

Hold local body polls sans No foul play in citizens' **OBC quota: HC to UP Govt**

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

 $T^{\rm he\ Lucknow\ bench\ of\ the}_{\rm Allahabad\ High\ Court\ on} \ the State$ 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 DK Upadhyay and Justice Saurav Lavania annulled the December 5 draft notification issued by the Uttar Pradesh Government providing reser-vation 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 constitute a

Allahabad High Court that will conduct a survey of OBCs as per the Supreme Court guidelines. We will not go for the elections without ensuring reservation for the OBCs. If required, we will go to the required, we will go to the Supreme Court against the High Court's order," Yogi said. The verdict comes in the light of PILs challenging the preparation of the OBC reser-

vation draft without following



commission as directed by the the triple test formula pre-

ed that the State Government must follow the apex court formula and constitute a dedicated commission to study the political backwardness of OBCs before fixing the reservation. The State Government contended that it had con-

ducted a rapid survey and said it was as good as the triple test. But the HC brushed aside the

argument that a rapid survey was as good as the triple test. Earlier this month, the scribed by the Supreme Court. The petitioners had plead-

state had issued a provisional list of reserved seats for mayors of 17 municipal corporations, chairpersons of 200 nagar palika parishads and 545 nagar panchayats — a reservation of around 30 per cent, as was provided during the 2017 elections. Four mayoral seats -Aligarh, Mathura-Vrindavan, Meerut and Prayagraj — were

reserved for OBC candidates. Besides, chairpersons' seats in 200 nagar palika parishads were reserved for OBCs while 147 of chairpersons' seats in 545 nagar panchayats were also reserved for OBC candidates.

In 2021, the Supreme Court had decreed that the States should hold a "triple test" survey to have contemporary data on OBCs before deciding on the percentage of quota. The argument was that the yardstick for political quota is dif-ferent from the one for jobs and education, and a survey was required to fix the nature and pattern of backwardness.

'Social and economic backwardness does not neces-sarily coincide with political backwardness," the SC had said. The triple test formula requires States to appoint a commission, collect quantifiable data on the community, and allocate reservation to them in local bodies in such a manner that the total reservation in each seat does not exceed 50 per cent.

The plan to provide reservation to OBCs without the Supreme Court mandated survey drew criticism from the Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party. A petition was filed in the Allahabad High Court, objecting to the government's move.

death: Russian embassy Antov, vocal against Putin's Ukraine attack, and his

friend, found dead in 2 days in Odisha

PNS NEW DELHI

As mystery shrouds the 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 alleg-

ing 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



Saturday, December 24. 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 61-

year-old Vladimir Bidenov, his associate, and a couple, Mikhail Turov and Natalia Panasenko. They were also accompanied by an Indian tourist guide. Bidenov was found dead in the same hotel just two days

the owner of hotel Sai International in Rayagada, before Antov's death. He was where the Russian tourists stayed, told the media. found lying unconscious in his room on the first floor of the hotel.

Pavel Antov is not the first high-profile Russian to have As per police, Bidenov died due to a stroke and was cre-mated. His friend, Antonov, died a mysterious and sudden death. In September this year, oil boss Ravil Maganov died was depressed after Vladimir's death and he too died on after falling to his death from the sixth floor of a hospital in Russia. He was reportedly on December 25, the police further said. antidepressants.

The police are investigating

CAPSULE

Pavel's death from all angles.

including the possibility that he

has fallen from the terrace

unconscious, after medical

examination he was found

dead. Second tourist was men-

tally disturbed after his friend's

cremation, he was found lying

on hotel premises. When taken

to hospital, he was found dead,"

"First tourist was found

accidentally.

KOCHHAR, HUSBAND Approach Bombay HC Mumbai: Former ICICI Bank CEO and MD Chanda Kochhar and her husband Deepak Kochhar on Tuesday approached the Bombay High Court, calling their arrest by the Central Bureau of Investi

China ends Covid Nationwide mock drills assess Covid combat readiness ban on foreigners'

IMA, top doctors urge Govt to allow people to take 2nd honster dose

in the number of coronavirus

cases. "I reviewed the Covid response mock drill at Safdarjung Hospital. This mock drill was necessary to know how prepared our hospitals



PTI BEIJING

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 dis-eases, such as dengue fever.

China will cancel inbound quarantine for international arrivals starting from January

8, 2023, it said.

arrival from Jan 8

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 coun-

try 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.

PNS NEW DELHI

Tndia on Tuesday held Covid response 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. "It is important that the entire Covid infrastructure in

terms of equipment, processes and human resources are at a state of operational readiness", Mandaviva said after reviewing the Covid response mock drill at the centre-run Safdarjung Hospital here to check its readi-

Continued on Page 9 ness to deal with any increase

are," the minister said. "Covid cases are rising all

over the world and India 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

Continued on Page 9

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

in a loan fraud case illegal.

7 FRESH MEASLES 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 taxpavers 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.

On rethink, BJP to contest MCD mayor, deputy polls

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Taking a U-turn on its ear-lier 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 first-timer 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 BJP

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

The BJP's mayor candidate, Gupta, has been a general secretary and member of the party's national executive. She was the president of the Delhi University Students Union from 1996 to 1997. She has a stronghold in North Delhi's

Pitampura area.

Gupta, after filing her nomination, asserted that she will contest the election with full strength. "I appeal to all the councillors that vote for the development and betterment of Delhi. I hope they will choose the right mayor for the city by listening to the voice of their conscience," she said.

Continued on Page 9

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI border areas.

Maha resolution plans to

merge Marathi-speaking

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 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

Condemning the Karnataka Government for its acts of "oppressing and terrorising the Marathi population" 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. While moving the resolu-

on Maharashtration 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 cir-

cumstance." The resolution said, "The Maharashtra Government stands firmly with the Marathspeaking people in 865 Marathi-speaking villages in the border areas.

Continued on Page 9

Modi's brother, family injured in road accident near Mysuru

K'taka villages into State PTI MYSURU

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 PTI 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

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 treatment.

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city 02

GIS: Roadshows in 7 major cities from Jan 5 next year

PNS LUCKNOW

A fter raising investment to the tune of over Rs 7.12 lakh crore from 16 nations, Team Yogi is now concentrating on home investors. After international tours, a group of ministers from



I have changed my name from Fayaj Ahamed to Mohd. Sai. In future I shall be known as Mohd. Sai. Mohd Sai S/o Hasmulla, 305, Meerpur, Cantt. Kanpur

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Achhai Bajpai to Akshai Bajpai. In future I shall be known as Akshai Bajpai S/o Late Krishna Kumar Bajpai. 24/143, Birhana Road, Kanpur.

NOTICE

I Jatin Duseja S/o Manoj Kumar Duseja. 117/ H-1/151 Pandu Nagar. Kanpur has changed my name from Jatin Kumar Duseja to Jatin Duseja For all future purposes.

NOTICE

I, Akanksha daughter of Anand Singh resident of H.No. 123/922 Fazalgani, Kanpur UP-208012 have changed my name from Akanksha to Akanksha Singh vide Affidavit dated 27.12.2022 at Kanpur Nagar.

NOTICE

This is to notify that Kulsuma W/o late Muinuddin died on 10.06.2010 due to illness, whose Grand sons Azimuddin Ahmed and Azharuddin are their official heirs of her resident 3/558, Vikas Nagar, Lucknow.

सूचना

सुचित हो कि Allen Jacob Robert एवं Allen Robert दोनों नाम एक ही व्यक्ति अर्थात मेरे ही हैं। Allen Jacob Robert S/o Robert Febio, Add-56

shows in seven major cities across the country to attract domestic investors.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will personally meet top industrial organisations in Mumbai and invite them to invest in Uttar Pradesh

while separate teams have been made for six other cities. On the chief minister's instructions, a new team has been formed for domestic

roadshows, that consists of ministers with independent charge in addition to cabinet ministers. A team of senior officers will accompany the ministers on these tours.

Yogi will participate in a roadshow in Mumbai on January 5. Along with representatives from the Tata Group, Reliance Industries, Mahindra, Godrej, Aditya Birla Group, Bombay Dyeing, Britannia, JSW Group, and Asian Paints Group, the chief minister is also set to meet people from banking and film

industries. During other visits, talks may be held with large industrial groups and compa-

nies like Adani Group, Hitachi, Hiranandani Group, Nestle, Coca-Cola, Maruti Suzuki, Ashoka Leyland, Goenka Group, Oswal Industries etc.

Industrial Development Minister Nandagopal Nandi and minister Ravindra Jaiswal are also included in the group for Mumbai.

Besides, there will be a roadshow in Chennai on January 9. Finance Minister Suresh Khanna and ministers Aseem Arun & Nitin Agarwal are also in the team to meet investors there.

New Delhi will witness the roadshow on January 13 with Industrial Development Minister Nandagopal Nandi, IT and Electronics Minister Yogendra Upadhyay, Urban Development Minister AK Sharma, and minister Sandeep Singh being in the team.

The Kolkata roadshow will

team will include Deputy Chi Minister Keshav Prasad Industrial Maurya, Development Minister Nandagopal Nandi, Minister with Independent Charge Dayashankar Singh and Minister of State Ajit Singh Pal.

The Hyderabad roadshow will be held on January 18. Deputy CM Brajesh Pathak, Technical Education Minister Yogendra Upadhyay and minister Arun Saxena will be in the team to meet the investors.

The Ahmedabad roadshow will be held on January 20). The team consists of PWD Minister Jitin Prasada, Agriculture Minister Surva Pratap Shahi, and ministers Jayendra Pratap & Jaswant Saini

In Bengaluru, the roadshow will be held on January 23. The team members include Industrial Development Minister Nandagopal Nandi, IT and Electronics Minister Yogendra Upadhyay and minbe held on January 16 and the ister Aseem Arun.

Minister

Three policemen suspended for 'partying' with SP politician

Deoria (PTI): Three police constables of Surauli Police Station were suspended for partying with a Samajwadi Party politician, a senior police officer said on Tuesday. The three were suspended Monday by the Superintendent of Police on the basis of a report submitted by the Circle Officer.

Deoria SP Sankalp Sharma on Tuesday said that in their probe police found that the three constables were partying and enjoying a feast around 9 pm on December 16, instead of discharging their duties. Brijesh Kumar, Mukesh Singh, and Akash Gupta were found dining at an under-construction house at Katrari crossing with an SP politician. The house was found to be belonging to the politician, who is planning to contest the upcoming urban local bodies' polls, the SP said. The three were apprehended by

Circle Officer (Sadar) Shriyash Tripathi, who was on patrolling duty and had received a tip-off, he added.

ल्डमह के अतिम मंगलवार) प्रातः १० बज न्वंतवी संस्थाएँ:- जिला प्रशासन, एलडीए, नगर नि लेसा, प्रदूषण, जल निगम (नगरी

Lucknow Divisional Commissioner Roshan Jacob and District Magistrate Surya Pal Gangwar during a public hearing at Lucknow Development Authority office on the occasion of Nagrik Suvidha Diwas Tuesday

'Mass conversion' event stopped by police after Bajrang Dal tip-off Christian family in the village

Budaun (PTI): A programme was stopped here in Bherha village after some activists from Bajrang Dal tipped off police about a mass religious conversion that was going to take place there, police said on Tuesday.

According to police, no permission was taken for the event which was being held in the village under Hazratpur Police Station area on Monday night. In their complaint, Bajrang Dal activists alleged that around two dozen people were going convert from Hindusim to Christianity, a senior police offi-

cer said. However, when police raided the venue they found no then how can such a "big programme" be held there. conversion taking place there. "Acting on the information,

"One Hindu family had when police reached the pandal, converted to Christianity, and they found bhajans were being the information about the reliplayed by the DJ. The progious conversion was correct," he gramme was stopped, as it was said. He added that the office being held without any permisbearers of the organisation will sion. The people who had gathmeet senior government officials ered there were told to leave the and demand an action against place," Deputy Superintendent of the organisers of the pro-Police Karamveer Singh said, gramme. District BJP president and dismissed the allegations of Rajiv Gupta said that he had spoken to police and adminismass religious conversion. Bajrang Dal District presitration, and asked them to ensure that such incidents are

in

dent Pankaj Gupta said that when there is not a single not repeated.

had picked up many of Aleem's

friends for questioning in the

abduction case. Even his rela-

tives had severed ties with

him and he was in mental

duress as a result. Aleem

allegedly had a picture of him-

self with the girl when he shot

Muzaffarnagar, the body of a

22-year-old man missing since

December 23 was recovered

from a sugarcane field at

Bhesani Islampur village in

Thana Bhawan police station

limits of neighbouring Shamli

ering Nazim over a finan

himself, Srivastava said.

Meanwhile

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Nitin Midha holder of Indian Passpo No:Z5561915 issued at Dubai 10/03/2022 and Permanent Resident of 14 Jagdish Vihar 4 D Lajpat Rai Road New Katra Prayagraj Pin 211002 Uttar Pradesh India and presently residing at Aptmnt 721 Binghatti Stars Dubai Silicon Oasis Dubai do hereby change the name of my minor child Midha Atharva holding Indiar Passport No:S8124371 issued at Dubai on 30/12/2020 from Midha Atharva to Atharv (Given name) Midha (Surname with immediate effect.

COURT NOTICE CITATION (BY ADVERTISEMENT) (Chapter XXX, Rule-21) IN THE HIGH COURT OF

JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD ORIGINAL, JURISDICTION TESTAMENTARY AND

INTESTATE JURISDICTION TESTAMENTARY CASE NO. 112 OF 2022, IN THE MATTER OF

THE GOODS OF Late Jagdish Shivnani S/o Late Lekhraj Shivnani R/o Flat No. 6GH-14, Paschim Vihar, West Delhi, Delhi 110063. Deceased. Hitesh Shivnani., Petitioner WHEREAS an application has been made by Hitesh Shivnani S/o Late Jagdish Shivnani R/o Flat No. 6GH-14, Paschim Vihar, West Delhi, Delhi 110063, Presently R/o Kothi no.1474, Sector-22B, Chandigarh 160022 for the probate of the will (or Letters of Administration to the estate) of Late Jagdish Shivnani deceased, who died at Sattichaur, Kotdwara Garhwal, Uttarakhand 246149, on 10.04.2021 AND WHEREAS, the 31" day of January, 2023 has been fixed for hearing of the said application. THIS CITATION is issued calling upon all persons claiming to have any interest to come and see the proceedings if they think fit before the grant of probate (or Letters of Administration). Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this 21 day of December, 2022.

Akhilesh Yadav, Jayant unlikely to attend 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in UP

PTI LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav is unlikely to take part in the Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra in Uttar Pradesh, an SP leader said on Tuesday, while other non-BJP

leaders who have also been invited are yet to take a call. Congress has said it has invited several leaders of non-

BJP parties, including Akhilesh Yadav, BSP supremo Mayawati and RLD's Jayant Chaudhary, to take part in the Uttar Pradesh leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra from January 3.

However, SP president Akhilesh Yadav and ally RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary are unlikely to participate in the Yatra due to "preoccupation" with their party programmes, their party leaders said.

The schedule of SP president Akhilesh Yadav related to party programmes has already been decided and he is unlikely to attend the yatra," SP spokesman Rajendra Chaudhary told PTI. There had also been no discussion in this regard in the party, Chaudhary said when asked if any other leader of the party would be participating in the yatra. In a similar vein, RLD chief spokesman Anil Dubey said,"I do not think that Jayantji will be going for the yatra." He is preoccupied with party programmes which have already been planned, Dubey said, adding that the decision on whether any other leader of the party will participate in the Yatra will be taken by the party president.

Sharma rejects Rahul's offer, asks Cong leader to join Modi's 'yatra'

"Prime Lucknow (PTI): Former Narendra Modi is making Uttar Pradesh deputy chief minister Dinesh Sharma on real efforts to connect India Tuesday rejected Rahul through construction of roads Gandhi's offer to join his and other developmental Bharat Jodo Yatra, and efforts," he told PTI as he listadvised him to join instead ed other measures taken by Prime Minister Narendra the central government, Modi's efforts to connect the which he said were aimed at country. The BJP leader "connecting the nation." Two laughed at the idea of the such instances he cited were Congress yatra entering the the Modi government's abrostate on January 3 and said gation of article 370 in Jammu that those indulging in and Kashmir and construc-"Bharat todo" (breaking the tion of roads in the northeast. country) are undertaking Congress is filled with "neg-'Bharat jodo" yatra. ativity" and this was clearly reflected in its opposition to

Congress has invited several leaders of non-BJP parannulling of Article 370 in ties, including Akhilesh Yadav, BSP supremo Jammu and Kashmir and its joining hands with the Indian Mavawati, and RLD's Javant Muslim league in Kerala, he Chaudhary to take part in the said. Sharma said he doesn't Uttar Pradesh leg of the have any information about nationwide vatra w invitation for the UP leg of hegan from Kanyakumari. Dinesh Sharma has been invited to the Yatra in his capacity as a professor of

by December 30 whether to participate in it or not," Rajbhar said.

Former deputy chief min-ister and a senior BJP leader Dinesh Sharma, who has also been extended an invitation in his capacity as a professor at Lucknow University said, "the real work for "Bharat jodo' is being done by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"I exhort the Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to contribute to Narendra Modi's 'Bharat jodo" campaign," Sharma told PTI.

Meanwhile, the Uttar Pradesh Congress on Tuesday released the route map of the party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in the state which will enter Ghaziabad's Loni area on January 3 and travel to Haryana via Shamli's Kairana. The next day, the yatra will reach Mavi Kalan in Baghpat and pass through Baghpat city and Sisana, Sarurpur and Barot in the same district. On January 5, the vatra will reach Alam in Shamli district and pass through Kandhla, Uncha llage and Kairana

Youth accused of girl's abduction shoots self

Lucknow (PNS): A youth, accused of abducting a girl belonging to another community, allegedly killed himself at a guest house in Budaun. The deceased was identified as Aleem (25), who was a resident of Nawabganj in Bareilly. He was accused of abducting a girl

C 490/22

from the district. The girl's family lodged a case against him alleging abduction and police launched a manhunt for him. While the girl was recovered from Delhi and handed over to her family members, Aleem was still absconding.

Superintendent of Police district, police said on Tuesday. (City) Amit Kishor Srivastava The deceased was identified as said Aleem was staying at a Nazim, they said. According to guest house in Lavela Chowk a complaint filed by his family, Nazim was allegedly mur-dered by one Maroof on under Civil Lines police station for the past few days. He shot December 23. The police himself on Monday night. The police were informed about the arrested two persons, includincident by his friend Alam, ing Maroof, who confessed to tho was s aving wit

Roberts Villa, Mariya Niwas, Gaurabagh Guramba, Lucknow-226026

NOTICE

Be it known to all that our Plot No-6/885 sector -6 Gomti Nagar Vistar Lucknow. My Allotment Letter has been lost use of lost paper will be illegal. Syam Narayan Shukla S/o Sant Prasad Shukla R/o 106 C Saraswati Apartment Gomti Nagar Vistar, Lucknow,

सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरी पत्नी कल्पना का नाम आधार कार्ड में कल्पना Kalpna दर्ज है जबकि सही नाम कल्पना शर्मा Kalpana Sharma है इसके साथ मेरी पत्नी की जन्म तिथि कुछ प्रपत्रों में 18 -11- 1986 अंकित है जबकि सही जन्मतिथि 18-04-1988 सही मानी जाए मेरी पत्नी का सही नाम और जन्मतिथि उपयोग और प्रचलन में रहेगी, रजनीश शर्मा पुत्र जागेश्वर दयाल शर्मा, निवासी मोहल्ला सत्तेश्वर, औरैया जनपद औरैया

NOTICE

NOTICE

Sri Arun Kumar (Borrowers) have greed to create mortgage in respec of the Part of Plot No. 15 situated at Part of Arazi No. 534Kha Pipauri Kanpur Nagar With Fullerton India Credit Company Limited and the same was sold by Sri Narendra through attorney Sri Manoj Katiya vide sale deed registered at serial no 4392, If any person having any claim against the said Property can ontact to me, within 07 days.

Bharat Bhatnagar, Advocate Office :- Room No. 14 Second Floor Mudgal Adhivakta Bhawan Civi Court Kanpur Naga several times in the past, but Mob. 09839034426 For-FICCL Sufiyan would always say that

Lucknow University. The BSP is still waiting for the Congress invitation for the yatra and any call on participation in it will be taken by party president Mayawati, a senior BSP leader said on condition of anonymity.

Nevertheless, BSP MP from Jaunpur Shyam Singh Yadav was present in the yatra in Delhi, walking alongside

the Congress yatra, which he came to know through media reports. Sharma had served as deputy CM in the first Yogi Adityanath government.

> Rahul Gandhi for three hours "but in what capacity is not known", he said.

Another invitee SBSP resident Om Prakash Rajbhar said that he got a phone call from Salman Khurshid but has yet to get a formal letter of invitation. "We will decide the matter after talking to party members

Kairana falls in a communally sensitive region and the alleged exodus of Hindu families from the area became a major election issue in the

2017 assembly elections and was again raised by the BJP in the state polls early this year. The Yatra, which started

from Kanyakumari in September this year, will now be entering the state where Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, incharge of the party's Uttar Pradesh unit, will accompany former party president Rahul Gandhi.

Srivastava said the police cial dispute.

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. 90401-19383, 90401-119383, 90401-119383 Tender Enquiry No. 90243/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-aurement 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

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

Gaurang Kulshreshtha Advocate Counsel for the Petitioner

History-sheeter lands in police net

he would marry her later.

Two youths, allegedly

involved in autotheft, were

arrested from Gomti Nagar

Extension. They were identi-

fied as Saurabh Gupta (21) and

Ayush Pratap Singh (22). Two

stolen cars were also recov-

ered. Their names came to the

fore after Anuj Verma, a resi-

PNS LUCKNOW

Dolice claimed to have arrested a history-sheeter here on Tuesday. He was identified as Raj Kumar, a resident of Raheem Nagar in Mahanagar. A warrant for his reluctant, thinking that it arrest was issued ten years ago would bring a bad name to her but he went into a hiding family. However, her father remained elusive till he finalconvinced her to lodge a comly ran out of luck. He was said plaint on December 24. to have been involved in cases Sufiyan was picked up from related to violation of Arms Kalyanpur railway crossing. Act, theft, creating nuisance in **2 AUTOLIFTERS HELD**

and around Mahanagar, extortion, loot etc. The accused was rounded up near Gole Market crossing late Thursday night. He was arrested after his confession to the crime on Friday

afternoon. Meanwhile, a motor mechanic was arrested on the charges of sexually exploiting a woman after promising to marry her. He was identified as Sufiyan (25), a resident of Itaunja. He was said to have been in an affair with the woman in question for the past three years. The woman requested him for marriage

gangs of autolifters active in Perturbed over the issue, she the area. The investigating narrated her ordeal with a officer succeeded in identify ing a gang of three autolifters cousin (sister), who is a head on Monday night. They were constable. She asked her to lodge a police complaint but picked up from their houses in the woman in question was Gomti Nagar Extension.

Meanwhile, three persons were arrested on Tuesday for creating a ruckus, resorting to violence and molesting a woman at a mela in Aliganj They were identified as Amit Kumar (24) and Vipin Kumar (20), both of Bareilly, and Rajeev Kumar (22) of Shahjahanpur. They were tasked with operating a swing at the fair. When a visitor questioned them for overcharging, they resorted to violence. They allegedly molested a woman and pummelled her, leaving her profusely bleeding.

Meanwhile, police arrestdent of Vineet Khand under ed a man, identified as Gomti Nagar police station, lodged a complaint on Himanshu Singh, on Tuesday morning on the charges of December 26 after his luxury killing his sister and burying car was stolen from near his house on December 17. A sum the body in the kitchen on December 24 morning. He of Rs 18,000 and two was arrested after the police signed cheques were also kept in the car. The police swung team was convinced about into action and zeroed in the his role in the crime.



CITYBRIEFS

CMS CAMPUS AMONG TOP 10 SCHOOLS

City Montessori School, Gomti Nagar (Campus I), has been adjudged one of the top 10 schools of India on the parameters of excellence in the field of leadership/management quality and value for money for its state-of-the-art infrastructure, technology, and world-class education that it imparts. The title was received for the school by vice-principal Yasmeen Khan and primary section incharge Samina Zaheer on behalf of principal Abha Anant at a felicitation ceremony in New Delhi. In a survey conducted by educational magazine Education World, schools across the country were assessed on various parameters. CMS, Gomti Nagar (Campus I), earned the distinction of being among the top 10

schools in the country.

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1 Name of the wor			Strengthening and widening of Baltarani left embankment from Akhuapad Anicut to Balighal.				
			Protection to scoured bank of Hansua left from RD 6500 Mtr to 6860 Mtr o Rajnagar Gopalpur Saline embankment near village Praharajpur i Rajnagar Block of Kendrapara District.				
		5	Bank protection to scoured bank near village Barunadiha on river Kharasrota left from RD 3495 Mrt to 4575 Mtr.				
		6	Protection to se	coured bank on K	ani Kharasuan rig	ht near village Lokapad	
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	ľ	2 Rs.788.66 Lakh (Approximately)					
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5 Bid Security		:	"Bid Security Declaration" is to be furnished as per Financ Department Office Memorandum No.8484/F dated 05.04.2022. The bid without "Bid Security Declaration" will be summarily rejected.				
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city 03

OBC quota: BSP, Congress tear into BJP govt in UP

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PNS LUCKNOW

The Bahujan Samaj Party 1 and the Congress launched a scathing attack on the Yogi Adityanath government over the issue of quota to OBCs in the urban local bodies' elections. BSP supremo Mayawati said that the High Court's decision to take cognisance of the government's performance in the much-awaited civic elections in UP regarding the reservation given to OBCs under the constitutional right is, in true sense, the anti-OBC and antireservation thinking of the BJP and its government, and it reveals its mentality. "The OBC society will definitely punish the BJP for this mistake," she said.

Mayawati tweeted on Tuesday 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 devotion and honesty, which didn't happen. The backward classes

department of the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee also slammed the Yogi government for conspiring to eliminate the representation of the backward classes in the civic elections, 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 depart-

^cCommitted to ensuring participation of every class'

Lucknow (PNS): Bharatiya Janata Party's UP president Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary said on Tuesday that it is the top priority of the party and the state government to ensure the participa-tion of every class and com-munity in the urban local bodies' elections.

"The BJP is committed to protecting the rights of every community and class. There will be no injustice to anyone," he said. Welcoming the statement given by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in this regard, he said that the government would implement the OBC reservation after conducting a triple test survey by setting up

a commission. "This is indicative of the commitment of the BJP government. For this, if the election process has to be postponed for some time, the government will also move the Supreme Court," the state BJP chief said.

"It is the BJP government at the Centre under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that gave con-

ment of UPCC, said in a statement that the BJP and Yogi government wanted to end reservation. He said that under the guise of the HC order, the BJP was determined to end the

deprived communities in the elections. Yadav further said that the Yogi government should have

immediately formed a highpowered committee and subreservation system for the mitted a report to the high

court to complete the represen-tation of the backward classes. "The deliberate delay in this work shows that the Yogi government is basically anti-backward and is determined to end the reservation for the backward in civic body elections," he said.

He added that if the intention of the government was to give reservation to the backward classes, the system of reservation would have been implemented earlier by conducting a triple test survey. "The BJP is against back-

wards and the concept of social justice and basic soul of the Constitution. The BJP does not want to hold municipal elections due to the fear of defeat. The BJP wants to abolish OBC reservation by putting petitions through its supporters and people of its subsidiary organisations.

This makes its anti-Dalit backward tribal policy clear. After taking oath of the Constitution, the Yogi government wants to implement the agenda of the Sangh (RSS) through the back door. All the movements that have taken place against social justice and reservation have been supported and maintained by the BJP from behind. All the antireservation agitations that have taken place since the implementation of the Mandal Commission till date have been conducted by the BJP and ABVP. Once again, the BJP has

exposed its character," he

Akhilesh slams govt |

Lucknow (PNS): Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday slammed the Yogi Adityanath government following the Allahabad High Court order quashing OBC reservation in the municipal bodies.

"It is a conspiracy by the BJP government to deprive the backward classes of reservation," Akhilesh said.

The Allahabad High Court directing conduct of the urban local bodies' elections without OBC quota is unfortunate. Relevant facts were deliberately not placed before the bench of the Allahabad High Court by the Uttar Pradesh government. The OBCs who constitute 60% 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."

The SP chief alleged that weak perusal of the case in the high court by the state government led to the adverse order, affecting the interests of the OBCs.

'The BJP government is shedding crocodile tears after the high court order and claiming to be the sole protector of the interests of OBCs. The BJP has managed to deprive the OBCs of reservation which is their constitutional right. Snatching the reservation for the scheduled caste is the next target of the BJP," Akhilesh claimed on Tuesday.

'The BJP has not only ditched the OBCs, it's also hatching a conspiracy to abolish the reservation given to the SC by Dr Ambedkar in the Constitution," he alleged.

He claimed that the Samajwadi Party, by imbibing the values and the path shown by Ram Manohar Lohia and Chaudhary Charan Śingh, has always spearheaded the struggle for social justice.

"The BJP fears this struggle by the Samajwadi Party and has misled the people about a separate quota for the 17 extremely backwards castes within the 27% quota for the OBCs," said the SP president, who is also the leader of oppo-

sition in UP Assembly. Yadav alleged that the Allahabad High Court has exposed the double standards prac-tised by the BJP when it comes to the welfare of

OBCs. "What the BJP cannot do directly, they try to achieve that by filing public interest litigations in the high court. The BJP which claims to be

the messiah of OBCs has turned the communi-ty into its slaves," Akhilesh alleged.

Minor girl found hanging, kin allege rape & murder

PNS LUCKNOW

n a suspected case of rape and murder, the body a minor girl, who was the daughter of a sweeper living in Dharamshala market area of Gorakhpur, was found hanging. The bereaved family members created a ruckus, alleging that police refused to register a case and forced them for cremation after sunset.

The victim's father, a native of Padrauna area in Kushinagar district, is a sweeper at a hospital in Gorakhpur. He has been living with his wife and 16year-old daughter (now dead) in a rented room in Dharamshala market area for the last four years. His wife also works as a labourer.

The victim's father went to his village (Padrauna) along with his wife on Saturday afternoon while his daughter, who was a student of class VII, stayed back. He said that on Sunday evening, the landlord informed him that his daughter had hanged herself to death. He alleged that the landlord used to harass his daughter. He also alleged that the landlord hanged the body to make

it look like a case of suicide. Reports said the local police refused to register a case, claiming that it was a case of suicide. The situation took a violent turn when the police tried to force the bereaved family to

cremate the body late Monday night. The victim's father and his wife, along with other relatives and neighbours, created a ruckus demanding that a case be registered against the accused. They also snatched the body from the police to prevent cremation at night. The family also alleged that the police used force in a bid to compel them to go for last rites.

However, as the situation escalated, the city magistrate and CO (Kotwali) reached the spot and tried to pacify the irate kin and neighbours. The protest was called off only after the police registered a case in this regard.

HE ALSO ALLEGED THAT THE LANDLORD HANGED THE BODY TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE A CASE OF SUICIDE

The bereaved kin also alleged that a youth in the neighbourhood had also been blackmailing the girl for some time after making her objectionable videos. The parents claimed that on Sunday morning, their daughter had called them and asked her mother to come back soon for some important work.

The local police claimed that the cause of death was hanging and that the autopsy did not hint at murder. On the orders of the district magistrate, a panel of three doctors conducted the autopsy which was also videographed.

Meanwhile, discounting any attempt to save the accused, SSP Gaurav Grover said the police are with the victim's family and that all aspects related to the incident are under investigation.

"Action will be taken on the basis of evidence. No pressure was put on anyone for cremation," he claimed.

Meanwhile, five men have been arrested for the alleged gang-rape of a minor girl in Bhagatpur village of Moradabad district, police said on Tuesday.

An FIR was registered on December 25, the police said. The arrests were made on Monday.

"Five accused were arrested after an FIR was registered on December 25. All the accused are from the same village. A medical examination of the girl is yet to be completed," Superintendent of Police Ashok Kumar informed mediapersons on Tuesday. The accused were sent to jail after they were presented before the court.

Mock drill conducted at Covid hospitals in U Nagar panchayat officer among 3 killed in mishap PNS LUCKNOW

PNS LUCKNOW

Three people, including the executive officer of Lawar nagar panchayat of Meerut district, died in a road accident late Monday night around 172 km off Talgram police station area in Kannauj.

Executive officer Sudhir Singh, who was a resident of Hapur, had been the incharge of Lawar nagar panchayat for the last four years. Aslam, a resident of Mawana Khurd, was also posted in the nagar pan-

chayat. ng to police, exe Acco utive officers Sudhir Singh, Aslam and Tanuj Thakur were coming back to Meerut from Lucknow on Monday. The trio were injured in a road accident in Kannauj on reaching Agra Expressway around 172 km off Talgram police station area. Thereafter, they were admitted to the Tirwa Medical College in Kannauj where Sudhir succumbed during treatment. Aslam and Tanuj also died later.

made regarding his promotion against the rules as laid down. week ago, on the orders of

the commissioner, his promotion was withdrawn. Meanwhile, a teenage couple was found hanging from a tree in a village under Jethwara police station area in Pratapgarh district, police said on Tuesday. The bodies have

been sent for autopsy, Jethwara SHO Abhishek said. The deceased youth was 19 years old while the woman was 18. he said. Both belonged to the same caste, the SHO said, adding no complaint had been received yet. Villagers claimed the couple was in a relationship. They alleged that the couple was murdered and the bodies were hanged. Meanwhile, one more person ended his life in Gorakhpur. Reports said that a truck owner, Anant Narayan Tripathi alias Annu (37), was found hanging at his room in Vistoli Buzurg village of Belipar police station area of orakhpur district on Monday. Relatives informed police about the incident. The police, who reached the scene along with the forensic team, conducted a probe. The body was later sent for autopsy. According to the information, the wife of Anant Narayan Tripathi is a teacher in a junior high school in Siddharthnagar. Anant lived there with his wife, 9-year-old son Rudra Pratap and a 2-year-old daughter. Five days back, he had visited his village Vistouli Buzurg to celebrate his daughter's

 $A^{mock\ drill\ was\ carried\ out\ at\ the}_{400\ \ dedicated\ \ hospitals\ \ in\ \ 75}$ districts of the state to test and prevent the new variant of the novel coronavirus, and ensure availability of ventilators, medicines and oxygen. The pressure of the oxygen plants in the ICU wards was also monitored during the exercise. Government-appointed nodal officers and medical officers of WHO were also present during the mock

added.

drill. Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak visited Lucknow's Balrampur Hospital to examine the mock drill. "All the arrangements from availability of oxygen to ventilators, and [CU]were found to be perfect. The officers were told to be in alert mode amidst the new corona variant and take precautions like ensuring no staff members come to the hospital without wearing masks," Pathak said, adding that the government was very serious about the new variant. The deputy CM also examined the availability of medicines, vaccines and other necessities. In Varanasi, 11 hospitals, including the district hospital, participated in the mock drill. The availability of health facilities, oxygen, capacity of isolation beds, ICU and ventilators were assessed. In the presence of Chief Medical



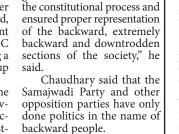
College, Barhalganj, and Chauri-Chaura & Campierganj CHCs.

According to Chief Medical Officer Dr Ashutosh Dubey, all arrangements for Covid management in the district are in place and all 200 ventilators are operational.

"There are 1,000 oxygen concentrators and over 1,000 large cylinders available. The district team is fully prepared to deal with any situation," he added.

Mock drills were conducted in Agra's SN Medical College and District Hospital besides Barauli Ahir, Khandauli & Sayya CHCs. Chief Medical Officer Dr Arun

Srivastava said 1,402 general beds and 344 ICU beds have been reserved for Covid patients amidst the new vari-Nodal officers have been appointed in all the selected CHCs. Forty beds have been added to the District Hospital and 68 to the SN Medical College. During the mock drill, Bareilly Commissioner Samyukta Samaddar inquired about the availability and functionality of ventilators. Apart from this, the availability of medicines and vaccines required for COVID-19 were also reviewed. The oxygen plant's pressure purity was found to be adequate.



"Various tactics were

adopted by them to postpone the elections. The SP, BSP and

Congress have considered

backwards and Dalits as the

vote bank. Only the BJP gov-

ernment has worked for their

benefit," he added.

stitutional status to the OBC

Commission. The BJP-led

governments have followed

Sources said Tanuj Thakur was given the responsibility of TC in Lawar nagar panchayat under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

Apart from Lawar, Sudhir Singh had additional charge of Siwalkhas and Harra nagar panchayats. Aslam also had additional charge as a cleric in Harra and Khiwai nagar panchayats apart from Lawar.

Complaints of irregularities in various cases against Aslam had been made to the commissioner in the past and investigation was going on. Aslam was appointed as a sweeper in Lavaw nagar panchayat and later promoted as a clerk.

However, a complaint was

birthday. After the birthday, his wife and children went to Siddharthnagar. Later, he committed suicide some time on Monday

Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak examining the mock drill at Balrampur Hospital in Lukcnow on Tuesday

Officer Dr Sandeep Chaudhary, Additional Health Director Dr Anshu Singh and the chief medical superintendent, a mock drill was held at the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay

Government Hospital. The pared to deal with any emergency," he CMO stated that if there were corona cases in the district, they were fully prepared. "All hospital staff members have been notified and we are pre-

added.

Pioneer

A similar mock drill was carried out in BRD Medical College, Government Homeopathy Medical

Mock drills were also conducted at eight hospitals in Prayagraj as well as in the Jhansi District Hospital.

UP to develop dry ports, freight container stations to boost exports

PNS LUCKNOW

and-locked Uttar Pradesh, aiming Lto become a trillion-dollar economy by 2027, will develop a network of dry ports and freight container stations to boost exports. The state government is planning to develop a modern logistics ecosystem in partnership with private players.

A dry port is an inland intermodal port directly linked to a seaport by roads or railway to facilitate faster movement of export cargo. Under the

UP Warehousing and Logistic Policy 2022, the state will fast-track land allotments for logistics parks and offer a string of subsidies and incentives to attract private investments. The state will support the private

sector for the development of storage facilities, cold chains, multi-modal parks, container depots and container freight stations infrastructure in the state.

The fresh policy has been framed with an objective of developing a strong logistics ecosystem and foster-

ing an international business and investment environment to achieve the trillion-dollar economy vision," a government official said.

The state targets to hike merchandise exports from Rs 1.56 trillion to nearly Rs 3 trillion in three years. The government has said it will also leverage the Varanasi-Haldia inland waterway to catalyse exports.

The state is planning to harness the comparatively cheaper cargo movement from Varanasi via the waterway to seaport in West Bengal

to boost shipments of farm and dairy products apart from micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) items.

The Varanasi-Haldia inland waterway is operated by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI). Now, the UP government is looking to develop other intra-state inland waterways systems to support passenger and cargo movements.

Under the new UP logistics policy, the state will also develop a network of transport infrastructure, upgrade existing warehousing and

logistics infrastructure, pare logistics cost, and promote operational efficiency in logistics.

Meanwhile, the beneficiary projects will be given both front and backend subsidies, including exemption in stamp duty, concession in land use change levy, and exemption in development fee. The new policy will be effective for five years and replace the one promulgated in 2018. However, the incentives promised to private sector projects under the previous policy will remain in force.

As cold wave grips UP, minister appeals to people to help poor

PNS LUCKNOW

Tn view of the cold wave sweeping the large swathe of Uttar Pradesh, Urban Development and Energy Minister AK Sharma has appealed to NGOs as well as members of civil societies to help the poor and destitute.

"In order to save the destitute, homeless and poor, all permanent and temporary night shelters should be made operational. Stern action will be taken against officials concerned in case of negligence and carelessness. It should be ensured that there are adequate warm clothes, quilts and blankets in all the night shelters. If possible, try to make arrangements for food, tea and hot water for those taking shelter there," the minister said.

He also appealed to voluntary organisations and common people to help the the minister said.

homeless and destitute.

Sharma said special attention should be paid to the cleanliness of night shelters. "Along with this, ensure special vigilance to prevent corona infection. Guidelines related to Covid helpdesk, mask, sanitiser and safe distance should also be followed," he said.

He said that arrangements should be made to light bonfires in all public places, intersections, railway & bus stations and

hospitals in the cities. "Help the people sleeping in the open, on footpaths and roadside and take them to the nearest night shelters," he said.

"In case of shortage of space in the existing night shelters, arrangements should be made to help such people at vacant government buildings, religious places and small temporary and night shelters should be made as per requirement,

Priest held for duping foreign tourist

Lucknow (PNS): A priest was arrested in Mirzapur after he duped a foreigner in the name of sightseeing at the underconstruction Vindhyachal Corridor. The foreigner transferred Rs 1.25 lakh through UPI to the priest's bank account. Taking a serious note of the matter, District Magistrate Divya Mittal asked City Magistrate Vinay Kumar Singh to conduct an inquiry and submit the probe report soon.

The foreign tourist was part of a 50-member delegation belonging to the US and Russia. The DM has directed officials concerned to conduct a probe and register a case against the priest. The money recovered from the priest should be deposited with the treasury immediately, the DM said.

When the matter was brought to the notice of Diwakar Mishra, a member of the Cultural Study team, he questioned the priest over the transfer of a huge sum in his personal bank account.

The priest, while defending himself, said that the money was donated for the under-construction Vindhyachal Corridor. Not finding a satisfactory reply from the priest, Diwaker Mishra informed the district administration about the incident after which legal proceedings were made against the accused.



Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Bank, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice (details of which have been mentioned hereunder) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount territorial in the respective notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with les 8 & 9 of the said rules. The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank for an amount and interest & charges there on as described here in below: We draw attention to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act and the Rules framed there which deals with your rights of redemption over the securities.

S. No.	Rorrowers	Name of Mortgagors	Description of the Immovable properties	Date of Demand Notice Date of Possession Notice Outstanding Amt.	
NU.	Branch	Guarantors			
1.	M/s Best Fabrics	M/s PMS	(i) Mortgaged assets:-	31.08.2022	
	(Prop: Shri Atul	Boot Industries	All that Part & Parcel of Land & Building bearing Part of Arazi No. 483	23.12.2022	
	Srivastava)	Through Shri Atul Srivastava,	(Old), New No. 573 (Da), situated at Village: Patara, Tehs Ghatampur, Kanpur Nagar., Area of Property: 0.0610 Hect., Owner the Property: M/s PMS Boot Industries through Atul S/o Late Di	Rs. 42,52,164.00 (Rs. Forty Two Lakhs Fifty	
		Shri Atul Srivastava S/o Late Devi Charan	Charan Boundaries:- North : Plot No. 481, South : 30 ft wide Road to Nagelinpur, East: Part of Plot No. 483 thereafter Plot No. 484, West : Plot No. 482 (ii)Hypothecated Assets:	Two Thousand One Hundred Sixty Four Only) as on dt. 22.12.2022 with further interest	
	Branch: Dadanagar, Kanpur M.: 9450681344	Srivastava	i) Hypothecation of Stocks/Book Debts & Other Movable Assets bol Present & Future ii) Hypothecation of Plant & Machineries & Furniture Fixture	wef 23.12.2022 charges and other expenses	
D	ate : 28.12.2022		Place: Kanpur The	Authorized Officer: Indian Bank	



state 04

against Solanki, brother

PNS KANPUR

City Police Commissionerate has invoked the UP Gangsters Act against Samajwadi Party legislator Irfan Solanki and his brother Rizwan Solanki lodged in jail. Addressing mediapersons, Joint Commissioner of Police Anand Prakash Tewari said in the case lodged at the Jajmau police station u/s 3(1) of UP Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act 1986, Irfan Solanki, his brother Rizwan Solanki, Israel Attewala, Mohammad Sharif and Shaukat Ali had been made the accused. Similarly, in the second case lodged there u/s 386, 419, 420, 427 and of the 504 IPC and 3/4 of Public Property Damage Prevention Act 1984, again Irfan Solanki, Haji Wasi, Shahid Lari and Qamar Alam had been made the accused on the complaint of Vimal Kumar of Durga



forcibly taking possession of the land, demolishing boundary wall, demanding extortion by forgery, abusing and threatening to kill him. JCP Anand Prakash Tewari said apart from this in the third case lodged u/s 147, 188, 269, 270, 332, 353, 504 of IPC at the Gwaltoli police station, legislator Irfan Solanki was booked for indecency and misbehaviour with a sub-inspector Rajeev Kumar and creating a chaotic situation by obstructing latter's work. A video of this incident which took place during the lockdown period was widely cir-



Vihar, who had alleged them of culated on social media. Taking cognisance of this issue, a case had been registered by the SHO Gwaltoli. An independent investigation of the case will be carried out by another police station, he added. SP MLA Irfan Solanki from Kanpur's Sisamau constituency is currently lodged in the Maharajganj jail. He is also facing various cases, including of securing forced possession on a plot, indulging in arson and conducting air travel using fake Aadhaar card and issuing fake Indian citizenship to a Bangladeshi, against him.



lance team, were pressed into service which failed to get any solid clue about the accused so far. Some more suspects are also being quizzed". the night On of

December 22 miscreants had stolen 1.8 kg gold from the bank's strong room by dig-ging a tunnel. The incident had come to light the next morning.

The Sachendi police had lodged an FIR in the case and

Gangsters Act invoked No headway in gold theft case **KDA** wins case of 32.5

PNS KANPUR

There is no headway in the case of 1.8 kg gold stolen from the Bhaunti branch of State Bank of India (SBI) even after four days of the incident.

get any solid clue about the Police were still emptyaccused so far. The surveillance team had identified 200 mobile numbers which were found active in and around the spot of the incident but the location of some of them suddenly changed.

All these numbers were under suspicion which deep-ened on a dozen of them. Police were now minutely going through the call details of these one dozen numbers, a senior police officer said.

GIRL RAPED: A teenaged girl was allegedly raped by a youth at pistol point when she was alone in ner house in Hanumant Vihar police station area. On protest he beat her up and escaped with threats of making obscene video clips of the

separate police teams of DCP

(West) and DCP (South)

were pressed into service.

Bank employees, their fami-

ly members and local resi-

incident viral on social media.

Her father lodged a case against the youth at the Hanumant Vihar police station on Monday evening. According to the victim girl dents were quizzed by the police teams which failed to (14) the youth's family of Chandpur (Fatehpur) was a tenant in her house four years ago. Later they went to live elsewhere. On July 25, her mother suffered a fracture and was admitted to a private hospital. On July 27 night when her father stayed overnight at the hospital she was alone in the house. Around 1 am the youth entered her house after crossing the boundary wall and raped her at pistol point. On protest he threatened to

make obscene video clip viral on social media and escaped from there.

She alleged that on November 2 he had attempted to kidnap her when she was returning from the coaching institute.

When she dialled her family members, the youth

escaped from there. SHO Abhilash Mishra said a case had been lodged against the accused.

The girl was sent for a medical examination on Tuesday, he added.

THEFT: A tyre agency shop on Kalpi Road near Bhognipur Chauraha in Kanpur Dehat was burgled late on Monday night.

Miscreants broke into the shop, Ganga Tyre Agency, and stole tyres worth Rs 2.15 lakh from there.

The victim shopkeeper has lodged a complaint at the Bhognipur Kotwali. Surendra Singh Yadav of Punkhrayan owns a guest house and tyre agency shop in Bhognipur. Late on Monday night miscreants broke open the shop's shutter and stole eight tyres out of 14 new ones stored

there The cost of stolen tyres is Rs 2.15 lakh, he said. SHO Ajay Pal Singh said crime inspector Mahendra Singh was deputed to probe the issue

PNS KANPUR The Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) has won the case of 32.5 bigha land worth around Rs 100 crore from the Allahabad High Court on Monday. So far due to this land lying in unautho-

bigha land

rised possession in Ahirwa and Sajari, the KDA was unable to execute its ambitious Kashiram Nagar and Highway City Extension Housing Schemes there. With the High Court's decision announced in favour of KDA, allottees were now able to secure possession of their plots on this land.

Prior to handing over the possession to allottees, KDA will also carry out the developmental work there and in the remaining area it will prepare plans to launch other housing schemes. The court decision in favour of KDA came due to vigorous follow up of its officers during the past one year after the strict instructions of Vice-Chairman Arvind Singh

to them. There were three writ petitions simultaneously filed in the High Court which, after conducting proper hearings, dismissed all of them and announced the decision in KDA's favour. In the writ petitions filed in 1987-88 KDA was

intentionally not made the party. Whereas in view of it being the managing authority of the gram samaj land, KDA should have been made the party in the writ petitions. After taking cognisance of the issue and on the basis of impleadment application, the court on Monday announced its judgement in favour of the KDA.

EPS-95 NAC meeting held AU students to hold mahapanchayat against VC

Pravagraj (PNS): The students have announced to hold a mahapanchayat against the obstinate attitude of the Vice Chancellor Prof Sangeeta Srivastava and Allahabad University administration. This mahapanchayat will be held on January 12, 2023 in front of the Student Union building in Allahabad University. This decision was taken in an allparty meeting held at 1 pm on Tuesday.

The students' agitation going on in Allahabad University in Prayagraj con-

tinued here on Tuesday as well. Several students have been booked by the police in connection with the lathi charge by security guards on the campus on December 19 and the subsequent violence.

Angry students have now decided to hold a mahapanchayat due to no action being taken so far in the lawsuit filed against the security guards and the university administration. In this episode, it was decided to hold an all-party

meeting from 1 pm on Tuesday. For the last 891 days, agitation

is going on in Allahabad University for the demand of and former student leaders restoration of the student union be called in this mahapanchayat. The strategy of the movement will be decided in and against 400% fee hike and illegal appointment of Vice-Chancellor. An all-party meetthe mahapanchayat. The ing of all student organizations roadmap for the decisive fight against the university admin-istration will be prepared in this was organized on Tuesday. It has been unanimously decided

mahapanchayat. in this meeting that 12 January 2023 is Youth Day. Allahabad University, a scuffle To fight for the rights and rights of all the young students between student leader Vivekanand Pak and the secuof Allahabad University, a mahapanchayat will be held rity guards ensued over the cloagainst the university adminsure of the gate of the student istration on January 12. Present

PNS KANPUR from all over the country will

Ageneral meeting of the All India EPS-95 National Agitation Committee (NAC), Kanpur division, was held at the Rawatpur bus stand on On Décember 19 in

charter of demands.

to resolve pensioners' demand within the notice period, the committee will be forced to launch 'do or die' movement along with 'rasta roko, rail roko' agitation under its national leadership of Ashok Raut and Virendra Singh Rajwat. Union leaders Sundar Lal Pandey, Jairup Singh Parihar, Kripa Shankar Shukla,

Sudhir Kumar Mishra, Sudha Nigam, PC Mishra, Puttu Singh, Ram Dayal Sharma, members.

Hari Shankar Shukla, ON Bajpai, Ram Prakash Gupta, Abdul Rauf, SK Dixit, DN Shukla, Har Prasad Shukla, OP Shukla, Shitla Prasad Bajpai, Rama Kant Sachan, Mohd Ismail, Virendra Singh, Jitendra Pal, Afsar Ali, KK Mishra, Dharmpal Singh, Shakoor Ahmad and Jageshwar were present.

DM holds Jan Chaupal in Sevapuri KUSFTA delegation meets PVC, others

PNS KANPUR

Adelegation of Kanpur University Self-Finance Teachers Association (KUSF-TA) led by its president Dr Kamlesh Yadav and general secretary Dr Akhand Pratap Singh met Pro Vice-Chancellor (PVC) Dr Sudhir Awasthi, Registrar Dr Anil Yadav, Examination Controller Aniani Mishra, Director of College Development Council Dr Rajesh Dwivedi, Assistant strars Aniali Maurva and Dinesh Maurya on Tuesday long-pending demands. The room invigilators did not get won the gold medal in the high

leaders also handed over a memorandum to university officials and discussed the issues on the spot.

Their demands included the opening of joint account of KUSFTA and Kanpur University or stopping the five per cent deduction of Teachers' Welfare Fund (TWF) from the honorarium of answerbook evaluation, as per Vice-Chancellor's assurance to pay Rs 400 travelling allowance to teachers engaged in evaluation

their honorarium for the 2020, 2021 and 2022 duties so far and admit cards for the proposed semester exam from January 10, 2023, had not been issued

so far. All officers assured to take positive decision on their demands. The delegation comprised vice-president Dr Rajan Dixit, organising secretary Dr Prashant Mishra, joint secretary Dr Sadhana Yadav, Dr Nitika Mishra, Dr Sharad Yadav and Dr Madhuri Mishra.

jump event in the Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya State Level

Athletics Competitions organised by the Sports Directorate, Uttar Pradesh, at Pt Deen Daval Stadium, Gorakhpur, on December 24 and 25. On his winning the gold medal, the Sports Directorate felicitated Ayush Mishra with

cash prize of Rs 1,000. Coach of Kanpur team Madan Gopal and Dy Director (Sports) Mudrika Pathak hailed the achievement of Ayush Mishra. Kannin

PNS VARANASI

District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam listened to the problems of the people on Tuesday by holding a Jan Chaupal in the gram panchay-at Pure under development block Sevapuri. He took information from the villagers regarding the development and public welfare programmes done at the local level.

In the Jan Chaupal, the DM listened to the problems of the villagers one by one. and sought nation f om the vi about ration distribution, electricity and water supply, medicines, Pradhan Mantri Kisan run by the government, he ver-

Samman Nidhi, old aged pensions, disabled pensions, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana etc. He also obtained information about all types of pensions from the villagers, whether all the beneficiaries are getting pensions or not. Eligible beneficiaries who came to know about non-receipt of pensions were asked to apply online.

Directing the concerned officers, he said that by setting up a camp on Wednesday itself, they should complete the formalities of providing the benefits of the emes ficiaries. While reviewing pointwise progress of all the schemes

ified the same, asking the participants to raise their hands. The local people were seen expressing satisfaction with most of the schemes. During the Jan Chaupal, the DM directed the concerned officers to get the work of cleaning done in the village promptly and asked the villagers to cooperate by taking their respective participation, so that the development of the vil-lage could be done at a rapid pace. On the occasion, the DM sent the vehicles by showing the green flag of the second phase

inspected the entire Gram Panchayat of Ayushman Bharat Arogya Swasthya Kendra. He said that special attention should be paid to cleanliness and there should not be any kind of filth.

The DM appealed that now no woman should be given delivery at home. Along with this, it should be ensured that the delivery of all women can be done in government hospitals.Rajalingam inspected the entire Gram Panchayat Secretariat.

He said that the Panchayat retariat should

Tuesday which was chaired by Om Shankar Tewari. Committee's national adviser Rajesh Kumar Shukla said according to the decision taken in the Central Working Committee (CWC) meeting held in Bengaluru on December 1 and 2, a 15-day

notice was given to the government to press for settle-ment of their four-point

If the government failed

KP Verma and Chandra Prakash also addressed the

2021-22 session but it had not **AYUSH WINS GOLD** and apprised them of their been done so, most of the

100 from

work in nl

Ayush Mishra of Kanpur

on Tuesday.

Dr Devesh Dubey informed this in a press statement issued

tion for foot-and mouth disease control under the National Animal Disease Control Programme. He also

all the welfare schemes of the government through the public service centre.



Kal Bhairav held PNS VARANASI Varanasi (PNS): It was a rare occasion when the idol of

Kashi Ke Kotwal' Baba Kal Bhairav was specially decorated with liquor bottles here on Tuesday on the occasion of its annual shringar. Unlike his counterpart in Mahakaal city Ujjain where the devotees offer liquor to Lord Kal Bhairav across the year, in this 'City of Mahashamshan', Lord Kal Bhaiarv is offered liquor only once during a year.On the occasion, the devotees thronged the premises in a large number to have a darshan of Kal Bhairav and to see the panoramic decoration. Since early morning, devotees kept queuing up to have darshan of Baba. The temple premises were also decorated with attractive electric lighting arrangements and flowers. In the morning, after the Panchamrit bath, Baba's idol was offered new garments and then rituals were performed.After this, the temple's door was opened for the devotees to see the special annual shringar. Thousands of devotees worshiped Kal Bhairav till noon.

TIT (BHU) and Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) signed an MoU for 'Knowledge Partnership for Digital Metrology' in the presence of Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Piyush Goyal on the occasion of National Consumer Day at Vigyan Bhawan (New Delhi) recently.Knowledge partnership with the Ministry will provide a platform for research and development, teaching and training in the field of digital metrology, for accurate and consistent electronic measurement and instrumentation in various consumer goods and products being commercialised in the country. IIT (BHU) will support the DoCA to bring innovative, cutting-edge technologies and global standards in consumer goods and products, through the development, integration, and technology extension projects as well as manpower training for tamperproof instrumentation. The MoU will strengthen the spirit of collaboration between IIT

(BHU) and DoCA. The technical innovation in precise measurement and instrumentation in consumer goods and product deliveries will have a great impact on the growth and development of the country. IIT (BHU) will support the preparation of handbooks/literature/case studies on bare minimum standards of digital metrology compliance and implementation in consumer goods. Standards on legal metrology will also be introduced in the course curricula of UG and PG programmes at various core and interdisciplinary levels. Under this MoU, IIT(BHU) will offer executive training programmes to train the government officials pursuing legal metrology officials, across the country, and associate with the Indian Institute of Legal Metrology (IILM), Ranchi, as well. This partnership will also have faculty development programmes on digital metrology. The specialised facilities developed under the partnership will attract sponsored projects from government and private agencies for cuttingedge research and develop-

IIT (BHU) signs MoU with DoCA ment. Further, industrial con sultancies through this partnership will help infrastructure development. The MoU will augment the methods and approaches to

bring state-of-the-art electronics in digital metrology in Indian consumer goods and global standards. This association will help the Ministry of Consumer Affairs (MoĆA), bring justice and transparency in the public distribution svstem through electronic measurements and instrumentation systems, being used at fuel stations or in gas flow meters or in energy meters and even in digital weighing machines, which affects every Indian citizen on a daily basis. Interdisciplinary expertise available with IIT (BHU) across its 18+ departments and their multiple research groups is the backbone for the success of this knowledge partnership. Under this partnership, both IIT (BHÚ) and DoĈA will join hands to solve major legal metrology issues faced in consistent measurements and product delivery at the minutest levels of an individual consumer.

DDU Gorakhpur register victory

Varanasi (PNS): The first match of the second day of East Zone Inter University Hockey (Men) tournament was played between Deen Dayal University (DDU), Gorakhpur and Shyamaprasad Mukherjee University at Amphitheater Astro Turf Hockey Ground in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) here on Tuesday. DDÙ won the match 3-2.

The second match was played between Guru Ghasidas University and Shaheed

Nankumar Patel University in which Guru Ghasidas University won by 4-3.

The third match was played between Sant Gahira Guru Vishwavidyalaya and Atal Bihari Vajpayee Vishwavidyalaya, in which Sant

Gahira Guru Vishwavidyalaya won by 7-1. The matches were coordinated by Dr Dhirendra Tiwari, while detailed description of the same was given by Dr Pradeep Xalxo. Prof Abhimanyu Singh, General

Secretary, University Sports Board (USB), and Organising Secretary Dr Pradeep Xalxo, all assistant directors, hockey lovers, teachers and staff wit-

nessed the matches. Earlier, on the opening day the first match was played between Ranchi University and Shyamaprasad Mukherjee University in which Shyamaprasad Mukherjee University won 3-1 in a penalty shootout. The second match of the day was played between

Vinoba Bhave University and Pt Ravi Shankar University in which Vinoba Bhave University won 3-1.

The third match was played between Manipur University and Hemchandra Yadav University, in which Hemchandra Yadav University won 6-2. The chief guest of the inaugural function was Gopal Sharma, international hockey player. He explained the importance of the impact of sports on society.

state 05



Health officers review Covid preparations through mock drill

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE 📕 VARANASI

big exercise was done dur-A ling the day as through the mock drill exercise, the preparations to face the challenges of the new variant of Covid were checked and reviewed here on Tuesday. During the mock drill, senior Health department officers including Additional Director (Health) and Chief Medical Officer (CMO) apart from others visited different hospitals and health centres to review the preparations. During their inspection, the health officers saw the functioning of oxygen plants and oxygen concentrators installed at the hospitals apart from availability and functionality of ventilators, necessary logistics (drugs and other equipment), human resources and uninterruptible power supply.

Mock drill was done at 11 Covid medical units on the instructions of Divisional Commissioner (DC) Kaushal Raj Sharma and District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam.

CMO Dr Sandeep Chaudhary said that guide-lines have been received from the government regarding all necessary preparations regarding the management of COVID-19. Under this, the experimental analysis of preparations for the management of Covid infection in the district and the deficiencies found during the mock drill would be identified and resolved.

The mock drill was held at 11 medical units of the district, about Covid management at including DDU Hospital district level or by the Medical



AD (Health) and CMO inspecting Covid preparations in a mock drill at DDU Hospital in Varanasi on Tuesday.

(Pandeypur), CHCs Cholapur, Araziline, Narpatpur and Gangapur, Sir Sunderlal Hospital (SSH) BHU, Trauma Centre (BHU), ESIC Hospital, Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital (Lahartara), Central Hospital BLW and Heritage Institute of Medical Science (Bhadwar). The CMO said that deficiencies which were identified were resolved. All the doctors and para-medical staff listed in the roster of all the identified Covid Management Units of the district participated in the rehearsal. Doctors, paramedical and other health workers, who have received online training

Education department, were also included in this rehearsal. The CMO who himself inspected Pt Deen Dayal Updhyaya (DDU) Hospital, along with Additional Director (Health and Family Welfare), Varanasi Division, Dr Anshu Singh, said that during the mock drill, coordination between the health teams and other departments was also seen. The CMO has assured

that there is no shortage of oxygen and beds in the district. There is full availability of medicines at all health centres. He appealed to the residents to follow the Covid protocol and go out of the house only by wearing masks.

District Surveillance Officer Dr SS Kanojia informed that nodal officers are appointed at selected CHCs. During the mock drill, the availability of reserved beds, wards and oxygen was seen for the Covid patients.

Pioneer

Besides, he informed that the PICU (Paediatric Intensive Care Unit) wards of children are also ready at the health centres. At the same time, pediatric wards can also be used immediately

According to him, at present no person is infected with corona in the district, but in view of the new variant, beds have been reserved for Covid patients.

Arrangements reviewed at hospitals

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **E** PRAYAGRAJ

A midst the increasing threat of COVID-19, a mock drill took place in all the dedicated Covid hospitals of the state on Tuesday. The officers of the department saw the reality of the arrangements in the hospithe arrangements in the hospi-tals by conducting mock drills simultaneously in the entire state including Prayagraj. Officers inquired about oxygen supply, functioning of ventila-tor, availability of medicine, manpower and other resources. Instructions have also been

given to set up a separate Covid hospital, triage etc. In the presence of CMO Dr. Nanak Saran, Nodal Officer Dr. Ashu Pandey and ACMO Dr. Nisha Sonkar, a mock drill

took place at Level Two Tej Bahadur Sapru Covid Hospital. Here the officers saw the reality by going to PICU, Emergency, ICU and other places. During this, Chief Medical Superintendent of the hospital Dr. Sharda Chowdhary, Medical Superintendent Dr. Manoj Medical Akhori and other officers and

doctors were present. CMO Dr. Nanak Saran told the mediapersons that in view of the danger of Corona, a mock drill has been conducted today. Any deficiencies are being rectified immediately. A total of 200 beds have been reserved in the district, in which 100 beds are reserved in Swarooprani Nehru Hospital and 100 beds in Tej Bahadur Sapru Hospital. If the first patient arrives, he will be immediately admitted to the first SRN hospital. Doctors have been put on Covid duty in both the hospitals. So that

patients can be treated immediately on their arrival. Similarly Mock drill was conducted in the presence of Dr. Alok Kumar, SMO at SRN (Swarooprani Nehru) Hospital, Dr. Rajesh Singh, Deputy CMO at Railway Hospital, Sunil Kumar Singh, Deputy CMO at United Medicity, Dr. Ashok Kumar, ACMO at Kotwa et Bani CHC, Dr. Ashok Kumar, ACMO at CHC Phulpur of Dr. Tirathalal, Deputy CMO at CHC Ramnagar, Dr. Naveen Giri, Deputy CMO Dr. Amrutlal Yadavat CHC Manda.

Man killed by wife, paramours

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

gulation.

n a shocking incident, a Lwoman along with her two paramours killed her husband in Kheri of Yamuna Nagar area. After killing her husband, she reportedly staged a drama in which he died of illness. When the matter of strangulation came to light in the post-mortem report, the police registered a case and caught the woman and her two lovers. Police said the woman has confessed to the crime. Solid

evidence is being collected. Umesh Pratap Singh, 40, a resident of Pachouha village in Kheri, was married to Poonam eight years ago. They did not have any children. Umesh, a farmer, slept four days ago i.e. on December 22 after having dinner and was found dead in the morning. Wife Poonam said that the husband died due to illness but the father of the deceased accused the

more evidence is being collectdaughter-in-law of murder. When the police sent the body

for postmortem, it was found Meanwhile, Tinku Bhartiya, a resident of that Umesh died due to stran-Kanshiram Awas Yojna adja-Umesh's brother Jitendra cent to Kalindipuram Colony, committed suicide by hanging Singh told the police that Poonam had an illicit relahimself from a rope on a tree tionship with Lavraj Singh and by going to the army farm Dharmendra Kol of Itwa (Dhussa forest), some distance Khurd village. They both used away from home, after beating to come home. When husband his wife in a drunken state. Umesh used to protest, there When there was an uproar on used to be a fight with Poonam. seeing his dead body in the There was a fight several times. Jitendra alleged that Poonam killed Umesh along morning, the Dhoomanganj police reached the spot. Earlier the suspicion of murder was being expressed, but after the post-mortem it became clear with her two lovers. Taking a written complaint from him, the police filed a report against Poonam, Lavraj and that it was a suicide incident. Police said that 30-year-old Dharmendra. Then, the men in Tinku Bhartiya, an e-rickshaw khaki caught all three includdriver, was the middle of three sons of Rambabu Bhartiya, a resident of Rajrooppur, Jairampur Patpar. For about eight years, he used to live with ing Poonam and started questioning. When Poonam's health deteriorated, the police brought her to the city-based hospital. Inspector Kheri Virendra Suman as husband and wife by Sonkar said that along with renting a room in Kanshi Ram questioning all three, some Awas Yojana. Suman had left

her first husband and started living with Tinku along with her daughter. She gave birth to another daughter. Now there are two daughters aged ten and seven.

A drug addict, Tinku used to spend all his earnings in the intoxication of smack, so the household expenses could not be maintained. The rent was due. He even snatched Suman's jewelry and sold it. Everyday there used to be a fight in the house. According to Dhumanganj police station incharge Rajesh Maurya, on Sunday night also he beat his wife in a drunken state and then went out on a scooty with his partner Kallu. He did not return home at night. In the Dhussa forest in the morning, people found Tinku's dead body hanging from the noose. Abhiyan Singh Sonu and Ashish Dwivedi informed the police. Tinku's scooty was parked outside near the bound-

Tokyo varsity team calls on BHU V-C

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Mutual cooperation, bilater-al exchange and student and faculty interaction topped the agenda as the Tokyo University delegation called on Vice-Chancellor Prof Sudhir Kumar Jain during the former's recent visit to Banaras Hindu University (BHU). The delegation comprising Prof KE Seetha Ram and Prof Takahiro Kato, Director of the University of Tokyo (Delhi office), discussed ways to have greater engagements between the students and teachers of Tokyo

University and BHU. Prof



Two bodies found hanging from tree

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

n a sensational incident, the bodies of two persons includ-ing a 25-year-old man and 22year-old woman were found hanging from a tree under mysterious circumstances near Balapur village under the limits of Jethwara police station in Pratapgarh district on Tuesday morning.

Upon being alerted, senior police and administrative officials along with forensic experts rushed to the spot and carried out an investigation.

The deceased have been ntified as Shivam Patel and

Kalpana Patel, both residents of and talked to family members. Balapur.

ÂSP Pratapgarh west, Rohit Mishra said that bodies have been sent for postmortem to find the actual cause of death.

He added police have been talking to family members of both the deceased to compile more inputs and also to get the exact reason behind the incident

The youth, who was pursuing his studies in Prayagraj, had returned to his native village three days back, said police. Pointedly, DM Pratapgarh

Nitin Bansal and SP Pratapgarh Satpal both inspected the spot

Bahubali leader Vijay Mishra, who was MLA for 4 times from Bhadohi's Gyanpur seat, now the administration has started cracking down on his relatives as well. Vijay Mishra's gangster nephew Manish Mishra's property worth 8.3 crores is ready to be attached. Attachment action was to be taken on Tuesday under the GangstersAct on the orders of DM Bhadohi. But due to technical reasons this action has been stopped by DM Prayagraj Sanjay Khatri.

PROPERTY ATTACH-

MENT EXERCISE POST-

PONED: After Mafia and

More than 2 dozen serious cases including gang rape, NSA, Gangster Act, Goonda Act, robbery, kidnapping, assault, property grabbing, forgery, extortion are registered against Manish Mishra, gangster nephew of Bahubali leader Vijay Mishra. Manish Mishra's multi-

storey building in Allapur's Baghambari housing scheme was to be attached on Tuesday, but due to technical reasons, DM Prayagraj has postponed the attachment process. The estimated cost of Manish Mishra's building in the Baghambari Housing Scheme s being told as Rs 8

ed exploring possibilities of setting up a Tokyo University extension office on BHU campus. He said that an institution like BHU has enormous potential and opportunities to offer not only to students and academicians but to institutions as well and Tokyo University would be interested to tap this opportunity for the benefit of students and teachers from both sides. BHU V-C Prof Jain welcomed the suggestions made by Prof Seetha Ram and said that BHU is committed to create new opportunities for its

bers, and collaborating them a with international institutions is one of the most important aspects in achieving this.

The Tokyo university delegation also suggested holding a joint international workshop at BHU involving global universities in wake of India assuming the G20 presidency. The multi-national summit is scheduled to be organised in cities across India in 2023. Prof Seetha Ram said that India's G20 presidency offers a plethora of opportunities in different sectors, education being one of the most important of

He said that the Asian Development Bank Institute is ready to offer all the support required for the workshop. Prof NV Chalapathi Rao, Coordinator, International

Collaborations, was also present during the meeting. BHU STUDENT GETS JOB: Shreyash Jaiswal, a final year MBA student of Institute of Management (IM), BHU, has been selected for employment at the Fast Retailing Co Ltd, Uniqlo, the leading retail group of Japan. The selection has been made under the

Programme, a key component of the MoU signed between BHU and the company. Shreyash has been offered an annual package of 5,800,000 Japanese Yen, equivalent to over Rs 35 lakh per annum. BHU had entered into a student-centric Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Uniqlo earlier this year which, besides offering several internship opportunities to BHU students, also opens for them a window for employment in the world's third largest apparel giant.

Seven pucca ghats on banks of Ganga, Yamuna on cards

work has started for the construction of seven pucca ghats on the banks of Ganga and Yamuna with a cost of Rs 550 crore. Along with the survey, a three-member committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of the DM for the construction. Before Mahakumbh, the beauty of the banks of Ganga and Yamuna will be visible. Big projects have been approved for this purpose. All the processes are being completed expeditiously to start the work on these projects worth about one thousand crore rupees. In view of Mahakumbh 2025, survey work has started for the con-

struction of seven pucca ghats

PRAYAGRAJ (PNS): In view on the banks of Ganga and Yamuna with a cost of Rs 550 crore. The land has been measured. Along with the survey, a three-member committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of the DM for the construction. This committee will also monitor the works. These ghats are 30 x 75 meters at Rasulabad, 60 x 80 meters at Dashashwamedh Ghat, 60 x 80 meters at Qila Ghat, 30 x 80 meters at Chhatnag, 30 x 80 meters at Maheva Bhairav Mandir Ghat, 30 x 30 meters near Saraswati Ghat besides 30 x 70 meters will be built behind the ECC. Similarly, 900 meter long and 60 meter wide interlocking road near Nagvasuki temple, 30 feet wide 700 meter long road

on the bank of Ganga towards Jhunsi, 900 meter long and 30 feet wide road from Gaughat to Baluaghat on Yamuna bank, Phaphamau bridge to Bakshi dam 30 feet wide 6500 meters long special interlocking road will be built. There is an estimate of spending Rs 450 crore on these roads. These routes will be built on the banks of Ganga and Yamuna only. Embankments will also be made for this. There will also be beautification. Similarly, the paved steps of the bathing ghats will be made in such a way that they do not become slippery. Chief Revenue Officer Kunwar Pankaj said that the land measurement work has been completed for the construction of seven permanent

bathing ghats and roads 'INDIANS H

HAVE STRONGER IMMUNE SYS-TEM' : Fearing the fourth wave of Corona, the whole world is in alert mode. Its effect is also visible in India. But experts have already started doing research about it. So far doctors have found that the new variant of Corona in India is a new form of BF-7 Omicron. IMA (Indian Medical Association) President (Mumbai West) Professor Dr. Ketan Mehta, who came to Prayagraj from Mumbai, said this. He has come to participate in the 97th National Convention of IMA. The team of doctors brainstormed on diseases like cancer, cough, allergy and corona.

BJP MP flays Rahul Gandhi ious works developed according to the electrification of the PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI integrated railway section and

for the electrification of the

Hathua-Bathua-Panchdeori (32

km) rail section of Varanasi

Division on Monday in order

to expand the basic infrastruc-

The PCEE first reached

traction height, block overlap,

fouling mark, sand hump, feed-

er power supply distribution

system, control feeder isolation

etc. Later, he reached Bathua

station and inspected the var-

Bhojpuri star-turned-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP from Delhi Manoj Tiwari strongly criticised Congress icon Rahul Gandhi for taking out a padayatra without following the corona virus protocol whereas about 10 lakh people have died in the neighbouring country (China). He was talking to the reporters during his one-day visit to the city at Lakshmi Hospital here on Tuesday.

Reacting sharply on former Union Minister Salman Khurshid's statement in which he termed Rahul Gandhi as Ram, Tiwari said that everyone would know how much Salman Khurshid knows about Ram. He said that it is because of Salman Khurshid that the Congress is going down the drain. "Salman Khurshid needs to know about Ram now," he said. Regarding the disclosure of the Bollywood star Sushant Singh case, he said that we had raised the issue in the House terming it as a murder and now reports are slowly coming out in the same direction. Tiwari has termed Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra as 'Break India Yatra' as Rahul had started his journey from the same



BJP MP being honoured at Lakshmi Hospital in Varanasi on Tuesday. Pioneer

breaking India and when his journey progressed, Rahul met Kanhaiya Kumar who had given the slogan of making the nation into pieces.

Praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said that ture for the upgradation of passenger facilities and ease of the PM has given a huge gift to the countrymen in 2023, in operation by the railway administration. which wheat and rice will be given free of cost. He further Hathua railway station and said that in the coming time inspected electrified rail section India would become the third vard plan, power substation, biggest economy of the world, station working rule, platform leaving behind France and clearance, point crossing, signaling, earthing track, overhead other countries.

PCEE CONDUCTS SAFETY INSPECTION: Principal Chief Electrical Engineer (PCEE) of North Eastern Railway (NER) AK church which talks about Shukla conducted a safety test found all the works as per the standard

Then Shukla reached Panchdeori after inspecting the electrification work at various level crossing gates, curvatures, pool culverts, line fittings, ballasting and packing etc as per the standard in the block section. In an informal chat with the reporters, the PCEE said that now all the lines falling in Varanasi Division of NER have been completely electrified. At last, he conducted a successful speed test on the newly electrified line at the maximum speed with the special train equipped with an electric locomotive.

He was accompanied by Varanasi Division's Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Administration) Rahul Srivastava, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (Traction) RN Singh, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) Pankaj Kesharwani, Chief Electric Engineer (Works) OP Singh, Deputy Chief Electric Engineer (Works) VK Sharma, Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer -I Yashveer Singh, Senior Divisional Engineer-I Rishi Srivastava, engineers of MS Enterprises Nigam Limited and others,

) बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा **Bank of Baroda**

Regional Office 'BARODA BHAWAN' Plot No. 24, Industrial Estate, Chandpur, Varanasi-221106, INDIA

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SI. Name & Address of Borrower & Co-Borrower No. Demand Notice Date / Possession Notice Date	Details & Description of Properties	Amount Due on Notice Date						
Branch : Luxa, Dist : Varanasi								
 Borrower : M/s Rangar Relevance Address : B 37/115 B-1, Bardari Complex, Rathyatra Crossing, Varanasi - 221010 Proprietor - Mr. Vijay Kumar Jaiswal s/o Sri Ramnath Jaiswal Address : D 59/105-C-5 D3/3-4, Chandrika Colony, Sigra, Chhittupur, Varanasi - 221010 Guarantors : (1) Mrs. Jayshree Jaiswal w/o Mr. Vijay Kumar Jaiswal Address : D 59/105-C-5 D3/3-4, Chandrika Colony, Sigra, Chhittupur, Varanasi - 221010 (2) Mr. Vikas Jaiswal s/o Mr. Rajesh Kumar Jaiswal Address : C -23/46 (9A), Kabir Chaura, Varanasi - 221001 Date of Demand Notice : 10.10.2022 Date of Possession Notice : 23.12.2022 	Equitable Mortgage of all the Part & Parcel of Shop No. 1&2 on Lower Ground Floor Area - 500 sq.ft. in Urvashi Complex including Pro-rata share interest in the land underneath the building comprising the aforesaid shop which is the part of the Premises No. D58/12-A constructed over Plot No. 4 Sigra, Varanasi, Ward - Dashashwamedh. Property in the name of Smt. Jayshree Jaiswal W/o Mr. Vijay Jaiswal Boundary : East - Parking of the Building, West : Common Passage, North - Shop of Vandana Valeza (Shop no. 3), South - House of Tondon (Plot No. 3 of Gandhi Nagar Colony)	Rs. 26,91,621.85 + interest + Other Miscellaneous & Legal Expenses						

LUCKNOW | WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 28, 2022

ne pioneer

pinion 06

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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. V 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 adopted in the respective Assemblies, all parties, includ-

ing the BJP and the Indian National Congress, consented to their contents. A question 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, his Chinese position has hard-



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

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 withdrawal and soon returned. SILENT ON DOKLAM IN 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 India with Indian troops at **'ILLEGALLY** Dokla just meters away from CROSSED LAC' PLA at Doklam. India has allowed the Doklam front to INTO CHINESE reopen as Bhutanese would TERRITORY TO any day settle their differences with China but for PREVENT THE India's security concerns in Chumbi valley. CONSTRUCTION It is increasingly clear China will neither clarify LAC OF A ROAD TO nor settle the border question. It will repeat its 2020 tricks in THE DISPUTED East Ladakh in other areas as

India has gone silent on 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.

its infrastructure expands fur-(The writer, a retired Lt n. was Commander. IPKF

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 becom-

ing 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!

ened from concessions in the west to concessions in the east, mainly in Tawang. In no way

Tawang and will by hook or status quo.

back intruders with clubs and sticks. Through these attempts, says ASPI, China is testing Indian willingness and readi-China will compromise on ness to resist while eroding the

INVOKING ITS TREATY **OBLIGATIONS** WITH BHUTAN

TRI-JUNCTION

ther. After withdrawal from Hot Springs in September, South, Sri Lanka, & founder China said it would not accept member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the the status quo of 2020 created by India's [†]illegal crossing of Integrated Defence Staff; LAC.' This fiction China has views expressed are personal)

had no enemies, like Ajatshatru.

also thanked (him) for humanitar

ian aid and support in the UN.

Former President

— Ram Nath Kovind

wished (Modi) a

presidency...now I

count on India's

participation in its

implementation. I

successful G20

He (Vajpayee) was

a rare combination

of a politician, poet,

being, and sympa-

thetic leader who

fearless human

WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT ANYWAY?

- 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 cer giants - Lionel Messi and Cristiano 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 Samajwadi 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

were marred in controversy owing to a 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 greement.

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 soc-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 yatra. It is high time leaders of political parties must join the Yatra irrespective of different ideologies Bhagwan Thadani I Mumbai

extraordinary career has undergone a

sudden, undeniable, and maybe irre-

versible 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

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

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Hitting the football into the net with

wanted now

of Ronaldo.

Ukraine President - Volodymyr Zelensky ... I was coming cluded FIFA 2022 World Cup. While out of some serious Messi reached the pinnacle of glory by cinema with Uri. winning the cup, in contrast, Ronaldo's Bhoot. As an actor.

to exploret.



Vicky Kausha



Managemen Committee and will have no stone unturned in fulfilling this responsibility to the best of my abilities Pakistan cricketer

— Shahid Afridi

A lot of lies are being spread about Rahul-ii. They should start Rahu Gandhi Troll Ministry and put Smriti Irani as the in-charge. She

does not talk about when atrocities are committed against women. **Congress Social Media incharge** — Supriya Srinetra

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



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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 accessibilitv 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



analys \$ 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 stu-dents. 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 sup-ported 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



Many of today's teachers try to be friends with students to be in their good books and be among them. Partying with students, dancing with them and being with them on social media are new means of impressing students. There are hardly very few students IN THIS ERA OF who expect their teachers to be a knowledge repository.

'GOOGLE Everyone in our society, be it UNIVERSITY', A students or teachers, has become an attention seeker through social TEACHER IS media. Seeking attention is the basic human instinct. Toddler seeks attention from their parents; SECONDARY, a student seeks attention from their teachers; a teenager from friends

MOSTLY TO ACT AS AN INTERMEDIATE Seekers. seekers.

BETWEEN The quantum of posts available HUMANS AND Ike Instagram, Facebook, or MACHINES. FOR teacher being a part of this new TEACHERS TO digital society is no exception. Teachers dancing with students.

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 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

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.

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.

SURVIVE IN THIS partying with students, or even NEW WORLD IS dating students and posting their photos and videos on social media CHALLENGING. has become a new norm in this ESPECIALLY FOR new world. Many teachers play appeasement politics with their SCHOOL AND students for their survival.

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

ing alcohol together or taking a smoke together. There are excellent maturation is fully accomplished teachers who have their tempta- at the age of 25".

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 eer pressure.

Teaching is a divine profession, and teachers should show divinity by inculcating the spirit gained from our rich heritage.

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

hat is in store for the year 2023? Will it be **V V** 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



KALYANI SHANKAR

in Ukraine, food and fuel event next year. Politically, for prices, the fight against infla-India, the upcoming nine tion, the transition to renewstate elections are the most significant in 2023. It will able energy, and China's uncertain post-pandemic decide the fate of several parpath. India might overtake ties and their leaders, includ-China as the world's most ing Congress, the BJP, and populous country next year. It has the world's largest other regional parties. The strength of Rahul Gandhi youth population. will be tested in these polls On foreign policy, India after his current Bharat Jodo

will host the prestigious 18th G20 Heads of State and Governments summit on September 9-10, 2023 in New Delhi. As part of the Summit, India will hold more than 200 events spread across major metro cities. Prime Minister Modi plans to showcase himself and India in a grand show to project himself as a world leader ahead of the 2024 polls. The coronation of King

who loses will impact the elec-torate and the workers' morale.

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, May; too, there will be a triangular fight between the BJP, the ongress, and the Left Front.

Of these, the BJP rules Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. Both are critical for Congress and the BJP. And so are Chhattisgarh and

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 get a third term unless they has a chance to wrest the government from the BJP. the prime ministerial candi-

Tripura, Meghalaya, date only after the polls. agaland, and Mizoram are There are at least half a dozen poll bound in the Northeast. contenders, mostly the egois-The BJP currently rules tic regional satraps like Mamata Banerjee, KCR, and Tripura. In Meghalaya and Nagaland, the BJP-backed Arvind Kejriwal. The return of covid with a governments are in power. The Mizo National Front new variant is a new threat. India managed to contain the pandemic by vaccinating a government is ruling in Mizoram. The once pre-eminent Congress is almost fin-

ished now.

the Opposition.

billion plus people. Still, the government should be on Will Congress revive its guard against any new variants. strength? Will Rahul Gandhi On the economy, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman emerge stronger? The Himachal Pradesh win this will present the Union Budget

month has boosted the morale on February 1. Inflation and of the Congress. It has allowed price rise are two critical issues. a chance for Congress to unite The World Bank expects India's GDP growth to be bet-The opposition parties have realised that Modi will ter than expected, but inflation would stay above 7 per cent.

Overall, 2023 might bring combine. They will decide on us better prospects in most spheres.

(The author is a senior *journalist*)

yatra ends in February. Nine states will go to polls over the next 12 months. They are-Meghalaya, Tripura, and Nagaland in February; Karnataka in

Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Telangana, and Rajasthan in November. The government might also hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir. The results will be a precursor for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Who wins and Charles 111 is a colourful

The ruling BJP is making all efforts to expand its base. For the Opposition, it is vital

nation 08



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



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 reference 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 advocate Nalin Kohli accused the Congress of "conveniently accepting and refusing the existence of Lord Ram". "Congress should resist from belief," he maintained while taking Lord Ram's name into

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 responding to a question about

all this. They use the name of 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 family. Vadra is married to

often claimed that the corruption 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 grab 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 people. Huge parcel of land

Rahul's sister and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi. The Congress has the company in which Vadra and his mother were partners from deimed that the congress has and his mother were partners from deimed that the public deam of the private state of the public deam of the partners for the public deam of the private state of the public deam through a maze of transactions involving fictitious entities, he

Taking on the BJP's charge, Surjewala said, "BJP today indulged in fakery by stating alleged. "The then government headed by Ashok Gehlot bypassed laws and rules to two things. First, they said that between 2008-13 Congress snatched 1,000 bighas of land appease Sonia Gandhi's sonin Bikaner from farmers and in-law," he claimed, alleging that Vadra became the lead of allotted the same to two people – Hariram and Natharam, both of whom are fictional a land mafia. people. An FIR was then reg-

Gehlot is the current chief minister as well. Congress istered." leader Randeep Singh Surjewala slammed the BJP then sold to Skylight and questioned why the ED Hospitality of Vadra and the has not filed a charge sheet in Rajasthan High Court has the case in the last eight years. rejected a case to quash the He claimed that the BJP is FIR," he said. "These are devi-

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

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

ous and bogus attempts at

fakery and to peddle lies.

"Secondly, this land was

Rajasthan. Suriewala claimed it was the BJP government that allotted land in Bikaner's Gajner village in February 2007 to Hariram and Nathram.

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

statement.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (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.



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, ernment has written to the the last delimitation of con-Delimitation is the process Centre saying that the law and stituencies in Assam was effectof fixing limits or boundaries order scenario in the state is ed on the basis of 1971 census now conducive for the EC to figures by the then carry out the delimitation exercise to redraw the boundaries 1976. of its parliamentary and assem-The move to redraw the bly constituencies. Muslim votassembly and parliamentary ers in Assam account for about seats of Assam as per Section 37% of the state's electorate. 8A of the Representation of the 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 six of the 14 Lok Sabha conadministrative 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. The delimitation of

(2001) shall be used for the purpose of readjustment of Assam's assembly constituenparliamentary and assembly cies is long overdue. The constituencies in the state. Delimitation Commission, which was set up in 2002 to Reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes and readjust the division of assem-Scheduled Tribes will be provided as per Articles 330 and 332 of the Constitution of

bly and Lok Sabha constituencies on the basis of the 2001 Census figures, completed the exercise in 25 states and Union India," the poll panel said in a Territories. But the work was sus-

pended in Assam following stay orders of the Gauhati High Court on a PIL challenging the validity of the 2001 isus report in 2007

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 e tective law e

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 information 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.

Home Ministry said fulfilling The daylong workshop deliberated on subject the vision of Prime Minister delinés of Presentation on Gu

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday signed a peace agreement with a Manipur insurgent group, which agreed to give up violence and join the peaceful democratic process. The tripartite agreement was signed by the Central and Manipur Governments and the Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF) rebel group which most-ly operated in Manipur.

statement said. The agreement provides In a statement, the Union for rehabilitation and re-settlement of the armed cadres. A joint monitoring group will be onstituted to a ment of the agreed ground rules. This will be a significant boost to the peace process in 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.

armed group agreed to abjure

violence and join the peaceful

democratic process as estab-

lished by law of the land, the

in a country or a state with a

IN SHORT

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 staved 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 year, 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.

Delimitation Commission in

On February 28, 2020, the central government cancelled its earlier notifications which 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.

ment in respect of crimes having transnational footprints, Bhalla emphasised the need to 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

MLA/LRs & Procedural aspects of drafting LRs/MLA requests; Presentation on new MLA/LR 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".

Narendra Modi of an 'insur gency-free and prosperous Northeast' and under the guidance of Union Home Minister 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

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.

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

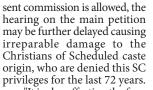
be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Caste. The plea filed by advocate Pratap Baburao Pandit con-

tended he was a Christian of Scheduled Caste origin belonging to the Mahar community. The petitioner submitted that the petitioner is that if the pre-



the Union government has formed multiple commissions over the years and the appointment of a new commission will further delay the hearing of the sue 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



"It is also affecting the fundamental 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 "unconstitu-tionality" 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 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

across the country. As per the 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 people in interfaith marriages.

New Delhi: The Centre has

asked all its departments to

explore the possibility of post-

ing one of its employees with 85

per cent hearing disability to

his native place in Kerala,

according to an official order.

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

Consider posting staffer with 85% hearing

disability to native place: Centre to Depts

Inspection of Maiden Pharma held over quality concerns

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of the controversy surrounding the quality of the cough syrup produced and exported by Haryana-based Maiden Pharma Ministry said that the step was initiated following directions to Gambia, the DCGI along from Union Health Minister Dr. with State drugs officials has Mansukh Mandaviya and it started conducting joint inspec-tion of identified drug manuhad nothing to do with the Maiden Pharma case, sources facturing units to ensure high said that the move comes amidst standards of quality compliance a Gambian Parliamentary with respect to drugs manufac-Committee allegations that contured in the country. Though cluded that the cough syrups officials in the Union Health imported from India linked to

Drugs Controller General of India

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.

The Union Health Ministry 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-

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

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 presentavailable in country. 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). PTI

nation 09



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 said

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

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 cru-

cial 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," former state minister D Jayakumar

Speaking to reporters after the district secretaries' meet, Jayakumar reiterated that the alliance would be formed under the AIADMK leader-



Asked about the constituents, 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

tions 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 com-petition, focus on children studying the syllabus taught in their books. "I say everywhere that

value education should be added in our curriculum, our system, our syllabus," she said. If value education is

imparted from the beginning, it will help in ushering in a good society, she said. She was responding to a

query from a student that the absence of study of ethical val-



ues is leading to unwanted incidents in the society.

In her speech, she expressed confidence that the implementation of National Education Policy 2020 will create a learner-centric educa-

tion system to foster critical thinking and creativity. This shift in focus will not only benefit the students as that would serve students well individuals, but will also conthroughout their life, she said. tribute to the overall progress and development of the nation,

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

"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-

ed 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

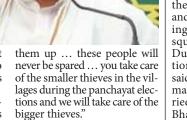
According to sources these bs were sold for anywhere etween Rs 5 and Rs 30 lakh, Meanwhile, Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu



Adhikari on Tuesday said that the big thieves of Bengal who had masterminded the scams would go to Tihar jail.

Asking the people to prepare 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



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 DELHI

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 Abhiyan 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, Thrissur, Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram, Jabalpur, Chandigarh, Lucknow, Coimbatore, Panaji, Amritsar, Sambalpur, Bhawanipatna, Puducherry, Mangaluru, Berhampur and Bhopal.

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' programme on December 25.

FROM PAGE 1

NATIONWIDE MOCK DRILLS ASSESS COVID COMBAT oxygen, besides 1,75,291 beds at all the govern-

prepared to face another wave of the pandemic, Subramanian said that the RGGGH has six unanimously passes a resolution that it is commonths' stock of medicine, 1,954 million tonne mitted to protect the interest of the state," the resolution h d added

Kashmiri Pandit staff move CAT challenging order prohibiting transfer from Valley

According to sources, Mandaviya, exhorted the experts to join the fight against Covid by providing accurate information to allay fears and "prevent an infodemic".

Clinical readiness at hospitals is crucial, Mandaviya said while noting that Governments as well as private hospitals are undertaking mock drills. State Health Ministers are reviewing the drills in their respective states, he said.

Cautioning against complacency, he urged everyone to follow Covid appropriate behaviour. He also asked people to refrain from sharing unverified information and ensure a high level of preparedness.

There are enough funds allocated for Covid and States have been given funds to make all arrangements, he added.

Dr BL Sherwal, the Medical Superintendent of the Safdarjung Hospital, said, "All symptomatic patients shall be screened, assessed and tested right there in the Covid centre. The report shall be made available within one to two hours following which the decision on admission or discharge shall be taken. Until that time the patient can be monitored. All beds have oxygen facilities."

Similarly, civic and government hospitals in Mumbai conducted mock drills to check their Covid-19 wards and facilities available for patients.

Dr Chandrakant Pawar, medical superintendent of the civic-run Kasturba Hospital which treats patients with infectious diseases, also said they checked their readiness to handle any situation

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has identified 10 civic hospitals, three government hospitals and 21 private hospitals having 2,124 isolation beds, of which 1,523 are functional. In Goa too, health authorities reviewed health infrastructure at designated hospitals, including the super speciality block at the Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), as part of the mock drill.

Similarly, Gujarat State Health Minister Rushikesh Patel said they have prepared a comprehensive plan and reviewed the preparedness of the existing health infrastructure in case of any eventuality on the pandemic front.

At least one lakh beds and 15,000 ICUs with ventilators are ready to be converted for the use of Covid-19 patients if needed in Gujarat as the state reviewed operational readiness on Tuesday during a mock drill conducted across various health facilities, he added.

Tamil Nadu Health Minister Ma Subramanian, who oversaw a mock drill at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital said the state had a sufficient stock of medicines, beds, equipment and oxygen to tackle any spike in Covid-19 cases. Also, district-level health offi-cials have been told to inspect the facilities to assess the preparedness and submit a report to the health department soon, he said.

Reiterating that the state machinery is fully

ment and private hospitals across the state.

CHINA ENDS COVID BAN ON FOREIGNERS' ARRIVAL FROM JAN 8

Officials argue that the Omicron variant was not as lethal as the Delta strain, which caused masve casualties all over the world.

Covid-19 has been managed as a top category 'A' infectious disease since 2020, putting it at par with bubonic plague and cholera, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post report-Under Chinese laws, authorities must impose the toughest restrictions such as quarantine and isolation of the infected and their close contacts, and lockdowns to contain those diseases.

At the border, the infected must be isolated and those who might be infected quarantined, depending on the incubation period.

The NHC also stopped announcing daily Covid cases from Sunday.

The novel coronavirus first emerged in the central Chinese city of Wuhan in December 2019 before it turned into a pandemic.

MAHA RESOLUTION PLANS TO MERGE MARATHI-SPEAKING **K'TAKA VILLAGES INTO STATE**

"The Centre should ask the Karnataka Government to implement the decision taken in the meeting with Union Home Minister and to given an undertaking to guarantee the safety of the Marathi people in the border areas," the resolution added.

Asked to comment on the resolution passed y the State Assembly on Maharashtra-Kartanaka order row, Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) president and former chief minister said: "We welcome any such resolution that is in Maharashtra's interests. We still demand that given the current circumstances the disputed boundary areas must be declared as Union Territory to protect the local Marathi-speaking people". The resolution by the Maharashtra Assembly

on the border row came exactly week after the Karnataka Legislative Assembly passed a resolution unanimously on the border row with Maharashtra, resolving to comprehensively protect the southern state's interests and condemning the recent inflammatory statements made by the political leaders from Maharashtra.

The resolution passed by the Karnataka Assembly had said: "There is no compromise on the matters relating to Karnataka's land, water, language and Kannadiga's interest. The sentiments of Karnataka's people and members of the Assembly are of importance and if they are affected, we are committed to take constitutional and legal measures in a united manner to protect the interest of the state"

"Condemning border disputes created by

ON RETHINK, BJP TO CONTEST MCD MAYOR, DEPUTY POLLS

Kamaljit Sehrawat remained a councilor from 2017-22 and during that time also worked on the posts of Mayor and Leader of the House. In 2015, while being the president of Mahila Morcha, she came to the political headlines by surrounding Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at the New Delhi railway station and presenting him with bangles.

Earlier contrasting statements came from the BJP leaders regarding contesting mayor and deputy mayor posts after the MCD poll debacle. BJP IT cell chief Amit Malviya had suggested the mayor's election was still an open game. "Now over to electing a mayor for Delhi. It will all depend on who can hold the numbers in a close contest, which way the nominated councillors' vote, etc. Chandigarh has a BJP mayor, for instance," he had tweeted

Davs later, then Delhi BIP chief Adesh Gupta announced that the BIP would not contest for the mayor and deputy mayor post and the next mayor will be from AAP as it had won the election. "BJP will play the role of a strong opposition in the MCD." he had stated.

Councillors are free to vote for anyone in the mayoral polls, irrespective of party affiliations since the anti-defection law does not apply. The election will be held by secret ballot.

The electoral college for the election of mayor includes 250 councillors, 10 members of Parliament from Delhi, and 1/5th of the members of the Assembly (14) nominated by the Speaker by rotation annually. The Delhi Assembly Speaker on Friday nominated 13 AAP and one BJP lawmaker for representation in the MCD.

MODI'S BROTHER, FAMILY INJURED IN ROAD ACCIDENT NEAR MYSURU

Speaking to reporters he said, "Prahlad Modi has suffered a minor scratch on his face nothing other than that, there is nothing to worry, he is fine and talking. His son too has suffered minor injuries and is doing fine. His daughter-in-law has suffered a minor cut on her eyebrow on one side, she is being treated. All are fine and conscious. The grandchild's bone below the left knee is fractured, but is stable."

Prahlad Modi's other daughter was in another car and she is fine, Simha said, "for observation, they will be in the Hospital today. With the grace of goddess Chamundeshwari all are doing

According to Simha, the incident might have occurred as the driver is said to have felt a bit drowsy for a while.

A case has been registered in Mysuru South police station.

PTI 📕 JAMMU

Protesting Kashmiri Pandit employees have approached the Central Administrative Tribunal against a Jammu and Kashmir administration order stating those granted employment 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 parties. 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 December 30.

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 They have challenged sub-rule notice and shall stand terminated".

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

PTI MUMBAI

 $\mathbf{F}_{\mathrm{Minister}}^{\mathrm{ormer}}$ Maharashtra Home likely to walk out of jail on Wednesday as the Bombay 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 agency

sought another extension. Deshmukh's lawyers Aniket Nikam and Inderpal Singh claimed

that the CBI was trying to "overreach" the earlier order of the HC which had stated that under no circumstances another extension will be granted. "They are failing to make out any urgency in the Supreme Court, and coming here seeking stay. This cannot be permitted," Nikam argued. The vacation bench of the

High Court, after hearing the arguments, said that "no further extension can be granted". With the court refusing to extend the stay, Deshmukh could be released on bail on Wednesday, his lawyers told PTI. The high court, while granting bail to Deshmukh, had noted that except for dismissed police officer Sachin Waze's statement, no testimony recorded by the CBI indicated that money was being extorted from bar owners in

Mumbai at the behest of the NCP leader. Deshmukh approached the high court after a special CBI court rejected his bail plea last month. He sought bail both on medical grounds and merits of the case. He has been in jail since November 2021 after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested him in an alleged money laundering case. In April this year, the CBI arrested him in a corruption 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. Former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh in March 2021 alleged that Deshmukh, the then home minister, had given a target to police officers to collect Rs 100 crore per month from restaurants and bars in Mumbai.



world 10



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

time to medical crises. 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

hospitals were reachable. '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. Scientists say the climate 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.

Victor Gensini, a meteorology professor at Northern Illinois University, likened a single weather event to an "atbat" — and the climate as your 'batting average."

"It's hard to say," Serreze said. "But are the dice a little bit loaded now? Absolutely."



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 straight," Poloncarz, the counstores in the Buffalo area closed ty official, said. and driving bans in place, Relief is coming later this some people pleaded on social

media for donations of food 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 running water.

Hochul noted the storm came a little over a month after life, and this is the worst storm the region was inundated with I've ever seen," the 48-year-old another "historic" snowfall. said. Melissa Osmon and her Between the two storms, snowhusband James were without

fall totals are not far off from power for more than 72 hours the 242 centimeters the area in the Buffalo suburb of normally sees in an entire win-Williamsville, and would ter season. The National Weather

the

aid

retreat to their car to stay warm for hours at a time. "We even watched the Service said the snow total at Buffalo Niagara Buffalo Bills game on our International Airport stood at phone," Osmon said, speaking 1.25 metres at 10 am Monday. by phone from her GMC Officials say the airport will be shut through Wednesday

Acadia. "You can see your breath inside the house," she said. "That's how cold it is." morning. Shahida Muhammad told The storm knocked out WKBW that an outage power in communities from knocked out power to her 1-Maine to Seattle.

year-old son's ventilator. She Storm-related deaths were and the child's father manualreported practically nationly administered breaths from wide, including at least eight killed in crashes in Missouri, Kansas and Kentucky. A Friday until Sunday when rescuers saw her desperate social woman fell through Wisconsin media posts and came to their river ice, and there was a fatal fire at a Kansas homeless per-

In a makeshift hut in her living room, Trisha LoGrasso sons camp. was still huddled around a In Jackson, Mississippi, crews struggled Monday to space heater Monday with three of her children and her get water through the capital city's beleaguered water system, eldest daughter's boyfriend. The temperature inside her authorities said. Many areas had no water or low water pres-Buffalo home was 5.5 degrees sure. On Christmas Day, resi-Celsius. She was without heat because of a gas leak, and burst pipes left her with no dents were told to boil their drinking water due to water lines bursting in the frigid "I've lived here my whole

temperatures. The issue has to be significant leaks in the system that we have yet to identify," the city said in a statement Monday.

More Rohingya refugees reach | Foreign firms happy as China ends quarantine Indonesia after weeks at sea

AP PIDIE

A second group in two days of weak and exhausted 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 group of 58 Rohingya — all

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 unsea-worthy vessel during the journey," the agency said.

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-

the Arakan Project, which

works in support of Myanmar's

Rohingya, confirmed Tuesday

that the boat that landed

Monday on Ujong Pie beach

was from the group of 190

Rohingya. But Syukri said the

UNHCR could not verify that

information and was still coor-

dinating with governments in

the region. "But we will continue to

search for further information

Syukri told reporters on

Tuesday while visiting the

to ensure the actual data,

ue to grow," he said.

With prolonged-conflict

Chris Lewa, the director of

men — arrived in Ladong village in Aceh Besar district.

oup said Monday that the

Malaysia.



Indonesian soldiers help ethnic Rohingya women and children to step out of a military truck upon arrival at a temporary shelter after their boat landed in Pidie. Aceh province, Indonesia on Monday

Bazar in Bangladesh, where more than 700,000 Rohingya Azharul Husna, who from Myanmar had fled, to heads the Aceh brach of work on plantations in KontraS, an Indonesian rights Malaysia. Their boat was damaged and the engine failed leav

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-

against LGBTQ people.

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.

intelligence.

1 elections.

It was part of a broader

nesses.

AP BEIJING

 $F_{\rm China \hat{s}\ decision\ to\ end}^{\rm oreign\ companies\ welcomed}$ 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.

The ruling Communist 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

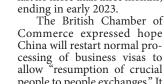
as the virus spreads. The announcement late Monday that quarantines for travellers from abroad will end Jan. 8 is the biggest step toward ending limits that have kept



most foreign visitors out of chairman of the American China since early 2020. Chamber of Commerce in Quarantines were reduced last China, Colm Rafferty, said in month from seven days to five. a statement. He said ending

Also Monday, the governthe quarantine "clears the way for resumption of normal business travel." Business ment downgraded the official groups have warned companies were shifting investment away from China because foreign executives were blocked

has turned the corner," the



people to people exchanges." It said that will "contribute to restoring optimism and reinstating China as a priority

the latest wave of outbreaks to

last no more than three months,

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 The American chamber announced visitors from China will undergo virus tests starting Friday as a "temporary emergency measure.

Russia says it shot down Ukrainian drone near airbase

reach Engels located in Russia's anneved in 2014. The incl. regions In eastern Ukraine ou

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 expect-

from visiting. ed to stay in place at least said more than 70% of compathrough mid-2023. "It finally feels like China

nies that responded to a poll this month expect the impact of

origin of Rohingya refugees in Indonesia

UN agency probes

AP PIDIE

United Nations agency is A United INduous agency seeking 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, crum-pled 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 United Nations High 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 spot.

raised controversy.

Rohingya refugees.

"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

ing them drifting at sea until men in the group all carried UNHCR cards from refugee they came ashore in Aceh. camps in Bangladesh and had Since 2017, Myanmar

security forces have been left in search of a better life in accused of mass rapes, killings Ćiting one of them, Husna

and burning of thousands of said the 58 refugees left Cox's homes belonging to Rohingya.

Israeli air force veterans say incoming government a danger



AP JERUSALEM

Over 1,000 senior Israeli air force veterans, including a former Israeli chief of staff, on Monday urged the country'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 ultra-Orthodox parties, an ultranationalist religious facof society and from across the political spectrum. What we is to be sworn in on have in common today is the fear that the democratic state Thursday. of Israel is in danger", the let-Nun, a former commander of

ter 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-



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

Saratov region on the Volga River. Shooting the drone down after such a long trip inside Russia again raises questions about the effectiveness of general. Russia's air defenses, particularly those intended to protect its most strategic military assets

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

such as warplanes capable of

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

dents have outraged Russian military bloggers who say they show the country's weak air defenses and security systems in

In another cross-border 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 Russian President Vladimir Putin to order almost weekly missile and weaponized drone attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, causing widespread blackouts that also knocked out heating and water supplies in increasingly frigid weather. The attacks, which began in October across much of the country, have been occurring as ground fighting focused on Ukraine's southern and eastern

Monday, Luhansk's Ukrainian governor, Serhiy Haidai, said Russian forces have withdrawn from their military command operations post in the town of Kreminna as Ukrainian forces were approaching after months of intense fighting. Russia's Defense Ministry didn't comment on the withdrawal claim.

Russian forces relocated to Kreminna and several other areas in September after they pulled back from the Kharkiv region in eastern Ukraine.

Kreminna is in the eastern 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 Volodvmv Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address Monday that "the situation there is difficult, painful.

Sharif pledges to eliminate terrorism from Pak

PTI 📕 ISLAMABAD

blowback against remarks made this week by Religious ∧ s Pakistan reels from mul-Zionism politicians calling Atiple incidents of terrorism, for legal discrimination Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has reaffirmed his vow to erad-Netanyahu's new gov ernment - the most reli-

icate the menace amid criticism from ousted premier Imran Khan on the government's "failure" to curb militancy during its eight-month stint.

Pakhtunkhwa province on menace of terrorism was on the rise and the state would crush it very soon, the Dawn news-

paper quoted him as saying. He said that with the help of provincial governments and security forces, the government would eliminate terror-

ism in all its forms. Sharif said that a meeting of the National Security Committee (NSC) would be summoned in a few days to take stock of the security situ-

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 successful operation, killing all 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 ter-

He expressed his concern rorism after coming to power over the situation at the



During a Pakistan Tehreek-

e-Insaf meeting at his resi-

dence in Lahore, Khan, the

chairman of the party, claimed

that his government had "con-

trolled terrorism and was

proudly leading the country

towards making it one of the

world's top tourism destina-

tions"

dents since April and chided the government for the resurgence of terrorism. "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.

ation.

gious and hard-line in Israel's history — is made up Addressing a gathering in the Dera Ismail Khan district tion, and his Likud party. It

of the restive Khyber-Monday, Sharif said that the



sport 11

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 remedying their defensive issues so far this season.

Leon Bailey and Watkins were both guilty of wasteful finishing.

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

and then fired straight at Villa's after Ezri Konsa's error.

At the other end, Darwin half

The Uruguayan headed ner. over Robertson's inviting cross

stand-in goalkeeper Robin Olsen with just the Swede to beat Van Dijk was not so forgiv-

ing to finally give the visitors a more difficult chances count two-goal cushion as the Dutch defender calmly steered home

Salah's pass from a corner. But Villa refused to accept their fate in a breathless second Watkins had the ball in the net within three minutes of the

restart but had just strayed offside before firing into the far cor-John McGinn also fluffed ance

his lines with just goalkeeper Alisson to beat before the home side got the goal their start to the second half deserved. Watkins made one of his

with a brilliant header back across goal to halve Villa's arrears.

Liverpool's relative lack of strength in depth compared to their competitors for a place in the top four was exposed by Klopp needing to turn to two teenagers off the bench as 17year-old Ben Doak also made his first Premier League appear-

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

AP LIVERPOOL

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

giants on Monday. Gakpo, who scored three goals at the World Cup for the Netherlands, had previously been linked with a move to Liverneol's 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

AP LONDON

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 second 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 backfired when Saliba hesitated to allow Michail Antonio latch onto a ball over the top and then dived in on Jarrod Bowen.

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 against Newcastle, Tottenham



after seeing a replay of Martin Odegaard's shot come off Aaron Cresswell's head rather than the left-back's arm.

The Gunners got the break they needed to turn the tide eight minutes after the break when Odegaard's mishit shot fell perfectly into the path of Saka to sidefoot home.

Martinelli added the second goal moments later with the help of West Ham goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski, who was far too easily beaten at his near post.

A prolonged injury layoff for Jesus had raised doubts over Arsenal's ability to maintain

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. 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 Gardner new No.1 in women's 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.

PTI DUBAI

T20I all-rounders' ranking the all-rounders' list for the three spots.

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 latest weekly update.

Deepti Sharma, who is third on the all-rounders' list points, is also main

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

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Two-time Commonwealth Games champion Saina Nehwal has been named for next month's selection trials of Asian Mixed Team Championships, to be held in Dubai from February 14 to 19.

The senior selection committee 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 committee decided to give direct entry to singles pla HS Prannoy, PV Sindhu and men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Ranikreddy and Chirag Shetty.

HS Prannoy regains career-best rankings

PTI NEW DELHI

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

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

Sen remained static at world

number seven, while

The 30-year-old from Kerala, who has been in good form this year, had the num her eight ranking in 2018 for the first gained three places to be time before slipping to 34 in world number 21, while women's doubles combina-2019. 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.

Among others, Lakshya

number five The fast-rising pairing of Ariun and



ustralian all-rounder

first time after moving up Gardner (417 points)

holds a big advantage over Devine (389) and Deepti (387)

made 1074 ODI runs and 518 T20I runs, though it was his prolific run-scoring in domestic 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.

minantly a

He was part of the Proteas' T20 World Cup campaigns in 2012, 2014 and 2016 as well as the ODI World Cup in 2015.

Ashleigh Gardner has overtaken West Indies skipper Hayley Matthews, India's Deepti Sharma and New Zealand captain Sophie Devine to attain a career-best No.1 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

taining a similar position in the T20I bowlers' ranking, while her 34-ball 53 in the fifth and final T20I sees her move up three places to 29th in the batting rankings.

Among batters, India's Smriti Mandhana is third with 727 points with Australia's Tahlia McGrath leading the

charts with 814 points, followed by country-mate Beth Mooney (760 points). India's Jemimah Rodrigues has slipped two places (607) to

The rest of the 14-member team will be picked in the selection trials, scheduled to be held in Delhi on January 2 and 3

"The members unanimously agreed that since it is a big competition with limited number of entries, only BWF rankings from 16-50 should be considered for invit-12th in the ranking for batters. | ing players for the trials for the



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

Commonwealth In women's singles, apart bronze medallists Treesa Jolly from Saina, Malvika Bansod and Aakarshi Kashyap have been invited for the trials, and Gayatri P Gopichand, Sikki Reddy and Ashwini Ponnappa, Ashwini Bhatt and while in men's doubles --Arjun/Dhruv Kapila, Krishna Prasad Garga/Vishnuvardhan Goud P and Ishaan Goud P and Ishaan Bhatnagar/Sai Patheek K were named.

Shikha Gautam and Haritha Manazhiyil and Ashna Roy were invited.

Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto, Venkat Gaurav

LOCAL EVENTS

For the two

spots in

doubles,

Games

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.

Prasad and Juhi Dewangan als which will pick the one and Rohan Kapoor and Sikki mixed doubles pair for the Reddy were invited for the trievent.

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 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 there," said the world number five in Dubai last week, after ending 2022 with a recordequalling sixth ATP Tour Finals crown.

"After obviously what hapened earlier this year, hopefuly I can have a decent reception here and hopefully that can help me play some good tennis."

He will face a top-notch field in Adelaide, including Felix Auger-Aliassime, Daniil Medvedev and Andrey Rublev, ranked six, seven and eight

respectively. In Djokovic's absence this year, Spanish great Nadal swept past Medvedev to win the Australian Open in an epic five-setter -- then backed it up

with a 14th French Open. Nadal will begin his preparations in Sydney at the United Cup, a new mixed-teams event, where a blockbuster showdown with Australian showman Nick Kyrgios will test his credentials.

Eighteen countries will compete in the event across 11 days from Thursday, with Brisbane, Perth and Sydney ruling and he is now gunning hosting group games in a



round-robin format. Ties comprise two men's and two women's singles match-

es 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 preseason 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

practise a lot, spend a lot of hours on court," he said this month. "I will be ready and 100 per-

cent 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

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

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 vac-

cinated 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 high-stakes legal battle earli-

er 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.



DEEPAK, PREETI EMERGE CHAMPS

Deepak Patel and Preeti Yadav won the 1600 m race in the boy's and girl's respectively on the concluding day of Lucknow District Junior Athletics Championship at KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium on Tuesday. Director (sports) RP Singh gave away the prizes to the winners. BR Varun, Nupur Singh of Lucknow District Athletics Association were also present. RESULTS: 1600m (Boy's): 1-Deepak Patel, 2-Shivam Kashyap, 3-Aman Khan (Girl's) 1-Preeti Yadav, 2-Gauravi, 3-Anshika Yadav; Discus throw (Boy's): 1-Akhand Pratap, 2-Anuj Kumar, 3-Kalash (Girl's) Anvesha, 2-Drishti, 3-Ragini; Javelin throw (Boy's): 1-Dileep Rajput, 2-Himanshu, 3-Unnat (Girl's) 1-Pragya Jain, 2-Ragini, 3-Payal Sharma; 80m (Boy's) 1-Abhiraj, 2-Yash, 3-Manish (Girl's)1-Rani Yadav, 2-Mimansa, 3-Annaya; High jump (Boy's): 1-Amrit Kumar, 2-Sushil, 3-Sagar; (Girl's) 1-Unaiza, 2-Mashfa Saleem.

AKASH STUNS PAWAN

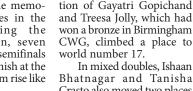
Akash Tripathi stunned top seed Pawan Batham in the opening game of Shail Bala Memorial Chess tournament. In another upset, Prabal Pandey beat eight seed Shalabh Agarwal. Earlier, Akhil Kumar, Atul Kumar inaugurated the event.

LUCKNOW LIFT TROPHY



Mayur Shukla struck yet another century to help Lucknow lift All-India Media Cricket tournament trophy, beating Prayagraj by 126 runs at Guru Gobind Singh Sports College ground.

Batting first, Lucknow piled up a massive 206 runs on board for the loss of three wickets. Mayur Scored 106 runs in 53 balls while Rajeev Anand made a contribution of 68 runs. In reply, Prayagraj were bowled out for 80 runs in 14.2 overs. Rajeev Bajpai took four wickets while Ashish Pandey and Shalabh Saxena pocketed two wickets each. Director (sports) RP Singh gave away the prizes.



Open and US Open in 2022.

sport 12



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.

"Everyone 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, featured 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 Bangladesh before the Test series, so one could not fault



bare minimum.

Eventually, his patience and perseverance prevailed as he was flown to Bangladesh as was waiting for while toiling on the domestic circuit for years. a backup pace option, with Mohammad Shami not regainthe expense of spinner Kuldeep

ing full fitness for the series. Yadav, whose exclusion after an The visa delays meant he eight-wicket haul in the series could only reach Chattogram opener triggered a selection after the start of the first Test controversy

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 The opportunity came at 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.

It did not take long for him to make his presence felt as he removed previous game's centurion 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 the pitch. Like you said the 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 some-thing coming my way and that

thing 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 Mohammad 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.

India beat SA by 54 runs

The Indian U-19 women's cricket team produced an all-round effort to beat South Africa by 54 runs in the first T20I of the five-match series

of the five-match series here on Tuesday. The series serves as preparation for both teams ahead of the ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup to be held in South Africa from January 14 to 29.

Opener Shewata Sehrawat and Soumya Tiwari scored 40 each off 39 and 46 balls respectively to guide India to 137 for five after being asked to bat.

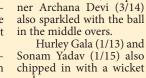
But the start was far from rosy for the Indians as they lost skipper Shafali Verma in the first delivery of the match.

But Sehrawat and Tiwari then joined hands and stitched 70 runs off 74 balls for the second wicket to set the platform for India's total. While Sherawat deco-

rated her innings with five also sparkled with the boundaries, Tiwari hit in the middle overs. three fours and six.

Besides the duo, wick-etkeeper Richa Ghosh made 15, 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. Defending the modest



Besides Shakil, off-spin-

each. 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 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



England to tour B'desh for white-ball series in March

played a series was in 2016

Conway, Latham take New Zealand to 165-0

AP KARACHI

Tew Zealand's opening pair Nof 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 respectively, at stumps or





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 opening two overs to reduce South Africa to 10 for 2 inside three overs, a position from which the hosts never recovered.

AP MELBOURNE

David Warner battled through searing heat to hit 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.

On a scorching day, the hosts were 386-3 at stumps on day two of the second Test, leading by 197 after the Proteas were dismissed in their first innings

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 worryingly for Australia, Cameron Green, who took 5-27 in South Africa's first innings, also retired hurt after a nasty rap on the fin-

ger from Anrich Nortje. Smith and Warner's 239run partnership took the game further away from South Africa, whose bowlers toiled in temper-

now people would know writing David Warner off is the

wrong thing to do." 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."

when England won the ODIs 2-

The England men's team will undertake its first tour The England squad is 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 an England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) statement.

The tour will commence with three ODIs, the first two "It is exciting that the matches taking place at the England Men's white-ball 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 series will take place on March Dhaka and Chattogram for this eagerly-anticipated tour 6 at Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram. will be fantastic," said ECB The three-match T20I interim CEO Clare Connor.

"There is a great passion for series will start on March 9 in Chattogram, with the final two cricket across Bangladesh, and matches, on March 12 and 14, we expect a tough challenge scheduled to be played in against a side who have an excellent record in home conditions.

The last time the teams

in March next year.

Dhaka.

the second day. New Zealand trails by 273 in its first Test tour to Pakistan

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 earlier 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 Salman batted resolutely in

attack in the absence of injured the company of tailenders to Shaheen Afridi, Haris Rauf score 103 with 17 fours. He was and Naseem Shah, didn't offer the last batter to be dismissed challenge to Conway and when Pakistan was bowled out Latham with the new ball as an hour after lunch.

Tim Southee, the Kiwis' to 41-0 by tea before adding new test captain, picked up his 350th Test wicket and wrapped up the innings when Salman tried to play across the seam-Hamza, recalled after four er, was struck on the back leg and was ruled out leg before wicket. Southee was the pick of the bowlers with 3-69 while three spinners -- Michael Bracewell (2-72), Ish Sodhi

both batters took New Zealand

124 more runs in the final ses-

years since playing his only Test

against Australia in 2018, and

Mohammad Wasim, also play-

Leftarm fast bowler Mir

ing only his second Test, couldn't break through. Earlier, the 29-year-old (2-87) and Ajaz Patel (2-112) -- shared six wickets.

sion.

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 take Ranji Trophy Group D match here mark. on Tuesday.

Avesh returned with figures of 4 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

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 bowlers' 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 dav 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 left-handed 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 Ranii 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.