukraine, only the that exacerbate the conflict 11th such emergency session of

missile battery, during the trip. Kuleba said that the move

tries to do the same."

weapon on the battlefield."

While Kuleba didn't mention a specific time frame, he said only that it will be "very much less than six months." And he added that the training will be done "outside" Ukraine. member Council on December

Turkey and Russia.

The AP interview offered a glimpse at Ukraine's vision of how the war with Russia could one day end, although any peace talks would be months away and highly contingent on complex international negotiations.

Kuleba also said he was "absolutely satisfied" with the results of President Volodymyr

ula, which was annexed in 2014, as well as other terrisaid About the UN Secretary

torial gains. Kuleba said the Ukrainian government would like to have the "peace" summit by the end February

"The United Nations could be the best venue for holding this summit, because this is not about making a favour to a certain country," he said. "This is

'planned conspiracy', says JIT

Assassination bid on Imran

The UN spokesman's office really about bringing everyone had no immediate comment.

tion

General's role, Kuleba said: that peace isn't imminent. "He has proven himself to be an Želenskyy's visit to the US efficient mediator and an effiwas his first foreign trip since cient negotiator, and most the war started on February 24. importantly, as a man of prin-Kuleba praised Washington's ciple and integrity. So we would efforts and underlined the sigwelcome his active participanificance of the visit.

Ukraine secured a new USD 1.8 billion military aid package, including a Patriot

PTI II ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

has reaffirmed his vow to erad-

icate the menace amid criticism

from ousted premier Imran

Khan on the government's

"failure" to curb militancy dur-

Addressing a gathering in the Dera Ismail Khan district

of the restive Khyber-

menace of terrorism was on the

rise and the state would crush

it very soon, the Dawn news-

of provincial governments and

security forces, the govern-

ment would eliminate terror-

ism in all its forms.

He said that with the help

Sharif said that a meeting

the National Security

paper quoted him as saying.

ing its eight-month stint.

the fraud and Russia of its status."

Sharif pledges to eliminate

terrorism from Pakistan

The Foreign Ministry says that Russia never went through the legal procedure for acquiring membership and taking the place of the USSR at the UN Security Council after the collapse of the Soviet Union. This is the beginning of an

uphill battle, but we will fight, because nothing is impossible, he told the AP.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres made a direct and strong appeal to Putin to "stop your troops from attacking Ukraine" and give peace a chance as the UN chief called the invasion the 'saddest moment in my tenure as Secretary-General of the United Nations.

As the Russian invasion unfolded, India's then UN

"Our world faced many trials and tests in 2022 - some familiar, others we might not have imagined just one year ago," Guterres said, adding that even in the brutal war in Ukraine, the power of determined, discreet diplomacy has helped people and tackle unprecedented levels of global food insecurity.

India abstained on most

Kamboj, who took charge of India's Permanent Mission in New York in August, has asserted that in the course of the Ukraine conflict, India has "spoken in one voice that we are for peace. Peace is also a side and we favour diplomacy and dialogue...We are among the few countries, dare I say, which are speaking to both sides.

resolutions related to the

Russia-Ukraine war in the

Security Council, General

Assembly and the Human

Rights Council, including on a

Security Council procedural

resolution to convene a rare

The 193-member General

in April this year. During a Pakistan Tehreek-

Pakistan makes 'special' security plan for Islamabad amid terror alert

PTI II ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Police on Tuesday announced special security measures, including setting up 25 new check-posts, to tighten security in the federal capital here after several countries, including the US, UK, Saudi Arabia and Australia asked their citizens to restrict their movement, warning of a possible terror threat.

According to the security plan, shared on Islamabad police's official Twitter account, entry points of the Red Zone will be recorded via Safe City cameras while video surveil lance of metro bus passengers would also be conducted.

Pakistani citizens as well as foreign nationals have been asked to carry their identification documents with them.

"Special security plan issued in view of the current

the gun attack on Khan was 'organised one and well-

thought-out conspiracy.'

his long march to Islamabad last month was a "well-thoughtout conspiracy," according to the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) probing the incident.

 $T^{
m he}$ assassination bid on Pakistan's former prime

minister Imran Khan during

PTI 🔳 LAHORE

Khan, the chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, suffered bullet injuries in the right leg on November 3 when two gunmen fired a volley of bullets at him and others standing on a container-mounted truck in the Wazirabad area (some 150-km from Lahore), where he was leading the long march to press for snap polls

Briefing the media on the findings of the JIT headed by Lahore police chief Ghulam Mahmood Dogar, Punjab Home Minister Ömar Sarfraz Cheema said on Monday that

He said the JIT investigation found that more than one attacker tried to assassinate

70-year-old Khan in the rally. Police had arrested the prime suspect, Muhammad Naveed, who has been in the JIT custody on a physical remand till January 3 for inter-

rogation. The minister said Naveed is a "trained assassin and he was present at the crime scene with accomplices.'

He said Naveed also failed polygraph test. Naveed had told police he wanted to kill Khan as music was played during Azan time during his long march/rally.

Naveed's cousin Muhammad Waqas has also been in the JIT's custody till January 3 for a controversial

"something big is going to happen today in Imran Khan's rally Khan had blamed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Interior Minister Rana

social media post. Waqas on November 3 had tweeted

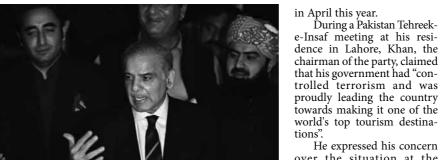
Sanaullah and Major General Faisal Naseer of ISI for hatching a plot to assassinate him. The Punjab police had registered the FIR in connection

with the assassination attempt on Khan but didn't mention the high-profile suspects including ISI's top man Khan held

responsible for the attack. Khan dismissed the FIR, saying without nominating Sharif, Sanaullah, and ISI Counter Intelligence Wing head Maj-Gen Faisal in the FIR

it is a mere "piece of trash". The Punjab police said they nabbed Naveed from the crime scene and he had confessed to his crime. Naveed in his confessional statement said that he wanted to kill Khan as music was played during Azan time during his long march.

Indirectly blaming the powerful military establishment, Khan had said: "I wonder if I, being former Prime Minister of Pakistan, can't get an FIR registered in connection with the attack on me and other PTI workers what will happen to the common man.



Committee (NSC) would be summoned in a few days to take stock of the security situation

Commenting on the attack on a security compound claimed by the outlawed Pakistani Taliban (TTP) terror group in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bannu district last week, Sharif said it was heart-breaking and added that the law enforcement agencies conducted a Pakhtunkhwa province on successful operation, killing all Monday, Sharif said that the terrorists who had taken over the compound.

Meanwhile, former prime minister Khan, who wants snap polls in the country at all costs and is likely to dissolve Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assemblies, lambasted the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government for its "failure" to rein in terrorism after coming to power

tions". He expressed his concern over the situation at the Pakistan-Afghan border as well. He claimed there was a 52 per cent increase in terror incidents since April and chided the government for the resurgence of terrorism.

towards making it one of the

world's top tourism destina

"At least 52 per cent increase has been recorded in terrorism cases across the country that claimed some 270 precious lives and left over 550 people injured," the former premier said.

Separately, PTI party leader Fawad Chaudhry told reporters that terrorism was returning to Pakistan.

He said that during its tenure, the PTI government was proudly projecting Pakistan as the world's top tourist destination, and now the nation was being pushed into the "fire of terrorism, and the embassies were issuing advisories to their employees to avoid five-star hotels" in Islamabad.

security situation in Islamabad. Temporary security check posts have been established at 25 different locations in Islamabad," it said

Police also advised the local people to register tenants and employees at the nearest police station and warned that those employing unregistered local or foreign workers will be investigated.

All motorists have been instructed to ensure their vehicles had number plates issued by the excise office. People have been asked to inform authorities of any unusual activity on the helpline.

The security plan comes in the wake of the US, UK, Saudi Arabian and Australian governments issuing advisories to their respective citizens in Pakistan to restrict their movements due to possible terror threats.

A s Pakistan reels from mul-tiple incidents of terrorism,

Western New York hit by cold, storm; death toll ups to 28

AP BUFFALO

Buffalo residents hovered around space heaters, hunted for cars buried in snow drifts and looked for more victims Monday, after 28 people died in one of the worst weather-related disasters ever to hit western New York.

The rest of the United States also was reeling from the ferocious winter storm, with at least another two dozen deaths reported in other parts of the country.

Up to 9 more inches of snow (23 centimeters) could fall in some areas of western New York through Tuesday, the

National Weather Service said. "This is not the end yet," said Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz, calling the blizzard "the worst storm probably in our lifetime," even for an area accustomed to punishing snow.

Some people, he noted, were stranded in their cars for more than two days.

President Joe Biden said his prayers were with the victims' families, and offered federal assistance Monday to the hardhit state.

Those who lost their lives around Buffalo were found in cars, homes and snowbanks.

Some died while shovelling snow, others when emergency crews could not respond in

the pioneer

DEHRADUN | WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 28, 2022

Melissa Carrick, a doula, said the blizzard forced her to coach a pregnant client through childbirth by telephone. An ambulance crew transported the woman to a hospital about 45 minutes south of Buffalo because none of the closer

"In any other normal Buffalo storm? I would just go because that's what you do – just drive through the snow," she said. "But you knew this was different "

was different." Scientists say the climate

Victor Gensini, a meteo-"batting average."

loaded now? Absolutely,

time to medical crises.

hospitals were reachable.

change crisis may have contributed to the intensity of the storm. That's because the atmosphere can carry more water vapour, which acts as fuel, said Mark Serreze, director of the National Snow and Ice Data Center at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

rology professor at Northern Illinois University, likened a single weather event to an "atbat" — and the climate as your

"It's hard to say," Serreze said. "But are the dice a little bit some people pleaded on social media for donations of food

Utility trucks line up in Buffalo, N.Y., where thousands remain without power after blizzard conditions on Monday AP I PTI

The blizzard roared across and diapers.

western New York Friday and "It was like looking at a white wall for 14 to 18 hours Saturday. With many grocery stores in the Buffalo area closed straight," Poloncarz, the counand driving bans in place, ty official, said.

Relief is coming later this week, as forecasts call for tem-

peratures to slowly rise, said Ashton Robinson Cook, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

Cook said the bomb cyclone — when atmospheric pressure drops very quickly in

a strong storm — has weakened. It developed near the Great Lakes, stirring up blizzard conditions including heavy winds and snow.

Some 3,410 domestic and international flights were cancelled Monday as of about 3 p.M. EDT, according to the tracking site FlightAware. The site said Southwest Airlines had 2,497 cancellations about 60% of its scheduled flights and about 10 times as many as any other major US carrier.

Southwest said the weather was improving, which would stabilize and improve our situation".

Based on FlightAware data, airports all across the US were suffering from cancellations and delays, including Denver, Atlanta, Las Vegas, Seattle, Baltimore and Chicago.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul toured the aftermath in Buffalo - her hometown - on Monday, calling the blizzard "one for the ages". Almost every fire truck in the city became stranded Saturday, she said.

Hochul noted the storm came a little over a month after the region was inundated with another "historic" snowfall. Between the two storms, snow-

fall totals are not far off from the 242 centimeters the area normally sees in an entire winter season.

The National Weather Service said the snow total at Buffalo Niagara the International Airport stood at 1.25 metres at 10 am Monday. Officials say the airport will be shut through Wednesday

morning. Shahida Muhammad told WKBW that an outage knocked out power to her 1year-old son's ventilator. She and the child's father manually administered breaths from Friday until Sunday when rescuers saw her desperate social media posts and came to their

aid. In a makeshift hut in her living room, Trisha LoGrasso was still huddled around a space heater Monday with three of her children and her eldest daughter's boyfriend. The temperature inside her Buffalo home was 5.5 degrees Celsius. She was without heat because of a gas leak, and burst pipes left her with no running water.

"I've lived here my whole life, and this is the worst storm I've ever seen," the 48-year-old said. Melissa Osmon and her husband James were without

chairman of the American

Chamber of Commerce in

China, Colm Rafferty, said in

a statement. He said ending

the quarantine "clears the way

for resumption of normal business travel." Business

groups have warned compa-

nies were shifting investment

away from China because for-

eign executives were blocked

said more than 70% of compa-

nies that responded to a poll

this month expect the impact of

The American chamber

from visiting.

power for more than 72 hours in the Buffalo suburb of Williamsville, and would retreat to their car to stay warm for hours at a time.

We even watched the Buffalo Bills game on our phone," Osmon said, speaking by phone from her GMC Acadia. "You can see your breath inside the house," she

said. "That's how cold it is." The storm knocked out power in communities from Maine to Seattle.

Storm-related deaths were reported practically nationwide, including at least eight killed in crashes in Missouri, Kansas and Kentucky. A woman fell through Wisconsin river ice, and there was a fatal fire at a Kansas homeless per-

sons camp. In Jackson, Mississippi, crews struggled Monday to get water through the capital city's beleaguered water system, authorities said. Many areas had no water or low water pres-

sure. On Christmas Day, residents were told to boil their drinking water due to water lines bursting in the frigid temperatures. "The issue has to be sig-

nificant leaks in the system that we have yet to identify," the city said in a statement Monday.

More Rohingya refugees reach Indonesia after weeks at sea

AP 🔳 PIDIE

 $A_{\text{of weak}}^{\text{second group in two days}}$ Rohingya Muslims landed on a beach in Indonesia's northernmost province of Aceh on Monday after weeks at sea, officials said.

At least 185 men, women and children disembarked from a rickety wooden boat at dusk on Ujong Pie beach at Muara Tiga, a coastal village in Aceh's Pidie district, said local police chief Fauzi, who goes by a single name.

"They are very weak because of dehydration and exhaustion after weeks at sea." Fauzi said. They were taken to the village hall and will stay there while they receive help

from residents, health workers and others.Fauzi said that immigration officials and police were trying to identify the refugee to determine if they were from the group of 190 Rohingya who were reported by United Nations to be drifting in a small boat in the Andaman Sea for a month. The UNHCR on Friday urged countries to rescue the

refugees, saying reports indicated they were in dire condition with insufficient food or water "Many are women and children, with reports of up to

20 people dying on the unseaworthy vessel during the journey," the agency said. Also on Friday, another

said the agency would provide

Rohingya language translators

and counselling to determine if

they were from the group of

190 Rohingya who were

reported by United Nations to

be drifting in a small boat in

the Andaman Sea for a month.

and insecure situations in their

country of origin, it is possible that the movement of refugees

to find safe places will contin-ue to grow," he said.

the Arakan Project, which

works in support of Myanmar's

Rohingya, confirmed Tuesdav

that the boat that landed

Monday on Ujong Pie beach

UNHČR could not verify that

information and was still coor-

the region.

Rohingya refugees.

Chris Lewa, the director of

With prolonged-conflict

Indonesian soldiers help ethnic Rohingva women and children to step out of a military truck upon arrival at a temporary shelter after their boat landed in Pidie AP | PTI Aceh province. Indonesia on Mondav

group of 58 Rohingya — all men - arrived in Ladong village in Aceh Besar district.

Azharul Husna, who heads the Aceh brach of KontraS, an Indonesian rights group, said Monday that the men in the group all carried

Bazar in Bangladesh, where more than 700,000 Rohingya from Myanmar had fled, to work on plantations in Malaysia. Their boat was damaged and the engine failed, leaving them drifting at sea until UNHCR cards from refugee they came ashore in Aceh.

Israeli doctors reject

anti-LGBTQ remarks

srael's largest medical cen-

tre and healthcare workers

from hospitals around the

country have spoken out

against remarks by allies of

Benjamin Netanyahu calling

for a law to allow discrimi-

nation against LGBTQ peo-

ple in hospitals and busi-

blowback against remarks

made this week by Religious

Zionism politicians calling

for legal discrimination

ernment — the most reli-gious and hard-line in

Israel's history — is made up of ultra-Orthodox parties, an

ultranationalist religious fac-

tion, and his Likud party. It

is to be sworn in on

Nun, a former commander of

the air force and Amos Yadlin,

a former head of military

All three are former fight-

pilots. Former Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

and his ultra-Orthodox and

far-right partners captured a

parliamentary majority in Nov.

Thursday.

intelligence.

1 elections.

Netanyahu's new gov-

against LGBTQ people.

It was part of a broader

nesses

Netanyahu ally's

AP JERUSALEM

AP BEIJING

 $F_{\rm China's\ decision\ to\ end}^{\rm oreign\ companies\ welcomed}$ quarantines for travellers from abroad as an important step to revive slumping business activity while Japan on Tuesday joined India in announcing restrictions on visitors from the country as infections surge.

Party's abrupt decision to lift some of the world's strictest anti-virus controls comes as it tries reverse an economic downturn. It has ended curbs that confined millions of people to their homes and sparked protests, but hospitals have been flooded with feverish, wheezing patients as the virus spreads.

Monday that guarantines for travellers from abroad will end Jan. 8 is the biggest step toward ending limits that have kept



Foreign firms happy as China ends quarantine

most foreign visitors out of China since early 2020. Quarantines were reduced last month from seven days to five.

Also Monday, the government downgraded the official seriousness of Covid-19 and dropped a requirement for people with the virus to be quarantined. That added to a rapid drumbeat of steps to dismantle controls that had been expected to stay in place at least through mid-2023.

"It finally feels like China has turned the corner," the

the latest wave of outbreaks to last no more than three months, ending in early 2023. The British Chamber of

Commerce expressed hope China will restart normal processing of business visas to allow "resumption of crucial people to people exchanges." It said that will "contribute to restoring optimism and reinstating China as a priority

investment destination." The move "will potentially boost business confidence," but companies are likely to "wait to see how the situation on the ground evolves" before making long-term decisions, the European Chamber of Commerce in China said in a

statement. Meanwhile, Japan announced visitors from China will undergo virus tests starting Friday as a "temporary emergency measure?

PUBLIC NOTICE Public Notice BIHAR BANDHU CO-OPERATIVE GROUP HOUSING SOCIETY LTD Flat No.3, Pocket-5, DDA Flats, Sector-12 Dwarka, New Delhi-110075 In accordance with rule 19(2) of DCS rules,

PUBLIC NOTICE It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Rama Chauhan W/o. Mr. Arun Kumar Chauhan who is/are purchasing the Fourth Floor, built up en Eastern Side Portion, area measuing 75 Sq Yds., part of Property bearing Municipal No.XV/1980, 1981, 1983 & 1984, Ward No. XV, comprised in Kharsa No.375 (743/218/216) and 376 min, situated at Chuna Mandi. Pahar Ganj, New Delhi-110055; from (1) Mr. Anil Kumar and (2) Mr. Parveen Kumar both S/o Late Mr. Ramesh Chand vide Relinquishment Deed dated 08:10.2018, vide Document No.9221, registered with the office of Sub-Registrar-III, Asaf Ali Road, Delhi, registered on 15.10.2018 and same to be finance & mortgage by Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited. To comply the requirements of BANKINBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim/right/ title / interest / creating mortgage user the said conceder, maxinform in writhern a, the

Lucem Legal LLP

The ruling Communist

The announcement late

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE is hereby given that Rashmi Kaushik

110093 (hereinafter called the

sion of Flat no. Nand Nagri, Illaga,

Public Notice Public Notice This is to inform general public that Mrs. Nita Parti has acquired the Ground Floor (Without Roof Rights), "Said 2007, it is to inform publicly that the 2 Floor", Built on Property Bearing No. F-271 Land are members of the Bihar Bandhu CGHS Ltd.

Public Notice

My client Shri Ram Lals/o Late Shiv Lal r/ 603, Sunlight Colony-II, New Delhi-110014 hereby disown his (1) grand-son Shri Tarui Kumar s/o Shri Harbans Lal, (2) grand-daugh

ter-in-law Smt. Anita, w/o Shri Tarun Kumar both r/o 619, Sunlight Colony-II, New Delhi

110014, and debar them from inheriting an

Hubida, and depart them from inheriting any share in entire property No.619, Sunlight Colony-II, New Delhi-110014, belonging to my client, as my client Shri Ram Lal has already transferred the said property in favour of his son Shri Harbans Lal. Anyone dealing with the cald chri Torug Kumer & Set Antir will be

said Shri Tarun Kumar & Smt. Anita will b

doing so at his own risks and consequences

5/25-A. Jangpura-B. New Delhi-110014

Kapil Gupta, Advocat

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अधिशासी अभियन्ता

दिनांक: 27.12.2022

9066707172/9818228636 (M).

refugees in Indonesia

UN agency probes

origin of Rohingya

United Nations agency is Aseeking information about the voyage of over 100 Rohingya Muslim refugees who landed on an Indonesian beach this week, and warned Tuesday that there will likely be more.

A distressing video circulated widely in social media showed the dehydrated and exhausted Rohingya, crumpled weakly and emaciated, many crying for help.

At least 185 men, women and children disembarked from a rickety wooden boat Monday at dusk on Ujong Pie beach at Muara Tiga, a coastal village in Aceh's Pidie district, said local police chief Fauzi, who goes by a single name.

They are very weak because of dehydration and exhaustion after weeks at sea," Fauzi said.

Muhammad Rafki Syukri, the Protection Associate at Nations High United Commissioner for Refugees,

Japan PM sacks 4th minister to patch up scandal-hit Cabinet

AP TOKYO

apan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Tuesday dismissed his fourth minister in two months to patch a scandaltainted Cabinet that has raised questions over his judgment of staff credentials.

Kenya Akiba, minister in charge of reconstruction of Fukushima and other disasterhit areas, has faced allegations of mishandling political and election funds and of having murky ties to the Unification Church, whose cozy political ties and practices surrounding followers' huge donations have

raised controversy. "I have made a heavy

decision and submitted my resignation," Akiba told reporters after meeting with Kishida. He repeated that he has never violated any law in relation to the issues for which he has been criticised.

Kishida tapped former reconstruction minister Hiromichi Watanabe as a replacement. Watanabe's appointment was to be official after a palace ceremony.

Akiba's dismissal was seen as Kishida's attempt to remove an administration's soft spot

left in search of a better life in security forces have been Malaysia.

Ćiting one of them, Husna and burning of thousands of said the 58 refugees left Cox's homes belonging to Rohingya.

Israeli air force

government a danger

Shahdara, Dehn-110093 (hereinafter called the said property) by virtue of Reinquishment Deed Dated 04.07.2018, Initially Ravi Parkash Kaushikwas the Owner of said property by virtue Conveyance Deed executed by POI registered vide Doc Nc.588 and after the death of said Ravi Parkash Kaushik, legal heris of tale Ravi Parkash Kaushik had executed a relinquishment deed same is registered vide Doc no 3950 SR IV A Shahdara in favor of Rashmi Kaushik and Said Rashmi Kaushik has agreed to sell the said Property Io Naveen Kumar & Chanchal Upadhyay and Said Naveen Kumar & Chanchal Upadhyay and Said Naveen Kumar & Chanchal accused of mass rapes, killings veterans say incoming

Upadihyay and Said Naveen Kumar & Chanchai Upadihyaynas agreed to create a mortoage in favour of our clients, IDPC FIRST BANK CTD. Rajendera Place Branch, New Delhi. All person's having any claim against or in respect of the said Property of any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortage (equitable/registered or othenwise), gift, trust, inheritance, lien or otherwise howscever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 10 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursementofloan against the said property and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereor. Vishal Diwan (Advocate) Ibsequent creation of mortgage in respect ereof. Vishal Diwan (Advocate) For Diwan and Company LLP Advocates and Solicitors House No.2 (LGF), NRI Complex New Delhi – 19 Mobile No. 9818399999



ग्त्रांक: 4312/ई-निविदा सूचना/2022-23 ई-निविदा संशोधन

इस कार्यालय पत्रांक सं. - 4010 / ई - निविदा सूचना / 2022 - 23 दिनांक 09.10.2022 से आमत्रित निविदा को पत्रांक सं.-4163 / ई - निविदा सूचना / 2022 - 23 दिनांक 19.12.2022 एवं पत्रांक सं.-4251 / ई-निविदा सूचना / 2022-23 दिनांक 23.12.2022 के द्वारा संशोधित किया गया अपरिहार्य कारणों से उक्त निविदाओं की तिथियों में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है ।

निविदा समय सारणी (मुख्य तिथियाँ) निम्नवत् हैं:

क्र.सं.	विवरण	अनुसूची
1	ऑनलाईन प्रकाशन की तिथि	30.12.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
2	निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की तिथि	30.12.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
3	प्री-बिड मीटिंग की तिथि	03.01.2023 at 11:00 Hrs
4	बिड ऑनलाईन जमा करने की प्रारम्भ तिथि	07.01.2023 at 11:00 Hrs
5	बिड ऑनलाईन जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि	12.01.2023 up to17:00 Hrs
6	ऑफ लाईन रूप से जमा किये जाने वाले प्रपत्र (निविदा प्रपत्र हेतु निर्धारित शुल्क, बिड सिक्योरिटी, स्टॉम्प पेपर एवं अन्य सम्बन्धित दस्तावेज)	12.01.2023 up to17:00 Hrs
7	तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि	13.01.2023 at 11:00 Hrs
8	वित्तीय निविदा खोलने की तिथि	सूचना पृथक से दी जायेगी

अधिशासी अभियन्ता



म्रांक: 4254/ई-निविदा सूचना/2022-23 ई-निविदा संशोधन दिनांक: 23.12.2022 इस कार्यालय पत्रांक सं.-4010/ई-निविदा सूचना/2022-23 दिनांक 09.10.2022 से आमंत्रित निविदा को पत्रांक सं. 4163/ई-निविदा सूचना/2022-23 दिनांक 19.12.2022 से जलजीवन मिशन कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत कटा पत्थर पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, उर्ध्व जलाशय निर्माण, राइजिंग मेन, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लान्ट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य हेतु आमंत्रित ई–निविदा को अपरिहार्य कारणों से निरस्त किया जाता है। राजेन्द्र पाल

'जल संचय-जीवन संचय''

'जल संचय-जीवन संचय'

measuring 125 Sq. yds. Situated in the Layout Plan of New Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi vide Relinquishment Deed detel 40.12013, Doen 254. New, Mrs. Nita Parti is intending to sell above said property to Mr. Lakshay Raheja, Mr. Mohinder Raheja and Mrs. Sunita Raheja and further Mr. Laksnay Raheja, Mr. Mohinder Raheja and further Mr. Laksnay Raheja, Mr. Mohinder Raheja and Mrs. Sunita Raheja are mortgaging the above said property with 'RBL Bank Ltd. & n case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawar/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas North, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (8-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delini-110034 or contact at 90667071229818228636 (M). have resigned from the society and they have been paid their share money & contributions. The names of resigned member are Sh. Mahesh Chandra Pant (M. No. 129) and

2. Smt. Anshu Sharma (M. No. 237). anyone who is having objections, may lodge objections at the society office, which is located at Flat No.3, Pocket-5, DDA Flats, Sector-12, Dwarka, New Delhi-78, or at the RCS office, Parliament Street, New Delhi

give in a blobic hote vitation any reason rearing an type of claim/right/title/interest/creating mortgag over the said property, may inform in writing, at address mentioned below, about his objections within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all typ of Encumbrances, lien etc. within 7 day from the date of publication of the public notice 136, Basement Floor, Uday Park, near Mother Dain

Secretary - Bihar Bandhu CGHS Ltd. ew Delhi-110049 Contact: 011-40046316, 4166732

OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION UNIT, OFFICE OF THE PROJECT WANAGEN, CONTINUE OF THE PROFECT WANAGENT, C Ś etter No.: 3052/Nivida/247 Date : 26-12-2022 E-Tender Notice Name of the work:- CONSTRUCTION OF PROPOSE SURFACE PARKING AT MAJKHALI, DISTRICT - ALMORA Estimated Cost:-RS-49.81 Lakh Period of Completion:- 6 Month Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal: 27-12-2022(17.00 hrs) Online Bid submission: End date - 16-01-2023 (17.00 brs) Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid: - Project Manager, Construction Unit, Uttarakhand Pevial Nigam, Ranikhet Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place:- 30-12-2022 (11.00 hrs Project Manager, Construction Unit, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Ranikhet. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal <u>www.uktenders.gov.in</u> PROJECT MANAGER

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office: PSEB, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001 Corporate Identification Number(CIN):U40109PB20105GC033813 Website www.pspcl.in; e-tendering portal: https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

Contact No.: 96461-19383, 96461-11036

Tender Enquiry No. QQ-243/PO-C Date: 27.12.2022 Chief Purchase Officer/MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd Floor Multi-storey Building, The Mall Road, Patiala, invites E-tender for pro-curement of 15.3 MT ISI Marked Polypropylene yellow coloured rope, 3 strand, Hawser Laid, conforming to IS:5175-1992 (with latest amendments) and PSPCL Specification QQ-243 for 10mm, 16mm & 20mm sizes. For detailed NIT & Tender specifications please refer to https://eproc.punjab

gov.in from 06.01.2023 from 11:00 PM onwards. Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at

https://eproc.punjab.gov.in C 490/22

PR-Advt. No :-76155/12/1308/2022/20022

UJVN LIMITED



H.O.: "UJJWAL', Maha 08 Fax- 0135-27

Tender Notice Office of the Executive Engineer (Test), Dhakrani invites Tenders fror nterested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below: Fender No.08/EE(Test)/DKN/2022-23

Name of work :Supply, Installation, and Testing & Commissioning of 48 olt /20 Amp. Float and float cum boost charger and 48 V/100AH Plant's Battery Bank for Kulhal Powerhouse.

Estimated cost: Rs.13.00 Lakh (GST extra)

Date of Availability of bid document on website: 27.12.2022

Last date for submission of bids: 18.01.2023 up to 16:00 hrs

For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website: www.ujvnl.com.The tender document can be downloaded from the Nigam's website www.ujvnl.com" Executive Engineer (Test), Dhakran



AP JERUSAI EM dinating with governments in

"But we will continue to ver 1,000 senior Israeli air Oforce veterans, including search for further information to ensure the actual data,' a former Israeli chief of staff, Syukri told reporters on on Monday urged the coun-Tuesday while visiting the try's top legal officials to stand tough against the incoming government.

In a letter to the chief of Israel's Supreme Court and other top officials, they said the alliance of religious and ultranationalist parties threatens Israel's future. The letter was delivered days before the new government is to take

office. "We come from all strata of society and from across the political spectrum. What we have in common today is the fear that the democratic state of Israel is in danger", the letter said.

It called the legal officials "the final line of defence" and implored them to "do everything in your reach to stop the disaster that is affecting the country.

Among the nearly 1,200 signatories were Dan Halutz, who served as military chief from 2005-2007; Avihu Ben-



ne pioneer

DEHRADUN | WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 28, 2022

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

 $G^{\text{ST}\ taxpayers\ will\ be}_{\text{required\ to\ reverse\ by}}$ November 30 the input tax credit (ITC) claimed in the last fiscal in case their suppliers fail to deposit the due tax by September 30, the Finance Ministry has said.

The taxpayers, however, can reclaim the ITC later following the deposit of taxes by the supplier.

The ministry has inserted Rule 37A in Central Goods and Services Tax rules to give effect to the new provision.

"Where input tax credit has been availed by a registered person..., but the return in Form GSTR-3B for the tax period corresponding to the said statement of outward supplies has not been furnished by such supplier till September 30..., the...Input tax credit shall be reversed...On or before November 30 following the end of the such financial year," the ministry said.

KPMG in India, Partner Indirect Tax, Abhishek Jain said insertion of Rule 37A merits attention as the same provides for the instances and the manner where ITC is required to be reversed in case of non-payment of tax by the

supplier. "Companies should take note of these changes and align business practices accordingly," Iain said.



AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said this change would benefit only select cases in litigation due to two reasons.

"Firstly, it is a prospective change only that will not curate any benefit till fiscal 2021-22. Secondly, very few cases will be able to qualify the conditions stipulated in these rules," Mohan said.

Saurabh Agarwal, Tax Partner, EY, said while the GSTR 1 would capture the details of supplies made by the seller to multiple buyers, it

Sensex, Nifty rise for 2nd day as banking, metal shares shine

PTI MUMBAI

 $B_{\mathrm{Sensex}}^{\mathrm{enchmark}}$ stock indices higher for a second straight day on Tuesday on gains in banking, IT and metal shares following a firm trend in the global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 361.01 points or 0.60 per cent to settle at 60,927.43. During the day, it rallied 420.26 points or 0.69 per cent to 60,986.68

The broader NSE Nifty climbed 117.70 points or 0.65 per cent to end at 18,132.30. From the Sensex pack,

Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Larsen & Toubro, Asian Paints, Wipro, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, Tech Mahindra and Titan were the major winners.

Hindustan Unilever, ITC, Mahindra & Mahindra and Nestle were the laggards.

would be very difficult for the "With strong support from global peers, the domestic marbuyer to ascertain whether the tax has been discharged by the seller on GSTR 3B against ket is attempting to recoup its previous week's losses. Metal their invoices or not as the said return doesn't capture invoice stocks shone amid hopes of a demand revival in China on reports of loosening Covid The amendments made restrictions. This, along with would further increase the onus of compliance on the fears over supply disruptions recipient of goods/services. It is from winter storms in the US, resulted in oil prices rising," advisable that industry should said Vinod Nair, Head of look at digitalising this process of compliance either through Research at Geojit Financial IRP or through ASPs in order Services

"Markets gained over half a per cent in a range bound ses-

Rupee falls 25 paise against

US dollar on forex outflows



sion, tracking firm global cues. After the initial uptick, the Nifty surrendered all the gains in no time however buying in select index majors pushed the index to the day's high again as the day progressed," said Ajit Mishra, VP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 1.46 per cent and midcap index advanced 0.78 per cent. Among sectoral indices,

metal jumped 4.59 per cent, commodities climbed 2.34 per cent, telecommunication (1.54 per cent), industrials (1.38 per cent), realty (1.38 per cent) and power (1.15 per cent).

FMCG remained the only laggard.

Elsewhere in Asia, equity markets in Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai ended with gains. Equity exchanges in Europa unre trading in the page

Europe were trading in the positive territory in mid-session deals. Markets in the US were closed on Monday.

Indian banks' GNPAs decline to 5% in Sept 2022: RBI

'But current situation can impact health'

PTI 📕 MUMBAI

Indian banks' gross non-per-forming assets declined to 5.8 per cent, but the present macroeconomic environment can impact lenders' health, the Reserve Bank said on Tuesday.

The GNPAs, which touched a peak in FY18 following the asset quality review, have been declining sequentially to reach 5 per cent in September, the RBI said in the Trends and Progress of Banking in India' report for FY22 released on Tuesday.

The number stood at 5.8 per cent in March 2022, according to the report which also had a strong commitment by the RBI to be not complacent, given the present environment. "Although presently the

Indian banking sector remains robust and resilient with improved asset quality and strong capital buffers, the policvmakers remain mindful of dynamically evolving macroeconomic conditions that may impinge on the health of reg-ulated entities," the report said.

The decrease in the GNPAs was attributed to lower slippages and also a reduction in outstanding GNPAs through



recoveries, upgradations and write-offs, the report said.

However, the restructured assets ratio increased by 1.1 percentage points for all the borrowers and by 0.5 percentage points for large borrowers, the report said, adding that the efforts to help individuals and small businesses with the loan recast scheme has been successful.

In what can be called as a divergent trend between the state-run lenders and the private lenders, the report said, the reduction in the stock of GNPAs was due to write-offs in the public sector banks in FY22, while in the case of private banks, upgradation of loans was the primary driver for asset quality improvements. Interestingly, all the bank

groups showed a decline in the

overall NPAs in FY22 as against 66.4 per cent in FY21. Ân acceleration in income and contraction in expenditure boosted the profitability of SCBs in 2021-22, measured in terms of return on equity and return on assets, the RBI said.

Gold rises

₹173; silver

zooms ₹926

old price rose ₹173 to Get price rose the Get S55,074 per 10 grams in

The yellow metal had

Silver also zoomed ₹926 to

the national capital on Tuesday

amid gains in precious metal internationally, according to

ended at ₹54,901 per 10 grams

Research at Motilal Oswal

In the international mar-

Financial Services, said.

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

HDFC Securities.

in the previous trade.

GNPAs, except the foreign

banks, where the loss assets

increased in FY22 to 0.5 per

cent from 0.2 per cent in FY21. The reliance on large bor-

rowers for loans seems to be

going down with the increase

in the retail business, and

accounts of over ₹5 crore

accounted for 47.8 per cent of

the outstanding credit in FY22 as against 48.4 per cent in

contribution to overall dud

assets improved more sub-

stantially to 63.4 per cent of the

However, such accounts'

FY21.

'Coal India to meet 700 MT production target of FY23'

PTI NEW DELHI

Coal India Chairman Pramod Agrawal on Tuesday exuded confidence that the PSU will achieve the production target of 700 mil-lion tonnes for the current financial year.

Coal India (CIL) accounts for over 80 per cent of the domestic coal output." I am confident...Coal Îndia will achieve the 700 million tonne coal production target this financial year," the chairman was quoted as saying in a

statement. Addressing virtually a team

increased demand for coal from Coal India, and MCL, which is successfully supplying about 435,000 tonne of coal daily to the power sector, will have to increase its contribution.

Quality of domestic coal increased considerably: Govt

PTI NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday said the quality of domestic coal has increased considty of fossil fuel has improved to 69 per cent in the current fisclose of 82.65. cal. The Government and the demand from oil importers coal companies, including Coal India, have taken several steps to achieve the objective of sup-



to close at 82.90 against the US dollar on Tuesday, as month-end dollar demand from importers and significant foreign fund outflows sapped investor appetite.

to avoid undue leakages in the

system," Agarwal added.

wise tax payment.

Moreover, the risk-off mood among investors and firm crude oil prices in the international market weighed on the rupee, forex dealers said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened lower at 82.71 against

dollar

the greenback and witnessed an intraday high of 82.69 and a low of 82.90. It finally settled

"Month-end

Brent crude futures rose 0.83 per cent to USD 84.62 per bar-

The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 361.01 points or 0.60 per cent higher at 60,927.43, while the broader NSE Nifty climbed 117.70 points or 0.65 per cent

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in capital markets on Tuesday as they sold shares worth ₹867.65 crore, according to exchange data.

₹55,074 per 10 grams in the amid gains in precious metal internationally, according to

with Sebi in an capacity as an intermediary. By operating as an 'investment adviser', without obtaining a registration from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), the regulator found that noticees have violated the IA (Investment

Sebi bans Moneytree Research, its proprietor from securities mkts for three yrs

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi has barred Moneytree Research and its proprietor Narendra Madan Rathod from the securities markets for three years for providing unauthorised investment services.

The order came after Sebi received a complaint against Moneytree and Rathod. Thereafter, the regulator examined the matter and subse-quently issued a show-cause notice to Moneytree Research and Rathod in August 2021.

Moneytree Research and Rathod are collectively referred to as noticees. In its order, the regulator

found that noticees was never



Adviser) rules.

The noticees had received a total amount of ₹41.07 lakh ₹70,205 per kilogram. during June 2017 to November "Gold price continue to trade higher, helped by a soft-2018, Sebi said in its order er dollar," Navneet Damani, Senior VP - Commodity passed on Friday.

Sebi has directed the noticees to refund, within three months, the money received from investors in respect of their unregistered investment advisory activities.

ket, gold was trading higher at \$1,807.60 per ounce while sil-



Monday's gain. The surge in crude and precious metal prices also weighed on the local unit," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

The rupee has been stuck in the range of 82.40 to 82.90, lacking the directional move ahead of the year-end.

"In the near term, the rupee is expected to trade between 82.40 to 82.90 against the dollar. The bias for the local

to 18,132.30.

The gold price rose ₹173 to national capital on Tuesday

HDFC Securities.

icl, Agr congratulated company officials for registering a growth of 15.9 per cent over the targeted production of coal, which is almost 19 million tonne.

Stating that the demand for power will increase in coming days, Agrawal said,"There will be

Punjab & Sind Bank board to consider fundraise of ₹ 250cr on December 30

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

▶itv-based Puniab & Sind CBank on Tuesday said its board will meet on December 30 to consider a proposal for raising up to ₹250 crore by various modes, including equity and bonds issuance, the bank said Tuesday

The bank said it plans to raise capital up to an amount and aggregating to ₹250 crore in any combinations of equity shares or debt in the form on Basel III compliant bonds

The capital will be raised in one or more tranches within a period of 12 months from the date of approval by way of issue of these instruments, the lender said.

non-communicable diseases in

signed a Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) for a

five-year engagement, Max

The two partners have

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

India

and year-end rebalancing foreign fund outflows weighed on plying quality coal to all conthe Indian rupee in Tuesday's trade as it surrendered

as it trades below 82.40, down 25 paise over its previous Parmar added.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.27 per cent lower at 104.02

Global oil benchmark

According announcement on Monday, China will scrap quarantine for international travellers from January 8 next year, as it reopens its international borders and comes out of international isolation after nearly three years

debarred the noticees from accessing as well as dealing in the securities markets for a period of three years from the date of completion of refunds to clients along with depositing of the balance amount with Sebi, whichever is later.

per ounce. "Comex gold prices rose in the asian trading hours supported by a softer dollar, although trading was thin after the long Christmas weekend," an analyst at HDFC Securities

Govt proposing to grant status of national importance to IIFT

PTI NEW DELHI

The Government is proposing to declare the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) as 'institution of national importance' with an aim to empower it to attain standards of global excellence. IIFT has three branches in New Delhi, Kolkata and Kakinada. The institute is a deemed university.

It was set up in 1963 by the government as an autonomous organisation to help professionalise the country's foreign trade management and increase exports by developing human resources, analysing and disseminating data and conducting research.

According to the draft bill posted on the commerce ministry's website, all the Indian Institutes of Foreign Trade would be declared as"institutions of national importance with a view to empowering these institutions in attaining standards of global excellence in international trade (management and international economics) and allied areas of knowledge".

The draft — The Indian Institutes of Foreign Trade Bill, 2022 stated that the director would be the chief executive officer of every institute, and would be responsible for proper administration.

added.

Hindustan Power Exchange Govt mulls offloading 15-20 lakh tons of crosses one billion units wheat from FCI to contain prices in 2023

PTI NEW DELHI

The government is considering releasing 15-20 lakh tonnes of wheat next year from the FCI stock for bulk consumers like flour millers, under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) to contain rising retail prices, according of official sources.

According to the data maintained by the consumer affairs ministry, the average retail price of wheat was at ₹32.25 per kg on December 27, higher than ₹28.53 per kg in the year-ago period. Wheat flour (atta) price too remained higher at ₹37.25 per kg than ₹31.74 per kg a year ago.

Under the OMSS policy, the government allows staterun Food Corporation of India



cially wheat and rice, at predetermined prices in the open market from time to time to bulk consumers and private traders. The purpose is to boost the supply during the

lean season and moderate the general open market prices. An official source

said,"The nodal Food Ministry has moved an OMSS policy for 2023 for wheat and the plan is to release 15-20 lakh tonnes from the FCI for bulk users under the OMSS."

Wheat grown in the last two crops will be issued from

the FCI stock and the rate has not yet been decided, the PTI NEW DELHI source said.

Another source said there is a possibility of releasing wheat under the OMSS as the government is comfortable with the foodgrains' stock position. Moreover, the new wheat launch. crop prospect is seen to be ket participants, HPX has also bright as total acreage has been higher so far. raced to register participants

Even the flour millers have demanded the government offload wheat stocks from the FCI godowns to meet the shortage in the open market which has pushed up both wholesale and retail prices of wheat and wheat flour.

As of December 15, around 180 lakh tonnes of wheat and 111 lakh tonnes of rice were available in the central pool.



ed. It is now the number two exchange of the country in the contingency segment, and the total settlement registered on its platform was ₹1,250 crore, it claimed.

Though eastern entities have contributed about 51 per cent in this amount since the commencement of operations of the exchange, the participation from Southern entities has increased in the last two months, and they contributed 41 per cent in December.

Market (RTM), an HPX state-HPX — promoted by PTC India, Bombay Stock Exchange and ICICI Bank - has reached the milestone of one billion units of power traded within six months of its launch, it stat-

(FCI) to sell foodgrains, espe-

Airbag industry in India to grow to ₹7K cr by FY27: Icra Max Healthcare partners with genomics biotech firm Anuva

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

The industry size of airbags, The indusu y size of a man a key safety feature in vehicles, is expected to grow to up to ₹7,000 crore by FY2027 in India, from the current levels of around ₹2,500 crore, according

to ratings agency Icra. The growth in the airbag industry, which is one of the fastest growing auto component segments, is expected to be fuelled by the increase in content per vehicle arising

from higher regulatory requirements and voluntary increase in the number of airbags per vehicle for enhancing safety, Icra said in a statement.

'The mandatory content per vehicle for airbag manufacturers is expected to rise from ₹3,000-4,000 currently to ₹8,000-10,000 by October 1, 2023. The average number of airbags per car sold is about three currently, and this is expected to increase signifi-



comprising 80 per cent buy vol-

ume of overall Day Ahead

Market (DAM); 90 per cent sell

volume of Green DAM and 70

per cent buy of Real-Time

ment said.

cantly post the mandatory implementation of six airbags per car from October 1, 2023," Icra Vice President and Sector Head Vinutaa S said.

Accordingly, Icra said it expects the industry to grow to

₹6,000-7,000 crore by FY27 from the current levels of ₹2,400-2,500 crore, at a fourvear CAGR (compound annual growth rate) of 25-30 per cent.

The ratings agency pointed out that earlier, only one airbag per car (driver airbag) was mandatory from July 2019. This increased to two airbags (dual front airbags) for category M1 vehicles (vehicles that can seat up to eight passengers and weigh less than 3.5 tonne) manufactured from Jan 1, 2022.



including breast cancer, lung



research will be to identify insights for precision medicine application across diseases

Healthcare said in a statement. The objective of the data for the purpose of research

There is a lot to discover

in the field of genetic and lifestyle diseases. With the cancer, diabetes, cardiac disease, kidney disease, drug resistant tuberculosis, and others, it coming of precision medicine and genomics, it has the poten-Under the collaboration,

tial to provide efficient solu-Max Healthcare will provide its tions and transform the way we expertise in clinical research look at modern medicine today," Max Healthcare Group and will serve as the clinical centre for data and/or sample Medical Director, Sandeep collection from individuals Budhiraja said. who consent to share their

Anuva CEO Jonathan Picker said the promise and potential of genomics to transform medicine is enormous.



REDS MAKE FLYING START ON PL RETURN

AP BIRMINGHAM

iverpool got off to the fly-ing start they craved on the Premier League's return from the World Cup as a 3-1 win at Aston Villa on Monday cut the gap on the top four to five points.

Mohamed Salah and Virgil van Dijk put the Reds in a commanding position before halftime.

But Jurgen Klopp's men had to endure some nervy moments in the second half after Ollie Watkins pulled a goal back for Villa before teenager Stefan Bajcetic came off the bench to secure the three points with his first senior goal.

Liverpool struggled to match their standards of recent seasons during the first part of the season, but looked refreshed to inflict Unai Emery's first league defeat since taking charge of Villa.

Salah is one of a number of Klopp's key players who was not involved in Qatar and took just five minutes to net his 15th goal of the season.

The Egyptian swept home Andy Roberson's pass after Trent Alexander-Arnold's through ball had opened up the Villa defence.

Emery's men were left to rue a host of big chances to get immediately back on level terms



as Liverpool showed no sign of ing to finally give the visitors a two-goal cushion as the Dutch remedying their defensive issues defender calmly steered home so far this season. Salah's pass from a corner.

Leon Bailey and Watkins were both guilty of wasteful finishing. At the other end, Darwin

Nunez was even more profligate despite causing chaos with his powerful running in behind the Villa backline.

The Uruguayan headed over Robertson's inviting cross and then fired straight at Villa's stand-in goalkeeper Robin Olsen with just the Swede to beat after Ezri Konsa's error.

second half deserved. Van Dijk was not so forgiv-Watkins made one of his

half

ner

more difficult chances count with a brilliant header back across goal to halve Villa's arrears.

But Villa refused to accept Liverpool's relative lack of strength in depth compared to their fate in a breathless second their competitors for a place in Watkins had the ball in the the top four was exposed by Klopp needing to turn to two teenagers off the bench as 17net within three minutes of the restart but had just strayed offside before firing into the far coryear-old Ben Doak also made his first Premier League appear-John McGinn also fluffed ance

But 18-year-old Bajcetic showed a maturity beyond his years with a calm finish after Nunez had been denied once more by Olsen.

Liverpool agree deal for Gakpo

Liverpool appear to have Liver to sign Dutch international forward Cody Gakpo after PSV Eindhoven announced an agreement with the English

Cup for the Netherlands, had previously been linked with a move to Liverpool's rivals Manchester United. "PSV and Liverpool FC

have reached an agreement on the proposed transfer of Cody Gakpo," PSV sait. The 23-year-old attack-

er will leave for England imminently where he will be subjected to the necessary formalities ahead of the completion of the transfer." PSV general manager Marcel Brands said the transfer fee would be a club

record for the Dutch club. According to reports, the fee could rise to as much as 50 million euros (\$53

million, £44 million).

Arsenal comeback opens up 7-point lead on top

A rsenal opened up a seven-point lead at the top of the Premier League after coming from behind to beat West Ham 3-1 at the Emirates on Monday.

Bukayo Saka and Gabriel Martinelli turned the game around in the space of five sec-ond half minutes before Eddie Nketiah stepped up in the absence of Gabriel Jesus to seal

all three points. Said Benrahma's first half penalty had given the Hammers the lead, but David Moyes' men remain just one point above the relegation zone in 16th.

Arsenal's momentum towards a first league title since 2004 could have been halted by a six-week break for the World Cup.

Mikel Arteta made no allowances for his stars that have been away in Qatar as William Saliba started just eight days after being part of the French squad that lost the final on penalties to Argentina.

However, that decision eight minutes after the break backfired when Saliba hesitatwhen Odegaard's mishit shot fell perfectly into the path of Saka to sidefoot home. ed to allow Michail Antonio latch onto a ball over the top and then dived in on Jarrod ond goal moments later with Bowen. the help of West Ham goal-

Despite Bowen not going to ground immediately, referee Michael Oliver pointed to the spot and Benrahma confidently dispatched the penal-

Arsenal thought they had a spot-kick of their own in first half stoppage time but Oliver reversed his initial decision and Manchester United to come in January alone.

But Nketiah grabbed his opportunity on his first Premier League start of the season with a brilliant spin and low finish into the far corner from Odegaard's pass 21 minutes from time.

Manchester City can reduce the gap at the top to five points and move back above Newcastle into second place with victory when they travel to Leeds on Wednesday night.

near post. A prolonged injury layoff for Jesus had raised doubts over Arsenal's ability to maintain their title challenge in the coming months with games against Newcastle, Tottenham

after seeing a replay of Martin

Odegaard's shot come off

Aaron Cresswell's head rather

they needed to turn the tide

The Gunners got the break

Martinelli added the sec-

keeper Lukasz Fabianski, who

was far too easily beaten at his

than the left-back's arm.

However, another show of resilience from Arsenal showed the fight that lies ahead of the defending champions if they

are to retain the title once more in the second half of the season.

Behardien calls it a day PTI CAPE TOWN

South African white-ball spe-cialist and former T20I skipper Farhaan Behardien announced his retirement from professional cricket on Tuesday.

The 39-year-old, who played 59 ODIs and 38 T20Is and captained the Proteas in a three-match T20 series against Sri Lankan in 2017, took to social media to announce his decision to retire.

The all-rounder said the decision to quit professional cricket after playing for more than 18 years was tough, and the last couple of weeks were especially tough for him.

Predominantly a batter, he made 1074 ODI runs and 518 T20I runs, though it was his prorun-scoring in domesti cricket which stood out. Behardien made his first-class debut in 2004 and scored more than 7,000 runs in 125 games with his highest being an unbeaten 150. He had to wait eight years to make his South Africa debut and became a regular in the white-ball sides. He was part of the Proteas' T20 World Cup campaigns in 2012, 2014 and 2016 as well as the ODI World Cup in 2015.

Gardner new No.1 in women's T20I all-rounders' ranking

the all-rounders' list for the first time after moving up three spots.

his lines with just goalkeeper

Alisson to beat before the home

side got the goal their start to the

holds a big advantage over Devine (389) and Deepti (387) in second and third spots respectively, with Matthews dropping two places (381) to fourth.

The 25-year-old Australian is also up two places to a career-best seventh position among batters and progressed three places to a career-best 14th among bowlers in the lat-

est weekly update. Deepti Sharma, who is third on the all-rounders' list with 387 points, is also maintaining a similar position in the T20I bowlers' ranking, while

Saina named for selection trials of Asian Mixed Team C'ship

 $T_{\mathrm{Games}}^{\mathrm{wo-time}}$ Commonwealth Games champion Saina Nehwal has been named for next month's selection trials of Mixed Asian Team Championships, to be held in Dubai from February 14 to 19. The senior selection com-

mittee had a virtual meeting on December 25 to finalise the trials for picking the team for the Asian event.

Based on their superior world rankings, the commitmen's doubles pair of airaj Ranikreddy and atwiks



HS Prannoy regains career-best rankings Sen remained static at world

PTI 🔳 NEW DELHI

Star Indian shuttler HS Prannoy regained his career-best number eight position in the latest BWF world rankings issued on Tuesday.

The 30-year-old from Kerala, who has been in good form this year, had achieved the number eight ranking in 2018 for the first time before slipping to 34 in However, some memorable performances in the season, including the Thomas Cup win, seven quarterfinals, two semifinals and a runner-up finish at the Swiss Open, saw him rise like a phoenix in 2022.

The fast-rising pairing of MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila gained three places to be world number 21, while s double tion of Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly, which had won a bronze in Birmingham CWG, climbed a place to world number 17. In mixed doubles, Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto also moved two places to achieve the 18th spot.

number seven, while Kidambi Srikanth lost a place

to be at the 12th position. P V Sindhu slipped a

place to world number seven in women's singles, while Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and

Chirag Shetty were steady at

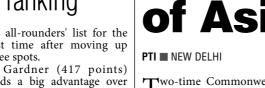
number five.





PTI DUBAI

Australian all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner has overtaken West Indies skipper Aatthews, Deepti Sharma and New Zealand captain Sophie Devine to attain a career-best No.1 ting rankings. spot in the latest ICC Women's T20I player rankings for allrounders released on Tuesday. Following a closely-fought five-match T20I series, which Australia won 4-1, Gardner, who was named Player of the Match in the last game for her 32-ball unbeaten 66 and bowling figures of 2/20, has topped 12th in the ranking for batters.



tee decided to give direct entry to singles players Lakshya Sen, HS Prannoy, PV Sindhu and

AP LIVERPOOL

giants on Monday. Gakpo, who scored three goals at the World

-ball 53 in the fifth and final T20I sees her move up Chirag Shetty. three places to 29th in the bat-The rest of the 14-member

team will be picked in the Among batters, India's selection trials, scheduled to Smriti Mandhana is third with be held in Delhi on January 2 727 points with Australia's and 3. Tahlia McGrath leading the charts with 814 points, followed by country-mate Beth Mooney (760 points). India's Jemimah Rodrigues has

"The members unanimously agreed that since it is a big competition with limited number of entries, only BWF rankings from 16-50 slipped two places (607) to should be considered for inviting players for the trials for the

rest of the available spots," the BAI said in a letter.

In women's singles, apart from Saina, Malvika Bansod and Aakarshi Kashyap have been invited for the trials, while in men's doubles --Arjun/Dhruv Kapila, Krishna Prasad Garga/Vishnuvardhan Goud P and Ishaan Bhatnagar/Sai Patheek K were named.

For the two spots in women's doubles, Commonwealth Games bronze medallists Treesa Jolly and Gayatri P Gopichand, Sikki Reddy and Ashwini Ponnappa, Ashwini Bhatt and Shikha Gautam and Haritha Manazhiyil and Ashna Roy were invited.

Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto, Venkat Gaurav

Among others, Lakshya Prasad and Juhi Dewangan

and Rohan Kapoor and Sikki

Reddy were invited for the tri-

als which will pick the one mixed doubles pair for the event.

Djoker, Nadal to kickstart bid for 2023 supremacy in Australia

AP SYDNEY

Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal kickstart their 2023 campaigns this week in Adelaide and Sydney respectively, with the superstar veterans and great rivals eyeing up yet more Australian Open glory.

With the pair sharing 43 Grand Slam titles between them -- Djokovic has 21 and Nadal 22 -- the scene is set for an epic showdown at Melbourne Park in January

Nadal is the defending Australian Open champion and Djokovic is a nine-time winner.

Djokovic returns Down Under for the first time since being sensationally detained and then deported ahead of the 2022 Australian Open because of his refusal to get vaccinated for Covid-19.

He starts his bid for an incredible 10th Australian Open title at the Adelaide International from Sunday, following a troubled and truncated year in which he missed two majors because of his vaccine status.

Djokovic was initially barred from entering Australia before 2025, but a new government in Canberra reversed the ruling and he is now gunning for more silverware at his most successful Grand Slam venue.

"Over the years I've been really fortunate to start very strong in Australia and I love playing



past Medvedev to win the

Australian Open in an epic five-

setter -- then backed it up with a

in Adelaide, including Felix Auger-Aliassime, Daniil there," said the world number five in Dubai last week, after ending 2022 with a record-equalling sixth ATP Tour Finals crown. tively

"After obviously what happened earlier this year, hopefully I can have a decent reception there

and hopefully that can help me play some good tennis. He will face a top-notch field

14th French Open. Nadal will begin his prepara-Auger-Aliassime, Daniil Medvedev and Andrey Rublev, tions in Sydney at the United Cup, ranked six, seven and eight respeca new mixed-teams event, where a blockbuster showdown with In Djokovic's absence this Australian showman Nick Kyrgios year, Spanish great Nadal swept will test his credentials.

Eighteen countries will compete in the event across 11 days from Thursday, with Brisbane,

DJOKOVIC RETURNS DOWN UNDER FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE BEING SENSATIONALLY DETAINED AND THEN DEPORTED AHEAD OF THE 2022 AUSTRALIAN OPEN BECAUSE OF HIS **REFUSAL TO GET** VACCINATED FOR COVID-19

Perth and Sydney hosting group games in a round-robin format. Ties comprise two men's and two women's singles matches and

one mixed doubles. The finals series will be played in Sydney.

World number three Casper Ruud and Germany's Alexander Zverev, who is returning from a serious ankle injury, will participate.

Top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz will warm up at the Kooyong Classic exhibition in Melbourne from January 10-12 as he battles back from the abdominal injury that shortened his pre-season training block.

The 19-year-old Spaniard, a major threat to Djokovic and Nadal, missed the season-ending ATP Finals and Davis Cup Finals

with a muscle tear, but is confident he will be ready. "I would say the key is to prac-

tise a lot, spend a lot of hours on court," he said this month.

"I will be ready and 100 percent heading into Australia.

Italy's Jannik Sinner and world number nine Taylor Fritz, among others, will also use Kooyong to fine-tune.

Women's world number one Iga Swiatek will acclimatise in Perth with her Polish teammates at the United Cup on the back of winning the French Open and US Open in 2022.

The three-time Grand Slam champion is targeting a first Australian Open title after losing in the semis this year to Danielle Collins, who then crashed to Ashleigh Barty in the final.

Swiatek inherited the top ranking following the shock retirement of Barty in March, and has been dominant ever since.

American world number three Jessica Pegula and resurgent French world number four Caroline Garcia, fresh from beating Aryna Sabalenka to win the WTA Finals, also feature at the United Cup. Four of the other top 10

women begin the year in Adelaide, with second-ranked Ons Jabeur, world number five Sabalenka world number eight Daria Kasatkina and world number nine Veronika Kudermetova all entered.

Novak due to return to Australia. tennis boss says

AP SYDNEY

Former world number one Novak Djokovic was due to return to Australia on Tuesday, almost one year after he was deported for refusing to be vaccinated against Covid-19, the country's tennis boss said.

Nine-time Australian Open champion Djokovic was initially banned from the country for three years after losing a highstakes legal battle earlier this year over his vaccine status.

Australia has since lifted its requirement for visitors to show proof of vaccination against Covid.

The government confirmed in November that the unvaccinated Serb was no longer banned and had been granted a visa allowing him to play in the next Australian Open, which starts in January. Tennis Australia chief executive Craig

Tiley said he hoped local fans would embrace Djokovic's return.

"We welcome him back to Australia," he told reporters.

"I think as we speak he's landing in Adelaide and I think that he is going to be again the player to beat.

"I have a great deal of confidence in the Australian public. I have a lot of confidence that the fans will react how we hope they will react.'

India beat SA



DIDN'T FEEL PRESSURE OF REPLACING KULDEEP: UNADKAT

PTI NEW DELHI

Jaydev Unadkat did get his much-awaited chance with the red ball and he kept his "promise" with a spirited effort in his first Test for India after 12 years.

His love for the longer version of the game became apparent more than ever in January when he typed a tweet that went viral.

"Dear red ball, please give me one more chance.. I'll make you proud, promise!" the leftarm pacer had posted.

"Èveryone thought that I was referring to a national comeback. I was just missing red ball cricket in general as Ranji Trophy was postponed for a second time (due to COVID)," Unadkat said after his arrival from Bangladesh.

The 31-year-old, who had played his first and only Test way back in 2010 with the great Sachin Tendulkar and current head coach Rahul Dravid being his celebrated teammates, fea tured in his second outing last week in remarkable circumstances

Having not been on selectors' radar despite a recordbreaking performance in the 2020 Ranji Trophy, a national recall came for Unadkat when

he expected it the least. He was not even part of the India A side that toured

BANTECH GTV Daraz MPL B BY him for keeping his hopes to

bare minimum. Eventually, his patience

and perseverance prevailed as he was flown to Bangladesh as a backup pace option, with Mohammad Shami not regain-

ing full fitness for the series. The visa delays meant he Bangladesh before the Test could only reach Chattogram series, so one could not fault after the start of the first Test

but against all expectations, stand-in skipper K L Rahul gave Unadkat the big break he was waiting for while toiling on

the domestic circuit for years. The opportunity came at the expense of spinner Kuldeep Yadav, whose exclusion after an eight-wicket haul in the series opener triggered a selection controversy

The scoreboard would show that Unadkat took three wickets in his comeback Test but his impact was bigger in the game.

With years of first-class experience under his belt since his Test debut in South Africa, Unadkat relished the pressure. Getting the most out of flat tracks in Rajkot is something

Unadkat had done for years and the Porbandar-born cricketer found himself in similar territory in Mirpur.

to make his presence felt as he removed previous game's cen-turion Zakir Hasan with a ball that jumped from good length. That was his maiden wicket in Tests and Unadkat says that moment will remain the most special of his career.

"I was trying to extract bounce off length and I felt I could do that. The feeling (when it happened) will remain one of the most special memories of my cricketing career. Getting a Test wicket is something I visualised 1000 times," said Unadkat.

Did he feel the pressure of replacing Kuldeep? "Absolutely not. When you

don't expect things and they happen, I take it in my stride. I just wanted to contribute. If not take a wicket then create pressure from the other end. That was the thought. "Domestic cricket has

helped me immensely that way. You always have a role to play as a bowler even when you aren't getting the wickets. You can create pressure and put bat-ter in doubt and other bowlers can capitalise on that."

What worked for Unadkat was his ability to bowl long spells on flat decks. 12 years from his debut, he was also a much wiser man having cap-

tained Saurashtra to unprecedented success.

"I got my chance as the management felt I was suited to It did not take long for him nake his presence felt as he conditions were similar (to Rajkot), not a lot of pace off the wicket and you will have to extract whatever you can by hitting the length hard.

"I knew if I will stick to my strengths, there will be something coming my way and that is how I got that extra bounce.'

Unadkat could be the next left-arm pacer India have been looking for years but he is not thinking about that. When Jasprit Bumrah and Moĥammad Shami are back, finding a spot in the XI will be much tougher.

"I was pretty young when I made my debut. All these years (at Ranji level) I never felt like a veteran. I am still 31 and at my peak. These four to five years would be the peak of my career and I want to continue as much as I can."

Does he see himself retaining his place for the Border Gavaskar Trophy beginning next month?

"I don't want to expect things as that has been helping me honestly. I am looking for-ward to the next round of Ranji (against Delhi), and that is all I am thinking about. If it

has to happen, it will happen. "I hope India dominate Australia. It is going to be a great series," he said.



total, medium pacer Shabnam Shakil (3/15) shone bright with the ball as Indian bowlers picked up wickets at regular intervals to restrict South Africa to 83 for eight. Shakil struck in her

Besides Shakil, off-spin-

Hurley Gala (1/13) and

chipped in with a wicket

they lost skipper Shafali Verma in the first delivery of the match. opening two overs to reduce South Africa to 10 But Sehrawat and Tiwari then joined hands and stitched 70 runs off 74 for 2 inside three overs, a balls for the second wickposition from which the et to set the platform for ĥosts never recovered. India's total.

Tiwari scored 40 each off 39

and 46 balls respectively to

guide India to 137 for five

from rosy for the Indians as

But the start was far

after being asked to bat.

While Sherawat deconer Archana Devi (3/14) rated her innings with five boundaries, Tiwari hit also sparkled with the ball in the middle overs. three fours and six. Sonam Yadav (1/15) also

Besides the duo, wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh made 15, while Titas Sandhu (13, while Titas Sandhu (13 not out) and Hurley Gala (11 not out) also played useful hands towards the end.

Kayla Reyneke (2/13) and Ayanda Hlubi (2/22) picked up two wickets each for the home team.

Only three South Africa batters -- Kayla Reyneke (20), Madison Landsman (10) and Jemma Botha (10 not out) -- managed double digit scores. The second match of the series will be played

each

Defending the modest here on Thursday.

Warner retires in pain after making 200 in 100th Test



atures touching 37 degrees Celsius (98.6 Fahrenheit). Opener Warner, 36,

snapped a near-three-year century drought in typically aggres-sive and gritty fashion, reaching three figures for a 25th time after coming into the game under pressure on a lean run.

It was his first Test hundred since January 2020 and as the opposition bowlers tired, he battled the elements and converted it to 200 for only the third time.

His wife Candice told host broadcaster Fox: "You'd think by now people would know writing David Warner off is the thing to do.



England to tour B'desh for white-ball series in March

PTI LONDON

The England men's team 1. of Bangladesh since 2016 when expected to play two warm-up it travels to the country to play fixtures ahead of the ODIs, the dates for which will be three One-day Internationals and an equal number of T20Is announced in due course, said in March next year. an England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) statement. The tour will commence "It is exciting that the England Men's white-ball with three ODIs, the first two matches taking place at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket squad will return to Bangladesh Stadium in Dhaka on March 1 for the first time since 2016. and 3. The final match of the The atmosphere generated in Dhaka and Chattogram for series will take place on March this eagerly-anticipated tour will be fantastic," said ECB interim CEO Clare Connor. 6 at Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram. The three-match T20I series will start on March 9 in "There is a great passion for Chattogram, with the final two cricket across Bangladesh, and we expect a tough challenge against a side who have an matches, on March 12 and 14, scheduled to be played in excellent record in home con-Dhaka.

played a series was in 2016, when England won the ODIs 2-

England squad is





New Zealand's opening pair of left-handed batters responded with a solid 165-0 in the first cricket Test on Tuesday after Agha Salman had scored his first Test century and led Pakistan to 438.

Devon Conway and Tom Latham batted confidently against the challenging spin of Abrar Ahmed on a dry wicket to remain unbeaten on 82 and 78, respectively, at stumps on

the second day. New Zealand trails by 273 n its first Test tour to Pakistan



AP MELBOURNE

 $D_{\text{through searing heat to hit}}^{\text{avid Warner battled}}$ an epic unbeaten 200 in his 100th Test on Tuesday before retiring in pain as Australia consolidated their advantage against South Africa at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

ger from Anrich Nortje. On a scorching day, the hosts were 386-3 at stumps on day two of the second Test, leadrun partnership took the game ing by 197 after the Proteas were further away from South Africa. dismissed in their first innings whose bowlers toiled in temper-

for 189 Travis Head was not out 48

with Alex Carey on nine.

Steve Smith (85) and

Marnus Labuschagne (14) were

the only wickets to fall. But wor-

ryingly for Australia, Cameron

Green, who took 5-27 in South

Africa's first innings, also retired

hurt after a nasty rap on the fin-

Smith and Warner's 239-

But it was an exhausting effort, as he passed 8,000 Test

runs en route. Chairs had to be brought out for Warner and Smith to rest on in the drinks breaks, with towels draped over their heads and ice-packs on their shoul-

ders Warner needed treatment for cramp several times and retired in pain after reaching 200 and dropping to his knees, eventually helped from the field

by support staff. "The boys were cramping left, right and centre," Smith told reporters. "So, difficult (conditions) but nice to get us to the position where we are now. I think we're in a nice spot."

The last time the teams ditions. since 2002.

Conway also completed 1,000 Test runs in 19 innings, taking the national record previously held by John F. Reid.

Both batters used their feet well against Abrar, who took 17 wickets in two Test matches against England ear-lier this month. Conway reached his half century off 89 balls with nine fours, including four against Abrar.

Latham followed in reaching his 50 off 96 balls with six fours as both batters grew in confidence and didn't hesitate to even reverse sweep on a wicket which still has some turn for the spinners.

Pakistan's weakened pace

attack in the absence of injured Shaheen Afridi, Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah, didn't offer a challenge to Conway and Latham with the new ball as both batters took New Zealand to 41-0 by tea before adding 124 more runs in the final session.

Leftarm fast bowler Mir Hamza, recalled after four years since playing his only Test against Australia in 2018, and Mohammad Wasim, also playing only his second Test, couldn't break through.

Salman batted resolutely in

when Pakistan was bowled out an hour after lunch. Tim Southee, the Kiwis new test captain, picked up his 350th Test wicket and wrapped up the innings when Salman tried to play across the seamer, was struck on the back leg and was ruled out leg before wicket. Southee was the pick of the bowlers with 3-69 while

the company of tailenders to

score 103 with 17 fours. He was

the last batter to be dismissed

Earlier, the 29-year-old

three spinners -- Michael Bracewell (2-72), Ish Sodhi (2-87) and Ajaz Patel (2-112) -- shared six wickets.

Avesh picks four as MP bowl out Railways for 274

PTI INDORE

vesh Khan took four wickets as Adefending champions Madhya Pradesh bowled out Railways for 274 on the opening day of their Ranji Trophy Group D match here on Tuesday.

Avesh returned with figures of for 69, while Saransh Jain and Puneet Datey (2/52) shared four wickets between them as Madhya Pradesh took 87.4 overs to fold Railways' innings.

Besides, Kumar Kartikeya (1/57) and Shubham Sharma (1/8)picked up a wicket each.

Electing to bat, Railways did not have the best of starts as Avesh struck in the fifth delivery of the match, removing Vivek Singh.

The India pacer came back in the 16th over to account for the wicket of Shivam Chaudhary (21) before Shubham Sharma dismissed Rahul Rawat (29) to reduce Railways to 68 for 3 in the 25th over

Mohammad Saif (39) and Shubham Chaubey (24) added 44 runs for the fourth wicket before both the batters departed.

Skipper Upendra Yadav topscored for Railways with a gritty 61

off 123 balls and hit eight boundaries in the process. Towards the end, Akash

Pandey (24 not out) and Adarsh Singh (24) played useful hands to take Railways past the 250-run mark

SAMARTH'S TON DRIVES **K'TAKA**

Porvorim: Opener R Samarth's fine knock of 140 and his century partnerships with skipper Mayank Agarwal and Vishal Onat powered Karnataka to 294/3 against Goa in their Group C match.

Agarwal won the toss, opted to bat and provided a strong start for the team by adding 116 runs with Samarth. The two looked untroubled against the Goa attack and completed a century stand after a cautious start.

Agarwal appeared set for a big score before he fell LBW to Lakshay Garg for 50, which included five boundaries and two sixes. Samarth and Onat (73 batting,

172 balls, 9 fours) built on the platform provided by the opening partnership and piled on the Goa owlers' misery.

The home team attack comprising Arjun Tendulkar, Garg,



Darshan Misal and Mohit Radkar was taken to the task by Samarth and Onat. Samarth raced to a ton and was

batting on 120 at tea. He added 20 more runs to his score before being dismissed by Tendulkar (1 for 30). It was a third straight firstclass century for Samarth, after having done so against Services and Puducherry in previous games.

At Thumba, Kerala ended the day at 100 for 2 after having dismissed Chhattisgarh for 149 in under 50 overs with the experienced spinner Jalaj Saxena picking up five wickets.

TN RESTRICT DELHI

New Delhi: In-form Dhruv Shorey blew away an opportunity to score his third successive hundred in as

many innings as Tamil Nadu restricted hosts Delhi to 212 for six on opening day of a Group B Ranji Trophy game here on Tuesday.

Shorey (66, 168 balls) and lefthanded Jonty Sidhu (57, 107 balls) added 105 runs for the third wicket but the home team could hardly dominate on a Feroz Shah Kotla track which became good for batting after the first hour and half.

But the manner in which Sidhu and Vaibhav Rawal (11) were out defending slow bouncers from pacer Sandeep Warrier (3/59 in 22 overs) was embarrassing to say the least.

Warrier and fellow seamer L Vignesh (3/42 in 19 overs) were disciplined as they bowled a probing line and hit good lengths time and again.

DHAPOLA TAKES 8

Dehradun: Uttarakhand seam bowler Deepak Dhapola breathed fire on the opening day of their Group A match, grabbing eight Himachal Pradesh wickets as the visitors were bundled out for 49 runs on Tuesday.

Dhapola, 32, dismissed three players for duck and returned figures of 8/35 off 8.3 overs as Himachal could not weather the storm and were dismissed inside 17 overs

At stumps on day one, Uttarakhand were batting on 295 for six, having taken a massive 246run first-innings lead. Aditya Tare (91 not out) and Abhay Negi (48 not out) showed there were no demons in the pitch as they batted with confidence.

But the highlight of the day was Bageshwar-born Dhapola's bowling. The seamer, who made his first-class debut in 2018 and is playing only his 15th game, had a previous best bowling figures of 7/50 in an innings, but on Tuesday he bettered his personal best as Himachal batters made a beeline to the dressing room.

Dhapola's feat did not miss the attention of the BCCI secretary Jay Shah who termed it as one of the finest bowling performances of the tournament.

"Ranji Trophy has time and again helped bring out raw homegrown talent onto the forefront. This time it's Deepak Dhapola! His 8/35 against Himachal is one of the finest bowling performances of the tournament. Long way to go!" tweeted Shah.

Dhapola, who was the leading wicket-taker for his state in the group stage of the 2018–19 Ranji Trophy with 44 dismissals in seven matches and finished the tournament with 45 wickets in eight games, will look to improve his best bowling figures in a first-class match (12/96) when he comes out with the red cherry in the second innings.