OPINION 8

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AFRIDI CALLS

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Late City Vol.158 Issue 43 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

LUCKNOW, MONDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2022; PAGES 14 ₹3 the ploneer



Big guns on politicationVotingfor 55 UP seats todayImage: Display to the second place of the s stituencies spread over nine districts will go to polls on Monday. This phase will see senior Samajwadi Party leader

CITY 2

PREVIOUS GOVTS FAILED TO PROVIDE

HEALTHCARE FACILITIES: YOGI

With week to go for Assembly elections PM to address rally in Jalandhar today

PNS CHANDIGARH

Tust a week before Punjab's high-octane Assembly elec-tions on February 20, all mainstream political parties are giv-ing a final push to their poll

campaign. The "super Sunday" wit-nessed Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal, among many others, going all out to woo the electorate by addressing rallies, corner meetings, and holding road shows.

The top leaders did hectic campaigning a day before Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Jalandhar to address a rally, for which all preparations have been made and security has been beefed up. Learning lessons from the PM's previous visit to Ferozepur, high-level security arrangements have been made.

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Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal with Punjab AAP president and CM candidate Bhagwant Mann, during a road show ahead of the Punjab Assembly elections, in Amritsar, on Sunday

its people.

Already, BJP national presi-dent JP Nadda and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, besides other Union Ministers and senior leaders have been campaigning in Punjab.

Shah, seeking votes for the BJP-led alliance candidates, addressed back-to-back rallies at Ludhiana, Patiala, and then at Amritsar. Sporting a saffron

Punjab gets Livingstone for ₹11.50 cr, pacers get good deals

and Rampur MP Mohammad

Azam Khan and UP Finance

Minister Suresh Khanna in the

As many as 586 candi-dates are in the fray in this

phase in the constituencies

spread across Saharanpur,

Bijnor, Moradabad, Sambhal,

Rampur, Amroha, Budaun,

Bareilly and Shahjahanpur. Polling will be held on

Monday from 7 am to 6 pm,

UP Chief Electoral Officer

fray.

Bengaluru: England batter Liam Livingstone fetched a staggering ₹11.50 crore deal from Punjab turban and starting his speech Kings, who also roped in West with slogans of "Jai shri Ram" and "Sat Sri Akal", Shah Indies fast bowler Odean Smith for ₹6 crore on the second day of the IPL mega auction here on Sunday. For their left-arm variattacked Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi over ety, second-string India pacers Modi's "security lapse" issue, saying if the "person who canlike Khaleel Ahmed and Chetan Sakariya got handsome deals of not ensure safe route of the PM, can he secure entire Punjab and ₹5.25 crore and ₹4.20 crore, respectively. Continued on page 6 Continued on page 6

WORLD 11

GERMAN LEADER TRAVELS TO RUSSIA,

UKRAINE AS TENSIONS GROW

phase of polling. It has restrict-ed the number of voters in each polling booth to 1,250.

Of the 55 seats going to polls in this phase, the Bharatiya Janata Party had won 38 in 2017, while the Samajwadi Party had bagged 15 and the Congress two. The SP and the Congress had contested the last assembly election in an alliance. Of the 15 seats won by the SP, Muslim candidates had emerged victorious in 10. The areas going to polls in

this phase have a sizeable Muslim population influenced

Dharam Singh Saini, a Yogi Adityanath government minister who switched to the SP after the polls were announced. Khan has been fielded from his stronghold Rampur, Khanna from Shahjahanpur, while Saini is trying his luck from the

Nakud assembly constituency. Azam Khan's son Abdullah Azam is contesting from the Swar constituency. He has been pitted against Haider Ali Khan, the heir of another political family, the Nawabs of Rampur, who is trying his luck on the

Experts advise growing more low

ticket of Apna Dal (Sonelal), a

Outgoing Minister of State for Jal Shakti Baldev Singh Aulakh is contesting from Bilaspur, Minister of State for Urban Development Mahesh Chandra Gupta from Budaun, and Minister of State for Secondary Education Gulab Devi from Chandausi.

Campaigning for the BJP, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had attacked the main opposition Samajwadi Party, while elaborating why BJP government was necessary in the state to keep it riot-free. He had also spoken about the legislation against triple talaq. Continued on page 6

CAPSULE

ISRO COUNTS DOWN TO 2022 MISSION Bengaluru: The 25-hour

countdown for Indian Space Research Organisation's first launch mission of 2022, to orbit Earth observation satellite EOS-04 onboard PSLV-C52, began early on Sunday.

IL&FS TO RESOLVE DEBT OF ₹55K CR

New Delhi: IL&FS group would resolve debt of ₹ 55.000 crore by March 2022, the board of the crisis-hit company has stated in its affidavit filed before the National Company Law

Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)

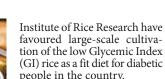
₹26,275 CR FOR POLICE MODERNISATION New Delhi: The Modi Government has approved the continuation of a mega police modernisation scheme for five years up to 2025-26 with a

financial outlay of ₹26,275 crore. KARAKORAM GLACIERS STABLE: GOVT

New Delhi: Glaciers in the Karakoram region are in a stable condition, but those feeding the Ganga and the Brahmaputra river basins are melting at a faster rate, the Earth Sciences Ministry has said. In reply to a written question in the Lok Sabha, the Ministry said the mean retreat rate of the Hindukush Himalayan glaciers was 14.9-15.1 metres per annum, which varied from 12.7-13.2 metres per annum in the Indus, 15.5-14.4 metres per annum in the Ganga and 20.2-19.7 metres per annum in the Brahmaputra river basins.

people in the country. Any variety of rice with less than 55 GI is considered diabetic-friendly, according to sci-

loss.



entists. A low GI diet helps curb cravings and prevent sugar levels from spiking, reduces heart risks, and aids weight Continued on page 6



GI rice to fight spurt in diabetes 'Increasing shift to sedentary lifestyle driving up cases'

ARCHANA JYOTI 🗖 NEW DELHI

With sedentary lifestyle increasingly becoming the norm in India — more so in view of the Covid-19 induced work-from-home trend — driving up the num-

ber of diabetes cases, scientists from ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition and ICAR-Indian





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city 02

Previous govts failed to provide healthcare facilities: Yogi

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astigating the previous state Governments for failing to provide proper and accessible healthcare facilities to the people, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that it was the Bharatiya Janata Party govern-ment which fulfilled the farfetched dream of Etah residents to have a medical college in their district.

Addressing a public meeting in Jalesar assembly constituency of Etah on Sunday, Yogi contrasted the development works by his government with that of the previous governments. "The district, which played a leading role in the freedom struggle, dreamt of having proper healthcare facilities for 70-71 years even after independence. It was the BJP government which fulfilled the far-fetched dream by setting up the Virangana Avantibai Lodhi Medical College here," he said.

Maintaining that Uttar Pradesh's Covid management fared well in comparison to many other states and countries, the chief minister said, 'Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership the most populous state contained the pandemic efficiently. People are being provided free vaccines, free testing facilities and free treatment along with free food grains. The improved healthcare services under BJP's five-year rule paid dividends during the trying times of the pandemic."

Lashing out at the previous regimes of the Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party for poor law and order situation, Yogi remarked, "Before 2017, only anarchy and riots pre-

PNS LUCKNOW

tions on Sunday.

Jangipur.

Singh from Azamgarh Sadar.

...hits out at oppn for fuelling vaccine hesitancy PNS LUCKNOW "To further their own failed

Slamming opposition leaders for fuelling vaccine hesitancy, spreading misinformation amid COVID-19 pandemic for selfish political gains, pandemic for selfish political gains, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that they (opposition) would get a befitting reply from the people for misleading them on the Covid vac-cine which saved millions of lives.

Addressing a public meeting in Farrukhabad on Sunday, Yogi said, "To further their own failed politics and nefarious agenda, the opposition tried their best to cause panic among the minds of the people. They are never proud of 'anything Indian'. Now the people will give them a befitting reply for playing with people's precious lives and hard earned livelihoods. Jis teeke ko inhone Modi teeka, BJP teeka keh ke badnaam kiya, usi teeke ne logon ki jaan bachayi, ab vote bhi BJP ko hi milega."

Remembering late Bharatiya Janata Party stalwart Kalyan Singh, the chief minister said, "The upcoming Bulandshahr Medical College will be named after our former Chief Minister Kalyan Singh Ji. Today, under 'One District One Medical College' scheme, one medical institution each is being built in Kasganj, Etawah, Etah, Farrukhabad and Hathras. With the setting up of these medical colleges, the local people will no longer have to go to other states for availing advanced treatment. Apart from providing healthcare facilities, it will also become a strong-



hold of medical education."

Highlighting UP's Covid control mechanism, Yogi said that the state was now completely safe from the pandemic. He said the Covid first dose vaccine coverage had achieved the 100 per cent-mark in the state, while the second dose coverage was now over 77 per cent.

"During the COVID-19 pandemic, our government strived to save both lives and livelihoods. Where was the brother-sister duo? Was 'Behenji' present amongst you all? Only the BJP worked for the people of the state.

The chief minister charged

that the Samajwadi Party failed

to ensure safety and security to

testing facilities, and free treatment, the Samajwadi Party chief indulged in dirty gimmicks by spreading misinformation regarding the vaccine," Yogi charged. On the occasion, the chief minister announced the construction of a link expressway connecting Farrukhabad with Ganga Expressway if the BJP returned to power in Úttar Pradesh.

While we provided free vaccines, free

"To benefit crop-growers, the BJP decided to waive farm loans as soon as it formed the government in the state in 2017. A potato food pro-

Farrukhabad. Wheels of bulldozer against criminals and development of the state have moved together which has not only paved the way for the state's progress, but also transformed it into a safe place. Today, our government has provided houses to more than 2.45 crore poor people, constructed more than 2.61 crore toilets and is providing pure drinking water through Har Ghar Nal Yojana," he said. Attacking the Samajwadi Party, Yogi said, "There was no electricity during the SP government. The state

cessing centre has also been set up in

politics and nefarious agenda, the opposition tried their best to cause panic among the minds of the people. They are never proud of 'anything Indian'. Now the people will give them a befitting reply for playing with people's precious lives and hard earned livelihoods. Jis teeke ko inhone Modi teeka, BJP teeka keh ke badnaam kiya, usi teeke ne logon ki jaan bachayi, ab vote bhi BJP ko hi milega"

> was all about riots. Farmers, youth traders and the poor remained deprived and were exploited. Women and daughters felt unsafe. Attention was never paid to basic infrastructure like roads, water, electricity, hospital, schools and degree colleges. Earlier funds for development of the state were used to build bungalows. The Samajwadi Party government was responsible for scams, protecting criminals and orchestrating riots every other day during its regime. Ab dange nahin, sirf kanwar yatra nikalti hai

to the unavailability of resources, farmers like Thakur Bhanu Pratap Singh were rendered helpless. "The area was made a 'Dark Zone' with the ment of the BJP waived loans

absence of resources. However, as soon as we came to power, we waived loans of farmers. The double-engine govern-

BSP releases list | Switching allegiance flavour of the season of 47 candidates

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BSP, Congress or any other

protect our daughters or poor

farmers. Their sympathies were

party, they did not care to

 $D^{\mbox{efections}}$ and switching allegiance is the flavour of the season ahead of assembly and Lok Sabha elections and this time is no different with almost all parties from Bharatiya Janata Party, Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party and Congress to smaller outfits like Apna Dal (Sonelal) have been witnessing some legislators bidding them goodbye and some others joining them.

vailed in the state. Be it the SP, only with the criminals and

goons."

The maximum gain from this flight of legislators has been to the BJP followed by SP, while the major losers have been the BSP and Congress.

UP BJP spokesperson Rakesh Tripathi said that about 15 legislators of various parties had joined the saffron

party in the recent past. "Congress MLAs he BSP has fielded Pivush Kumar Singl

Mulayam Singh Yadav, and had quit the SP recently. Samajwadi Party members of Legislative Council, who have joined the BJP are Narendra Singh Bhati, Shatrudra Prakash, Rama Niranjan, Pappu Singh, CP Chandra, Ghanshyam Lodhi and Shailendra Pratap Singh.

the daughters of the state." The

daughters could not go to

nessman were scared of mov-

ing out late in the evening. The

school. Even traders and busi-

The SP has also been a favourite destination of MLAs of other parties. It received a big boost when three ministers -- Swami Prasad Maurya, Dara Singh Chauhan and Dharam Singh Saini -- of the Yogi Adityanath cabinet resigned and joined it ahead of the crucial assembly elections. A number of BIP MLAs also joined the Samajwadi Party. They are Brijesh Prajapati (Tindwari in Banda), Roshanlal Verma (Tilhar in Shahjahanpur), Bhagwati Prasad Sagar (Bilhaur in Kanpur Nagar), Vinay Shakya (Bidhuna in Auraiya). Digvijav Narayan alias Jai Chaube (Khalilabad), Madhuri Verma (Nanpara in Bahraich) and Rakesh Rathore (Sitapur). Amar Singh Chaudhary, the Apna Dal (Sonelal) MLA from Shohratgarh in Siddharthanagar, also joined the SP. Sitting BJP MLA from Agra's Fatehabad, Jitendra Verma, too resigned from the BJP's primary membership, and said that he had joined the SP, as his name did not figure in the list of candidates released by the BJP for the first

phase of elections. Also, BSP legislator Vinay Shankar

Tiwari from Chillupar assembly seat in Gorakhpur, who was expelled from the BSP, also decided to join the SP. The Congress, which had seven MLAs in the UP Legislative Assembly in 2017, is now left with three. Four of

youth had no jobs, women felt

unsafe, farmers got no respect

and the poor were deprived of

Yogi further said that due

resources," he said.

its MLAs have guit and joined other parties. Those who have switched sides are Naresh Saini to BJP, Masood Akhtar to SP, Rakesh Singh to BJP and Aditi Singh to BJP. Not to be left behind, BJP MLA from Bairia in Ballia, Surendra Singh, was the latest to quit the saffron party. Denied a BJP ticket, he is now in the poll fray from Bihar-centric Vikasheel Insan Party (VIP).

There are other politicians who changed their affiliation after getting a from the respect

Murder case registered against wife of former BSP minister Lalji Verma

PNS LUCKNOW

mbedkar Nagar police have registered a case of Amurder against six people, including Shobhavati, wife of Lalji Verma, a former Bahujan Samaj Party minister and Samajwadi Party candidate from Katehri

assembly constituency. The Ibrahimpur police registered the case on the orders of the court on Saturday.

According to reports, about a year and a half ago, illagers had beaten a youth to death. The family members of the deceased appealed to the police for justice, but due to the political influence of the accused, the case could not be registered.

Dharmendra Verma of Changi village was shot PR00869589/140100990, PR00831159/140101077, PR00778671/140100176, PR00951928/140101474, PR00872663/140101010, PR00853946/140100871, dead on June 26, 2020 near Ibrahimpur police station. He was considered close to former minister Lalii Verma Immediately after the incident, the local people beat one of the accused, Ritesh, to death. Suresh Singh, father of the deceased Ritesh, had given a complaint in the police station, but his report was not registered. The father went to court and on the orders of the court, Shobhavati Verma, wife of Lalji Verma, along with Ajit Verma, Ram Bhawan, Mahendra Verma, Jitendra Verma, Manne Verma, Sukhiram Verma and seven unknown accused, have been booked. Shobhavati is a former district panchayat chairperson. Police station officer Ibrahimpur, Pramod Singh said that a case had been registered against all the accused and investigations had begun. Meanwhile, the Etah police arrested two men for kidnapping, rape and murder of the six-year-old daughter of a garment businessman. The two were arrested on Saturday.

of over 64,000 farmers of Etah. Similarly, 2,87,000 farmers of Etah are getting Rs 6,000 annually under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi while over 22,246 people got houses in Etah under PM/CM Awas Yojana," he pointed out.

Stating that the BJP government would provide pure drinking water to every household under Har Ghar Nal Scheme, the chief minister said, "We will provide pure drinking water in Jalesar, and will also provide free water to the farmers for irrigation. In addition, we will work to solve the problem of salty water in the region."

Attacking the Samajwadi Party Yogi said, "When the SP was in power it withdrew cases against those involved in terrorist attack on Ram Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya. However, today, the bells from Jalesar are adorning Ram temple in Ayodhya. Jalesar's bells through the state's ODOP scheme have not only generated employment, but also given recognition to the region on the global map. The 2,100 quintal bell placed at Shri Ram Janmabhoomi was prepared by Shri Vikas Mittal from Jalesar." Asserting that the rule of law now prevailed in Uttar Pradesh, the chief minister concluded by saying, "Elections will keep on happening. But an environment of safety, development of the state, security to the girls/women, poverty alleviation and respect of farm workers must be ensured (Chunav aate jaate rahenge, lekin suraksha ka mahaul, pradesh ka vikas, betivon ki suraksha, gareebon ka kalyan, annadata ka samman hona chahiye)."

SBFC SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd. Cerstwhile Small Business Fincredit India Pvt. Ltd.) Address: Unit No. 103, First Floor C&B Square, Sangam Complex, 127, Andheri-Kurla Road, Village Chakala, Andheri (East), Mumbai 400059 [Telgehone: +912 267875300 | Fax +91 22 67875334 | www.sbfc.com| Corporate Identity Number: U67190MH2008PTC178270

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Yadav from Nizamabad, Shakeel Ahmed from Phulpur Powai, Bhupendra Singh alias Munna Thekman from Didarganj.

A head of the second phase of assembly elec-tion, the Bahujan Samaj Party released a list

of 47 candidates for the seventh phase of elec-

Atraulia, Ramesh Chandra Yadav from

Gopalpur, Shankar Yadav from Sagdi,

Abdussalam from Mubarakpur, Sushil Kumar

Badlapur, Shvam Prakash alias Rekha Raibhar

from Varanasi North, Kaushik Kumar Panday

from Varanasi Cantonment, Dinesh Kasidhan

Gupta from Varanasi South, Raikumar Singh

Gautam from Ghazipur and Mukesh Singh from

The BSP has fielded Saroj Pandey from

Besides, Manoj Singh has been fielded from

Polling will will held in Azamgarh, Mau, Ghazipur, Chandauli, Varanasi, Bhadohi, Jaunpur, Mirzapur and Sonbhadra districts in the seventh phase of the state elections.

Meanwhile, newly-appointed BSP national spokesperson and Supreme Court lawyer Seema Kushwaha, reached Unnao to meet the family of the 22-year-old woman whose decomposed body was found in a farm owned by a Samajwadi Party leader's son, Rajol Singh. The victim had been missing for over two months.

After meeting the family, Kushwaha along with the victim's mother met the superintendent of police of Unnao where she inquired about the development in the case and also about the autopsy report on Saturday.

She also enquired about the action taken against the policemen who were in charge of the missing case.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Kushwaha said that the culprits involved in the missing Unnao girl's death should be handed out stringent punishment and complicit policemen should be suspended for a fair probe.

On December 8 last year, the deceased woman went missing and later the family alleged that the police did not take appropriate action and showed laxity in the investigation. They also alleged a nexus between the son of the SP leader and the police.

Rakesh Singh (both from Rae Bareli) and Naresh Saini from Saharanpur, BSP MLAs Vandana Singh (from Sagri in Azamgarh), Ramveer Upadhyay (from Sadabad in Hathras) and Anil Singh (from Purwa in Unnao) have joined the

BJP," Tripathi said. Two SP MLAs, Subhash Pasi (Saidpur in Ghazipur) and Hari Om Yadav (Sirsaganj in Firozabad) have also joined the BJP. Hariom Yadav is a relative of Samajwadi Party patriarch

Prominent among them are Haidar Ali Khan, who was declared Congress candidate from Swar in Rampur but joined Apna Dal (Sonelal), Supriya Aron of Bareilly Cantonment (from Congress to SP), Manish Jaiswal of Padrauna in Kushinagar (from Congress to BJP), Savita Pandey of Tarabganj in Gonda (from Congress to BJP) and Rachna Kori of Jagdishpur in Amethi (the SP candidate who joined the BJP after filing her nomination papers).

Kejriwal to address public meeting in Lko on Feb 22

Lucknow (PNS): To galvanize the party leaders and work ers in Uttar Pradesh for the assembly elections, Aam Aadmi Party national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will address a public meeting in Lucknow on February 22.

The AAP has further intensified its election campaign by fielding its star campaigners Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, ministers Gopal Rai and Imran Husain and AAP leaders Rakhi Birla and Somnath Bharti for electioneering in UP.

AAP's chief ministerial candidate in Punjab and MP Bhagwant Maan will give stimulus to the campaign by bowling his sarcastic deliveries on the UP election pitch.

Giving details of election campaigns of the party, AAP state president Sabhajeet Singh said Kejriwal would be addressing public meetings in Barabanki and Prayagraj on February 22, in Gorakhpur and in Sant Kabir Nagar on February 23 and in Varanasi on February 24 while Kejriwal would take out a foot march also.

He said the AAP candidates were giving tough challenges to their political rivals in the campaign and AAP's popularity was soaring high. "Kejriwal will go among the public to seek votes for AAP candidates," he said.

"We have made our promises (Kejriwal Guarantee Schemes) to the public and we are getting good support from the voters," he said, adding that 15 star campaigners of AAP would address public meetings in UP.

He said the AAP campaign was on issue-based politics. The politics of religion and caste is an old issue which other political parties are still opting for and under its shadow the basic public issues have remained ignored so far. The other political parties never talk about education, employment, crop price being given to farmers, electricity supply and water supply," he said. AAP leaders Dilp Pandey, Dinesh Singh Patel Neelam Yadav, Anoop Pandey and AAP's spokesman Mahendra Pratap Singh were present during the press conference.

The girl was raped allegedly by one of the accused. Her body was found in a vacant plot behind a private hospital in the Awagarh area on February 4.

It took six police teams and local intelligence unit to zero in on the accused, identified as Prince Ojha, 19, and Rohit Nayak, 22. They had planned to kidnap a child, preferably a boy, for ransom. On finding that they had kidnapped a girl by mistake, Nayak, in an inebriated condition, had raped her.

Additional Superintendent of Police Dhananjay Singh Kushwaha said, "The victim's family did not have suspicion on anyone. We had CCTV footage of two men with faces covered, seen near her house, around the same time she was kidnapped."

Later, the two were also seen in the footage recovered from the area where the body was found. During interrogation, both confessed to the crime.

Gomti Nagar branch, PR00909919/90101332, PR00832135/90100802, PR00915361/90101367, PR00870682/90101102 PR00944486/90101562 PR00872847/90101116 PR00833837/90100813, PR00916317/90101370, PR00947685/90101599 PR00879574/90101146 R00850121/90100951, R00922151/90101421, PR00952577/90101641 PR00880284/90101157 PR00954825/90101660 PR00882447/90101176 00854600/90100985, 00927152/90101452, PR00956029/90101677 PR00883443/90101185 R00860437/90101037, R00929129/90101468, 00864201/90101056, 00930545/90101475, PR00956292/90101681 PR00891561/90101236 00869700/90101090, 00939788/90101525, PR00956464/90101682 PR00893744/90101242 PR00869742/90101092, PR00937396/90101251, PR0094157/9010132, PR0098350(90101251, PR00946473/79101124, PR00937422/79101047, PR009046473/79100842, PR00827935/79100420, PR00904708/79100852, PR00827035/79100420, PR00904708/79100152, PR00941527/79101063, PR00904785/79101132, PR00941527/79101076, PR00904783/79100174, PR00941527/79101076, PR00904783/79100154, PR00941527/79101076, PR00904785/79101147, PR00941527/791010634, PR00991293/79100164, PR00861340/791010634, PR009911713/79100164, PR00943009/791011084, PR009911713/79100164, PR00943009/791011085, PR00911713/79100156, PR0084708/79101172, PR0095763/79101175, PR009446773/79101172, PR00957735/79101175, PR00944658/79100172, PR00957735/7910199, PR00944658/79100172, PR00957735/79100313, PR00874858/79100702, PR00957743/79100313, PR00934658/7310070112, PR00957743/79100313, PR009346537101061, PR00937612357100504, PR0093166(357100761, PR00937642357100504, PR00931735/357101071, PR009317435710035, PR00931735/357101071, PR0082761235710035, PR00931735/357101071, PR008276423571000504, PR00931735/357101071, PR00827642357100504, PR00931735/357101071, PR00827642357100504, PR00931735/357101071, PR00827642357100504, PR00931735/357101071, PR008276423571000504, PR00931735/357101071, PR008276423571000504, PR00931735/357101071, PR008276423571000504, PR00931735/357101071, PR00827642357100504, PR00931735/357101071, PR00827642357100504, PR00931735/357101074, PR00827642357100504, PR00931735/357101074, PR00827642357100504, PR00931735/357101074, PR0083101/357100305, PR0093213/357101081, PR0083101/357100900, PR00911378/357101081, PR0083104/357100504, PR00932413/35710180, PR00834853/357100450, PR0094823/357101180, PR00834853/357100450, PR0094823/357101180, PR00834853/357100450, PR0094823/357101180, PR0084853/357100450, PR0094823/357101180, PR0084853 R00869742/90101092, R00941157/90101532, PR00957396/90101686 PR00898550/90101251

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pioneer

NOTICE

I, No 15450793K Rank NK Munde Vikas Dnyanoba resident of Vill- Halam, PO- Parli, Distt-Beed, Maharashtra-431515 hereby declared that in my service records name of my son has been wrongly entered as Munde Prabhakar Vikas. while his correct name is Munde Prabhas Vikas. In future he should be known and recognized by this name.

Priyanka denies rift with Rahul **CITYBRIEFS**

Committee

Lucknow (PNS): Denying of the BJP and the rift between rumours of a rift with her him, Prime Minister Narendra brother Rahul Gandhi, Modi and Home Minister Amit Congress general secretary Shah." Meanwhile, the UP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said Congress that she could sacrifice her life spokesperson said that Yogi for her brother.

the Gandhi siblings.

Adityanath, who had an ideol-"I can sacrifice my life for ogy of hatred, disintegration my brother and he can give his and division, was almost outlife for me. So where is the difside the sangh parivar and the BJP landscape. "It is another matter that his thinking is ference between us two as referred to by some Bharatiya Janata Party leader," Priyanka more fanatical than that of sangh and BJP," he added. "Yogi Adityanath, who said, reacting to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's comments

on alleged differences between acquitted himself from cases of heinous crimes, is today point-Attacking Yogi, she cheeking fingers at those whose ily said, "Yogiji must be talking grandmother and father have

made the supreme sacrifice for maintaining the unity integrity of the country." the UP Congress spokesperson said.

Yogi, was going to contest election from Mathura or Ayodhya but he was sent back to Gorakhpur by the party brass. After displaying pictures of the elevated bridge of West Bengal, America's factory, China's airport, and claiming it as Jewar airport, Yogi has been fooling people while claiming development in Uttar Pradesh. He is destined to retire in his math in Gorakhpur after losing the assembly election," the Congress spokesman added.

FIT INDIA QUIZ

Montessori

from Uttar Pradesh have been Ayush Yadav of City selected in the first round and School,

INDUCTION CEREMONY

India Mission' under the aegis of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs. Students from more than 360 schools are participating. Only 16 students oath.

कार्यालय, प्राचार्य, डी०ए–वी० कालेज, कानपुर–20800 दूरमाष संख्या– 0512–2305534, 2306687 नेविदा सूचना पत्रांक–877/निविदा/2021–22

दिनांकः 12 फरवरी, 2022 डी०ए–वी० कालेज, कानपुर के केन्द्रीय पुस्तकालय में छात्रों हेतु महाविद्यालय में संचालित कला, वाणिज्य एवं विज्ञान संकाय (स्नातक एवं परास्नातक) के विषयों की Text-Book निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर सीलबंद निविदा अधिकतम छूट के साथ आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्यालय में रूपये 500/– जमा करके प्रकाशन की तिथि से दिनांक 24 फरवरी, 2022 को अपरान्ह 3:00 बजे तक पुस्तकालय से निविदा फार्म प्राप्त व जमा कर सकते हैं। निर्धारित तिथि के उपरांत/विलम्ब से प्राप्त किसी भी निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। क्रय की जाने वाली पुस्तको का विवरण एवं अन्य जानकारी प्रतकालय से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। बिना कारण बताये किसी भी निविदा को निरस्त करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी के पास सुरिक्षत रहेगा। प्राचार्य

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Nagar Campus I, were selected for Government of India's Fit India Quiz competition. Both these students will now participate in the next round of the competition. The quiz competition is being organised by the Sports Authority of India under the Government of India's 'Fit

two of them are CMS students. Rajajipuram Campus I, and Shivi Upadhyay of City Gomti The induction ceremony of MBBS and BDS batch

(2021), KGMU, will be held on Monday. The students will be addressed by the chief proctor, chief provost, DSW, dean of Faculty of Dental Sciences, dean of Faculty of Medicine, and pro vice-chancellor. KGMU spokesperson Dr Bipin Rawat said it would be followed by the White Coat ceremony and the Hippocratic



city 03

Schools, colleges Campaigning picks up pace as polling day nears to reopen today

Night curfew now from 11 pm to 6 am



Preparations underway for re-opening of schools

PNS LUCKNOW

Acases, night curfew in Uttar Pradesh has been relaxed by an hour. Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Awasthi said on Sunday that the night curfew would be imposed from 11 pm (to 6 am) instead of 10 pm.

"In the last 24 hours, 10 COVID-19 deaths were reported in Uttar Pradesh, taking the death toll in the state to 23,391. There were 15,276 active COVID-19 cases in the state on Sunday evening. The relaxation in the night

curfew comes a day after the Election Commission of India citing significant improvement in the COVID-19 situation, further relaxed pandemicinduced restrictions on the assembly poll campaigning in

Devotee dies

of suffocation

Pradesh. Earlier the government had issued a notice to reopen schools in the state for all classes from February 14, 2022. The decision was made as a part of relaxation in COVID-19 restrictions announced by the government on February

11, considering a decrease in the number of COVID-19 cases in the state. The government has made it mandatory for everyone to follow Covid safety protocols

and wear masks at all times. There should be no negligence in following these safety measures, it said. Uttar Pradesh schools have

also been asked to set up Covid Help Desks that also take care of everyone's safety. Along with this, schools have also been asked to follow all SOPs or

five states, including Uttar changes in guidelines as and

and the current BJP governwhen announced. The Uttar Pradesh govment," he said. ernment had earlier allowed Covid guidelines have made a offline classes for students of difference to the election camclasses 9 to 12. Schools were ordered shut in the state till February 6 following an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases. Later, students of higher classes were allowed to attend offline classes from February 7, while fol-lowing all Covid guidelines.

Schools, government and private offices will also be

allowed to operate at full capac-Lucknow East, is holding small ity from now onwards. Restaurants, cinema halls and meetings at the homes of vothotels can remain open if they adhere to the Covid guidelines, and a Covid Help Desk is set up. However, swimming pools and water parks will

PNS LUCKNOW

apprehensions

by the police.

weapons sold by the accused

would have been purchased by

criminals in the election sea-

son. The accused was identified

as Rajesh Vishwakarma aka

Silley of Haidergarh in

Barabanki. His aides Salamat

Khan and Magru are on the

run and they are being hunted

As Covid

for the V-Day are concerned.

campaigning from 9 am till remain closed until further noon and then from 5 pm till 7 pm. Some of them are movannouncement

Gun-making workshop busted in Chinhat The accused was running the gun-making workshop for a long time at the hideout, but weaponsmith was nabbed A from his workstation the Chinhat police came to behind an under-construction know about it only after the guest house in Chinhat police sleuths of the DCP (Crime) station area on Sunday, fuelling team gathered information

the illegal

and arrested the accused. The

police recovered two country-

made pistols of different bores,

two semi-finished country-

made pistols and four live

police that he had served jail

Vishwakarma told the

about

cartridges.

ers in different areas, in keep-

wards of the constituency,

His teams visit various

ing with Covid protocols.

SHARMILA KRISHNA

toappeal for votes.

 $E_{\text{gathered steam in the city}}^{\text{lection campaigning has}}$ with the date of polling

(February 23) round the corner. On Sunday, the candidates in poll fray went door to door

Anurag Bhadouria, who is SP candidate from Lucknow East, said he starts campaign-

ing at 6 in the morning and goes on till 11:30 pm. On Sunday, Bhadouria covered areas in Gomtinagar, including Vineet Khand, Vikram Khand,

Vinay Khand and Vivek

"I meet people personally and walk almost 30-35 km per

"I prefer not to eat anything while campaigning. However, at times when I go and meet people, they offer me biscuits and tea which I can't refuse," he

Asked to comment on the awareness levels among voters, he said they are actually interested in talking to the candi-date. "People almost instantaneously comment that they have seen me in TV debates and they tell me that they are

looking for a change. I ask people to compare the functioning

of the erstwhile SP government

Bhadouria admitted that

LUCKNOW

Khand.

added.

day," he said.

terms in similar cases in Rae Bareli and Barabanki. He said he had been into the trade for a long time and was running the workshop in Lucknow. The accused disclosed that he used to collect spare parts required and prepare

and excise officials recovered 34,000 litres of spirit filled in a tanker, 75 litres of adulterated liquor, 3 kg urea and other items worth Rs 23 lakh from the area on Sunday.

Those arrested were idened as Ankit

then visited Kalyanpur, Manas Enclave in Faridinagar on Sunday. In the evening, he covered Lekhraj Dollar market in Indiranagar. Singh, who has studied at IISC-Bangalore

SP's Ravidas Mehrotra went around Nazarbagh ward on Sunday while BSP's Mohammed Sarwar Malik (Lucknow North) campaigned in Hussainabad, Tehsinganj, Joshi Tola, Nehru Nagar, Šarai Hasanganj, Ram Ganj, Mohani Ka Purwa and Daulatganj.

problems faced by them.

President of Rashtriya Rashtrawad Party Pratap Chandra said their candidates were campaigning from door to door.

Sector, zonal magistrates imparted training

Lucknow (PNS): Training of zonal and sector magistrates was carried out for the upcoming assembly elections at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan on Sunday. District Election Officer Sthal and make sure that they Abhishek Prakash said that have all the proper stationery election is a big responsibility and the backbone of polls are sector and zonal magistrates.

reports of the inspection of booths in their respective sectors on forms 1 & 2. He said they have to send off the polling parties from Ramabai

He said the sector and

and other required material.

zonal magistrates have to reach

their sectors at 5 in the morn-

ing, carry out mock poll and

present their reports to the offi-

hours, they have to give the

information about polling to

He said that every two

cials concerned.

some people at their residences. We have a heavy breakfast and carry bun-butter and tea while on the move. Water is something which I necessarily carry," he added. AAP candidate from

Lucknow East Alok Singh campaigned in Ismailganj and

and returned from the USA, is a social and technological entrepreneur. BJP's Rajeshwar Singh

held a camp for interaction with voters at SKD Academy, Vrindavan. People talked about

paign. "I feel that as opposition candidates, we face more restrictions. When we distribute pamphlets, we are stopped by police and asked to seek (Clockwise from top) BJP's Ashutosh Tandon & Rajeshwar Singh, BSP's Mohammed Sarwar Malik and SP's Ravidas Mehrotra campaigning in Lucknow on Sunday moved to Rakabganj, prior permission. However, I ing through Indiranagar, Paharganj and Aminabad do not want to waste time on Gomtinagar, Mahanagar, these issues and proceed with the campaigning," he added. and Vikasnagar through Golaganj. Shankarpurwa. In the house meetings which he holds, res-Minister Ashutosh Tandon, who is also campaigning from

idents invite people known to them for interactions and discussions regarding the developmental works carried out by the government.

BSP candidate Ashish Chandra, who campaigned in Lucknow Central on Sunday, took out a small rally from Rajendranagar and then

We are putting in a minimum of 10-11 hours per day in campaigning. Going from door to door is helping because we happen to meet at least

PNS LUCKNOW

Heavy turnout at Banke Bihari temple led to a stampede-like situation claiming the life of a devotee at Vrindavan in Mathura on Saturday.

in temple

As per reports, a huge congregation of devotees turned out for darshan at Banke Bihari temple in Vrindavan, Mathura on 'ekadashi' on Saturday. The sudden surge of devotees wrecked the arrangements of the temple administration and soon a stampede-like situation arose and devotees were trapped and one was suffocat-ed to death.

Sources said that only 2,000 people are allowed in the temple premises in one shift due to the pandemic but on Saturday, the crowd swelled to such an extent that 65-year-old Lakshman present in the temple got trapped in the crowd and fainted. He was rushed to the nearest hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead. Chief Medical Superintendent of District Hospital, Dr SK Jain, confirmed the death due to suffocation. A case was registered and the body was handed over to the family members for car-

rying out the last rites. Meanwhile in Firozabad, a 27-year-old farmer hanged himself to death at his home in Jatau village as he was depressed by the massive damage to his crops due to heavy rains. Satyendra Kumar had

sown chilly on his three-bigha farm land and had taken another 20 bigha on rent. But recent untimely rains destroyed the crops which depressed Satyendra. The father of two boys, a two-year-old and a sixmonth-old, was found hanging

from the ceiling fan in his room. Locals confirmed that Satyendra was in a state of shock after the destruction of his crop. They said that he was heavily in debt and was reeling under pressure to pay it off.

Satyendra's elder brother Yatendra Kumar said, 'Satyendra was not eating properly for the past few days, and rarely talked to us. He was in debt and the loss disturbed him deeply.

The Firozabad district administration has assured help to the family of the deceased. Sub-Divisional Magistrate Manoj Kumar Singh said, "We are investigating the matter. The loss caused to the crop by rainfall is being assessed. We will ensure that the aggrieved family gets required assistance."

Last month, a 42-year-old farmer Rameshwar Kumar, had died of a heart attack in Narkhi block of Firozabad, after his wheat and mustard crops were destroyed by rains and hailstorm. The victim, whose body was found in a field on January 18, had sown potato in 10 bigha land and had taken on rent another 15 bigha land on which wheat was sown.

Two arrested on charges of duping job-seekers

Lucknow (PNS): A team of police station in Ghazipur district against Amardeep Singh of Ghazipur in 2020-21 on the STF nabbed two accused on the charges of duping job-seekers by promising them contractual jobs charges of duping different canin Ayush Ministry, UPMRC, Airport Authorityof India, LMC, didates of over Rs 7 lakh on the pretext of contractual jobs in Ordnance Factory, Army

Ayush Ministry. The police intensified the Nursing and other government departments. They were arrestprobe and identified Mishra ed from Gomtinagar Extension and Dubey as members of the gang which had duped several police station area on Sunday. The accused were identified youths to the tune of crores. The as Vinay Kumar Mishra of Basti team later nabbed the duo from and Vijay Kumar Dubey of near a hospital in Gomtinagar Gopalganj (Bihar). Mishra was Extension. Mishra confessed to currently staying in Gomtinagar his crime and said he worked in Extension while Dubey in different private organisations Sarojininagar. The police recovfrom 2012 to 2020. He said he ered six mobile phones, 14 fake started defrauding gullible jobappointment letters, five admit seekers. He said the gang used to cards, a four-wheeler, Rs 2,720 in charge Rs 22,000 for a contraccash, 100 CVs and other docutual job in LMC, Rs 40,000 for a ments. The polce started workjob in Lucknow Metro (18 caning on the case following reports didates duped), Rs 2 lakh for a that some gang was duping TGT teacher (14 candidates youths in the name of jobs on duped), Rs 3 lakh each from contract in different govern-TETs (3 candidates duped) and Rs 10 lakh from 25 candidates for ment departments. In the meanjobs in Ayush Ministry. time, a case was registered at a

trade Thereafter, a joint team conweapons on demand. ducted a raid at the workshop

The police failed to extract from him information about his customers. The police were yet to find if the weapon supply increased during the election season.

Meanwhile, a joint team of Krishna Nagar police, DCP Central's surveillance team area

Mutilated bodies of youth, girl found on railway track

were recovered from railway

speculations of honour killing. Police said the couple were in love and they committed suicide after their respective families refused to approve their marriage. The youth was identified as Santosh (25) while the girl as Nandini (20), both of Bahraich. "Santosh and Nandini belonged to the same village in Bahraich and were in love. Santosh was married and

while Nandini was scheduled to get married in May, 2022," the police said. It further surfaced that Nandini went missing on February 11 without

The police said both Santosh and Nandini committed suicide by jumping before a train around 11:45 pm on

Kakori, Vinay Kumar of Malihabad, Ajay Shyam of Madiaon and Sonu aka Rajesh Yadav of Sarojininagar. The accused confessed to their crime and disclosed that they used to mix the spirit,

colour and urea to prepare illicit liquor for supply to the

He said that elections have to be carried out in an organised manner and the zonal & sector magistrates have to handle if any problem occurs at any booth or at any machine or if the polling party faces any

problem. He directed the zonal and sector magistrates to have full knowledge of the polling process, of the mock poll and what to do if anyone challenges the VVPAT slips. He said the other responsibility which the sector and zonal magistrates carry is the physical inspection of booths while ensuring that A loco pilot informed the proper facilities are available for the electorate.

the control room and change the machines in their areas if they get any information about the same being faulty. The district election officer said that on the day of polling, they should move through all the polling booths and present their reports on form 3. He said that after the polling is completed, they have to see that the polling parties are returned properly. Also present at the

training was Commissioner of Police DK Thakur. He directed the zonal and sector magistrates to furnish

Free dental check-up camp held

Lucknow (PNS): Indian Dental Association, Lucknow branch, in association with others, organised a free dental check-up and awareness camp in Gomtinagar Extension on Sunday.

A team of nine doctors, led by Supratim Tripathi from the department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics, Career PG Institute of Dental Sciences and Hospital, conducted a session on dental awareness and health check-up for locals.

The camp was initiated with a survey on oral health complications post vaccination, educating individuals about common dental problems, ailments, especially on tooth decay and gum diseases and measures to prevent them. They were made aware about the eating patterns and food choices which could probably cause tooth decay. Free blood sampling for blood glucose and cholesterol was also done. Key spokesperson Dr Arvinder Singh said: "Delay in treatment of any dental ailment may lead to growth of bacteria present in the mouth causing tooth decay.

pinata cake.

Sanatkada fest from March 4

Lucknow (PNS): The 13th year of the Sanatkada Lucknow Festival will be based on the theme, 'Lucknow Ke Bawarchi Khane'. The celebrations will take place from March 4 to 8. Key organiser Madhavi Kukreja said the festival is an amalgamation of the past, keeping in mind that the last two years have shaken the community, country and planet.

"At MSLF22, we celebrate our unsung chefs, and our street food community with generations.

our theme exploring, discovering, savouring the fine cuisine, Lucknow (PNS): People are divine flavours and tastes excited for the Valentine's Day wrapped in the very special Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb," she celebrations on Monday as the Covid wave ebbs. Shabahat said.

It may be noted that the 'Awadhi Home Cooked Food Festival' is the signature and most popular event of the fescooked specialties from

tival which includes home Lucknow with recipes that have been passed down the delicacies and sparkling wine along with a Valentine cake in the shape of a heart.

'There is a Valentine spe-Husain from the Taj Mahal cial buffet in the coffee shop Hotels said they are completeand with Indian, Chinese and Continental spreads along with ly sold out as far as bookings mocktails, heart-shaped cakes, He said they are offering marshmallows and hampers. special packages, including cel-At the Alfresco, dinner will be ebrations near the swimming served in candle light for couples," he said. pool with candle light dinners

He said because of the and an exclusive set-up under a canopy with live counters for current scenario when the

Covid restrictions are almost over, people are planning to go out with their loved ones and families. "The poolside pack-ages of Rs 30,000 have sold out and other packages have also been lapped up," he pointed

out Jameel Shamsi, who is a florist, said they are expecting good sales on Valentine's Day, but the roses will be expensive.

"International flights have not resumed and hence the

flower business has been impacted. The red roses are sold during the Valentine season and the cost of the roses this year is Rs 100 per stem," he said. He added that other flowers are also expensive as the wedding season is also underway and there is a shortage of flowers. "We are catering to 10-

The bodies were sent for

12 weddings and the theme this year as always is white and red flowers of any type," he said. He said they are expecting

wave ebbs, excitement for Valentine's Day grows better sales this year as compared to last year. "We are witnessing a brisk sale of flowers even today (Sunday)," he added. He said they are also making gift packages with chocolates and flowers.

Jasjit Singh from a popular bakery said that owing to the pandemic being on the wane, celebrations are going to be brisk. He said they have cakes, pastriesand cup cakes this year but the main attraction is the

which comes with a hammer and once you break the chocolate at the top with the hammer, the cake inside is revealed. There are a number of cakes ordered by the customers with creative ideas. However, this time there is a larger percentage of people in the age group of 30-40 years instead of the younger ones placing orders for cakes," he pointed out.

"It's a heart-shaped cake

Lucknow (PNS): Mutilated Saturday. Santosh was a labourbodies of a youth and a girl er and stayed in Anna Market locality in Madiaon.

tracks in Vibhuti Khand police station area on Sunday, fuelling

station master of Malhaur about the recovery of the bodies. The station master sent a memo to the Vibhuti Khand police. Later, a police team reached the scene. The Vibhuti Khand inspector said the police recovered the

mutilated bodies from the railway tracks (near pole number 763/13). He said a phone was recovered from the scene and it helped the them in ascertainhad a 4-month-old daughter ing the identities of the deceased. The inspector said the families gave them information about the reason for the couple taking the extreme step.

informing her family. autopsy and further investigation was underway. The police were also looking for some eyewitnesses to know the sequence of events.



BJP candidates to file nomination on February 14, 16

declared just two names of

Surendra Patel (Sewapuri) and

Kishan Dixit (City South)

whereas president of Suheldev

Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP)

Om Prakash Rajbhar had

Meanwhile, the BJP has

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidates will file their nomination on February 14 and 16. City chief Vidyasagar Rai said that the candidates of all the three urban assembly constituencies of the city will file their nomination papers on Monday. According to him, the party candidate from City North Ravindra Jaiswal will start his journey from Ramashray Vatika to go to the Collectorate to file his nomination while the candidates of City North Dr Neelkanth Tiwari from Chittaranjan Park and Varanasi Cantonment constituency Saurabh Shrivastava Moti Jheel from (Mahmoorganj).

Similarly, district party president Hansraj Vishwakarma informed that the BJP candidates from Pindra and Shivpur assembly seats Dr Awadhesh Singh and Anil Rajbhar respectively will also file their nomination papers on Monday while candidate for

Aigara (SC) seat Tribhuvan Ram will file his nomination papers on February 16. Regional spokesman Navratan Rathi said that out of eight assembly constituencies of the declared that his son would district, the party has announced candidates for six contest from Shivpur. There is still confusion in the BJP camps assembly seats so far and out of as the party has yet not announced its candidates for which five candidates will file their nominations on February 14 while one on February 16.

two seats of Rohaniya and The nomination papers Sewapuri. In the last election, Rohaniya seat was won by will now only be filed on three BJP's Surendra Narayan Singh days (Feb 14, 16 and 17) as due to Sunday, no nomination process was held during the day while Sewapuri by Apna Dal (Sonelal) candidate Neel Ratna and there will also be no nom-Patel. ination activities on February 15 due to holiday. So far, the made its picture clear in transnomination papers were filed Ganga Chandauli district by in two days and only two canannouncing the candidates for didates have filed their papers. all four seats. When in the earlier list, it had declared the They are Monu Rai of Bahadur Aadmi Party (City North) and names of Sushil Singh (Saiyed Sanjeev Gond of Peoples' Party of Índia (Rohaniya). Among

Raja) and Surya Mani Tiwari (Sakaldiha), there were a lot of the major political parties, only confusions in the camps of sitting MLAs Sadhana Singh already (Mughalsarai) and Sharada announced its candidates for all Prasad (Chakia) but now in the the eight seats whereas Samajwadi Party (SP) has new list declared by the party

a day ago, it made it clear that it has denied tickets to both the sitting MLAs and now Ramesh Jaiswal will be party's candidate from Mughalsarai while Kailash Kharvar from Chakia (SC).

The party has also fielded Kali Charan Rajbhar against SBSP chief Om Prakash Rajbhar in Zahoorabad (Ghazipur). In this list of nine candidates, the others are from this region of Purvanchal (eastern UP), where the polling will be held on March 7, are Anil Maurya (Ghorawal) Sanjeev Gond (Obra-SC), both in Sonbhadra, Arvind Jaiswal (Mubarkpur) in Azamgarh, Poonam Saro (Muhammadabad Gohana-SC), Ashok Singh (Mau), both from Mau district and Mihilal Gautam (Machhlishahr-SC) in Jaunpur. However, the complete political pictures are yet not clear on many seats in the district as the aspirants of SP are still waiting for the announcement of all the names by these parties.



Sadhu offers prayers while sitting inside circle of burning "upale" (dried cow dung cakes) on the banks of river Ganga in Prayagraj

state 04

BSP list makes fight interesting

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

With the declaration of its candidates for all the eight assembly constituencies, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has made the contest interesting as well as tough in some of the assembly constituencies in the district. The BSP, which showed good promises in the parliamentary and assembly elections in the recent time, failed to perform well in 2017. However, the party's vote-bank and its social engineering card always made the poll equations interesting.

Ravi Maurya from Shivpur assembly constituency, it may make the polling tough there as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has retained its sitting MLA Anil Rajbhar while it is almost

there, though it is yet not confirmed by the Samajwadi Party (SP). The constituency has a sizable population of Rajbhars

Congress has

certain that the son of president of Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) Om Prakash Rajbhar will contest the poll

didates are Babulal Patel (Pindra) and Arun Singh Patel (Rohaniya). In Pindra, the presence of a Kurmi candidate is expected to make the fight interesting as both the BJP and Congress have fielded Bhumihar candidates—sitting and Mauryas, the two subcastes of OBC. Taking advantage of the fight between two Rajbhars, Congress has already fielded a Brahmin candidate MLA Dr Awadhesh Singh and (Girish Pandey). In such a sitformer minister Ajay Rai uation, the traditional vote respectively. In Rohaniya, the bank of these parties will decide BJP has yet not announced its the victory factor in this rural candidate while the Congress has fielded its district chief

Besides, it is also expected As the party has fielded that the BSP will also give a tough fight in all other rural constituencies of the district with its traditional vote-bank, though in the recent time the party could not perform well. În Pindra as well as Rohaniya,

constituency.

Kumar Tripathi). It has also the party has fielded Kurmi, a sub-caste of OBC. In both the fielded a Brahmin candidate constituencies. Kurmis are in Kaushik Kumar Pandey from sizable numbers. The BSP can-Varanasi Cantonment to woo the Brahmins, as the Dalit-Brahmin card had played a major role in helping the party come to power in 2007. Besides, when both the BJP and SP have fielded Brahmin candidates from City South, the BSP gave ticket to a candidate from Vaisya community (Dinesh Kasodan Gupta) while Shyam Prakash alias Rekha Rajbhar will be party's candidate from City North and Raghunath Chaudhary from Rajeshwar Patel. It was the Ajgara (SC) seat. The party has seat from where by winning the not fielded any woman candi-2012 assembly election, Union date in the district like BJP Minister Anupriya Patel came into the limelight in politics. Besides, in Sewapuri the

though the Congress has given its half of the seats to women. The SP has yet not BSP has surprisingly fielded a announced its candidates for all Brahmin candidate (Arvind the seats.

Low voting percentage always an issue in Allahabad North

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE 📕 ALLAHABAD

Allahabad North Vidhan Sabha seat of Prayagraj has always been a topic for discussion. This area is considered to be the most educated in the district. Despite this, the voting percentage is always low here. Talking about the candidates, the number of contestants here is more than in other places.

In 1962, there were at least eight candidates in the fray. At the same time, in the UP Vidhan Sabha elections 2022, at least nine candidates have been in the fray from here as compared to all the Vidhan Sabha seats in the district.

If we look at the figures,

Soraon, 25 from Pratappur, 12 from Handia, 14 from Meja, 12 from Karchana, 12 from Allahabad West, nine from Allahabad North, 13 con-tenders from Allahabad South, 12 from Bara assembly and 12 from Koraon. The total number of candidates is

In 1962, eight candidates were in the fray from the city north seat and Seven from the South. At that time there was no seat in the west assembly constituency. Six contenders came from Bara Legislative Assembly, eight from Karchana and three from Meja. The Handia assembly

from Koraon were in the fray. seat was then known as Kevai. In 2007 there were 18 con-

this time 21 from Phaphamau, There were five candidates. 15 from Phulpur, 12 from If we look at the last election figures, in 2017 there are 13 from Phaphamau, 15 from Phulpur, 15 from Soraon, 15 from Pratappur, ten from Handia, 16 from Meja, 16 from Karchana, Allahabad West 14, Allahabad North 27 while 22 candidates from Allahabad South and 16 from Bara, 14 from Koraon. In 2012, 26 from Phaphamau, 26 from Phulpur, 20 from Soraon, 16 from

Pratappur, 14 from Handia, 23

from Meja, 25 from Karchana,

19 from Allahabad West, 16

from Allahabad North, 14

from Allahabad South, 23

from Bara and 18 candidates

Phulpur seat was known as Ihunsi at that time. 13 candidates had contested from there. There were 25 candidates from Soraon, 13 from Pratappur, 14 from Handia, nine from Meja, 13 from Karchana, 10 from Allahabad West, 17 from Allahabad North, 23 from Allahabad South, 15 from Bara. At that time there were no Koraon seats. In 2002, 16 candidates from Phaphamau, 14 from Phulpur, 13 from Soraon, 16 from Pratappur, 13 from Handia, eight from Meja, 15 from Karchana, 13 from Allahabad West, 18 from North, 21 from Allahabad South and 16 from Bara were contested.

tenders from Phaphamau.

'Core concept of Management is better financial administration'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE 📕 ALLAHABAD

Better financial administra-tion is the core concept of Financial Adviser North Central Railway Ajay Mathur at Principal Financial Advisor (PFA) Award function held at Accounts Department of NCR headquarters. In this function, all the division's accounting units were connected through video conference. Awards were conferred on 72 personnel by Principal Financial Adviser. This included officers and staff the Covid pandemic, excelof all categories including Group 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D'. lent and commendable work On this occasion, while has been done by all the officers and staff of the Accounts appreciating the contribution of the Accounts Department, Mr Department. The Accounts Mathur said that better finan-Department performed comcial administration is the core mendable work not only in concept of Management. He normal circumstances, but also further said that even during in extreme circumstances like

Principal Financial Advisor of North Central Railway Ajay Mathur, Financial Advisor and Chief Accounts Officer

time bound manner.



Pioneer

aken out this vear its tradition on February 16. The preparations are going in full swing to celebrate the Jayanti of this great Sant at his birthplace in Seergoverdhan. The police have made route diversion on the occasion to facilitate the devotees to reach the Jayanti place in thousands. The Jayanti of Sant Ravidas is on February 16.

The Deputy Commissioner, Police Kashi Zone RS Gautam held a meeting with the national chairman of Sant Ravidas Trust, Seergoverdhan Acharya Bhushan Das and office-bearers of various committees which take out shobha yatra on the Jayanti of Sant Ravidas in Kotwali police station. He discussed the shobha yatra with Acharya and others.

The meeting decided to take out shobha yatra as per tradition from Maidagin to Seergovetdhan. The police officers urged Acharya and others not to carry Jhankis on heavy vehicles for the convenience of devotees and common people as well. The Jhankis based on the life of Sant Ravidas and other great personalities are the main attraction of shobha yatra. The organisers of shobha yatra were asked to seek prior permission from the con-

thus more than 2500 sewadars

have been engaged to look

Ravidasiya Dharm, will reach

the city from Jalandhar along

with the devotees by a special

train in the morning on

imposed traffic diversion on

In the meantime, the police

Saint Niranjan Das, head of

Pllgrims from Punjab continue arriving at Seer Govardhan for Sant Ravidas Jayanti programme in Varanasi.

and kitchen.

February 14.

the birthplace.

cerned authority. A total of 150 volunteers of the Civil Defense will cooperate with the police to ensure the smooth passage of shobha yatra.

The preparations for the Jayanti are going on in full swing at Jayanti place in Seergoverdhan and the German hanger is being erected for the devotees to sit. The after the arrangement of langar devotees from Punjab and other parts of the country have

started reaching to the venue in large numbers and the grand langars are being held for their food.

The trust has invited the PM Narendra Modi, CM Yogi Adityanath, CM of Punjab Charanjit Singh Channi and other dignitaries from politics and other sections of society to be part of Jayanti Samaroh and it is expected that some

politicians may join the celeed towards Harsevanand bration in view of the assembly College from Samne Ghat election in Punjab as the most bridge. of devotees of Sant Ravidas

belong to this poll-bound state. ed from Ravidas Gate towards Various pandals have been Malviya crossing and no vehimade for the devotees of varicle will be allowed to ply on the ous stages and to manage the route from Nagawa police outpost to Ravidas Gate while arrangements the control room has been established. It is no vehicle will be allowed expected that more than 5 from Malviya crossing to lakh devotees will come and Nariya.

The vehicles will be diverted from Akhri tri-junction bypass towards Mohansarai and Dafi and the vehicles will be diverted from Chitaipur crossing towards Kandwa while the vehicles will be diverted from Bhikharipur tri-junction towards Akhri. No vehicle will be allowed to ply from Manduadih to Kakarmutta-BLW and diverted towards Mahamoorganj.

the day of Jayanti. No vehicle This traffic diversion will will be allowed to ply towards remain in effect from February The vehicles coming from 14 to 18 for the convenience of Ramnagar side will be divertdevotees and common people as various programs are organised for four days though the main celebration is held on the

The vehicles will be divertday of Jayanti.

added.



Covid-19 pandemic, when continuous and tireless efforts were made and all the works like payment of salary of all employees, payment of contractors bills, monthly and annual accounting, accounting of traffic income and expenses, etc. were completed in a

General Amar Kumar Sinha, Financial Advisor and Chief Accounts Officer / Stores and Workshop Hamim Ahmed, Financial Advisor and Chief Accounts Officer / Traffic, Tripuresh Dhar Dwivedi. Financial Advisor and Chief Accounts Officer Construction Chandan Kumar Verma and Financial Advisor and Chief Accounts Officer / Finance and Budget Abhinav Gupta were present on the occasion.

The program was conducted by Deputy Financial Advisor and Chief Accounts Officer/General Gargi Umrao. Officers of all divisions and headquarters participated in this program.

SRN Hospital's cath lab waiting for the new govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ALLAHABAD

 \mathbf{F}^{or} the treatment of serious heart patients, the cath lab prepared at Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital is now waiting for the new government. As long as the election code of conduct is in force, it is difficult to start this lab because the Motilal Nehru Medical College administration is in the mood to get it inaugurated by the Health Minister or any highranking official of the government long ago.

In the cath lab, state-of-theart machines have been arranged in their respective places for angiography, angioplasty and other major operations of heart disease. Opening is pending. Although the Motilal Nehru Divisional Hospital had made preparations to start operating the cath lab in January 2022 itself, the election code of conduct came into force as soon as the

equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for angiography, angioplasty, stent placement, balloon inflating of the patient's contractile valve, etc. Small instruments will also be installed to close the hole in the heart. When this lab is operational, people will not have to run to Lucknow and Varanasi.Polling in Prayagraj is to be held in the fifth phase on February 27. If the officials are busy for this, there is no question of any political personality coming. In such a situation, the beginning of the cath lab

will remain in limbo till the election code of conduct is over. During the winter, the cases of heart attack suddenly increased. People needed angiography and angioplasty. Cath Lab could not benefit anyone. People had to spend lakhs of rupees for getting treatment

Harvana.

In the past, when the Ranji

team was announced, Parth

Mishra and Yash Dayal had got

a place in it. But Yash Daval has

joined Team India at this time.

In such a situation, Atal Bihari

Rai has been included in the

cath lab, they could have been treated at a very low cost.

in other districts whereas in the

TWO CRICKETERS team in his place.

PMSSY building will be FROM THE CITY MAKE IT Parth plays the role of an TO RANJI TEAM: Two more all-rounder in the team. He is cricketers from Sangam city adept at getting quick runs in will now be seen in the Ranji the middle order with the left team. Parth Mishra and Atal hand, while bowling the leg Rai of the city have been selectbreak with the right hand. ed in the UP Ranji team. UP's Parth got a job in AGUP under first match will be against sports quota this month. At the Vidarbha from February 17 to same time, Atal Rai is a medi-20. In this match, considering um pace bowler and has been the playing style of Parth and in discussion about his line and Atal Rai, they are being considlength. ered to be fixed. There is a wave of happi-

Earlier, the Ranji Trophy ness among cricket lovers after was scheduled to be held from the news of both the players January 13. But this competijoining the UP Ranji team. tion was postponed due to COVID-19. Now this will be Now they are expected to perform well. So that they can also the abridged version. Under present thier claims for the which UP will play its match from February 17. All the matches of UP will be held in Indian team. WEBINAR: Association

of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) and Directorate of International Education and Training (DIET), Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture and Technology, Prayagraj will organise a webinar on Management of Personal Finances on February 14.

'Treat jaundice in newborn timely'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Gaundice is one of the common diseases in newborn babies. Clinical jaundice is suspected in 60 per cent of full term babies and 80 per cent of premature babies, but with a little vigilance and timely treatment, this disease is completely cured. Therefore, if the newborn has jaundice, then it should not be treated by the quacks which can also be fatal for the newborn,' said Dr Mridula Mallick, pediatrician and in-charge of SNCU (Sick Newborn Care Unit) in Government

Hospital.

According to her, jaundice can occur at any age. In adults, this disease occurs due to infection, while in newborn this disease occurs due to different reasons. The ability to fight disease in the newborn is very less. Due to prolonged jaundice in the newborn, his hemoglobin decreases and he can also go into a coma. 'If not treated on time, its disease can take a serious form and can even be fatal, said Dr Mridula.

She informed that out of 738 newborns admitted to SNCU in the year 2020-21, 316 Women's had jaundice. A total of 90 babies have been admitted to SNCU since January this year. In this, 38 were brought here due to jaundice. However after the treatment all are healthy. There are two types of jaundice in newborns--pathological and physiologic. The symptoms of pathological jaundice appear within 24 hours of the birth of the child and need to be treated whereas the symptoms of physiologic jaundice appear within 24 to 72 hours after the birth of the child. It grows for five to seven days. It does not require treatment,' she said.

Dr Mridula further said that there are many reasons for

these, the excess of bilirubin cells in the blood of the child is a major reason. 'The difference in blood group (Rh & ABO) of mother and child also becomes the cause of jaundice. Apart from this, due to any infection, there is a lot of possibility of jaundice in the newborn, she said, adding that initially the face of the baby starts turning yellow due to jaundice apart from eyes, nails and skin. 'The delay in its treatment after the symptoms of jaundice are seen can be harmful for the newborn,' she

jaundice in newborns. Among

second week began. SRN's



state 05



District Magistrate, City Neha Sharma takes part in signature campaign as part of Voter Awareness Programme.

Pioneer

FIR against 39 poll duty staff absent from training

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

Chief Development Officer Dr Mahendra Kumar said FIRs had been lodged against 39 employees found absent from election training without any information.

He said all employees listed for election duty were training would be imparted to them at Polytechnic in three sessions. He said out of 3,000 employees, 41 returning offi-cers, 27 polling officers, 29 second polling officers and 39 third level polling officials totaling 136 were found absent any reason for their absence.

in 10 sessions and 30 second doses and 425 booster doses of the Covid vaccine were administered to 455 employees on poll duty. He said during the training session, the employees listed for poll duty were given identity cards along with hand sanitisers and masks. He said informed well in advance that apart from this the election material in a bag was also handed over to the each personnel. He said keeping in view the COVID-19 situation, an office had been set up where the PPE kit was provided to the poll duty personnel and they were also explained the process out of which 39 failed to give of postal ballot and how it was

He said during the training, vaccination was carried out

He said 74 booths had been set up in Bilhaur, 79 in Bithoor, 330 in Kalyanpur, 180 in Govind Nagar, 116 in Sisamau, 88 in Aryanagar, 247 in Kidwai Nagar, 124 in Cantonment, 253 in Maharajpur and 91 in

Ghatampur. He said this time special provisions had been made for postal ballots especially for the employees on election duty and other personnel who would be preoccupied in election duty could also cast their votes through postal ballots. He said special training

had been imparted to the employees and they had been to be carried out in the right trained to maintain social disgood governance.

tancing. He said there shall be no crowding in queues before the polling booths and the voters would wait for their turn in the waiting areas specially being created for them. AWARENESS: Kanpur

Nagar District Magistrate Neha Sharma has asked the students of IIT-Kanpur to prepare a video to create awareness among the masses to cast their vote on the polling day. This video shows how the students who had taken part in the Antaragini had prepared a video appealing how to vote, whom to vote and how to be part of the whole exercise which is meant to select a fair government for progress and

Covid booster provides stronger protection

KANPUR (PNS): The working body member of the Central Indian Academic of Paediatric, Dr Vipin Mohan, while addressing a seminar on Omicron vaccine' on Sunday, said despite taking double dose of the Covid vaccine, 39 per cent of people were affected in the third wave of COVID-19. He said the coronavirus

had affected majorly the adults and not the children. He said the Omicron variant of the coronavirus had spread rapid-ly across the globe, and researchers were racing to understand how vaccines would hold up against this new variant of the coronavirus. He said several preliminary

studies had assessed the effectiveness of current Covid vaccines in use against the Omicron variant. He said one or two doses of the vaccines provided far less protection than those paired with a booster, but they still did appear to be protected against severe disease. He said studies conducted

in the lab and the real time showed that full vaccination stronger protection against infection with Omicron. He said it was important to remember most of these were lab studies and may not reflect the vaccines' real-world performance.

It may be mentioned here that early estimates suggest that vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic infection with Omicron was significantly lower compared with the Delta variant.

risk of reinfection with Omicron was 5.4 times greater than the Delta variant and also afforded little protection against reinfection with Omicron. He said this was a contagious virus that spread not only among the unvaccinated but it also spread among vaccinated persons, although the illness it produced among the vaccinated, particularly if one had a booster, was generally mild and even without symptoms.

Dr Ashish Biswas, Dr Ambrish Gupta, Dr JK Tambe, Dr Ashish Srivastava and several others.

Financial

CMD visits NTPC Singrauli

CORRESPONDENT SONBHADRA

Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of NTPC Limited Gurdeep Singh and senior officials visited NTPC Singrauli. Singh closely inspected the operating systems of the power plant and gave various instructions for power generation with high quality maintenance. In a review meeting with senior officials, he said

it is a matter of pride that NTPC Singrauli project for the past 40 years by producing uninterrupted power is lighting up the country. NTPC Singrauli is also one of the best projects in the country in projects in the country in power generation. He said we have to keep working continuously to realise our resolve to

light every house. NTPC has become a symbol of credibility in this country and is developing in a phased manner as per the expectations of the Government of India. He said that, NTPC is not only synonymous with lighted India but also a mirror of social development, directly and indirectly innumerable people are ben-efiting from NTPC. On the

occasion Director (Operations) Ramesh Babu V, Regional

Executive Director (RED) Debashish Sen, Executive Director (Operation Services) AK Tripathi, Executive Director (Engineering) MK Srivastava, Executive Director

instructions. Before the meeting, all the invited dignitaries were traditionally welcomed by the NTPC Singrauli family. In his welcome address Project Head Basuraj Goswami,



(Safety) C Sivakumar while appreciating the achievements of the power plant and gave necessary instructions to strengthen the working system according to the standards of safety environment operation. During the plant visit Gurdeep Singh inaugurated the FGD crusher house civil work and by inspecting various units and important works of the plant, including track hopper and safety park, also gave necessary

while expressing his sincere gratitude to all the dignitaries, thanked them for their efficient guidance and assured that NTPC Singrauli project will always make its highest contribution in the interest of the country and society. A meeting with the senior officials as well as the public representatives of the power plant was also organised in the review meeting and were given thanks for their positive suggestions.

said that such events were

Observers appointed for poll

Singh, liaison officers and

Meanwhile, to become

other officials concerned.

CORRESPONDENT MIRZAPUR

 $F_{
m general}^{
m or\ holding\ the\ assembly}$ aware with the works in the district two expenditure observers, Dilip Kumar Vishwas and Prashant Kumar, held a meeting through Zoom fair, transparent and peaceful manner five general observers (one for each assembly constituency) and two expenditure observers have been appointed in the district by Election App with District Deputy

Election Officer Shiv Pratap Commission of India (ECI).

Shukla, Chief Treasury Officer Raj Kumar Gupta along with In view of the arrival of the observers, Deputy District Election Officer/Additional flying squad teams, video surveillance teams and assistant District Magistrate (ADM expenditure observers. After F/R)) Shiv Pratap Shukla in a being introduced with the meetig of returning officers team incharges observers gave necessary directions and and liaison officers organised became aware with the works at Collectorate on Saturday directed the officials concerned which had been done. CTO Raj Kumar Gupta stated that the inspection of the income to make all arrangements time-

being organised with the pur-pose of making the voters aware for a heavy turn out on the polling day. She appealed to the gathering to celebrate the polling day as a festival of democracy under which we had to keep the voting on top priority. She said that as a responsible citizen it was our duty that we vote first and then convince more and more to exercise their franchise in the direction of strengthening the democracy. She said that we should come forward to ensure 100 per cent voting. On the occasion singing and poster competitions were held and top three participants were honoured by the CDO. Principal GIC Raj Kumar Dixit the guest of honour on the occasion while the judges were Veena Goenka, Suneeta Pandey, Monika Singh and other experts. In singing competition Nandini Prajapati, Priyanshi Rajvanshi and Mitali Gupta secured first, second and third positions while in poster making competition Vanshika Gupta, Krishna Kumar and Ujala came first, second and

third respectively. TWO ARRESTED:

imparted special training than enough speed for every- ment did was to adopt remedial

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

fter four drivers of e-buses

A failed the driving test and were part of the meeting, including removal from serover a dozen just scraped strongly believe that there is vice. Insiders from the in cam-through it, the district admin- some fault in the accelerators era meeting said that the entire of that the control score should and hand brakes of the ebuses. It was also brought to the notice that special training was thus needed for the drivers to handle the e-buses, especially in dangerously crowded and narrow roads of Kanpur. An official pleading anonymity said the reason for this was that electric motors grounded the e-buses till the drivers were imparted special were much simpler than internal combustion engines and training for driving these fast traditional fuel cars, and the moving buses, but in Kanpur power also had to go through Nagar, the buses have been more moving parts, like the grounded just for three days. gearbox, making them less chaired by the divisional comefficient. According to an automomissioner, decided that only bile engineer from Telangana, those who had valid driving from the time the e-buses were licence would be allowed to run the buses and fitness of both introduced on the roads there have been at least four major bus and drivers need to be road accidents involving these monitored. fueled buses and have more buses and what all the govern-

day usage. measures including retraining The police officials, who of drivers and punishment,

Drivers of e-buses to be

there should be fixed hours of duty for the drivers and in case measures including retraining of any action the supervisor would take quick and imme-

plus a booster shot provided

He said it indicated that the previously having COVID-19

Those who took part were

istration has come under attack for hurriedly deploying the ebuses' fleet without safety trials and driver efficiency tests. The district administration has issued a 13-point advisory. It has also come to light

that a big section of drivers were not released the salaries while more than 50 per cent, who had signed a salary contract of Rs 15,700, were being given only Rs 9,734 with no limit of working hours.

Officials of the KNN and HBTU and bus manufacturers have been discussing the technical aspects of the e-buses. Though the details of the meeting have not been disclosed to the media, it has come to light that the e-buses accelerate much faster than the petrol

be set up on top priority and buses should have helpline expenses were to be borne by the bus manufacturing comnumbers painted on them. pany which was running these It was also decided that the buses on contract. After the meeting, the district officials

panic button should be made decided to impart training to functional and route charts the drivers running the e-buses should be prepared with special focus on timely arrival and without any special training. The Telangana state had departure from bus bays.

It was also decided that the police should also maintain a vigil on the e-buses and all CCTVs would be made functional, and in case any camera was not functional strict action The meeting, which was would be taken. It was also decided to deploy enough police force at the control rooms and prepare a special dashboard for monitoring. It was recommended that there should be rest rooms for the drivers with proper canteen It was also decided that and toilet facilities.

management in start-ups discussed

KANPUR (PNS): Prof Mahesh Mishra from the School of Management, Roorkee, while addressing a virtual seminar on 'Requirement of financial management in start-ups' organised by Innovation and Incubation Ćell at Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur, said a sound financial management plan was the basic step to keep one's business solvent and profitable.

He said many businessmen started their businesses without focusing on capital management which resulted in failure and insolvency. He advised that they need to focus mainly on cash flow.

He said not just during the startup period, throughout the entire lifetime as a business owner and entrepreneur one must focus on cash flow. He said starting off it was important to negotiate good terms with suppliers and stick to those terms. He said the other side was when it came to sending out invoices, one should make sure they were done in a timely fashion as much as possible after the work had been done. He advised that one must make sure when one sends an invoice one should undertake good credit control procedures. He suggested that there was a need for building strong relationships as a strong network went a long way when one launched a startup and beyond. He suggested that one should develop relationships with suppliers, clients, connected companies and even a trusty accountant, if one had one. He said these were the people that would keep the business afloat. He also advised that one should make sure one claimed everything one could during tax season. He said to be able to do that accurately, one needed to keep note of every little detail and outgoing that could be reclaimed.

Ashtabhuja guest house, Hindalco guest house and Chunar cement factory guest house had been allotted for the stay of the observers. He told the liaison officers to ensure the availability of high quality computer, furniture and telephone facility in the rooms. On the other hand, the ARTO was directed to make proper vehicles available to the observers. The DDEO made it clear that the arrival of the observers was expected on February 16 so all arrangements should be done till February 14 positively. The meeting was attended by all returning officers, City Magistrate Vinay Kumar Singh, deputy colectors Bharat Lal Saroj and Ashwini Kumar

v He said that the rooms at expenditure registers were to be done minimum three times. He said inspection was to be held on February 22, February 28 and March 6 from 11 am to 5. He has informed the candidates that on the fixed dates they or their authorised representatives will come to Jila Panchayat hall along with the relevant papers of expenditure and the inspection will be done in the meeting presided over by the observer. APPEAL: Under the joint

venture of district administration and Rotary Club, SVEEP competition was organised on Saturday in which the participants were of more than 18 years. Addressing the gath-Chief Development ering Officer (CDO) Srilaxmi VS

Kachhawaan police arrested two persons and recovered eight bicycles on Saturday. As per the reports received here, Kachhawaan police during routine patrolling on being tipped off by an informer raided a house in Godhana village under police station Kachhawaan. During the search the police recovered the four bicycles from the residence of Manish Bind. On his identification the police raided the residence of Ashfaque Ansari of Jalalpur village and recovered four more bicycles. After registering a case in this connection the police arrested the two and sent them to jail.

On the other hand, Chunar police have arrested three accused under DP Act.

Training programme concludes

PNS VARANASI

Under the guidance of General Manager (GM), Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW), Anjali Goyal, and leadership of Principal Chief Medical Officer (PCMO) Dr Devesh Kumar, a six-day medical management information system training programme successfully completed at Central Hospital, BLW, on Saturday. In this training programme 10 medical officers and assistant nursing officers of the hospital, 37 nursing staff, 17 pharmacists, nine lab staff, three X-ray staff, nine office staff and two assistants working at the registration counter were given training on this subject. With the aim of providing treatment facility under Ayushman Bharat in BLW also on the last day of the training programme Divisional Medical Officers (DMOs) Dr SK Maurya and Dr Tanmay Anand gave training on gen-eration of Ayushman Bharat Health Account ID (ABHA ID) and Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM). At the end PCMO Dr Devesh Kumar said that after this train-

holder employee or their famsystem. Public Relations Officer (PRO) Rajesh Kumar said that UMID card holders will be able ily members will be able to take appointment from any doctor to take emergency facilities in through online mode and without waiting in the queue can any railway hospital located in India. Staff Council member consult the doctor concerned which will save a lot of time. In Naveen Sinha also spoke. In this programme training has this programme besides



been given to the medical personnel on all subjects like registration and OPD module, IPD and nursing module, inventory and local purchase, referral, billing and mobile app etc so that all these tasks can be done in paperless manner through online system. Training programme was organised for all the medical officers and paramedical staff concerned of the hospital for ing any railway UMID card treatment by pan India HMIS

Medical Officer Dr Sunil Kumar, Dr PR Thakur, Dr SK Sharma, Dr Madhulika Singh, Dr SK Maurya and Assistant Nursing Officer Geeta Kumari Chaudhary, hospital's nursing, pharmacy and lab staff were present along with general sec-retary of Other Backward Classes Association Hari Shankar Yadav and motivated all the railway personnel to get the facility digitally by getting UMID cards made.

NSI develops water controlling system

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

In pursuit of developing low cost, indigenous technologies, National Sugar Institute has developed an automation system for controlling water requirements for condensers of vacuum systems.

In sugar factories juices and other sugar liquors are boiled under vacuum so as to enable low temperature boiling so as to minimise colour development and sugar losses and by doing so, instead of carrying out boiling at 103-105 degree Centigrade, the boiling was done at 55-60 degree C. In conventional condensers, vacuum is created by injecting cold water to condense water vapour and extract air.

Generally, the quantity of water for the purpose is not regulated as per vapour load and thus even under the circumstances when lesser quantities of vapours are to be condensed, the water quantity remains the same. Thus, an unnecessarily higher amount of injection water is pumped necessitating higher power consumption.



NSI Director, Prof Narendra Mohan displays the new technology developed by institute

In the system developed controlled sensing vacuum, under the supervision of vapour temperature, injection Virendra Kumar, senior instruwater and outlet water temmentation engineer and perature. The trials confirmed installed in Experimental Sugar lesser water requirement and Factory of the institute, the thus decreased power conquantity of injection water was sumption by around 25 per

cent. Although there are a few systems available for the purpose, NSI wanted to develop a low cost and sturdy system which was user-friendly too.

Pioneer



nation 06

₹5,35,000 cr bank frauds during Modi era: RaGa

PNS NEW DELHI

Taking a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said that bank frauds to the tune of ₹5,35,000 crore have happened so far in the "Modi era" and that fraud of that magnitude has never happened before in 75 years since India's independence.

His party, Congress, which is on a high pitched poll battle in five crucial States including Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, said that the biggest bank frauds in Indian history has been allegedly committed by Gujarat-based ABG shipyard and right under the patronage of BJP led and Centre State

Governments. The Congress, which will also put its stakes in the Gujarat Assembly polls later this year where it lost with a whisker in the last polls, said "India's Biggest Bank Fraud in 75 years has taken place under Modi Government watch during the period of seven years ever since Nàrendra Modi became the Prime Minister and is completely respon-



sible to have wrecked the nation's 'Banking System'.

Taking to Twitter to criticise the PM, Rahul Gandhi said that the Modi-led Government has defrauded the people of India and that the current era is only good for PM Modi and his "friends".

Congress at a Press conference referred to the bank frauds allegedly committed by Gujarat-based ABG Shipyard, owned by Rishi Agarwal and others for duping 28 Banks, including State Bank of India. He alleged that delay in the



case proves 'complicity, collusion and connivance of those sitting in the highest echelons of power in the Modi government'. "India woke up to the rude

shock of the biggest ever bank fraud of ₹22,842 crore in the last 75 years. Post a 5-year delay, dilly-dallying and permitting brazen embezzlement of public money, the CBI has finally registered an FIR on 7th February 2022, against Gujaratbased ABG Shipyard owned by Rishi Agarwal and others for duping 28 Banks, led by State Bank of India," Congress chief spokesman Randeep Singh Surjewala said at an AICC press conference from Chandigarh. He also alleged that the Modi government is running a "loot & escape" flagship scheme for Bank fraudsters.

"The fraudsters lists include --Nirav Modi, i.e Chhota Modi, Mehul Choksi, Ami Modi, Neeshal Modi, Lalit Modi, Vijay Mallya, Jatin Mehta, Chetan Sandesara, Nitin Sandesara and many others with close connection and affection to the ruling establishment. Rishi Agarwal

& others are the new 'GEMS' of the 'Shehenshah'" said Surjewala, questioning the delay on the part of CBI to file the case.

"Another intriguing facet is that ABG Shipyard was allotted 1,21,000 square metres of land in 2007 by Gujarat Govt headed by the then Chief Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. The CAG indicted the Gujarat Govt for undue favouring ABG Shipyard & Rishi Agarwal for allot-Simplyard & Risin Agai war for an or-ting land at $\overline{7}700$ per square metre, while the price of land was 100 per-cent higher, i.e, $\overline{7}$ 1,400 per square metre," Surjewala mentioned.

"Another amazing facet is that despite the CAG report, the Gujarat Govt headed by the then CM, Narendra Modi proceeded to allot 50 hectares of land to ABG Shipyard & Rishi Agarwal in Dahej, Gujarat. The Dahej project was shut down by ABG Shipyard in the year 2015, Surjewala said sharing the details at the Press meet.

"Why did it take 5 years after the liquidation proceedings of ABG Shipyard to lodge even an FIR for duping 28 banks of ₹22,842 crore ?", Surjewala asked.

Scamsters easily getting bail whereas farmers are committing suicide: Varun

New Delhi: Dissident BJP Member of Parliament Varun Gandhi on Sunday voiced himself against "easy grant of bails" and "settlement" to those involved in crores of rupees frauds in several banks while, he said, farmers and shopkeepers are "committing suicide" as they are "unable to pay their small debts to banks".

Indirectly attacking the Government on 'delayed' CBI probe against ABG Shipyard Ltd Rishi Kamlesh Agarwal allegedly involved in ₹22,842 crore fraud in 28 banks, Varun said scamsters are easily getting bail and "get back to their plush living" by "bargaining on their own

terms" In a tweet, the BJP MP tagged newspaper reports on CBI probe into ABG Shipyard Limited along with "suicide" by a small farmer Govind Singh in Jalaun district, Uttar Pradesh, who was "unable to pay bank loan taken for daughter's marriage and unable to pay due to deficient rain..".

It has also a report saying CBI lodged a complaint against the company for fraud way back in March Nov 8, 2019. Varun wondered how big industrialists get easy bails while property of a farmer and a small shopkeeper is immediately " seized".

"Desh ka kisan ya chota dukandar hazaron rupayon bhi Karz na chuka paye to uski kurki hogi ya unhain atmhatya ke liye majboor hona padta hain, Lekin hazaron crore ki chori karne walon ko asani se jamanat mil jati hain aur ye log man mani keemat par len-den kar phir se apne vaibhavshali jeevan main laut jatain hain..", said the Pilibhit MP who has, in recent months, been attacking the Modi-Government on several issues, including its economic policies.

The CBI on Saturday booked ABG Shipyard Ltd and its then Chairman and Managing Director for defrauding a consortium of State Bank of India of over ₹22,842 crore in its biggest bank fraud case. PNS

Centre approves police force modernisation scheme for five years, allocates ₹26,275 crore Territories. This scheme comprises all rel-

 $T^{\rm he\ Centre\ has\ allotted\ Rs\ 26,275\ crore}_{\rm for\ continuation\ of\ police\ moderniza-}$ tion in States. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Sunday said that provision has been made under the scheme for internal security, law and order, adoption of modern technology by police, assisting States for narcotics control and strengthening the criminal justice system by developing a robust forensic set-up in the country.

The Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved continuation of the umbrella scheme of Modernisation of Police Forces (MPF). The approval for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26, moves forward the initiative of the Union Home Minister Amit Shah to modernise and improve the functioning of Police Forces of States and Union

evant sub-schemes that contribute to modernization and improvement with a total Central financial outlay of Rs.26,275 crore," said the MHA in a statement.

Majority of the scheme is allotted for Jammu and Kashmir, insurgency affected North Eastern States Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas. Rs.18,839 crore is allotted for the police modernization in these areas. The Scheme for modernization of State police forces has a Central outlay of Rs.4,846 crore. "To develop opera-tionally independent high-quality forensic sciences facilities in States/Union Territories for aiding scientific and timely investigation through modernization of resources. A central Scheme for Modernisation of Forensic Capacities with outlay of Rs.2,080.50 crore has been approved," said MHA

ED arrests Agarwal of Ghanshyamdas Jewels for money laundering and ₹67cr loss to SBI

PNS NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Sanjay Agarwal, Managing Partner of Ghanshvamdas Gems & Jewels on money laundering charges in a loan fraud case in which State Bank of India, Hyderabad, suffered a loss of Rs 67 crore.

The ED had initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by Banking Securities and Fraud Branch, CBI, Bangalore under various sections of Indian Penal Code (IPC). Subsequently, the CBI regis-

tered another FIR against Sanjay Agarwal and others relating to fraudulently removing gold and jewellery hypothecated to PNB against gold loan availed by his



firm and thereby causing a loss of Rs 31.97 crore to Punjab National Bank (PNB).

Investigation by ED revealed that Agarwal was engaged in wholesale trading of gold. In 2010 and 2011, he fraudulently pro-cured gold bullion from SBI by producing fake and forged Bank Guarantees and covering letters purportedly issued by PNB and sold the gold bullion in local market to various jewellers and small traders in cash

The cash generated was diverted to several other firms floated by Agarwal in the name of his wife,

brothers and his employees. Later, after the default on the gold loan happened, SBI found that the bank guarantees and letters were

forged. On August 17, 2011, Agarwal and his brothers Ajay and Vinay clandestinely removed the entire stock of gold and jewellery kept at their store in Abids, Hyderabad. The stock was already hypothecated to the PNB against gold loan availed by the firm.

Agarwal was already lodged in Kolkata jail in another ED case related to diversion of 'duty-free export bound gold' into the domestic market. He was produced before the PMLA Special Court Hyderabad on February on Friday on a Production Warrant and he was remanded to

15-day judicial custody.

posts against SC, HC judges व्यत CENTRAL BUREAU

2 advocates, businessman held

by CBI for derogatory online

PNS NEW DELHI

The CBI has arrested three I more accused, including an advocate, for making derogatory posts on social media against judges and judi-

ciary. The CBI has registered case are advocate Kalanidhi Gopala Krishna Kalanidhi, several cases/FIRs against the businessman Chandrasekhar accused allegedly involved in Hyderabad-based software intentionally targeting the judges and judiciary through engineer. interviews/social media/posts/speeches in online platforms, maliciously attributing ulterior motives in delivery

The number of accused arrested in the case went up to 14 with these arrests. Two more accused persons wanted

In November 2020, the

Earlier, the Crime

(CID) of Andhra Pradesh had

registered 12 FIRs on the issue

and these cases were trans-

The accused allegedly

The cases/FIRs were

registered on the orders of

the Andhra Pradesh High

Court on writ petition

9.166 of 2020

Metta

and a

IMD predicts dense fog in UP, Punjab, Haryana in 24 hrs PNS NEW DELHI

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted dense fog conditions during night and morning hours are very likely to prevail n isolated r

Minimal jewellery, no visit to duty free: Air India's new advisory to cabin crew

RAJESH KUMAR 📕 NEW DELHI

Air India has advised its cabin crew members to adhere to minimum jewellery to avoid unnecessarily delay at customs and security check up, avoid visiting duty free shops hoarding gat after checks to improve airline on-time performance.

jewellery in order to avoid any delays at customs or security checks at airports.

Once on board, the cabin crew should only wear the items of PPE kit which are required to be worn as per the circular (hea

with emphasis on minimum not visit duty free shops and proceed to the boarding gate soon after completing immigration and security checks," it said. The cabin crew has also

been asked not to consume

beverages or eat food prior to

parts of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh during the next 24 hours. The minimum temperature is expected to rise 2 to 5 degree Celsius in north, northwest and central India in the next two to five days.

"Dense fog is very likely to prevail in several regions of northern Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh during the next 24 hours," the IMD said on Sunday. The IMD said there will be gradual rise in minimum temperatures by 2-4 degree Celsius very likely over most parts of Northwest and most parts of Central India during the next four days. "There will be no change in minimum temperature in east India during the next four days. "Shallow to Moderate



Fog Conditions during

night/morning hour," it added The Western Himalayan Region is very likely to receive scattered to fairly widespread light rainfall/snowfall and light isolated to scattered rainfall over plains of northwest India from February 17-20.

Meanwhile, the IMD has predicted isolated to scattered ight rainfall/snowfall very likely in Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan and Muzaffarabad during February 13-16 and over Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand on

February 15-16. Parts of southern Tamil Nadu districts have also been witnessing rainfall due to a feeble trough over the Comorin area and strong northeasterly winds prevailing over coastal Tamil Nadu.

According to Skymet, central and East India usually occur due to the formation of a confluence zone or movement of a cyclonic circulation from west to east. During the next week, these two types of weather systems may form leading to scattered rain.

Further the crew have been advised to complete mandatory pre-flight checks and not to delay passenger boarding. The latest advisory came weeks after Air India's cabin crew objected to the company's circular mandating body mass index (BMI) and weight checks for cabin crew prior to embarking on flights.

In a communication issued on Sunday, Air India executive director (IFS) Vasudha Chandna mentions several steps to maintain OTP on all flights across the network and prevent delays that could occur due to cabin crew. The crew have been told to adhere to regulations regarding uniforms

foot covers have been withdrawn) in the shortest possible time and complete the mandatory checks before/well within the prescribed timings. Do not delay mandatory pre-flight check clearance which may be attributable to cabin crew," it

said. ...to maintain OTP on all flights across the network and prevent delays occurring due to cabin crew," the crew has been asked to proceed to immigration (at outstations) as soon as they complete check-in formalities," it said. The cabin crew must not wait for the commander at movement control/check in counter (at outstation) and proceed to the aircraft well with in time.

"The cabin crew should

the boarding of the i or during that process and assist in swift boarding of the guests, Chandna said in the communication.

Asking the cabin crew staff not to delay the mandatory preflight check clearance, which may be attributed to the cabin crew, it has advised cabin supervisor to give clearance for boarding to the ground staff before or well within the prescribed timings. Cabin supervisor must ensure that all cabin crew are present in the cabin. Besides, the airline has also sought the cabin crew proceeding to the cabin crew movement control office or MCO or immigration(at outstations) after completing their check-in formalities.

ders/judgments The cases/FIRs were regisarrested.

tered on the orders of the CBI had registered a case under Andhra Pradesh High Court on a writ petition 9166 of various sections of the Indian 2020. Searches were conduct-Penal Code and Information Technology Act against 16 pered at 10 locations including office/residential premises of sons for making derogatory accused/suspects in Andhra remarks against judges and Pradesh and Telangana, wherejudiciary. in incriminating evidences Investigation Department were recovered.

CBI has also arrested three accused including an advocate, businessman from Hyderabad.

ferred to the CBI for further The arrested accused perprobe. sons were produced before the jurisdictional court at Guntur made derogatory social media (Andhra Pradesh) and were posts against judges, intenremanded to judicial custody. tionally targeting them follow-Investigation in the cases is ing certain verdicts delivered by the Andhra Pradesh High continuing.

The arrested accused in the Court.

PUNJAB GETS LIVINGSTONE FOR ₹ 11.50 CR, PACERS GET GOOD DEALS

Among other Indians, all-rounder Shivam Dube fetched Rs 4 crore from Chennai Super Kings for his six-hitting abilities, while Gujarat Titans bagged another out-of-favour multi-skilled player in Vijay Shankar for Rs 1.4 crore.

CSK also picked up little-known Sri Lankan spinner Mahesh Theeksana (70 lakh), who looked impressive against India when they toured the island nation in July last year. Cheteshwar Pujara predictably went unsold at the auction while Ajinkya Rahae got a base price of Rs 1 crore from Kolkata Knight Riders.

The first session's highlight was the auction for Livingstone, who hit the million dollar plus mark with five teams bidding for him at one point of time. However, when Livingstone played for Rajasthan Royals in the previous season he didn't actually perform well on slow tracks, but the franchises, with slots available (minimum 18 per squad), looked desperate for him.

Marco Jansen, the South African pacer. who tormented India during the last Test series between the two sides, got Rs 4.2 crore from Sunrisers Hyderabad.

The two teams that engaged in the bidding war were SRH and Punjab, with more than Rs 20 crore and Rs 28 crore in their kitty at the start of the day. Odean Smith's price shot up as he recently impressed with

his pace and control against India in the ODI series and also showed that he can hit the ball a long way. Smith has had the reputation of breaking Chris Gayle's bat during the Caribbean Premier League with his sheer pace and no wonder Punjab went the distance with their adequate resources.

"I think, it is not just about the recent performances, we all know he (Odean) is an upcoming talent and he has showcased his ower, bowling skills and also his batting skills and we saw that on display against India here in the one-dayers," Punjab Kings head coach Anil Kumble said.

"So we have been tracking the players for a while and we are very glad that someone like Odean as an all-rounder for us we have been able to secure, so really happy with that player for Punjab," he added.

CULTIVATE MORE LOW GI **RICE TO FIGHT RISING DIABETES: EXPERTS**

"Considering increased shift towards sedentary lifestyle in the majority of the population, necessary policy changes are to be made at various levels to increase the cultivation of low GI rice in the country," lead author of the study, D Sanjeeva Rao from Indian Institute of Rice (IIRR) said.

His colleagues J Aravind Kumar, V Ravindra Babu, R M Sundaram, Ananthan and T Longvah co-authored the study published in the latest edition of the journal Current Science.

FROM PAGE 1

Most rice varieties in India are of high GI, a food quality said to contribute to the health problems surrounding high-calorie intake and dysregulated glucose metabolism. Manipulation of GI through various approaches is considered to significantly lp in the fight against diabetes and related diseases.

The scientists also noted that paddy procured from the farmers is processed to milled rice and sold in the market under various brand names, and often the varietal purity is compromised.

Hence, they emphasized that it is equally important to indicate the original name of the variety, GI value, and available carbohydrate value on the label to translate the advantages of this research to society. The IIRR has already identified three rice varieties with low GI values which are considered suitable for diabetic patients. These are Lalat (GI=53.17), BPT 5204 (GI=51.42) and Sampada (GI=51). Also, named the 'Telangana Sona', yet another low GI rice variety has been developed by researchers at Professor Jayaprakash Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU).

India is known as the diabetes capital of the world with above 77 million adults suffering from diabetes, this number is expected to increase to 134 million by 2045. According to the World Health Organisation, diabetes mellitus is considered as one of the major causes of blindness, kidney failure, heart attack, stroke and lower-limb amputation.

VOTING FOR 55 UP SEATS TODAY

Leading his party campaign, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav has said, "Azam Khan is in jail for building a university, son of a Union minister is out of jail in the case of running car over farmers. This is the new India of the BJP," when bail was granted to Union Minister Ajay Mishra's son Ashish in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case.

Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati had alleged that the Samajwadi Party government ended the Jatav-Muslim brotherhood in western Uttar Pradesh while Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi focused her campaign on women welfare.

With the elections being held amid the COVID-19 scare, the chief electoral officer said all necessary arrangements had been made to ensure free, fair, transparent and Covid-safe polling. The first phase of the seven-phase

Uttar Pradesh polls was held on February 10. The results will be declared on March

BIG GUNS ON POLL TRAIL IN PUNJAB

He also raised sensitive issues of drugs, national security and the 1984 anti-Sikh riots to attack the ruling Congress Party, urging the people of Patiala to give a

chance to Modi and the BJP Government. "We will eradicate drugs from Punjab. Our goal is to make Punjab drug-free. I want you to choose a Government that will work together with the Centre for the development of Punjab," he said.

Delhi Chief Minister Kejriwal, who will be camping in the State till elections, also campaigned for the party candidates all through the day by holding corner meetings and holding road shows for all candidates of Amritsar along with the AAP's CM face Bhagwant Mann and party candidates from the district.

Kejriwal, addressing the media, declared that when Mann will become the Chief Minister, he will do a fair investigation into the illegal sand mining case. At the same time, he also claimed that Congress CM face Channi is losing from both seats he is contesting and this has been confirmed through telepolls.

Priyanka Gandhi, on the other hand, addressed a public meeting at Kotkapura in the morning, followed by an interaction with women in Dhuri Assembly segment, while concluding her Punjab visit with a road show in Dera Bassi constituency.

Priyanka, lashing out at the former Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh, said the Congress had to replace him as his Government was being run by the BJP from Delhi. Also attacking the AAP, she accused it of doing nothing in Delhi saying that its Government has been a "failure".

Biological E seeks emergency use of Corbevax for 12-18 years age group

PNS 📕 NEW DELHI

Biological E has sought emergency use authorisation (EUA) from Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for its Covid-19 vaccine Corbevax for the 12 to 18 years age group, according to various reports. The drug regulator has already approved Corbevax, which is India's first indigenously developed RBD protein subunit vaccine against the deadly virus, for restricted use in emergency situations among adults on December 28.

In an application sent to DCGI on February 9, Srinivas Kosaraju, head of Quality and Regulatory Affairs of Biological E Limited, said the firm had received approval for conducting phase 2/3 clinical study of Corbevax among children and adolescents aged 5-18 years in September.

"Based on the no-objection certificate, Biological E has initiated the clinical study in October 2021 and has evaluated the available safety and immunogenicity results of the ongoing phase 2/3 study, which indicated that the vaccine is safe and immunogenic.

The Čorbevax vaccine is administered through an intramuscular route with two doses scheduled 28 days apart.



Voting in Goa, U'khand today

301 candidates for 40 Assembly seats in Goa, 632 candidates for 70 seats in U'khand in fray

Voting will be held on Monday in all Assembly seats in Goa and Uttarakhand, besides 55 constituencies Uttar Pradesh in the second phase of the State polls, with Chief Ministers Pramod Sawant and Pushkar Singh Dhami, former CM Harish Rawat and jailed Samajwadi Party leader Ázam Khan among the prominent leaders in the fray.

It is a high-stakes election for the ruling BJP and a litmus test for the Modi Government's policies that the Congress, AAP and other opposition parties have targeted during their campaign.

The coastal State of Goa, with over 11 lakh voters, has 301 candidates contesting from 40 Assembly seats, while in Uttarakhand, which has an electorate of 81 lakh, 632 candidates, including 152 independents, are in the fray from 70 seats.

Traditionally the two states have seen bipolar politics, but they are witnessing a multi-cornered contest this time with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) throwing its hat in the ring. The Trinamool Congress (TMC) and other smaller parties are also vying to make a mark on Goa's electoral scene.

Around 100 all-women polling booths called 'Sakhi' or pink booths have been set up in

Panaji/Dehradun/Lucknow: each state this time to encour- Congress include former chief age participation of women in the polling process, according to officials

Congress president Ganesh Also, some booths will be Godiyal and Leader of manned by differently-abled Opposition in the fourth assempersons.

bly Pritam Singh. In the politically crucial Seeking a second consecustate of Uttar Pradesh, as many tive term for the BJP, its stalwarts have warned voters against the as 586 candidates are in the fray Congress' "policy of appease-ment" and asked for votes high-

five years.

isters in quick succession.

freebies including free electric-

ity up to 300 units to every

household, Rs 1,000 per month

to every woman above 18 years.

BJP MP Arjun Singh.

with thumping majority.

from 55 seats in this phase spread across Saharanpur, Bijnor, Moradabad, Sambhal, Rampur, Amroha, Budaun. Bareilly and Shahjahanpur.

Campaigning was affected bv COVID-19 restrictions which were gradually relaxed by the Election Commission in the last couple of weeks. Election officials said all

arrangements have been made to conduct polling while following COVID-19 protocols.

Voting will begin at 8 AM and conclude at 6 PM in Uttarakhand where there will be 11,697 polling booths. It will be the fifth assembly election to be held in the hill state after its creation in 2000.

Important candidates whose fate is to be decided in these polls include Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, his cabinet colleagues Satpal Maharaj, Subodh Uniyal, Arvind Pandey, Dhan Singh Rawat and Rekha Arya besides state BJP president Madan Kaushik. Prominent candidates from the

jobs to every household and an minister Harish Rawat, former unemployment allowance of Rs minister Yashpal Arya, state 5,000 per month to them until they get the job to lure voters.

The prominent candidates in Goa include Chief Minister Pramod Sawant (BJP), Leader of the Opposition Digambar Kamat (Congress), former CMs Churchill Alemao (TMC), Ravi Naik (BIP), Laxmikant Parsekar (independent), former deputy lighting the road, rail and air CMs Vijai Sardesai (GFP) and connectivity projects underway Sudin Dhavalikar (MGP), late in the state and the ones in the CM Manohar Parrikar's son pipeline besides the reconstruc-Utpal Parrikar and AAP's CM face Amit Paleker. tion of Kedarnath over the past

The Congress and the Goa They have sought votes in Forward Party (GFP) are fightthe name of a double-engine ing the election in alliance, government for the state's uninwhile the Mamata Baneriee-led terrupted development over the TMC has joined hands with the next five years while Congress, Maharashtrawadi Gomantak which is trying to gain lost Party (MGP) to contest the ground after its rout in 2017 polls. The Shiv Sena and the sembly polls, has raised the NCP had also announced their issues of inflation, unemploypre-poll alliance, while the ment and change of chief min-Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP is contesting on its own.

The BJP had won 57 out of The Revolutionary Goans, a total of 70 seats in Uttarakhand Goencho Swabhimaan Party, in the last assembly polls limit-Jai Mahabharat Party and ing Congress to just 11. Two Sambhaji Brigade are also in the seats had gone to Independents. poll fray, besides 68 independent The AAP, which is concandidates testing all 70 assembly con-

The counting of votes will stituencies, has offered a slew of take place on March 10.

The state had recorded an 82.56 percent turnout during the 2017 elections. The Congress had at that time won 17 seats.

while the BJP bagged 13. The BJP had then quickly stitched up an alliance with some regional outfits and independents to form government in the state.In Uttar Pradesh, polling will be held from 7 AM to 6 PM.

Of the 55 seats going to polls in this phase, the BJP had won 38 in 2017, while the Samajwadi Party had bagged 15 and the Congress two. The SP and the Congress had contested the last Assembly election in an alliance. The areas going to the polls

in this phase have a sizeable Muslim population influenced by religious leaders of the Barelvi and Deoband sects and are considered to be the strongholds of the Samajwadi Party.

The prominent faces in the fray in this phase include Dharam Singh Saini, a BJP state minister who had switched to the SP.Azam Khan has been fielded from his stronghold Rampur seat, while Saini is trying his luck from the Nakud Assembly segment.

Khan's son Abdullah Azam has been fielded from the Swar seat. He has been pitted against Haider Ali Khan, the heir of another political family, the Nawabs of Rampur, who is trying his luck on the ticket of Apna Dal (Sonelal), a ₿JP ally. PTI

TN in grip of mini-election fever, 2.79 cr voters to cast votes

CHENNAI: A political time bomb has been exploded in Tamil Nadu by AIADMK leaders Edappadi Palaniswami and O Panneerselvam, both former Chief Ministers of the State. What is unique about it is the "synchronised explosion" perpetrated by Palaniswami and O Panneerselvam in a surcharged atmosphere. Tamil Nadu is in the grip of a mini election fever as 21 municipal corporations,138 municipalities and 490 town panchayaths go to the

tion process.

campaigning in Tiruchirappalli district also made a simultaneous announcement that the State would see Assembly polls in 2024 and he too attributed the basis of the forecast to the polls on February 19 when 2.79 One Nation One Election scheme announced by the core voters would cast their votes. Elections to the rural Prime Minister.

Senior Congress leader E local bodies were completed in 2021 itself while the polls to the M Sudarshan Nachiappan, who urban bodies were deferred due headed the Parliamentary to court orders and delimita-Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and The poll will see the elec-Justice had submitted a report tion of 12,838 local body memon the "Feasibility of Holding bers (corporation ward mem-Simultaneous Elections to Lok Sabha and State Legislative bers, municipal councillors

Assemblies" had recommendand district panchayat members) and the counting is ed "One Nation One Election" scheduled for February 22. concept much before Prime The AIADMK leaders has Minister's proposal for such a already labelled the poll outreform. come as a verdict on the per-"It is time we thought about such a reform in our

formance of the eight month long DMK rule. In normal course, Tamil have elections to at least five or

Nadu electorate need elect a new State Government only in result in huge expenditure as well as policy paralysis for months. The One Nation One 2026. "Tamil Nadu would see an Assembly Poll in 2024 under the One Nation-One Election plan mooted by Prime Minister Minister requires the amend-

Narendra Modi. It is good ment of the Constitution. But because the DMK has failed in implementing at least one of the 525 promises it made to the electorate during the 2021 Assembly election," said Palaniswamy while addressing election rallies in Karur.

it is possible to implement the One Nation One Poll concept over a period of 20 years without resorting to amending the Constitution," Dr Nachiappan told The Pioneer.

The DMK is rattled by the synchronised statements by Panneerselvam, who is Panneerselvam and Palaniswami about the prospectus of 2024 simultaneous elections. A veteran Congress leader said things were not favourable for the DMK in the local body elections as there was widespread unhappiness over the Stalin Government's failure to fulfil the promises it had made in the run up to the 2021 assembly election. "The Pongal gift given to the people (rice, jhangri, sweets) was of substandard quality, there was no cash of Rs 2000 per hamper or even the

customary sugar cane," said the Congress leader. Though the going is not that easy for the DMK in this round of election. "The precedent that the ruling party generally scrapes past in the local body polls may come to the rescue of DMK," said C D Meyyappan, AICC leader from electoral system. Every year we

Tamil Nadu. six State assemblies and this Kolahala Srenivasan, political observer, is of the view that the statements by the AIADMK Poll idea mooted by the Prime leaders should be taken seriously.

Mamata sends I-PAC packing K'taka CM confident of peace as high schools reopen today

Loyalists replace Kishor's team: 3 **BJP leaders quit** party to join TMC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

Aday after setting up a National Working Committee (NCW) of the Trinamool Congress, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday constituted a media coordinator committee to be headed by her own loyalists, Cabinet Ministers Aroop Biswas and Chandrima Bhattacharya, and former MP Kunal Ghosh. Media coordination was

earlier looked after by-election strategist Prashant Kishor's Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC) — which reportedly enjoyed

the trust of her nephew and party MP Abhishek Banerjee. ers from North 24 Parganas returned to the Trinamool The Chief Minister who is also the Trinamool Congress president is known to have dissolved all the top posts save her own. New

portfolios would soon be declared, senior leaders in the party said. son Both, the NWC and the had filed nominations for Media Coordination the February 27 municipal

Committee were allegedly elections on BJP ticket withcreated to bury the differdrew their nominations sayences between the young ing they had realised their brigade and the senior leadmistakes. ers loyal to the Chief about 750 BJP men returned Minister, sources said. Most old guards had not taken the to the TMC complaining infighting and nepotism meteoric rise of junior inside the party. Most of them had left the Trinamool Banerjee up the party ladder. The latest conflict between to join the saffron outfit the two groups has been over the one-person-one-post sloahead of the party last year's gan coined by Abhishek. Assembly elections in which

Meanwhile, in an unrelated development, the Bengal BJP suffered more blows after three of its lead-

Hubballi: A day ahead of high Congress. All these leaders schools across the State up to are relatives of Barrackpore class 10 that were shut in the wake of the hijab row, reopen-The three leaders, former ing, Karnataka Chief Minister MLA Sunil Singh, his son Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday Aditya and Garulia expressed confidence that Municipality's ex-chairperpeace and normalcy will pre-Saurabh Singh who

vail. He also said that a decision regarding reopening of Pre-University and Degree colleges will be taken after assessing the situation

"High schools up to class Elsewhere at Uluberia too 10 will reopen tomorrow, already Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of police and Deputy Director of Public Instruction of all districts have been asked to hold peace meetings involving parents and teachers at important schools aimed at maintaining cordial atmosphere. I'm confident that the BJP failed to capture power allowing the Trinamool to romp home schools will function peacefully," Bommai said.

Speaking to reporters here,

he said that he has asked Education Ministers to submit a report after examining the situation regarding reopening of Pre- University and Degree colleges, based on the assessment a meeting will be held and a decision will be taken.

The government on Friday had said that holiday announced to universities belonging to the department of Higher Education and colleges under the Department of Collegiate and Technical Education (DCTE), in the wake of the Hijab row, has been extended till February 16.

Regarding reports about involvement of certain organisations and foreign hands behind the hijab row, the Chief Minister in response to a question said. "such reports in the media and social media are being taken note by our investigating officials, who are also gathering information on their end."

Section 144 CrPc imposed around schools in Udupi

Mangaluru: The Udupi district March-April," he said. administration has imposed prohibitory orders under the hijab intensified in differ-Section 144 of CrPC in areas ent parts of Karnataka and around all high schools in the turned violent in some places, district from Monday till the government declared a holiday for all high schools and February 19. colleges in the state for three

The move comes as part of a precautionary measure as the schools are reopening Monday after the holiday declared by the state government in view of the hijab-saffron shawl controversy.

class 10 from February 14, The order will be in effect and for Pre-University and from 6 AM on February 14 to Degree Colleges thereafter. 6 PM on February 19. The order has been clamped fol-Court, in its interim order lowing a request by the district pending consideration of all petitions related to the Hijab superintendent of police to deputy commissioner. **PTI** row, had earlier requested the

"What is before me, and state government to reopen my first duty is that schools and educational institutions and colleges should return to norrestrained all the students from mal functioning, and students wearing saffron shawls, scarves, should study in a peaceful and Hijab and any religious flag cordial atmosphere and prepare within the classroom. for exams that is likely by

In the wake of reopening of schools, the government had last week issued a series of directions to district administrations, aimed at maintaining peace and that the High Court order is not violated.

Bommai, who also holds the Finance portfolio and will be presenting his first budget early next month said, allround development of the state is in his mind.

"After the economic slowdown due to Covid for the last two years, things are recovering in the last four to five months, there is improvement in the revenue collection. Budget will focus on economic development, public welfare and financial discipline. PTI



Women shop at a gift shop on the eve of Valentine's Day, in Kolkata on Sunday

Jolt for BJP ahead of civic polls as 3 leaders rejoin TMC

Kolkata: Three BJP leaders, who had withdrawn their nominations for polls to the Garulia Municipality in West Bengal, on Sunday made their way back to the Trinamool Congress, voicing grievance over the saffron party's style of functioning.

Polls to 108 municipalities, including Garulia, are scheduled to be held on February 27.

The three leaders - former MLA Sunil Singh, his son Aditva and Garulia Municipality's ex-chairperson Saurabh Singh - had withdrawn their nominations on Saturday.

The trio, relatives of BJP's Barrackpore MP Arjun Singh, rejoined the TMC at the Titagarh party office in the presence of West Bengal minister Jyotipriyo Mallick and Naihati MLA Partha Bhowmik. They were fielded by the

saffron party from ward numbers 12, 17 and 18 of Garulia Municipality.

"We are unhappy with the way the North 24 Parganas unit of BJP is functioning. While the organisational base of the party is shrinking fast in the district, the number of self-styled leaders has increased

Children move SC seeking release of father declared Pakistani by court

New Delhi: Two Meerut siblings have moved the Supreme Court seeking the release of their father, who was declared a Pakistani national by a court and has been languishing in a detention centre for seven years as Islamabad refuses to accept him as a citizen.

Mohammad Qamar, 62, was arrested on August 8, 2011 from Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, and was held guilty by a court here for overstaying his visa

He was sentenced to three years and six months in jail and , a fine of ₹ 500.

Having completed his sen-tence on February 6, 2015, Qamar, a father of five, was sent to the Detention Centre at Lampur in Narela here on February 7, 2015 for deportation to Pakistan.

However, the Pakistan government did not accept his deportation and he is still languishing at the detention cen-PTI

Person not named in FIR cannot seek quashing of proceedings against other accused: SC

As protests for and against

Following the court order,

The Karnataka High

the government on February 10

had decided to resume classes

for high school students up to

days, from February 9.

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has said that a person who has not been named as an accused in an FIR cannot seek quashing of proceedings concerning another person in a criminal case.

A bench of Justices AM Khanwilkar and CT Ravikumar nade the remarks while hearing a plea seeking quashing of an FIR in the UPPCL Provident Fund investment scam registered at Hazratganj police station of Lucknow, which was initially probed by Uttar Pradesh Police but was later transferred to the CBI.The bench said, "It is not in dispute that the petitioners have not been named as accused in the said crime. If the petitioners have not been named as accused in the said crime, the question of quashing the stated FIR or the case, now under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arising from the said crime, does not arise as the petitioners will have no locus to seek such a relief."

It added, "In other words, the petitioners not being named as accused in the said crime or the case now registered by the CBI on the basis of the said crime cannot be permitted to ask for quashing of the proceedings concerning some other persons (accused).

The bench said in its recent order that the court does not intend to examine the relief sought by Hukum Chand Garg and others and added that they can take recourse to appropriate remedy as and when they are named by the investigating agency (CBI) in connection with the stated offence, now under investigation.

The bench, however, added that the investigating officer of the CBI shall give 48 hours' advance notice to the petitioners before proceeding against them so as to enable them to take recourse to appropriate remedy, as may be advised. It said all contentions available to both sides are left open and clarified that this order is in the peculiar facts of the present case and the response filed by the respondents in this petition.



Farmers winnow the harvested mustard seeds at a field on the outskirts of Guwahati on Sunday

No jammer, ambulance for ex-J&K CMs in Srinagar two injured in UT admn had already scaled down security cover of 4 ex-CMs of J&K

PTI

Kannur bomb explosion

One killed,

Kannur: One person was killed and two others injured in a bomb blast in Kannur district of Kerala on Sunday afternoon.

According to the police, the deceased and the injured were part of the same group and were planning to attack another group with the bomb over some dispute which occurred a day ago. On Saturday, arguments between the two groups occurred at a house in Thottada where a wedding was to take place, they said.

After the locals intervened, the dispute was resolved and the wedding took place on

Sunday morning. Thereafter, in the after-noon, around 2.00 PM, the attack occurred in front of the wedding party comprising the bride and groom. No one from the bridal party was injured in the attack, it added. When the bomb was thrown, instead of hitting someone from the rival group, it hit Jishnu -- a memsecurity cover of four former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Ministers has been scaled down further with the Union Territory administration's decision to stop deployment of jammers and ambulances during their movement within Srinagar district, according to

officials. On Saturday, veteran politi-cian and Lok Sabha member Farooq Abdullah, was seen offering prayers at the famous Hazratbal shrine and Dasgeer Saab in downtown Srinagar but there was neither an ambulance nor were there jammers, which, among other things, also blocks signals in cases where terrorists have planted an improvised explosive device that can be triggered by remote control. The ambulance is provided to attend to medical emergencies

during travel. However, the officials, said during inter-district movement of former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah, Ghulam ber of the attacking group. **PTI** | Nabi Azad, Omar Abdullah

Srinagar/New Delhi: The and Mehbooba Mufti jammers and ambulances will continue

to be deployed. This comes in the wake of the recent decision to downsize the Special Security Group (SSG), which had been created under a law enacted by the assembly of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir for protection of chief ministers and former chief ministers.

Subsequently, the SSG cover for the four former chief ministers was withdrawn and their protection entrusted to the security wing of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, which will be backed by central armed paramilitary forces.

Queries to the Jammu and Kashmir Police on the subject elicited no formal response.

The move comes at a time when Srinagar city has been witnessing terrorist-related violence since last year.

Many encounters between security forces and militants have taken place within the city's limits besides some targeted killings of civilians being

carried out by the The Resistance Front, a shadow group of the banned terrorist

organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba. The Jammu and Kashmir administration had withdrawn SSG protection after it was decided to downsize the elite unit established in 2000.

This move came over 19 months after the Centre issued a gazette notification Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of State Laws) Order, 2020, on March 31, 2020, under which it amended the Special Security Group Act of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir government by omitting a clause that provided former chief ministers and their families with SSG cover.

The officials said the SSG was in the process of being "right-sized" by reducing num-ber of personnel in the elite force to "bare minimum" and that it will be headed by an officer below the rank of superintendent of police as against a director, who is in the rank of

an inspector general of police or above. The SSG has now been

entrusted with the security of serving chief ministers and their immediate family mem-

The decision entailed withdrawal of security cover of National Conference leaders Farooq Abdullah and Omar AbduÎlah, PDP chief Mehbooba and Congress leader Azad at a time when a number of terror incidents have taken place in Srinagar where all of them except Azad reside.

Farooq Abdullah and Azad, however, will continue to be provided National Security Guard cover, whose personnel are known as Black Cat commandos, as both have been cat-

egorised as Z-plus protectees. Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba also continue to have Z-plus security cover while in Jammu and Kashmir but are likely to have a reduced security outside the Union Territory. **PTI** LUCKNOW | MONDAY | FEBRUARY 14, 2022

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pinion 08

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Power of the purse

It's time for the IPL to plough back funds and invest in, nurture future generations

heady mix of glitz, glamour and capital! That just about sums up the 2022 mega auction of the Indian Premier League (IPL). Ten teams with a maximum A mega auction of the indian rights is Loague (ii 2). The conditional process big-money limit of ₹90 crore each turned it into the new year's second-biggest big-money affair, after the annual Budget. A total of over 600 players were up for grabs. Of them, 229 are capped players. The remaining 364 are uncapped, that is, they are yet to be selected by any of the teams. Pacer Avesh Khan created IPL history by becoming the most expensive uncapped player to be picked up for ₹10 crore. Four other uncapped players sold for a total of ₹33 crore. After the heavy-duty players were all auctioned, this is how the player-to-cash equation stood: Seven players fetched Rs83 crore in the ₹10-crore plus bracket. Twenty-eight players were sold for ₹212.5 crore, the minimum price being ₹5crore. Between the two groups, the 35 players are worth ₹305.5 crore. The allocation for sports in the Union Budget for 2022-23 went up more or less by the same amount — ₹305.58 crore. The auction budget of IPL alone is ₹900 crore which is just under a third of ₹3062.6 crore, the annual Budget for the entire Sports Ministry. The IPL celebrated young crick-

eter Ishan Krishan going for a whopping ₹15.25 crore - the highest price in the auction.

The Members of Parliament thumped their desks when the Union Finance Minister announced the ₹305.58 crore hike in the sports budget to aid India's preparations for the Birmingham Commonwealth Games and the Hangzhou Asian Games this year. Such is the contrast between the monetary fates of just one cricketer on the one hand, and the combined national contingents for the two international events on the other. This is not about big money flowing into cricket. This is about big money flowing only into top-

end cricket. Since the idea of IPL in 2007, the game has metamorphosed into a moneymaking machine, making millionaires of anyone good enough to be part of it. But that does not mean that cricket infrastructure in the country has received a new fillip. Even today, Yashasvi Jaiswals of the future must be practising hard in the crowded maidans of Mumbai or local parks in Tier II and III cities, without sneakers for their feet or roofs on their heads. The deep involvement of the corporates in cricket reflects in the luxury lifestyles of successful cricketers but not in the availability of basic infrastructural facilities for the aspiring. Youngsters lack institutionalised junior programmes such as the clubs of the English Premier League, La Liga, NBA or NFL invest in to nurture future generations. Once enrolled, the players progress from schoolboy contracts to scholarships and professional contracts between nine to 16 years. If they fail to click, they take up allied professions like fitness, nutrition, video analysis, coaching or marketing. The IPL's plough-back time is now.



Need for Uniform Civil Code is real



Certain violations and contradictions leave the door wide open for our law courts to discriminate between communities in the domain of law

ome of the laws regarding marriage in India violate Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution, which insist on equality of all citizens. For a glaring example, a Muslim man is allowed four wives at a time while a woman has to restrict herself to only one husband. The husband can terminate his marriage within three months under the talaq rules, but the wife does not enjoy this privilege. She must take the help of *khul*. Her release is possible only upon payment of compensation to her husband, which may or may not entice him to make him return the *mehr* or the dower which was sup-posed to have been paid by him. In the event the husband is not tempted by her offer of compensation, she would have to suffer a lengthy procedure before a council of *qazis*.

Evidently, these rules are not only unequal and discriminatory but also misogynous, reflecting extreme bias and, one might add, hatred of women, besides their being anti-secular; no one other than a Muslim is allowed this privilege of so many wives with the privilege of a quick divorce. This is Article 44 notwithstanding, a Directive Principle of State Policy enjoining upon the Government the implementation of a Uniform Civil Code for all citizens. When in 1955, Parliament passed the Hindu Code Bill, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was asked by a Member of Parliament why nothing was being done on the question of a Uniform Civil Code. Nehru's reply was: "Well, I should like a civil code which applies to everybody, but wisdom hinders. If he (the MP) or anybody else brings forward a civil code, it will have my extreme sympathies. But I confess that I do not think that at the present moment the time is ripe in India for me to try and push it through. I want to prepare the ground for it." My anxiety is that these violations and contradictions leave the door wide open for our law courts to discriminate



between communities in the domain of law. For instance, whether wearing a hijab in school or college or such additional clothing is appropriate or even essential for some students, but not for others. If good for some, on grounds of either religion or freedom, why cannot another set of students come to classes with swimming suits or bikinis on grounds of freedom and easy accessibility to the school's swimming pool?

That must naturally bring us to the attention of where does society, State and law draw the line as far as competitive religiosity of the mind that is now seen on an increased scale? More importantly, what does this mean for an avowedly secular State whose Constitution, at least on paper, forbids discrimination on the grounds of religion, caste, gender, race, place of birth, etc? In this context, we cannot avoid the crucial question of a Uniform Civil Code which is, among other things.

equal for all citizens. No religious law can be permitted the privilege of superseding the Constitution. Moreover, if even those who currently enjoy the privilege of religious personal laws wish to be governed by uniform criminal laws, there can be no justification for avoidance of a Uniform Civil Code. To avoid this crucial WHAT DOES THIS issue any further is fraught MEAN FOR AN with grave consequences for the country's polity and the AVOWEDLY very notion of secular democracy.

SECULAR STATE The issue of a Uniform WHOSE Civil Code is understandably debatable and controversial, CONSTITUTION, AT but also unavoidable. Article LEAST ON PAPER, 14 requires the Government to implement a Uniform Civil Code, although this FORBIDS was enshrined not as a DISCRIMINATION Fundamental Right, but a ON THE GROUNDS Directive Principle of State Policy, and therefore not OF RELIGION, justiciable in courts of law. CASTE, GENDER, RACE AND PLACE OF BIRTH, AMONG

while pushing the Hindu Code Bill makes it very difficult to deny this charge.

It needs no reiteration that laws have to be equal for all citizens, irrespective of religion, caste or gender. This is particularly so for a country that also calls itself democratic and a secular democracy, on top of it. In other words, the need for a Uniform Civil Code flows from the very concept of secularism, which mandates the complete separation of religion and State.

The argument that such a rigid divorce of faith and State is a western idea and construct does not hold any merit here. Even if one were to argue in favour of an Indian variant of 'secularism', ie equal respect for all faiths, the present Constitution's permitting personal religious laws to prevail for the Muslim community in the Successive Governments, matter of marriage and which have been prodded by divorce is an unambiguous the courts to implement a violation of the stated con-Uniform Civil Code, have stitutional right of equality chosen to evade the issue, as laid down in Articles 14 and 15. (The writer is a wellknown columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

The Motherland monument in Kyiv, Ukraine, as Russia keeps amassing troops along its borders

Uphill State

Uttarakhand votes today; who among the BJP, Congress and AAP will make it to the top?

s Uttarakhand goes to Assembly election today, the voters are faced with Hobson's choice. Traditionally, the hill State witnesses a direct fight between The Congress and the BJP, cornering nearly a third of total votes each and governing alternately. This has been the case in three of the four Assembly elections in Uttarakhand since its formation but this time the AAP is also in the fray on all the 70 seats. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami's election-eve promise of a Uniform Civil Code is aimed at differentiating himself from his two predecessors and the lega-



cy of anti-incumbency but scams, mismanagement of the COVID-19 pandemic, damaging environmental policies, rampant profiteering in land and, most of all, three Chief Ministers in four months can dent the BJP's prospects. Hence the Congress slogan, 'Teen tigada kaam bigada, Uttarakhand mein nahi aayegi Bhajpa dobara'. The BJP leaders have warned the electorate against the Congress's "appeasement policy" even as the latter is banking on strong antiincumbency and the consequent negative voting to regain power. The Congress has the edge but it is caught up in self-destructive factional feuds. Widespread disgust over ego clashes in the

Congress matches voters' exasperation with the BJP's shenanigans.

Despite infighting, the Congress appears marginally better placed in Kumaon (20 seats). Several districts here recently suffered devastating floods and landslides. Other than land law and migration, the grievances here are of the *bijli-sadak-paani* variety. The Terai plains (20 seats) are also inclined towards the Congress. Meanwhile, the AAP is seeking votes by accusing Congress and BJP Governments of not fulfilling the aspirations of people. It has also offered a slew of freebies, including free electricity up to 300 units to every household, ₹1,000 per month to every woman above 18 years, jobs to every household and an unemployment allowance of ₹5,000 per month. Uttarakhand, blessed with natural resources, high literacy and a locational advantage, has been bogged down by politics and corruption since inception. A State that, with snow-fed glaciers, 17 rivers and 31 lakes, provides water to the National Capital Region itself suffers severe water shortages. The BJP's much-touted "double-engine" Government has failed to deliver but the Congress doesn't hold out much hope either.

polygamy, enough to render the country's claim to be a secular democracy a meaningless one.

Laws, especially in a secular democracy, have to be

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EDITOR ERS I (O)

BJP NEEDS TO TONE DOWN PITCH

Sir - Repeated electoral failures to break into the secular citadel of West Bengal and Kerala are obviously the main reason for Yogi Adityanath's character assassination of these States governed by the TMC and Left, respectively. But why belittle Kashmir also? Isn't it being directly governed from New Delhi by the harbingers of "good days" in "New India"? Didn't the most high-profile BJP leader 'enlighten' us that peace has finally arrived in the Valley following the "historic" abrogation of Article 370? So Yogi painting Kashmir in bad light not only contradicts his supreme leader, but also provides an honest confession that Centre has drastically failed in administering the Union Territory.

Lastly, all proud Bengalis, Malayalis and Kashmiris earnestly request their respective States not to attain the 'greatness' of Hathras-Unnao-Budaun-scarred Uttar Pradesh where Mohammad Akhlaqs get murdered in the name of 'Gau mata, Dalits get killed in the name of 'honour" and Vikas Dube is killed 'mysteriously' outside the ambit of judicial process. Not to forget how poor slum dwellers are banished from their shanties whenever any VIP desires to visit the Ganga ghats of Varanasi. May god save the 'hapless' residents of Bengal, Kerala and Kashmir from such unique "law and order" and "vikas".

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

UNEMPLOYMENT KEEPS RISING

Sir — The number of young unemployed in the country seems to be increasing by the day. Many graduates are looking for jobs but many have lost hope and given up trying. About 37,000 seats were to be filled in the Railways recently. More than 1.25 crore people applied. In a sense, almost one per cent of the country's population had applied. The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy recently released data that the number of young unemployed in India is around 3.18 crore. The real reason is that the economy has not grown as much as it should have in the last few years.

The downturn has led to recession in

Hamara 'Rahul' Bajaj!

OTHER THINGS?

the foremost reason being keeping a captive vote bank firmly within their grasp. Nehru's refusal to even touch the question of reform among other communities

just ₹7.5 crore to a mammoth ₹12,000 crore

with the company's scooter Bajaj Chetak

strike and a culture where his children went

to the same school as his managers'

Interestingly, despite his Congress tilt, he was

elected to the Rajya Sabha to fill the seat

vacated by the death of Pramod Mahajan

(2006-2010). But what differentiated him

from his counterparts is that he was more

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad



The SP has the organisational setup in UP (to take on the BJP). I want the BJP to lose.

> **Trinamool Congress chief** —Mamata Banerjee

Dumping plastic in waterways is criminal and must end if humanity wants to save the planet.

Catholic Church head –Pope Francis

I had sung Subhanallah and when it wasn't kept, I told him



(Pritam) to not ask me to sing again.

Singer-actor

-Sonu Nigam



Indian cricketer —Washington Sundar

Had defeated BJP in Bengal together, now will defeat them in UP. It's my promise to Didi.



MR Jayanthi | Mumbai

SP chief Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

-Akhilesh Yadav



I have just always wanted to execute my stock ball as best as possi-

of the consortium paying the price for lack of audit, both internal and external, and other periodical follow-ups. With the

rich country!

amount involved, the blame game will soon start. Again, after intense bidding, cricket players are being bought by IPL franchises and the prices quoted are alarming, to put it mildly. Huge stakes in the IPL saw veteran auctioneer Hugh Edmeades collapse on stage while conducting the first session of bidding. This year's big catch was Ishan Kishan for Mumbai Indians for

₹15.25 crore; Deepak Chahar went for ₹14 crore to CSK. R Åshwin, the number two bowler in the world, was sold for Rs5 crore and the number one bowler, Pat Cummins, for ₹7.25 crore to KKR. These developments prove that we are a richie

Shantaram Wagh | Pune

WHO SAYS INDIA IS POOR?

the IPL auction has shown India's richness and how it made use of it in a meaningless way. In a shocking disclosure, ABG Shipyard cheated a consortium of 28 banks to the tune of ₹22,842 crore. We lack funds for Government-aided projects whereas we come across siphoning of money through various pockets without the knowledge of the controller of

being the main growth driver. Thanks for giving India a homegrown MNC and giving every Indian a dream of owning a "Hamara Bajaj Not only this, Rahul took pride in creating a company that saw only one labour

adma Bhushan Rahul Bajaj, chairman emeritus of Bajaj Auto who died in Pune of cardiac and respiratory ailments at age 83, was a straightforward, honest and intrepid businessman. He was the grandson of Jamnalal Bajaj, a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi (who treated him as his fifth son). Rahul made an indelible mark both in the socialist and neo-liberal eras with his business acumen, leadership and innovative management par excellence. Under his stewardship, Bajaj Auto's turnover grew from

than a business titan: He was a man of strong beliefs who didn't shy away from speaking his mind. Hopefully his wonderful legacy will be taken upon by his successors to catapult Bajaj to new heights in the future. He lived a meaningful life in the real sense of the

word

many sectors. As a result, unemployment advances, in this case the SBI as the leader is on the rise. From May to August 2020, the number of unemployed graduates was around 2.91 crore. By the end of December 2021, it had reached 3.18 crore. For this, the Government should make a special proposal. You have to try where the jobs are available. Today, many opportunities are available to the youth in many Gulf

countries and elsewhere abroad. It requires the right guidance. Overall, this issue needs to be taken seriously

Sir — The condition of banks as well as

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FIRSTCOLUMN

Cong's internecine intra-party wars



09

analysis

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The two-party domain in Punjab has given way to a multi-alliance contest for the first time in years

n the face of it, elections in Punjab throw up a quagmire of possibilities with multi-party and multi-alliance for-mations taking one another head-on in a state which has hitherto been a twoparty domain for over a quarter of a century.

In this scenario where there are several post electoral possibilities for each of the rival parties if they fall short of numbers, it is only Congress which is going alone in the polls with no tie-ups overt or covert with anyone. So it is now sort of clear that either Congress gets to the magic number of 59 all alone and forms the government or if it falls short, and it will have to sit in the opposition as it has no pre-poll understanding and is unlikely to have a post-poll understanding.

After the formal announcement of Charanjit Singh Channi as the chief ministerial face of the party, there is of course a sense of relief amongst the cadre, fed up as they were with the routine squabbles and internecine intraparty warfare amongst all the top aspirants.

Channi has been the Congress invention of the last quarter of 2021, plucked out of the Amarinder Singh Cabinet and handed over the post of chief minister to neutralize the image of the Aam Aadmi Party which was rapidly gaining ascendance. Channi's style of functioning and its contrast with Amarinder was too glaring for the peo-ple of Punjab to ignore. One (Amarinder) was from the royal family of Patiala, completely cut off from the people in his second tenure and claiming the post of chief minister as his divine right to rule. The other (Channi) came out with all the right notes, playing to the gallery, doing what a common man is expected to do anywhere in Punjab-dancing to the tunes of Bhangra beats, playing cricket with kids, sipping tea at the roadside dhaba, sitting on a cot in a mustard field, simply doing what you and me would do. The third player was Navjot Sidhu, outspoken with a holier-than-thou, "it's right, because I

said so" attitude. What could have been a smooth

PUNJAB IS HEADED FOR A PHOTO FINISH. UNLIKE IN 2017 WHEN THERE WAS A DISCERNIBLE WAVE IN FAVOUR OF CONGRESS AND MASSIVE ANTI-INCUMBENCY AGAINST THE SAD-BJP, THIS TIME ROUND THERE SEEMS TO BE NO UNDERCURRENT FOR OR AGAINST

ANY PARTY. SERIOUS THREE TO FOUR-CORNERED CONTEST IS TAKING PLACE IN

MOST OF THE CONSTITUENCIES

At one point, Jakhar thought that he could be the chief minister to replace Punjab, never mind his diminishing electoral returns over the years. He then threatened to leave the party and changed his mind and finally decided to quit electoral politics. Clearly, many opinion makers in Punjab believe that only Congress has the bandwidth to tolerate all sorts of dissenting voices without any subtle attempt to reprimand anyone by the central leadership privately or publicly (read Rahul Gandhi).

So, whatever could go wrong with Congress, did go wrong. No two opinions about it. However, what it did right is equally important in this Punjab battle to read the undercurrent. Knowingly or unknowingly, making a dalit chief minister for the first time in the state was of course a masterstroke. The community may have different voting patterns according to their religion, sub-caste and affiliations to deras but Channi if the Patiala royal could walk for a photo finish. Unlike in

Then comes the Congress grassroots overreach in the state which is as good if not better than the arch rival Shiromani Akali Dal. Aam Aadmi Party, a serious challenger to the power equations in Punjab this time round, has realized that Congress and SAD both have presence in each and every pind (village) in the state and it has to make extra efforts to reach the last person on the ground in the villages where people only know Congress and SAD. But, this has more to do than the traditional two-party power sharing superstructure than actual work by Congress as an organization. Perhaps this very presence in every nook and corner saved Congress from a division as Amarinder Singh

walked away and formed his party. This inherent strength ensured that no leader of any significance went to Amarinder's Punjab Lok Congress even though at one point it seemed as

extent that the party is now fighting fit. In the last over 50 years or so, Punjab has been known to change governments every five years, except once in 2012 when the Akali-BJP government was repeated. So, in a way antiincumbency and voting for a new government every five years is a part of Punjab political folklore. Congress sought to bring some modifications in this with the removal of Amarinder and getting Channi on the hot seat. Of course, only the results would help understand the phenomenon but on the face of it, this seems to be working.

In this Punjab election, there are five parties and alliances in the fray-all considering themselves as "serious" players. Besides Congress, SAD-BSP and the AAP, you have PLC-BJP-SAD (Sanyukt) alliance and the newly floated party of the farmers-Sanyukt Samaj Morcha.

No doubt, Punjab is headed has given the community a strong away with a chunk of the party 2017 when there was a dis-

FORCE AND POLICING Following new concepts of safety and security is imperative

SUDHIR HINDWAN

MODERNISING THE POLICE

ecently, there has been mounting pressure on the police and paramilitary forces to maintain round-the-clock surveillance after an military forces to maintain round the order carried and pandemic stress

The Prime Minister's address for moving towards high-power police technology mission to equip the force with latest technologies exhibits remarkable concern for nipping violence plans of terrorists in the bud and modernise the police force.

It would provide a platform for multi-layered security cooperation that would deal with various issues related to terrorism -- right from funding of terrorist activities, policing cooperation, dealing with cyber threats, secrecy through enhancing technological innovations and tightening the border to maritime security information-gathering exercise. Cooperation



and coordination in communication capabilities and management of security arrangements to deal with any kind of threat are the main objectives of his call.

Besides, a modernization of Police is also imperative given the possible threats from religiously-motivated bands of distraught minds. The Prime Minister has called for a smart way of policing and usage of interoperable and transferable technologies such as drones that would open a new gateway to meet complex security challenges.

Recent challenges to security of India bring to light an important fact that India needs to diversify its strategies to counter the challenges it faces from criminals, drug traffickers, naxals, smugglers and terrorists. Over the years a great deal of literature has appeared on India's police and the need for reforms. Policies are being made to enable the force to adapt to the challenging environment and efficiently implement recommendations suggested by the panels on reforms.

As the threats today are more severe and enemies more organised than ever before, new concepts of safety and security need to be followed. There has been a long debate about police reforms the National Police Commission recommended them in 1979. It suggested reforms in judicial inquiry processes, reducing political interference and the police adopting a more humane approach. Earlier the government decision to appoint a new panel to look into the recommendations of the Law Commission, the National Police Commission, the National Human Rights Commission and the Vohra Commission provided a major ray of hope for the future prospect of policing. The Ribeiro Committee on Police reforms also made certain suggestions broadly along the lines of the NPC with some additional inputs.While submitting its report in 2000,the Padmanabhaiah Committee made many suggestions including the modifications in the selection process and the commissionerate system. In 2003, the Malimath Committee suggested speeding up the criminal justice process. Prakash Singh, a former DG of UP Police, filed a PIL and based on that the Supreme Court gave vital directions which included merit-based, transparent appointment of DGPs for a minimum fixed tenure of two years, separating law and order and investigation jobs, setting up of a police complaint authority at the State and district levels, setting up of a Statesecurity commission and a national security commission. The police also need to play an important role as crime preventer and in this regard, developing qualities such as high level of diligence, intelligence, dedication, determination and the ability to grasp complex situationsis a must. It is high time we realized that the police alone cannot stop crime; the entire society should make substantial efforts towards it. 'Sentinel on the qui vive' appears to be the only solution for protection against the new wave of terror we are experiencing.

(The writer is Bharat Gaurav Award winner and strategic affairs expert. *The views expressed are personal.*)

election with little obstacles, the Congress high command ensured that the infighting continued for weeks in the run-up to the polls and in the process its chances diminished. Removal of Amarinder Singh may have been a bold decision as far as decision making in Congress is concerned, but it was followed by a series of indecisive steps. Sidhu attacked everybody-left right and centre, whether it was his party col-leagues, former colleagues and even central leaders.

Then you have Sunil Jakhar who was overnight portrayed as a Hindu leader and even a chief ministerial candidate.

(The writer is Senior Resident Editor, The Pioneer, Chandigarh. The views expressed are personal.)

sense of identity. A state where there is dalit music and a strong dalit literature-culture and separate places of worship, there is a sense of euphoria amongst the community. There may not be an open display of this phenomenon but it is playing on the ground in Doaba and also to an extent in Malwa. No wonder, the party central leadership decided to make Channi contest from two constituencies to spread the word around that a dalit son of the soil has risen in the political sphere and is here to stay.

WE HAVE SEEN PEOPLE'S ANGER AGAINST THE BJP GOVT. THE SP-RLD WILL WIN 400 SEATS, **OTHERS WILL GET THE REMAINING THREE.** -SP PRESIDENT **AKHILESH YADAV**



leaders and workers. In fact, PLC cernible wave in favour of was left high and dry as several Congress and massive anticandidates on whom Amarinder was banking, simply decided that Congress remained a better bet, not a turncoat.

incumbency against the SAD-BJP, this time round there seems to be no undercurrent for or against any party or alliance. Serious three to four cornered contest is The third X factor in Punjab for Congress could be Channi's taking place in most of the conarrival at the right moment to stituencies and in a few, you even have a five-cornered contest. beat the massive anti-incumben-"This had never happened in cy against the Amarinder Singh Punjab and the margins could be government. Though the quansmall. This helps cadre-based tum of anti-incumbency damage reversed by Channi is a matter of parties who are able to get their supporters to the polling booths," debate, there is no doubt that there has been reversal to an sums up an analyst here.

> **DURING ITS TENURE, THE SP GAVE** PROTECTION TO THE MAFIA AND TERRORISTS. IT'S SYNONYMOUS WITH HOOLIGANISM. -BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENT **JP NADDA**

Voters' fears realistic: RBI warns belt-tightening

The people who normally vote for temples and communal issues also agree they are hit by rising prices

s polls begin in UP, the RBI' s monetary policy Committee (MPC) lowers growth forecasts to 7.8 percent in 2022-23, against finance minister's 8-8.5 percent. A belttightening forecast. It has kept the interest rates unchanged at a low of 4 percent repo rate and 3.5 percent reverse repo rate.

Former chief economic advisor Kaushik Basu notes that growth has been decelerating. It was 8.2 percent in 2016-17; 7.2 percent 2017-18; 4.2 percent 2018-19; and minus 7.3 percent 2020-21, each year growing less, a first since 1947.

The MPC presumes retail price inflation this year to be at 4.5 percent but cautions about hardening of global crude prices on inflation. Overall, it has retained its inflation projection at 5.3 per-



SHIVAJI SARKAR

(The writer is a senior jour-

nalist. The views expressed

are personal.

percent by March on account of unfavourable base effects. However, it ignores 13-plus percent of wholesale inflation. The voters are not bothered about the nitty gritty but are changing their perception of

cent and with closing at 5.7

development - vikas-- to mean they are voting for whosoever would help them grow. Almost uniformly, the voters in UP say that they are voting for vikas, and quizzed further, they say that they are voting for "our own vikas" and name an opposition SP-RLD candidate. For other voters vikas may still mean Yogi Adityanath and Prime

Minister Narendra Modi. Though it signals a change,

it is to be seen how the incumbent BJP fares. The BJP as per the new manifesto is no more contesting the poll on dou-

The lone voice dissenting the MPC outlook is that of Prof Jayanth R Varma. He had disagreed with the MPC resolution on August 20, 2021saying: "By creating the erroneous perception that the MPC is no longer

is focused exclusively on growth, the MPC may be inadvertently aggravating the risk that inflationary expectations will be dis-anchored. In that scenario, rising risk premia could cause long-term rates to rise".

The voters may not have read it but with their practical intuition seem to agree with the perception. The mood for change is there, for better living concerned about inflation and conditions. RBI Governor

Shaktikanta Das says that next year's Centre's borrowings would not be as high as projected in the budget. It means shrinkage of borrowings, deposits, uncertain expenses and growth. It is a bit eerie.

Consumption is not rising. That seems to be the concern of the voters, RBI and the government alike. The voters realise that economy would be shaky whatever the official rhetoric.

There is no short-term reprieve for the common man. Governor Das says that rising inflation would continue to peak till the second half of 2022-23 "within the tolerance band of RBI providing room for policy to remain accommodative".

Overall, the MPC notes loss in momentum of near-term growth even as global factors turn adverse. It assesses that

owing to Ukraine-Russia conflict, Iran-US qualm, fluid Afghanistan and uncertain Middle East the economic situation may deteriorate. In such circumstances, expecting improvement in domestic growth drivers is bit optimistic. These have been the concern for lowering growth to 7.8 percent. It expects a very high growth in the first quarter and then gradually tapering off to 4.5 percent in the last quarter of 2022-23, according to Das.

Though Indian voters need not understand the phenomenon emerging in the distant West, it can hit India hard. The world growth may be hit by the difficult situation in the US.Despite tom-tommingabout high growth, the US suffers from the China syndrome. China has bought none of the

\$200 billion it promised from the US under 'phase-I' trade deal. It can lead the US into choppy waters, impacting the global economy. A global inflation and unstable US economy can create turbulence.

The persistent increase in international commodity prices, surge in volatility of global financial markets and global supply bottlenecks can exacerbate risks to the outlook, says Das. Yes, Chinese trade moves in Indian subcontinent might also cause difficulty.

Das says still India can recover with buoyant rabi crop, robust exports, liquidity conditions improving credit offtake and continued push on capital expenses and infrastructure. The hope is a bit high and the MPC's cautions are graver than any voter can expect.

bling of farmers' income, or ensuring MSP to all. The people who normally vote for temples

and communal issues also agree they are hit by rising prices.

money 10



Govt files draft papers for mega LIC IPO, likely to raise Rs 63K cr from 5% sale

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

The government on Sunday filed draft papers with capital market regulator Sebi for the mega initial public offering (IPO) of insurance behemoth Life Insurance Corporation, aiming to mobilise an estimated Rs 63,000 crore.

The IPO, which is likely to hit the capital market in March, is entirely an Offer for Sale (OFS) through which the Government of India would dilute 5 per cent of its stake by selling 31.63 crore shares.

According to merchant banking sources, the government is expecting to garner up to Rs 63,000 crore (about USD 8 billion) from the IPO.

According to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP), a portion of the IPO would be reserved for subscription for eligible employees and policy-

holders. The employee reservation portion would not exceed 5 per cent while for policyholders would not be more than 10 per cent of the offer size.

Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) share capital was raised from Rs 100 crore to Rs 6,325 crore during September last year to help facilitate IPO.

LIC's listing is crucial for the government to meet the lowered revenue estimates of Rs 78,000 crore for the current financial year. The government had an initial target of Rs 1.75 lakh crore from the disinvestment proceeds. Till now, the Centre has raised around Rs 12,000 crore from the pri-

vatisation of Air India and stake sale in other PSUs. The government owns a 100 per cent stake (or 6,324,997,701 shares) in LIC. Once listed, it is likely to

become the country's biggest company by market capitalisation. "The DRHP of LIC IPO has been filed today with the Sebi. For filing valuation about 31.6 crore shares are on offer

representing 5 per cent equity," Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey tweeted.

According to the draft prospectus, LIC's embedded value has been pegged at about Rs 5.4 lakh crore as of September 30, 2021, by international actuarial firm Milliman Advisors

Under the embedded value method, insurance companies' present value of future profit is also included in its present net asset value (NAV).

"The objects of the offer are to achieve the benefits of listing the equity shares on the stock exchanges; and carry out the OFS of up to 3,16,249,885 equity shares by the selling shareholder," it said.

The entire proceeds of IPO would go to government and LIC will not receive any, it said.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had in July last year cleared the proposal for LIC's IPO.

"Our Corporation does not contemplate any issuance or placement of equity shares from the date of this DRHP until the listing of the equity shares," it said. Last month, LIC reported a profit after tax of Rs 1,437 crore for the first half of the financial year 2021-22 as compared with Rs 6.14 crore in the year-ago period.

Its new business premium growth rate stood at 554.1 per cent in the first half of 2021-22, compared with 394.76 per cent during the year-ago period.

LIC has been providing life

5G Spectrum

auction likely to

insurance in India for more than 65 years and is the largest life insurer in India, with a 64.1 per cent market share in terms

of premium, a 66.2 per cent market share in terms of new business premium and a 74.6 per cent market share in terms of number of individual policies issued. There are currently 24 life insurance companies in India, with LIC being the sole public player. The size of the Indian life insurance industry was Rs 6.2 trillion on a total-premium basis in fiscal 2021, up from Rs 5.7 trillion in fiscal 2020.

As many as 10 merchant bankers, including Kotak Mahindra Capital, Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Pvt Ltd, Citigroup Global Markets India Pvt Ltd and Nomura

start the bidding rounds in the

auction after receiving recom-

mendations from Trai on spec-

speed 10 times faster than 4G

services. As per the process, DoT

seeks reference from the Trai on

spectrum price, method for

allocating it, block size of spec-

trum, payments terms and con-

ditions, among others. The

Trai holds consultation with

the industry and other stake-

trum auction.

Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Pvt Ltd, are managing manage public issue.

Vizag Steel Plant workers intensify protest against privatisation

station.

IANS VISAKHAPATNAM

Evisakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) on Sunday organised 'jail bharo' programme to mark one year of their protest against

proposed privatisation. Demanding that the Central government take back its decision to privatise the Visakha Ukku plant. Parirakshana Porata Committee (VUPPC) stepped up its protest by taking out a huge rally in the city.

mistake following massive The protesters made it protests by farmers. clear that their agitation will continue till the Centre withdraws its decision on strategic the protest to show solidarity sale of VSP.

The workers took out the rally from VSP arch to Gajuwaka, raising slogans against the central govern-

The workers sat in front of Narayana Murthy also the police station at Gajuwaka, suggested to VUPPC to create leading to a huge traffic jam awareness on the issue among on the national highway. people through folk perfor-Police arrested the protesters mances. He also felicitated lyricist

and shifted them to the police Suddhala Ashok Teja and The VUPPC leaders said singer Ramki for their song to the Centre should not privamotivate the workers during tise VSP as it was achieved the year-long protest. after several struggles. They reminded the Modi govern-The workers had launched the agitation in February 2021 ment that it had to repeal the

after the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had given its approval for 100 per cent strategic sale/privatisation of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) along with its joint ventures and subsidiaries.

with the VSP workers. He RINL is the corporate hailed their struggle for the last one year and urged them entity of Visakhapatnam Steel to carry on till the Modi gov-Plant also known as Vizag ernment withdraws its deci-Steel Plant.

NSDC, Common Service Centres inks pact for delivery of services to accelerate skill development

nership, the CSCs at the village

level will act as a skill desk, cre-

ating awareness about the various available skill development

farm laws after realising its

Film director and actor R.

Narayana Murthy took part in

PTI NEW DELHI

The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Common Service Centres (CSC) have inked a pact for the delivery of services to accelerate India's skill development.

"The NSDC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Common Services Centres today (Sunday) to collaborate for the delivery of services related to various skill development programmes to the youth in rural and remote areas of the country," according

strategic partnership will help NSDC leverage the database and analytics of CSC and plan intended skilling for the youth who aspire to be skilled.

programmes. Registrations of CSC SPV Managing the candidates will be carried out Director Dinesh Kumar Tyagi under the available programme for skill development training, said, "The association with NSDC will be pathbreaking as it will allow the village-level along with the Aadhaar seeding of candidates and certificate distribution. NSDC Chief entrepreneurs managing the Operating Officer Ved Mani CSCs to identify the candidates, Tiwari said in the statement,"Through CSC, help them in registration, link them with training providers, thereby fulfilling the aspirations of a large number of rural youth interested in upskilling or enhancing employment opportunities.

IL&FS group to resolve its debt by March

PTI NEW DELHI

L&FS group would resolve debt of Rs^{55,000} crore by March 2022, the board of the crisis-hit company has stated in its affidavit filed before the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

While updating the progress of the resolution progress, the IL&FS board, led by Uday Kotak, said Rs 55,000 crore debt would be resolved through asset monetisation, restructuring and insolvency proceeding initiatives

Some of this has already been completed while the rest is at different stages of resolution, it said in a brief snapshot on the progress made in the ongoing resolution process till December 7, 2021, and suggested estimates of progress to be made by

March 2022. The IL&FS had a total outstanding debt of Rs 99,355 crore as of October 8, 2018, of which Rs 45,500 crore debt is handled through debt resolution initia-

tives by March 2022

Of this, debt of Rs 20,500 crore has already been resolved through monetisation, Rs 4,000 crore by way of debt discharged and Rs 21,350 crore in cash available across companies and Invit unit (Infrastructure Investment Trust) due to be issued. In addition, the board also expects to resolve Rs 5,300 crore through various "transactions approved by the relevant court/tribunal and pending transaction closure" and Rs 4,200 crore from resolution applications filed with courts

and pending approvals. As of January 4, 2021, the total number of entities in Respondent No 1 (IL&FS) group has reduced to 111 from 302, the affidavit said. In this, IL&FS's domestic

entities have been reduced to 95bfrom 169, while the offshore entities have been reduced to 16 from 133. The Board had informed to resolve 29 of 60 entities through entity monetization process; 12 road assets

under Invit; 3 assets where concession were terminated and 30

entities where it initiated closure or insolvency proceedings. "A critical focus of the New Board has been on maintaining the going concern status of the Respondent No. 1 Group.

espondent No. I Group has also been focused on multiple resolution initiatives including expediting recoveries of loans and investments provided or made by the Respondent No I Group, which amounts will be utilised towards discharging claims of the creditors of the relevant Respondent

No I Group entities in accordance with the Revised Distribution Framework approved by this tribunal (NCLAT) vide the March 12, 2020 judgement," the affidavit

said. This has also resulted into an accumulated cash balance of Rs 16,742 crore as of December 7, 2021. The NCLAT had on March 12, 2020, approved a dis-tribution framework based on "pro-rata distribution."

Rival unions

unite at

said their leaders.

be held in May PTI NEW DELHI

The long-awaited 5G Spectrum auction is expect-ed to be held in May this year if the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) submits by March its recommendations on the rules regarding the sale process, according to a senior official of the telecom department.

Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw earlier this month said the Trai has informed that it will submit its recommendations for the 5G auction by March and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is simultaneously firming up other processes to hold the auction at the earliest.

"Trai has indicated that they will send it (recommendations) by March. Thereafter, it will take us a month to make a decision around it," Telecom Secretary K Rajaraman told PTI.

Earlier, the government has taken time of 60-120 days to

TVS Supply Chain Solutions

Rajaraman said it will take NSDC will be able to identify the DoT two months to start the skill seekers at the grass-root auction from the day it gets reclevel and connect them with the right skilling opportunities in the ecosystem." He added that this ommendations from the Trai. According to the DoT, 5G is to a statement. Under the partexpected to deliver download

MFs garner nearly ₹ 1 lakh cr via NFOs in 2021 on sharp rally in stock market

PTI NEW DELHI

Mutual fund houses launched 140 new fund offerings (NFOs), which collected about Rs 1 lakh crore in 2021 on a sharp rally in the markets and an exceptional increase in the retail investors' interest.

However, the current volatility in the stock market might prompt asset management companies (AMCs) to limit the launch of NFOs this said vear. MyWealthGrowth.Com cofounder Harshad Chetanwala. Ankit Yaday wealth manand optimistic. The stock mardominance of index funds ket along with the positive and ETFs (exchange-traded investor sentiments kept surgfunds) within NFOs is not suring post-March 2020. It is prising, owing to a couple of from this point in time the factors Existing AMCs have no launch of NFOs started, Chetanwala said.

restrictions in the number of The NFOs were floated to passive products they can capitalise on the mood of manufacture, whereas there investors and attract their are limits on other types of investment as they were willfunds, Vasanth Kamath, ing to invest at that time, he founder and CEO at added. "The main fact as a Smallcase, said. "Also, as investors (across

wealth manager I see in low rate scenario is that the borretail, HNIs, institutional) are rowing becomes easy with broadening and diversifying easy money fluctuating their portfolios, they're prearound businesses tend to ferring to take an index bring their IPOs and AM(appro n to new (assets management compaand asset types, making it both efficient and simple verny) businesses are inclined sus having to build their own NFOs," Market Maestro's frameworks and strategies on In 2020, the central banks these universes," he said. throughout the globes cut the In addition, the staggerrates and made rates hit alling growth of new demat time lows in the 100-year hisaccounts requires fund houstory. Rates remain unchanged es to offer a larger, diverse linein 2021. That's why to utilise up of ETFs that were missing low rates, AMC businessesin the exchange-traded form bring NFOs, he added. factor, he added. The maximum number of Another factor for higher funds (25) were launched in NFOs in the index category could be strong performance as the index delivered over 20 the index fundsegment, which amassed Rs 4,082 crore, followed by other ETFs (24), per cent last year. which collected Rs 7,482 crore Further, the penetration of Indian investors towards and fixed-term plans (23), which mobilised Rs 5,057 index or ETF is low. So, AMCs try to capture their market In addition, investors were share, Market Maestro's Yadav attracted to international said.

holders and then submits recommendations to the DoT. As per the current practice, the apex decision making body at the DoT, the Digital Communications Commission (formerly the Telecom Commission) takes the decision

on Trai recommendations and then approaches the Cabinet for the final approval.

in taking prosperity to India's remotest parts, says Goyal

Technology can play big role

PTI 🗖 NEW DELHI

Technology can play a big L role in taking prosperity to the remotest corners of India and it can really help democratise basic amenities, such as healthcare through telemedicine and education, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Sunday.

He said that the idea of the ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) is that small retailers should be protected. "We are ok with large e-commerce also contributing to the nation's economy and working their way through. "But, should the small

retailers be allowed to become stores are almost gone or golden era.

should we not protect liveli-hoods," Goyal said while interacting with students of IIT-Kanpur.

by the government to deal with the problems of the panpublic distribution minister,

Talking about steps taken demic, Goyal, who is also the consumer affairs, food and said the government decided

to give free food grains over when the union has submitted and above the entitlements its charter of demands as the under the national food secuearlier wage agreement with rity programme to 80 crore the management will end in people. The government 2022. "On Friday, the Royal ensured that "80 crore Indians Enfield Employees Union got five kg of extra food grain for 19 months and it will continue till March this year", he said. Further, he suggestextinct like in the western ed a five-point action plan for world, where mom-and-pop IIT students to unleash India's IANS

Eicher Motors to mop up funds via IPO PTI NEW DELHI IANS CHENNAI While merger of rival com-panies is normal, a

 $T_{\text{part of TVS Mobility}}^{\text{VS Supply Chain Solutions,}}$ merger of two worker unions Group, has filed preliminary is something rare, which happened at two-wheeler maker papers with capital markets reg-Eicher Motors Ltd's plant here, ulator Sebi to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO).

Further, the amalgama-The initial share-sale consists of fresh issue of equity shares tion has happened at a time aggregating up to Rs 2,000 crore and an Offer for Sale (OFS) of up to 5.95 crore equity shares by promoter and existing investors, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP).

(REEU) decided to merge Those offering shares in the OFS are TVS Mobility, Omega TC Holdings PTE Ltd, itself with the majority union Oragadam Royal Enfield Employees General Union," the latter's President M. Mahogany Singapore Company PTE Ltd, Tata Capital Financial Services Ltd and DRSR Logistics Service. Muthukaruppasamy told

files draft papers with Sebi changing. According to market sources, the size of the initial public offering will be Rs 5,000 crore.

The company may consider a pre-IPO placement aggregating up to Rs 400 crore. If such placement is completed, the fresh issue size will be reduced, as per the draft papers.

Proceeds from the fresh issue to the tune of Rs 1,166 crore will be used to repay debt and Rs 75.2 crore will be deployed towards the capitalisation of its strategically important subsidiaries in Germany, USA and Thailand. Further, Rs 60 crore will be infused in the company's UK arm to increase its stake in Rico UK to 100 per cent and the remaining amount from the net proceeds will be deployed towards inorganic growth.

ager (USA) and director of Market Maestro, also believes that NFOs are going to decrease in 2022 and little will Ankit Yadav said. come in 2023 when rates start

According to data compiled by Morningstar India, there were 140 new fund offers (including closed-end funds and ETFs) in 2021. These managed to garner a respectable Rs 99,704 crores during their inception stage.

This was way higher than 81 NFOs floated in 2020 and cumulatively, these funds were able to garner Rs 53,703 crore. "Given the sharp rally in

the markets along with the need to fill product gap created post-recategorisation and giving investors new themes to invest in, asset-management companies launched a plethora of new schemes across the year (2021)," Morningstar noted.

Usually, NFOs come during a surging market when investor sentiments are high

Similarly, international stock markets had given good funds and sectoral or thematic funds. The AMCs launched 12 sectoral or thematic funds. returns in the past few years which raised Rs 13,237 crore and even the interest of investors to diversify across and floated 12 overseas funds geography increased, which of funds, which mopped up Rs resulted in many AMCs com-Experts believe that the ing up with international funds.

ABG Shipyard fraud: SBI says no delay in filing of case

PTI NEW DELHI

A mid allegations of delay in filing of complaint against the country's biggest bank fraud totaling Rs 22,842 crore, State Bank of India (SBI) on Sunday said it has been diligently following the ABG Shipyard fraud case with the CBI following the forensic audit report.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) recently booked ABG Shipyard Limited, its former chairman and managing director Rishi Kamlesh Agarwal and others for allegedly cheating a consortium of two dozen lenders led by ICICI Bank.

ABG Shipyard fraud is much higher than the one perpetrated by Nirav Modi and his uncle Mehul Choksi, who allegedly cheated the Punjab National Bank (PNB) of forensic audit report findings

around Rs 14,000 crore through issuance of fraudulent

Letters of Undertaking (LoUs). Congress general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala while addressing a press conference wondered as to why did it take five years after the liquidation proceedings of ABG Shipyard to lodge even an FIR for duping 28 banks of Rs 22,842

crore. "Why did the Modi government refuse to take note of the allegations made on February 15, 2018, by the Congress, warning of a scam in ABG Shipyard, and why no

FIR was lodged and criminal action taken despite their accounts having been declared as fraud on June 19, 2019?" he asked.

Responding to the allegation, SBI in a statement said a fraud is declared basis the

that are discussed thoroughly in joint lenders meetings and when a fraud is declared, an initial complaint is preferred with the CBI and based on their enquiries further information is gathered.

"In a few cases, when substantial additional information is gathered, a second complaint incorporating full and complete details is filed which

forms basis for the FIR. At no point in time, there was any effort to delay the process. The lenders forum diligently follows through with CBI in all such cases," it said.

Surjewala said SBI wrote to the CBI in November 2018, "saying there was a fraud committed by ABG Shipyard and seeking the registration of an

FIR and criminal action. Despite this, nothing happened and the CBI pushed the files back to the SBI."

Labour minister to review criteria for ESIC hospitals

New Delhi (PTI): Labour Minister Bhupender Yadav on Sunday said the labour ministry will reconsider building new hospitals by Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) on the basis of distance and numbers of insured persons.

Yadav stated this after he laid down the foundation stone of a 500 bed-hospital of ESIC in Manesar, Haryana, on Sunday, a labour ministry statement said.

Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment Rameshwar Teli, Chief Minister of Haryana Manohar Lal and Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala and other dignitaries were also present.

"Ministry of Labour and Employment will reconsider the mandate of distance and number of insured persons (IPs) to establish new dispensary or hospital under ESIC, following Prime Ministers vision to serve the poor people on priority," Yadav said.

Further, he announced the adoption of equal pay scale pol-icy for doctors of central- and state-supported ESIC hospitals and dispensaries

Keeping the need of nursing staff in ESIC Hospitals, the minister announced to open a nursing college in Manesar.

The announcement was welcomed by the Haryana chief minister with the commitment of providing 5-acre land for this nursing college.

Bank of Maharashtra emerges leader among PSBs in deposit mobilisation in Q3

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

 $B^{\rm ank\ of\ Maharashtra\ (BoM)}_{\rm has\ become\ top\ performer}$ among public sector banks (PSBs) in terms of growth in deposit mobilisation in the third quarter ended in December 2021, according to an analysis.

The Pune-headquartered lender recorded a 15.21 per cent increase in total deposits at Rs 1,86,614 crore in the October-December period of 2021-22, according to the data

published by the bank. An analysis of data disclosed by various lenders for the third quarter showed that BoM was followed by Punjab & Sind Bank which posted a 10.87 per cent growth in total advances with aggregate loans at Rs 1,00,351 crore.

deposit mobilisation, BoM recorded an 18.33 per cent growth at Rs 80,815 crore. It was followed by Bank of Baroda that reported a 12.36

December quarter. BoM was better at 1.24 per cent

while that of SBI was 1.34 per cent during the quarter under review.

For the third quarter ended December, BoM's standalone net profit more than doubled to Rs 325 crore as against Rs 154 crore in the same period a year ago. Its total income climbed to Rs 3,893 crore from Rs 3,582 crore. Mumbai-based Bank of crore in the year-ago period.

BoM's Rs 80,815 crore.

Current deposit during the third quarter witnessed a growth rate of 54.86 per cent to

Rs 21,917 crore followed by Canara Bank at 16.37 per cent to Rs 49,529 crore. Savings Account (CASA) of Bank of Maharashtra increased by 24.60 per cent to Rs 1,02,732

When it came to savings

crore.

6,351 crore.

per cent rise at Rs 3,22,909 crore and State Bank of India. SBI posted an increase of 10.30 per cent. However, in absolute terms, SBI's savings deposit base was 18 times higher at Rs 14,73,506 crore as against

Current Account and

Baroda was at the second spot

with a 12.86 per cent growth at Rs 3,88,169 crore at the end of December 2021. In terms of asset quality improvement, gross non-per-

forming assets (NPAs) of BoM was at 4.73 per cent of the total advances, the second best after SBI at 4.5 per cent, during the

With regard to net NPA,



world 11

German leader travels to Russia, **Ukraine as tensions grow**

Berlin: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz is flying to Ukraine and Russia this week in an effort to help defuse escalating tensions as Western intelligence officials warn that a Russian invasion of Ukraine is increasingly imminent and Germany has called on its citizens to leave Ukraine as quickly as possible.

Ahead of his first visits as chancellor to Kyiv on Monday and Moscow on Tuesday for meetings with the Ukrainian and Russian presidents, Scholz has renewed his warning to Russia, as well as his advocacy of continuing diplomacy in multiple formats.

"Ît is our job to ensure that we prevent a war in Europe, in that we send a clear message to Russia that any military aggression would have consequences that would be very high for Russia and its prospects, and that we are united with our allies," Scholz told the German parliament's upper house on Friday.

"But at the same time that also includes using all opportunities for talks and further development," Scholz said.

Russia has concentrated more than 100,000 troops near Ukraine's border and launched a series of military maneuvers in the region, but says it has no plans to invade the nation.

Moscow wants guarantees from the West that NATO won't allow Ukraine and

other former Soviet countries to join as members, and for the alliance to halt weapon deployments to Ukraine and roll back its forces from Eastern Europe. The U.S. And NATO flatly reject these demands.

Scholz has repeatedly said that Moscow would pay a "high price" in the event of an attack, but his government's refusal to supply lethal weapons to Ukraine or to spell out which sanctions it would support against Russia have drawn criticism abroad and at home and raised questions about Berlin's resolve in standing up to Russia.

Germany's reluctant position is partly rooted in its history of aggression during the 20th century when the country's own militarization in Europe during two world wars led many postwar German leaders to view any military response as a very last resort. Despite this historic burden, experts say it is of utmost importance now that Scholz stresses Germany is in sync with its European and American allies, especially when he meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"Scholz has to convey a very clear message in Moscow, and it can really only be: There is unity and oneness in the Western alliance. There is no possibility of driving a wedge into the Western alliance, and that must be understood in

Moscow. I think that's the most important message he has to convey there," said Markus Ziener, an expert with the German Marshall Fund.

"At the same time, he has to make it clear that the costs are high," Ziener added. "That's basically the message that is most likely to catch on in Moscow as well. So a military invasion of Ukraine has significant consequences for Russia."

Scholz has not explicitly said what kind of consequences or sanctions Russia would have to face if it invades Ukraine, but it is clear that the future of the controversial Nord Stream 2 pipeline that seeks to bring Russian natural gas to Germany under the Baltic Sea, bypassing Ukraine, is at stake.

U.S. President Joe Biden threatened last week that the pipeline would be blocked in the case of an invasion.

That would hurt Russia economically but also cause supply problems for Germany. Construction of the pipeline has been completed, but it is not yet oper-

"Germany doesn't have much leverage, except for saying that it won't

approve Nord Stream 2, which is the only political leverage," Claudia Kemfert, the head of department of energy, transport and environment at the German Institute

for Economic Research, said.

Man accused of desecrating religious book stoned to death by mob in Pak; 62 arrested

Islamabad/Lahore: A middle-aged tried to bring the body down from man was stoned to death and his the tree, were injured when mot body was hung from a tree by a mob began throwing stones at them. for allegedly desecrating a religious book in a remote village in Pakistan's into custody, but we were outnum-Punjab province, police said on Sunday, a gruesome incident that has

sparked nationwide outrage. The incident took place in Jungle Derawala village, in Khanewal district, situated 275-km from Lahore on Saturday evening, where locals had gathered after their Maghrib (evening) prayers, following announcements that a man had torn pages of the Holy Quran and had set

them on fire. The police had arrived in the village before the incident, but the

mob had outnumbered them. They seized the victim from the SHO's custody and tied him to a tree, after which he was lynched to death, eyewitnesses said. "Over 300 men had gathered at

Masjid Shahmuqeem Muaza in Jungle Derawala village, where they tied a middle-aged man with a rope before stoning him to death. Later, they hung his body on a tree," police officer Muhammad Amin told He said two policemen, who

bered by the mob, and they killed him. They chanted religious slogans

and attacked the two policemen who tried to bring the victim's body down from the tree. Once fresh reinforcements arrived in the village, they shifted the body to a mortuary, Amin said.

Police tried to take the injured man

According to BBC Urdu service, the victim was identified as Mushtaq Ahmed (son of Bashir Ahmed), who was a resident of Bara Chak village.

The villagers said that the victim was mentally unstable and stayed out

of the house for several days. A number of videos have surfaced on social media in which the enraged mob can be seen torturing the man and hanging his body on the tree. Some had even tried to burn his body, according to the videos that are circulating online.

Punjab Inspector General of Police Rao Sardar Ali Khan submitted a preliminary report of the incident to Punjab Chief Minis-ter Usman Buzdar.

Blockades on Canada-US border continue as protests swell

Nepal's Chief Justice Rana faces impeachment motion

Kathmandu: Nepal's ruling coalition lawmakers on Sunday filed an impeachment motion against Chief Justice Cholendra Shamsher JB Rana over allegations of corruption. Spokesperson of the Parliament Secretariat Rajnath Pandey said that the impeachment was registered at 11 a.M.

Rana, who had assumed the post of Chief Justice on January 2, 2019, has been suspended from his post following the registration of impeachment motion against him at the House of Representatives.

A total of 98 lawmakers from ruling alliance including Law and Justice Minister Dilendra Prasad Badu, Nepali Congress Whip Pushpa Bhushal, CPN-Maoist Centre Whip Dev Gurung and CPN-Unified Socialist lawmaker Jeevan Ram Bhandari have signed the proposal to impeach the chief justice.

There is a provision for automatic suspension of the chief justice with the registration of the impeachment motion. Speaking to the media, Gurung said that the impeachment was registered against the top judge because the court was not functioning properly and there were charges of corruption against the chief justice.

There are 21 charges labelled against the chief justice in the motion. The charges include being unable to safeguard democracy, human rights, rule of law, judicial independence and impartiality. He has also been charged with exposure to excessive distortion, inconsistencies and corruption.

The impeachment motion comes in the wake of more than three months long agitation by Nepal Bar Association against the chief justice after one of his relatives was appointed as minister in the Deuba cabinet, who had later resigned after it sparked controversy.

If the motion is passed by at least two-thirds majority of the total number of the members of the House of Representatives, the chief justice shall be relieved of his

Sri Lankan Navy arrests 12 Indian fishermen for alleged poaching

Colombo: The Sri Lankan Navy has arrested 12 Indian fishermen and seized two fishing trawlers for allegedly poaching in the country's territorial waters, an official statement said on Sunday, the third such incident involving Indians in the island nation this month.

The arrests were made in seas north of Talaimannar. They were indulging in bottom trawling, the Navy said. "In an operation conducted in seas north of Talaimannar in the dark hours of February 12, Sri Lanka Navy managed to seize 2 Indian trawlers with 12 Indian fishermen while poaching in Sri Lankan waters," it said.

This was the third arrest of the Indian fishermen in the Sri Lankan waters during this month. On February 8, the Navy arrested 11 Indian fishermen and seized three fishing trawlers and on February 1, twenty-one Indian fishermen were arrested

The fishermen issue is a contentious one in ties between the two countries. The issue also figured in the talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Sri Lankan counterpart G L Peiris last week during the latter's three-day official visit to India. The arrests of Indian fishermen come as the local immigration officials are making arrangements to repatriate 56 Indian fishermen who were arrested in December.

The arrests of Indians and the local fishermen's agitations seeking government action to stop Indian fishing boats have expanded over the last fortnight.

Jaishankar lauds Indian community's key role in shaping positive image in Australia

Melbourne: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday met the Indian community here and appreciated their key role in shaping the country's positive image in Australia and in the new phase of bilateral ties.

Jaishankar visited Australia from February 10 to 13 in his first trip to the country as external affairs minister. He attended the 4th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting along with the foreign ministers of Australia, Japan and the United States on Friday.

Jaishankar appreciated the role of the Indian community in haping India's positive image.

"So appropriate to conclude my Melbourne visit meeting the Indian community. Their role in shaping India's positive image is commendable. Key partners in this new phase of our ties," Jaishankar tweeted. Melbourne has a vibrant

Indian community with Indiane last | born migrants making up 3 per *PTI* | cent of the city's total population.

Since 2001, the number of Indian-born migrants in Melbourne has more than tripled. On Saturday, India and Australia pledged to work together for building more trusted and resilient supply chains and ensuring broad and inclusive growth in the strategic Indoacific region.

At a joint press conference with his Australian counterpart Marise Payne after their bilateral meeting, Jaishankar said he spoke at length with Payne about regional, multilateral and global issues, besides discussing developments in South Asia, Southeast Asia and in the strategically vital Indo-Pacific region.

Jaishankar will also make a bilateral visit to the Philippines from Sunday. This will be his first visit to the Philippines as external affairs minister. He will hold talks with his counterpart, Teodoro L Locsin, Secretary of Foreign Affairs and meet with the political leadership in the Philippines. **PTI** PTI

Windsor (Canada): Hours after removing their vehicles blocking a key US-Canadian border bridge, protesters opposed to Covid-19 vaccine mandates continued to block traffic outside in the bitter cold early Sunday, while in the capital Ottawa, police were forming a new command centre with provincial and national authorities that they said would help them respond

better to a larger demonstration that has paralysed downtown. The tense standoff at the Ambassador Bridge linking Detroit and Windsor, Ontario, eased somewhat Saturday when Canadian police persuaded demonstrators to move the trucks they had used to barricade the entrance to the busy international crossing. Early Saturday evening, crews set up concrete traffic barricades along the highway.

But protesters reconvened nearby — with reinforcements and were still choking off access from the Canadian side, snarling traffic and commerce. About 180 remained late Saturday in the subfreezing cold. In Ottawa, the ranks of protesters swelled to what police said was 4,000 demonstrators. The city has seen that on past weekends, and loud music played as people milled about downtown where anti-vaccine demonstrators have been

encamped since late January. The protests at the bridge, in Ottawa and elsewhere have reverberated outside the country, with similarly inspired convoys in France, New Zealand and the Netherlands, and the US Department of Homeland Security warned that truck convoys may be in the works in the United States. An ex-Cabinet minister in Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government took the unusual step of calling out her former federal colleagues as well as the province and city for not putting an end to the protests.

"Amazingly, this isn't just Ottawa. It's the nation's capital," Catherine McKenna tweeted. "But no one — not the city, the province or the federal government can seem to get their act together to end this illegal occupation. It's appalling...Just get your act together. Now. Trudeau has so far rejected

calls to use the military.

The Prime Minister stressed that border crossings cannot, and will not, remain closed, and that all options are on the table," Trudeau's office said in a statement late Saturday after he met with senior officials. Trudeau has called the protesters a "fringe" of Canadian

ociety Óttawa police said in a statement late Saturday that a joint command centre had now been set up together with the Ontario Provincial Police and the Royal

Canadian Mounted Police. They said that would beef up enforcement capabilities that had been limited by ^{*}safety concerns arising from aggressive, illegal behaviour by many demonstrators - limited police enforcement capabilities"

Police earlier issued a statement calling the protest an unlawful occupation and saying they were waiting for reinforcements before implementing a plan to end the demonstrations.

Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson declared a state of emergency last week for the capital, where hundreds of trucks remained in front of the Parliament Buildings and ture.

demonstrators have set up portable toilets outside the prime minister's office where Trudeau's motorcade usually parks.

2024" spray-painted on his vehicle left the bridge entrance early in the day as others began dismantling a small, tarp-covered encampment. A trucker honked his horn as he, too, drove off, to cheers and chants

But hundreds more arrived to bolster the crowd and settled into a faceoff with police about two blocks away, waving flags and yelling. While there were no visible physical confrontations, the crowd still controlled the road to the bridge, and traffic had not

resumed as of Sunday morning. On Friday, a judge ordered an end to the blockade of mostly pickup trucks and cars, and Ontario Premier Doug Ford declared a state of emergency allowing for fines of 100,000 Canadian dollars and up to one year in jail for anyone illegally blocking roads, bridges, walk-ways and other critical infrastruc-

Surrounded by dozens of officers in Windsor, a man with "Mandate Freedom" and "Trump

of "Freedom!"

Re-elected German president vows to fight for democracy

Berlin (AP): German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier was re-elected for a second term of five years by a special parliamentary assembly on Sunday and vowed to heal the wounds left by the coronavirus and fight the enemies of democracy.

The president was elected with a big majority by a special assembly made up of the members of parliament's lower house and representatives of Germany's 16 states.

Steinmeier had been endorsed by most mainstream political parties ahead of the election for the largely ceremonial head of state.

"My responsibility is for all the people who live in our Russia's troop buildup can-not be misunderstood. It is a

I am not neutral when it comes to the cause of democracy. Whoever fights for democracy will have me on his side. Whoever attacks it will have me as an opponent," Steinmeier said in a speech to the special assembly after accepting his election.

In reaction to the escalating crisis on the border of Ukraine where Russia has massed well over 100,000 troops, Steinmeier warned that we are in the midst of the danger of a military conflict, a war in Eastern Europe Russia bears the responsibility for this.

country. Non-partisan, yes but threat to Ukraine and it is supposed to be one, he added. But the people there have

a right to live without fear and threat, to self-determination and sovereignty. No country in the world has the right to destroy that and whoever tries to do so, we will answer you decisively.

The re-elected president vowed that he would continue

to work on strengthening democracy in Germany and help take away fears of the future, giving the country's citizens the confidence to handle the challenges ahead. He also vowed to help heal wounds created by the coronavirus pandemic.

Pakistani medical college asks Turkish opposition students to wear hijab and Let us not underestimate the strength of democracy. But let us also not underestimate prayer caps on Valentine's Day the challenges it faces, Steinmeier said. Opponents of democracy, from without and Islamabad: A medical college in Pakistan's national capital has issued Valentine's Day guidewithin, are sowing doubts during this pandemic about our

lines to its students, asking girls to wear hijab and boys to wear white prayer caps while maintaining a distance of two metres from the opposite sex at all times, according to a media report.

On Saturday, Islamabad International Medical College issued a circular forbidding students from participating in Valentine's Day celebrations and associated "activities which lead the youth towards the wrong path," the Friday Times newspaper reported. "All female students should be seen with properly-covered heads, necks and chests with a hijab according to the university dress code. All male students are strictly ordered to wear white

prayer caps," the circular said. It also warned that members of the college staff would be patrolling the campus to catch students violating these guidelines. Those violating these rules, would be fined PKR 5,000, the report said, quoting the college cir-

The college was established in 1996, and is a medical school affiliated with Riphah International University. Valentine's Day, also called Saint Valentine's Day, is celebrated annually on February

It originated as a Christian feast day honouring a Christian martyr named Saint Valentine, and over the years has become a significant cultural celebration of romance across the world. PTI

leaders meet to counter Erdogan's system

Istanbul: The leaders of six opposition parties in Turkey met Saturday to strategise about the future of the country's governing system - a move that aims to unseat the country's longtime ruler.

In a statement following the working dinner, the party leaders said Turkey was experiencing "the deepest political and economic crisis" of its history and blamed it on the executive presidential system. They said their joint goal was to transform Turkey's governance to a "strengthened parliamentary system".

They did not mention President Recep Tayyip Erdogan by name, but their clear aim is to find a way to work together to unseat him. After more than 11 years as Turkey's prime minister, Erdogan was elected president in 2014. At the time, the position was primarily ceremonial, however in 2017 Turkish voters approved an executive presidential system, greatly expanding Erdogan's powers at the expense of those of the prime minister and parliament. Erdogan was re-elected the following year. Critics call the system "one-man rule".

The leaders at the dinner were Kemal Kilicdaroglu, the head of the main opposition Republican People's Party; Meral Aksener from the nationalist Good Party; Temel Karamollaoglu from the con-servative Felicity Party; Gultekin Uysal from the Democrat Party; Democracy and Progress Party's Ali Babacan; and Future Party's

Ahmet Davutoglu. They had previously con-ducted bilateral meetings but Saturday's meeting was their first all together.

They are expected to release details of their agreement on Feb 28.



Parts of the old village of Aceredo, submerged three decades ago when a hydropower dam flooded the valley, are photographed emerged due to drought at the Lindoso reservoir, in northwestern Spain. Large sections of Spain are experiencing extreme or prolonged drought, with rainfall this winter at only one-third of the average in recent years. The situation is similar in neighboring Portugal, where 45% of the country is now enduring a severe drought. AP/PTI

US, Japan, South Korea meet in Hawaii to discuss North Korea

AP HONOLULU

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met his Japanese and South Korean counterparts on Saturday in Hawaii to discuss the threat posed by nuclear-armed North Korea after Pyongyang began the year with a series of missile tests

ability to act and our institu-

tions, about free science and

the decisive breakthrough in

the fight against the pandem-

ic, the development of the vac-

cine in record time that was

achieved here, in free science,

thanks to brilliant researchers

and courageous entrepreneurs

... in Germany, with our part-ners in Europe and the USA.

But, Steinmeier stressed,

free media.

Blinken said at a news conference after the meeting that North Korea was "in a phase of provocation" and the three countries condemned the recent missile launches.

"We are absolutely united in our approach, in our determination," Blinken said after his talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and South Korean Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong. The three released a joint statement calling on North Korea to engage in dialogue and cease its "unlawful activities." They said they had no hostile intent toward North Korea and were open to meeting Pyongyang without preconditions.

Some experts say North Korea is using the weapon's tests to put pressure on President Joe Biden's administration to resume long-stalled

nuclear negotiations as the pandemic puts further strain on an economy already battered by decades of mismanagement and crippling U.S.-led

sanctions. The Biden administration has offered North Korea openended talks but has shown no willingness to ease the sanctions without meaningful cuts to the country's nuclear program.

North Korea has rebuffed U.S. Offers to resume diplomacy, saying it won't return to talks unless Washington drops what it says are hostile polices. The North bristles at both the sanctions and regular military exercises the U.S. Holds with South Korea.

The tests also have a technical component, allowing North Korea to hone its weapons arsenal. One of the missiles recently tested — the Hwasong-12 intermediaterange ballistic missile - is capable of reaching the U.S. Territory of Guam. It was the longest-distance weapon the North has tested since 2017.

North Korea appears to be pausing its tests during the Winter Olympics in China, its most important ally and eco-

nomic lifeline. But analysts believe North Korea will dramatically increase its weapons testing after the Olympics.

The recent tests have rattled Pyongyang's neighbors in South Korea and Japan. South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who helped set up the historic talks between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and former President Donald Trump in 2018 and 2019, said last month that the tests were a violation UN Security Council resolutions and urged the North to cease "actions that create ten-

sions and pressure." The Security Council initially imposed sanctions on North Korea after its first nuclear test in 2006. It made them tougher in response to further nuclear tests and the country's increasingly sophisticated nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

China and Russia, citing the North's economic difficulties, have called for lifting sanctions like those banning seafood exports and prohibitions on its citizens working overseas and sending home their earnings.

Blinken arrived in Hawaii from Fiji, where he met with

Acting Prime Minister Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum and other Pacific leaders to talk about regional issues, especially the existential risk posed by climate change. It was the first visit by a U.S. Secretary of state to Fiji since 1985. He start-

ed his Pacific tour in Australia, where he met his counterparts from Australia, India and Japan. The four nations form the "Quad," a bloc of Indo-Pacific democracies that was created to counter China's regional influence.

Hayashi and Chung held a separate bilateral meeting Saturday for about 40 minutes before seeing Blinken. Japan's Foreign Ministry said they reaffirmed the importance of cooperating together and with the United States to respond to North Korea and to achieve regional stability. The ministry said they also

"frankly" exchanged views on ongoing disputes between the two countries, including wartime Korean labourers and sexual abuse of Korean women forced into sexual servitude by Japan's imperial army.

Blinken also met separate ly with Chung. He met Hayashi earlier this week in Australia.







EVERYDAY HEROES

SANISH KULKARNI's attempt to educate and empower underprivileged youth by providing them with livelihood options has impacted close to 500 youngsters, says MITHILA NAIK-SATAM



nanish Kulkarni called me to his dig-Sital centre at Thane without giving me the context of where we were off to for the day. He called it 'on-field'. Full disclosure and fieldwork have always been up my alley, so I gladly

agreed. We hopped into a rickshaw and Kulkarni disclosed that we were headed to Kalyan, Vittal Wadi — approxi-mately an hour's ride from Thane. En route, he gave me the background of why Guddu's (name changed) tale is one of his rewarding success stories. Guddu was one of Kulkarni's early students and a part of the digital skill training pro-

gramme. Speaking of him, Kulkarni beamed with pride. "He would spend a lot of time looking at music videos on YouTube. Our team picked up his organic inclination towards the visual medium and taught him editing. Six months into training, he edited his first rap music video and it is now up on YouTube," informed Kulkarni proudly.

Guddu learned these skills at the 12month training course that Kulkarni designed. "We started with tech training and soon realised that we needed to

Ishita Chakravarty, who met her partner within a week

of downloading Bumble last

year, was impressed by his perfect date idea stated as

nemade mutton curry a

Be your authentic self

include mental health sessions and workshops too. Since our course also includes editing, we added movie screenings for the kids to watch from

screenings for the kids to watch from and learn," explained Kulkarni. A gold medalist Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) alumnus, Kulkarni along with a handful of like-minded fellow graduates, formed Advocating Youth At-risk through Nurturing and Support Hub (AYANSH) Foundation, an action plan to educate and empower underprivileged youth, providing them with various liveli-hood options. nood options.

Without a doubt, this is one of the most pressing problems in our country given that every third person in an Indian city today is a youth. According to a report, by 2020, India's population was expected to become the world's youngest; more than 500 million Indian citizens would be under 25 years of age, and more than two-thirds of the population were eligible to work. This implies that a growing number of India's youth need the right educational infrastructure to develop skills and adequate opportunities to get employed

or become entrepreneurs.

Since the early days, Kulkarni want-ed to support youth who were deprived of privilege. While asking what pushed him in this direction, he said, "You notice the stark difference; we have the privilege. These kids, who come from marginalised backgrounds, don't. Simply put, the idea was to create an equitable society where all the youth-at-risk are enabled with work-oriented education and training that prepares them for jobs, self-employment or even entrepreneurship.

AYANSH's skill-based training model stemmed from Kulkarni's strong determination to uplift the underprivileged youth and create a livelihood path for them.

"Before starting AYANSH, my team and I were engaged in an initiative to train youth in different skills like painting, carpentry, housekeeping. However, after spending enough time with the students, we noticed, they often signed up for the courses to get into good books but were not keen to pursue them. After repeated conversations with youngsters based in Mumbai, Thane and Pune,

we affirmed that these youngsters are aspirational and more inclined to study courses related to new software technologies," narrated Kulkarni as we walked the narrow lanes of Vittal Wadi.

As I tried to understand what drove Kulkarni to take this initiative, he revealed that his academic background in Mass Communication made him decide to train students in graphic designing, video editing, and other digital software. "This led to us open-ing our first digital training centre in Thane in July 2018," said Kulkarni. As far as curriculum is conserved.

As far as curriculum is concerned, it is designed according to the needs of the industry so that students get handson experience before joining a company. They also ensure to provide basic training to the students who have had zero exposure to computers or the internet before starting the software training.

Along with skilling, they understood the importance of gearing up youngsters to speak and read the English language. "We extended our teachings to train them in the English language during the digital course, this helped students gain confidence while coaching them for job interviews," informed Kulkarni.

Speaking of the support systems he gives due credit to Pravah, a non-profit body, his research guides at TISS — Sasmita Swain and Dr Sri Krishna Sudheer Patoju — and his coach Roshan D'souza at UnLtd India who supported his venture

strongly and believed in the idea. AYANSH's first batch had six students from a variety of backgrounds. And Guddu was one of them. Today, AYANSH has impacted close to 500 youngsters. Kulkarni likes to believe that the foundation and his work are more like a movement with vibrant individuals leading and helping it move forward. "We will continue to bridge the gap between the underprivileged and the opportunities by developing students' creativity. I want to help build a ripple effect where Guddu soon becomes a guide to a younger Guddu who probably needs to be nudged in the right direction," Kulkarni adds.

As this on-field day came to an end, Kulkarni smiled widely and quoted, "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for he future."

(The author is a development worker and a writer from Maharashtra.) -Charkha Features



No life without love

Nothing in this world appears beautiful in isolation. It is only when seen in the context of its surroundings that it becomes outstanding, says Rajyogi Brahmakumar Nikunj ji

Tt is rightly said that 'love makes the world go round'. Isn't it true that without love, our lives seem dry and empty? Without love, we can neither see the beauty in creation nor can we find our inner beauty. After all, love is what we are all about. That is why Mahatma Gandhi has rightly said 'Where there is love, there is life'. Although we live in this material world which is filled with natural beauty and we have created the wonders of science, we must not forget that without love, we cannot experience the benefits of those creations.

It's a known fact that when a child is born, the mother automatically loves the child as it is innocent and pure like nature that provides us with instinctive love so that we protect and nurture that child. The newborn baby goes on to become the focus of the family and its bonding begins based on love. This bonding further plays a crucial role for the child to develop its personality, to relate to the very big world around it, to feel secure, confident and to be able to express itself in society. Remember, a child who is loved will have no fear in his/her life and









wine' on his Bumble profile. Commenting on the importance of a complete profile bio, she says, "Everyone loves a funny, interesting and memorable profile. You can be fun, outgoing, adventurous, love to travel, or enjoy being active, so why not share that? If you like to cook, what's your favourite dish to make? What show are you watching on TV right now? What does your typical Saturday night look like? It helps in making a woman decide to make the first move." Chakravarty also adds, "Do not rush the process. If the connection between two people is real, then things will fall into place".

Be clear on dating intentions

Believe Anamika when she says, "If you feel something is right, go for it. Be yourself and let people get to know the real you. Being clear about your dating intentions and your true self will help you make better decisions and have transparent conversations with your match. This helps in building that trust you both need to take it to the next proven to be a great conversa-

step," adds Anamika. SWIPE RIGHT Interesting conversation

Struggling to start a con-versation with something This Valentine's Day, women who found more interesting than just a love on Bumble share their tips and tricks 'hi'? Go for the basics, Anamika advises. "Talk about on how to navigate online dating. what you like or dislike, give By TEAM VIVA a cute compliment or even

tion starter for her. "I remem- house party or clubbing?" ber playing the Question

Game on Bumble. My favourite was beach or mountain person, cat or dog person, met her partner on Bumble last closure", she shares.

Respect boundaries Angana Chakraborty, who

ship helped in deciding to spend their lives together. Chakraborty believes that respecting one's boundaries and space is essential. "Carry on chatting with your connection if you are comfortable or politely decline. Women know how to take hints if you are not interested. In case a woman did not, for whatsoever reason, have the courtesy to give her

that honesty in their relation-

year and also got married to Patience is a virtue him during the time, shares

Urmi Bhatt who met with her partner on Bumble during the lockdown in May 2020, explains that finding trust in the online space can be a little tough for women. So, it is best to give someone the time and space she requires to build a connection. "Be clear but not overly persistent. It's great to ask questions and keep the conversation going but try not to go overboard with too many messages if she is taking time. She'll come around!"

our family that gives us a sense of safety and provides us with the

would be able to easily

venture outside the fam-

to integrate our experiences properly without a

loving family because

All of us are unable



courage to face challenges that life brings on. We must understand that nothing in this world appears beautiful in isolation. It is only when seen in the context of its surroundings that it becomes beautiful. Hence, our friends and family are the nuclei of our existence.

When we are alone, we can feel lonely, but not if the soul has developed the consciousness of unlimited love. When we learn to connect with our inner nature of love, it becomes an imperishable treasure that remains with us wherever we go. This unlimited love means that I have a connection with every living being and I also spread the rays of love to the five elements of nature. With this love, Í begin to understand the interdependence of all things and realise that I am not alone, but I am a part of the world drama and it is love that makes this beautiful world drama work.

By developing the understanding that all beings are His sweet children and He is the one who purifies nature, we also become a part of His unlimited family and the custodians of nature. With this attitude, we are not able to see anyone or think about anyone without feelings of love, acceptance and of belongingness. Remember! Supreme Almighty's pure love makes no judgement, it does not discriminate nor reject but is an all-embracing, all-accepting, powerful love that transforms and purifies everyone and everything by gently removing traces of fear, loneliness, sorrow and grief from within the soul and makes our life truly magical and beautiful. So let us all spread the light of love & heal the world from the wounds of hatred and negativity.

TRAFFIC NOISE STRONGLY LINKED TO INSOMNIA

 $N^{\text{octurnal}}_{\text{of}}$ insomnia symptoms, highlighting the potential impact of noise pollution on public health in large populations.

Traffic noise at night can

affect a population's quality and quantity of sleep. A study published in Environmental Science and Pollution Research found an association between insomnia and traffic noises in northern India. This study aimed to



starters

share something funny that happened recently". Anamika

suggests playing Bumble's

Question Game which has

analyse the relationship between traffic noise exposure at night and self-reported sleep problems, as well as evaluate subgroups that may be more vulnerable based on sociodemographic characteristics and health-related problems. The study authors note that in India, the acoustic environment is "alarming" compared with Western developed countries, and therefore research on traffic noise exposure and sleep problems should be a priority. "Insomnia is one of the most common sleep disorders present in adults," the authors wrote.

SENSE OF SMELL IS DIMINISHING IN HUMANS

According to a recent Astudy, the sense of smell of humans has been gradually diminishing. The study has found two scent receptors for musk and body odour with mutations, which make scents less or

more intense. Sijia Wang of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Joel Mainland of the Monell Chemical Senses Center have contributed to these findings

In this research, around 1,000 Han Chinese people were asked to rate the intensity and pleasantness of 10 odours on a 100-point scale.

The odours tested included galaxolide, a synthetic musk and 3M2H, which is one of about 120 chemicals that comprise body odour but also carries the 'characteristic scent' by itself

The results of the study confirmed associations discovered earlier between the perception, including intensity, and genetic variants for specific odour receptors for three out of four of the scents.

SOLAR STORM CAN DEVASTATE EARTH

Predicting solar storms is difficult. It is currently believed that they are more likely during an active phase of the sun, or solar maximum, during the so-called sunspot cycle. However, the new study published in Nature Communications shows that this may not always be the case for very large storms. "We have studied drill cores from Greenland and Antarctica, and discovered traces of a massive solar storm that hit Earth during one of the sun's passive phases about 9,200 years

It always seems impossible until it's done. - Nelson Mandela

> ago," says Raimund Muscheler, geology researcher at Lund

University. The researchers scoured the drill cores for peaks of the radioactive isotopes beryllium-10 and chlorine-36. These are produced by high-energy cosmic

particles that reach Earth and can be preserved in ice and sediment.

If a similar solar storm were to take place today, it could have devastating consequences. In addition to power outages and radiation damage to satellites, it could pose a danger to air traffic, astronauts and collapse communication systems

radiofrequency radiation can damage eyeballs and testicles. A study, by Korean scientists, concludes that cell phone use is linked to lower overall sperm quality - its

exposure to

shown that very high

motility, viability and concentration. And it's worse for men with "high" cell usage

CELL PHONES IMPACT MALE FERTILITY

 $C^{\rm ell}$ phones emit radiofrequency radiation — a type of Celectromagnetic wave — that studies show is linked to

brain and salivary gland tumours, behavioural problems in

children and neurological problems. Earlier research has

Their new meta-analysis integrated findings from 18 peer-reviewed studies, including about 4,000 sperm samples. The study was published in the peer-reviewed journal Environmental Research.

It examines the impact of the duration of cell phone use on sperm quality.

70% OCEANS COULD SUFFOCATE BY 2080

 $B^{\rm y}$ 2080, around 70 per cent of the world's oceans Bcould be suffocating from a lack of oxygen as a result of climate change, potentially impacting marine ecosystems worldwide, according to a new study. The new models find mid-

irreversible deoxygenation of the ocean's middle depths that support much of the world's fished species began occurring in 2021, likely affecting fisheries worldwide. The new models predict that deoxygenation is expected to begin affecting all zones of the ocean by 2080. The results were published in the AGU journal Geophysical Research Letters.



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Madrid held at Villarreal before PSG

AP BARCELONA

he only positive that Real Madrid could take away from its scoreless draw with Villarreal was Gareth Bale, whose good form belied his return to the pitch after more than five months on the sidelines.

The stalemate left Madrid four points clear of second-placed Sevilla as the Spanish league leader continues to struggle without injured striker Karim Benzema, and with their Champions League clash against Paris Saint-Germain just three days away.

While Madrid stumbled, an 89th-minute goal by Mario Hermoso snatched 10-man Atletico Madrid a 4-3 victory over Getafe in a wild capital derby that featured a red card, three penalties, and six first-half goals.

Bale had not played for Real Madrid since three appearances in August.

Then injuries and a COVID-19 infection ensured he fell out of Carlo Ancelotti's rotation in favor of younger players such as Vinícius Júnior and Marco Asensio.

During that period, however, he did play three World Cup qualifiers

for Wales, twice in September and once in November.

With Benzema recovering from a left hamstring pull, Ancelotti gave Bale the nod to play as his striker. Bale needed almost the entire first half to finally get involved against Villarreal, but once he did, he showed the same ability he always had to produce scoring chances.

"(Bale) had his opportunity and he made the most of it. He could have scored, he gave us a threat up front, he did all we asked of him," Ancelotti said about the former star who returned to Madrid last summer after his loan to

Tottenham. Only the goalkeeping of Gerónimo Rulli stopped Bale on three occasions, including one shot he pushed onto his bar in the 56th minute. Late substitute Luka Jovic almost grabbed a stoppage-time winner on the break when he sent his chipped shot onto the bar.

Villarreal, which remained in sixth place, was also without its top striker as Gerard Moreno nursed a right leg injury. Villarreal, however, got the bet-

ter of Madrid in an intense, and sometimes testy, first half.



Besides his surprise choice of Bale, Ancelotti also started the sparingly used Marcelo on the left side of his defense. Marcelo, whose contract is up in June, was slow to keep up with winger Samuel Chukwueze, while new arrival Giovani Lo Celso cued Villarreal's passing attack.

"Each side had their half. We did enough to have led the first half, but then they had their chances in the second and we struggled. I think splitting the points is a fair result," Villarreal defender Raul Albiol said. Madrid faces a trip to PSG on Tuesday with only one win in its last four games and doubts if Benzema will be ready.

SHOOTOUT AT THE WANDA Even though Luis Suárez had an early penalty saved by Getafe's David Soria, Atlético looked ready to roll after Ángel Correa and Matheus Cunha gave it a 2-0 lead at their Wanda Metropolitano Stadium. But Getafe roared ahead in less than 15 minutes, helped by two careless touches by the host and the same defensive errors that have undermined its title defense.

Borja Mayoral sparked the fightback by knocking in an errant

shot by a teammate. Enes Unal then put his side ahead after converting penalties in the 37th and 42nd folowing handballs by Cunha and Thomas Lemar.

Lemar helped make up for his mistake with a cross that Correa headed home for his second goal to make it 3-3 just before halftime.

Atlético's Felipe Monteiro was sent off in the 58th for sticking his studs into the upper arm of Mauro Arambarri during a high speed clash. That came shortly after Unal left the pitch following a knock with

Felipe. Atletico was on the verge of an embarrassing setback on the heels of its 4-2 loss to Barcelona in the last round when Hermoso scrambled in his own miss after fellow substitute João Félix headed down a free kick in the six-yard box.

The hard-earned victory lifted Atlético back into fourth place ahead of Barcelona before its derby at Espanyol on Sunday.

ELSEWHERE

Cádiz goalie Jeremías Ledesma saved a late penalty by Celta Vigo's Santi Mina to ensure a 0-0 draw, while Osasuna won 3-0 at Rayo Vallecano.

AIFF condoles demise of N Pappana

IANS NEW DELHI

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) condoled the demise of former Indian footballer N Pappana, who passed away in his residence in Mysuru on Sunday. Pappana made his international debut against Hong Kong in the 1968 Merdeka Cup and has one goal to his name which he scored against Japan in the Merdeka Cup. He represented India in three matches.

"It is really sad to hear that Mr. Pappana is no longer with us. His invaluable contribution to Indian Football will always remain with us. I share the grief," said AIFF President Praful Patel, in his condolence message.

'Mr. Pappana will remain alive in his achievements. He was a brilliant footballer and was an inspiration for so many. My condolences to his family. We pray for his soul to rest in peace," said AIFF General Secretary Kushal Das.

At the domestic level, Pappana had scored a whopping 115 goals for Mohammedan Sporting, winning the Calcutta Football League in 1967, Bordoloi Trophy (1969, 1970), Stafford Cup (1968,



1970) and many other trophies. He had also represented Bengal in the 1967 edition of the Santosh Trophy and scored 2 goals.

Kerala Blasters take on SC East Bengal

IANS VASCO (GOA)

There will be no love lost when Kerala Blasters FC take on beleaguered SC East Bengal in the Indian Super League match at the Tilak Maidan Stadium, here on Monday

Kerala will look to get back into the top-four after suffering a heavy defeat at the hands of Jamshedpur FC in their last outing. For SC East Bengal, it will be about salvaging some pride after being mathematically ruled out of the playoffs race with their loss to Odisha FC in their previous engagement.

While SC East Bengal will look to play party-poopers, for Kerala this game should be one to pick up three points as they take on ATK Mohun Bagan and Hyderabad FC, two teams above them in the league table, in the next two games after Monday. Their final three games see them go up against Chennaiyin FC, Mumbai City and FC Goa.

For head coach Ivan Vukomanovic, his team's setpiece woes would be a cause for concern given SC East Bengal do score a lot from them. The Blasters have conceded just four goals via open play, against ATK Mohun Bagan. In fact, no team has conceded fewer openplay goals this season than Kerala Blasters (6). SC East

Bengal have scored 70.59% of their goals (12 out of 17) from set-pieces. No team scores a greater percentage of goals from set-pieces than the red and gold brigade. Kerala Blasters are also going through a period of injuries and suspension as they may be without Ruivah Hormipam, Harmaniot Khabra and Marko Leskovic for the

next game, all of whom are either injured or suspended or not fully fit.

"We have enough players in our squad. That's why we have a large squad. Some other players will take the positions. I am not worried. I am confident that these boys can do the job. We will see tomorrow. I am glad these boys will get some game

time," said Vukomanovic. "We are confident for

tomorrow's game. Every game is important now. We have to be fully concentrated and ready to fight for all duels," he added. SC East Bengal, sitting 10th

in the points table with just 10 points to show for from 16 games, will have nothing to lose. They have just managed to win one game so far and head coach Mario Rivera will be eager to change that statistic.

'I'm sure the top teams will not be happy to play SC East Bengal now because they know we'll be a very difficult team to beat. We are focused on winning the next match," he said.

KBFC has a very balanced side. Their attack and defence are well balanced. Of course, they'll miss some players in tomorrow's game but their squad depth is fantastic and they're performing well in ISL," he added on Kerala.

The last time the two sides met, the game ended in a 1-1 draw.

Hamilton looks 'totally focused' Arif Khan finishes 45th in giant slalom at Beijing 2022

on the 2022 campaign

IANS DUBAI

 $S^{\mathrm{even-time}}_{\mathrm{champion}}$ Formula One world Schampion Lewis Hamilton is absolutely committed to fighting for an eighth title in 2022, F1 President and CEO Stefano Domenicali confirmed on Sunday.

Domenicali said that the Mercedes driver's silence spoke volumes over his desire to win what would be a record eighth title. This season of course boasts brand-new F1 cars -- a huge challenge for all 20 drivers on the grid -- with 23 Grands Prix on the calendar.

"From what I see in the picture he has posted, he seems to be totally focused on this year's challenge that, sporting-wise, will be very interesting. We are all looking forward to seeing how the new cars behave and sure this will be as exciting as the last one," he said.

Since that photo, Hamilton has started posting more regularly, with a series of images showing what he's been up to over the last few weeks -- and is well into his pre-season regime.

The 37-year-old lost out on what would have been a record eighth championship when he was passed by rival Max Verstappen on the last lap of the final race of the season in Abu Dhabi.



2021 season finale. He is set to partner launched on February 18.

Aside from a short post-race inter- with new teammate George Russell in view, Hamilton hasn't addressed the the W13 challenger, which is set to be



IANS BEIJING

ndian skier Arif Khan finished 45th in the Men's Giant Slalom race at the 2022 Winter Olympics, here on Sunday. The 31-year-old skier from Jammu and Kashmir, who is the only Indian athlete at the 2022 Winter Olympics, ended at 53rd in Race 1 with a time of 1 minute 22.35 seconds. In Race 2, he clocked 1:24.89. The lone Indian athlete at the Winter Olympics 2022, Arif Khan finished overall 45th at the Yanqing National Alpine Skiing Centre. His combined time was 37.89 seconds behind gold winner Marco Odermatt of Switzerland, who clocked a combined

time of 2:09.35. Slovenia's Zan Kranjec

(2:09.54) and France's Mathieu Faivre (2:10.69) clinched the silver and bronze medal, respectively. Khan has qualified for the slalom race event also, where he is scheduled to compete on February 16.

"It's one of my dreams to be at the Winter Olympics and this is my first time. It really means a lot. It's a great message back to our country, to our people to join winter sports in future," Khan was quoted as saying by Olympics.com.

There were like millions of people watching me live back home. I was trying my best to give the best I have got. But the weather was uncertain, you couldn't see much, like how the slope was used, but it was good," he said.



Top-seeded Ruud and Schwartzman to play Argentina Open final

AP BUENOS AIRES

Top-seeded players Casper Ruud and Diego Schwartzman will play in Sunday's final of the Argentina Open.

The Norwegian Ruud, the 8th-best ranked player, and the Argentinian Schwartzman, the 15th-best player, won the 2020 and 2021 editions of the clay court tournament, respectively.

Ruud beat Argentinian Federico Delbonis 6-3, 6-3 on Saturday. Hours later, Schwartzman topped third-seeded player Lorenzo Sonego of Italy in a tense match by 7-5, 3-6, 6-2.

Schwarztman had finished just a few hours earlier his quarterfinal tie against his compatriot and 2021 runner-up Francisco Cerundolo.

The match was interrupted Friday night in the third set, tied 1-1, due to rain.

Schwartzman won 3-6, 6-2, 7-5.

Ruud overcame Spain's Roberto Carballés Baena and Argentinians Federico Coria and Delbonis to reach the final. Schwartzman bested Spain's Jaume Munar, Argentina's Cerundolo and Italy's Sonego to play the decider in Buenos Aires.

Inter's draw with Napoli blows Serie A title race open

IANS ROME

The showdown for the Serie A title between Inter Milan and Napoli ended in a 1-1 draw, as Edin Dzeko's volley cancelled out Lorenzo Insigne's early penalty.

It was a head-to-head for top spot as Napoli ranked second before Saturday's game, one point behind leaders Inter, who have a game in hand.

Napoli made a good start just seven minutes into the game, as Victor Osimhen was kicked down by Stefan De Vrij, and the referee awarded the home side a penalty after a VAR check. Insigne, who will join Toronto FC in the summer, stepped up to convert it.

The Partenopei should have made it 2-0 in the 12th minute, but Piotr Zielinski saw his attempt graze the post.

Napoli were more aggressive in the first half, but Inter scored the equaliser straight after the break when Dzeko's header was blocked, but the Bosnian reacted quickly to smash the rebound into the net.

Napoli still had chances to put the game to bed, but Inter goalkeeper Samir Handanovic performed well to keep the scoreline down.

After the draw, Inter still lead the table, but will be overtaken by city rivals AC Milan if they beat Sampdoria on Sunday. Also on Saturday, Lazio dominated Bologna 3-0, and Venezia won 2-1 at Torino.



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YASH DHULL READY TO ROAR IN IPL

IANS BENGALURU

elhi Capitals acquired India's U-19 World Cupwinning captain Yash Dhull on Day 2 of the IPL 2022 Mega Auction here. After a tussle with Punjab Kings, the local lad was snapped up by the Delhi-based franchise for Rs 50 lakh.

The trainee of Delhi Capitals Academy hogged the limelight in the Caribbean where he overcame Covid-19 to lead India to its record-extending fifth U19 World

Cup title. Having missed out on a few matches due to the dreaded virus, the classy top-order batter marked his comeback with a match-winning 110 in the semi-final match against Australia. The 19-year-old batter notched 229 runs in just four matches at a remarkable average of 76.33 in the recently-concluded marquee event.

Expressing his excitement on being acquired by the franchise, the DC Academy graduate said, "Hi Delhi Capitals. Thank you for showing faith in me and selecting me at the auctions. I have been a part of the Delhi Capitals Bal Bhavan Academy for 8-9 years. So this is a dream come true for me.

Interim CEO Vinod Bisht said, **Having missed out** on a few matches been spotted 4-5 years back since he was a small kid. At that time, in due to the dreaded the earlier avatar of ours, we virus, the classy topalways wanted to develop the whole idea of doing grassroots cricket and build stories. This is an order batter marked his comeback with a outcome of that effort of 5-6 years. When a 14-year-old young talent came up to us, and we supported him at that time, and then he goes on to become the captain of India U-19 team, and wins the World Cun and is back into our fold " match-winning 110 in the semi-final match against Australia. Cup, and is back into our fold." He further added, "This was one talent we could not have allowed to go. The very ethos of saying we develop grassroots tal-ent, we develop talent who can become big and us need to support The 19-year-old batter notched 229 runs in just four matches at a become big and we need to support remarkable average them in the formative years. That's of 76.33 in the have done it in the past with recently-concluded marquee event. Pant, and that is a story we want to continue. That is how we build

I am really excited to join the team and I am ready to give my best." Having acquired the DC Academy prodigy at the IPL 2022 Mega Auction, Delhi Capitals'

'Yash has been a talent who has

what exactly we have done. We

Shreyas Iyer, Prithvi Shaw, Rishabh

our character brand where we

want young talent to come to us

and grow with us. We will support

them at each and every stage school, university and then playing for India.

Speaking about the develop-ment, Jagrit Anand, Head of DC Academies, said, "It's extremely satisfying and a moment of great pride for us that Yash Dhull has become a part of Delhi Capitals franchise. He has set an example for a lot of younger kids going forward that a pathway to an IPL team can be setting foot at the right place, at the right age, like Yash did at the age. He is an ideal example, not just because of his skills or his talent, but also because of his mindset.

"The fact that he is so calm, and so grounded, it sets a great example for younger kids to become like him, in their own amazing ways. Along with the hard work of the coaches, the entire framework of the academy has worked in his favour. And, I am glad that at this crucial stage in his career, he has been picked up by the Delhi Capitals franchise, because he will be under the right kind of guidance to further progress in his career. I am sure he will be groomed in the best possible way and become a great asset for Delhi Capitals.

HAZLEWOOD STARS AS AUSTRALIA BEAT SRI LANKA

IANS SYDNEY

Brilliant bowling by pacer Josh Hazlewood helped Australia hold their nerve to get the better of Sri Lanka in a thrilling Super Over in the second T20I here on Sunday. Hazlewood was spot on with his bowling in the Super Over and restricted Sri Lanka to just five runs. Maxwell and Stoinis then completed the formalities with the bat and won the match in three balls, helping Australia take a 2-0 lead in the series.

Sri Lanka, who lost the opening T20I match on Friday, decided to bowl first after electing to bat first. They managed to restrict Australia to 164/6 in their allotted 20 overs thanks to a knock of 48 by Josh Inglis with Dushmantha Chameera (2/30) and Wanindu Hasaranga (2/33) leading the bowling efforts for Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka made a match of it as they rode on a 53-ball 73 by Pathum Nissanka and 19-ball 34 by skipper Dasun Shanaka helping them reach 164/8 in 20 overs.



on the other side, rested Mitchell failing to clear Wanindu Hasaranga Hazlewood claimed 3/22 for Australia.

Sri Lanka had to make a forced change with Binura Fernando being unavailable for this match, with round-arm seamer Nuwan Thushara replacing him. Australia,

Starc and brought the Kane Richardson. Ben McDermott, the highest scorer for Australia in the first

T20I, started with intent but soon fell to debutant Nuwan Thushara,

at long-on. Inglis top-scored for Australia with 48 from 32 while skipper Aaron Finch, who seemed set in the middle lost his wicket at a crucial time to a wrong-un from Wanindu Hasaranga.

Maxwell was Hasaranga's sec-ond victim and fell for 15. It was all up to Steven Smith and Marcus all up to Steven Smith and Marcus Soinis to finish strongly in the death overs but Dushmantha Chameera snapped them both up in consecutive deliveries. Matthew Wade did manage to make an impact towards the end as he hit a four and a six in the 20th over help-ing Australia finish 164/4 in 20

While Sri Lanka bowlers were brilliant in the second half of the innings, Australia once again failed to finish strongly with the bat, going from 92/2 at the end of 11 overs to 164/6 at the end of 20.

The Australian bowlers were on the money from the start and picked up crucial wickets early on. Hazlewood sent Danushka Gunathilaka back to the pavilion in the first over for a duck and followed it up with the scalp of Avishka Fernando in his next over, according to a report in the ICC's official website.

Charith Asalanka didn't trouble the scorers either and was the

second batter to depart without opening his account.

Opener Pathum Nissanka and Dinesh Chandimal came to the rescue before Adam Zampa struck crucially to remove the latter after the 10-over mark, the report said.

Captain Dasun Shanaka played a brilliant knock of 34 of 19 deliveries, which included two fours and three sixes, kept Sri Lanka in the chase but was unlucky to get run out. Hasaranga played a crucial cameo of 13 while Nissanka too exploded towards the end.

With 19 needed off the last over, Nissanka smashed a four off the first ball but was out for 73 two balls later. Needing 12 off 3, Maheesh Theekshana smashed a six despite Steve Smith's best efforts on the boundary and took a single off the next.

With five needed off the last ball, Chameera, playing his first ball, smashed a four-over Stoinis' head to force a Super Over.

But in the end, it proved insufficient as Australia won the match in the one-over eliminator.



Back pain forces veteran Afridi to call time on PSL career PTI LAHORE

 $F^{
m lamboyant}$ former Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi has called time on his Pakistan Super League (PSL) caree persistent back problem, ending a seven-year association with the event. The 41-year-old cricketer said that he took part in this season's PSL only for the sake of fans. "I was trying to sign off on a good note; my lower-back injury has been there for 15-16 years, and I have been playing with it. But now it has become so much that it has affected my groin, my knee and it goes down to extreme pain in my toes," Afridi said in a social media message Afridi, who began his career in international cricket with a then fastest 37-ball hundred, looked in pain at times but took three wickets in three PSL games for Quetta Gladiators. "I tried to cope with it but can't tolerate the pain anymore. After all, when you have good health, you have the world with you. I will go back and undergo rehabilitation on my fitness. There is cricket coming up... So I will soon return in front of my fans again," he added.

I don't think KKR handled Kuldeep



When I reached ₹14 crore, I was thinking 'I should not go for more than this', says Deepak Chahar

IANS NEW DELHI

India pacer Deepak Chahar, I who was bought back by Chennai Super Kings for a whopping sum of Rs 14 crore, on Sunday said that he was travelling with Team India to Kolkata from Ahmedabad in a bus and was watching the IPL 2022 auction on his mobile phone.

He added that he did not want the price to go more than Rs 14 crore, fearing CSK may pull out of the bidding war.

Chahar became the most expensive Indian fast bowler at an IPL auction when CSK paid Rs 14 crore to secure the services of the India bowler on Day 1 of the mega auction on Saturday

"We (Indian team) were travelling from Ahmedabad to Kolkata. We were watching the auction on the phone, the whole team was watching it. Everyone was asking 'kitna ho gaya?' When I reached till Rs 14 crore, I was thinking 'I should not go for more than this' because if CSK pulled out after that, I would have been very sad. I wanted to play for CSK because I can't imagine myself playing for any other colour," Chahar

told Star Sports.

"At one time, I thought it was too much. As a CSK player, I also want the team to build a good team and we can buy some other players."

Chahar was not retained by CSK as the management went for Dhoni, Ravindra Jadeja, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Moeen Ali as their four picks ahead of the auction.

He revealed that he never had a discussion with skipper Dhoni or the management on retention, but was confident that the four-time champions would pick him up.

"I am really happy to be back in Chennai Super Kings. I don't think there will be any difference. When I go back, I will be seeing the same faces over the last four years, maybe over the

last six years because I was with the Pune side and half the players were there. I could not have asked for a better auction than this," said Chahar on Sunday.

"I have never spoken about all this to Mahi bhai or the CSK management (about retention). They just assured me that in 2018, I met Kasi sir and Srinivasan sir and they told me that I was going to play for Yellow always.

well, says DC owner Jindal

IANS 📕 NEW DELHI

Parth Jindal, the chairman of Delhi Capitals feels that Indian spinner Kuldeep Yadav was not handled well by Kolkata Knight Riders in the last few editions of the IPL.

"I don't think he has been handled well in the IPL for the last few seasons, he is a player who rides very much on confidence. In the environment we've created at Delhi Capitals with Ricky Ponting and Rishabh Pant, it is something that we want to give him. He has a lot to prove, and I think the fire in his belly is there and we are very keen to see what he does in the next IPL," Jindal said on 'Auction Alert with

Boria'. The left-arm spinner was

Faf du Plessis sends emotional message for CSK fans

IANS CAPE TOWN

Couth Africa star Faf du SPlessis, who was bought for Rs 7 crore by Royal Challengers Bangalore on Day 1 of the IPL 2022 mega auction, on Sunday sent an emotional message to Chennai Super Kings fans after his decade-long association with the franchise came to end.

A bidding war had ensued for du Plessis between Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), Chennai Super Kings (CSK), and Delhi Capitals (DC), with Bangalore eventually suc-

ceeding in picking him. Du Plessis, who began his IPL journey with CSK, has been one of the most consistent players in the cash-rich league so far. He was also in superb form for

matches.

thank you to Chennai, the

fans, the staff, the manage-CSK during their victorious run in the IPL 2021 camment and players for it has paign, scoring 633 runs in 16 been a decade with one team," Faf du Plessis said in "I just wanted to do a a social media post shared by quick video message to say CSK

"You create a lot of spe-

part of KKR since 2014, but ahead of the IPL 2022 mega auction, the franchise did not retain him. He was ruled out of the 2021 edition due to injury. Kuldeep, who had set his base price at INR 1 crore, was bought by the Delhi franchise for INR 2 crore in the auction."When we looked at the value names, one of the names that stuck with us was Kuldeep Yadav. And we went for him," said Jindal.

The Delhi-based franchise also acquired the services of David Warner, Mitchell Marsh, Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman along with exciting domestic talents, Ashwin Hebbar, Sarfaraz Khan, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, and KS Bharat, on Day 1 of the IPL 2022 Mega Auction.

Quetta is Afridi's fourth PSL franchise. He has also played for Multan Sultans, Karachi Kings and Peshawar Zalmi.

Afridi took 47 wickets at an average of 26.51 in his PSL career, besides scoring 459 runs at a strike rate of 150.8.

Babar Azam's Karachi Kings suffer 6th successive loss

AP LAHORE

cial memories. I think it's

really important for me to say

thank you. I've really enjoyed

my time a lot. I will really

miss everyone there. But as

one door closes, a new one

opens up and that comes up

with great opportunities. I'm

excited to see what the future

holds. From me and my

family, thank you very much," he added.

open the batting with Virat Kohli at RCB. The South

African could also take over

as the captain of RCB as

Kohli stepped down from the

role after the end of the IPL

2021 season. RCB's Director of Cricket Operations Mike Hesson insisted that du

Plessis, along with Maxwell,

Kohli and newest acquisition

Josh Hazlewood will be the

leaders in the side.

Faf du Plessis is likely to

arachi Kings suffered their Karachi Kingo suiteret Pakistan Super League as Peshawar Zalmi handed the 2020 champion a 55-run defeat on Sunday.

Nothing seemed to go right for the injury-hit Karachi team, led by Babar Azam, as its batters yet again struggled and reached just 138-6. Peshawar had earlier capitalized on sloppy Karachi fielding to score 193-6 with the opening pair of Hazratullah Zazai (52) and 20-year-old debutant Mohammad Haris (49) providing a rollicking start of 97 runs from 10 overs.

Australian Ben Cutting provid-ed a late flourish to Peshawar's total with a breezy 26 off 15 balls that included three boundaries against Chris Jordan (3-41) in the 19th over.

Babar had scored an unbeaten 90 against Peshawar in the first-leg at Karachi in a losing cause and again on Sunday his 59 runs off 46

balls were not enough.

"The drop chances and death bowling led to a score that was well over par," Babar said.

"Ŵe played poorly in the powerplay and that cost us the match but they bowled well and deserve credit for it.

Power-hitter Sharjeel Khan's struggles in the powerplay continued before he holed out in the fifth over after scoring 14 off 16 balls as Karachi slipped to 33-1 in the first six overs.

Fast bowlers Salman Irshad (2-24) and captain Wahab Riaz (2-26) didn't allow Babar and Joe Clarke to score freely as the boundaries dried up for Karachi.

Liam Livingstone (1-22) also bowled three tidy overs in the middle and had Clarke clean bowled off his legspin for a run-a-ball 26.

Babar got little support from the other end to pace the chase before Irshad had him leg before wicket off a full-pitched delivery in the 17th over.

