

AT A GLANCE

Leopard cub found dead

BAHRAICH, DEC 2/-—/Car- cass of a leopard cub has been found in Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary of Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich district, forest officials said on Sunday. The carcass was spotted on Saturday. On Friday, a cub and a cow were found dead in the sanctuary. The carcass of the second cub was spotted almost 50 metres away from the place where the cow's body was found, Field Director of Dudhwa Katarniya Reserve Forest Ramesh Pandey said.

Miami: Five peopleshot

MIAMI DEC 2/-—/Authori- ties say five people have been shot in a Miami neigh- bourhood and the suspect remains at large. Miami po- lice tell news outlets that the shooting happened Saturday night in the Overtown neigh- bourhood. They say the gun- man fired several rounds at the corner of a liquor store, striking the victims. Four victims were transported to Jackson Memorial Hospital, where two are in critical condition. Officials said the fifth victim was taken to the hospi- tal by someone else. The victims have not been iden- tified and a motive for the shooting has not been re- leased.

Mild tremors

THANE, DEC 2/-—/Tremors measuring 3.1 on the Richter scale were experienced at around 1:38am Sunday in Dundalwadi village in Dahanu area of neighbour- ing Palghar district, a civic official said. District Disaster Control Officer Vivekanand Kadam said no damage was reported. Earlier, on Novem- ber 24 and November 3, trem- ors of the magnitude of 3.3 on the Richter scale shook Dahanu and Talasari talukas. Civic officials said that quake-preparedness training programmes were held for villagers between Novem- ber 26-29 in two talukas of Palghar district.

Manshotdead

RAJNANDGAON, DEC 2/-—/A 28-year-old farmer was killed in Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon district by Naxals who accused him of being a police informer, an official said Sunday. Naresh Salame was shot dead Satur- day night by a group of Naxals in Belgaon village in Kohka police station limits, the official said. Salame was watching television in his home when the ultras barged in and dragged him on to the street outside and shot him, he added. Prior to shooting him, Naxals had accused Salame of being a police in- former, the official said. A police team rushed to the site to nab those involved in the incident, he said.

Trump, Xi agree

BUENOS AIRES, DEC 2/-—/Chinese President Xi Jinping and his US counter- part Donald Trump Saturday agreed to suspend any new tariffs and take steps to ad- dress the trade disputes, which over the past few months had threatened to spill over into a trade war between the world's two larg- est economies. At their "highly successful" dinner meeting on the sidelines of the annual G-20 Summit here, Trump agreed not to bring in any new import tar- iffs on Chinese products, while Xi agreed to purchase a very substantial amount of US products so as to reduce the trade deficit between the two countries.

Illegal constructions

MUMBAI, DEC 2/-—/The Bombay High Court has di- rected the Maharashtra gov- ernment to submit the details of the action taken by it against the illegal private constructions along the beaches in Alibaug in Raigad district within two weeks. (PTI)



Bollywood actors Amitabh Bachchan with wife Jaya Bachchan, daughter Sweta Bachchan and daughter in law Aishwarya Rai Bachchan during Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone's wedding reception, in Mumbai

NC to oppose any change in procedure to grant PRCs: Omar Abdullah

SRINAGAR, DEC 2/-—/National Con- ference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah on Sunday said his party would oppose any move aimed at changing the procedure for granting permanent resident certificates (PRCs) in Jammu and Kashmir. Abdullah described the re- ported directions of Govern- or S P Malik-led state ad- ministrative council (SAC) in this regard as "an at- tempt to distort the demog- raphy of the state" and "de- trimental to J-K's special status". Earlier, senior BJP leader Kavinder Gupta had said the state administra- tion was contemplating to simplify the procedure for grant of PRCs and a timeline should be fixed for its issuance under the Public Services Guar- antee Act. "We are obligated to write to you at a time when you are mulling changes to the permanent resident cer- tificate rules. Our party, the National Conference, is of the opinion that this is an attempt to distort the demog- raphy of the state and finds it detrimen-



tal to J-K's special status," Abdullah said in a letter to the governor. Asserting that the SAC was "unilaterally bringing changes" in the working of institutions and procedures in the state, the NC leader said it was against the principal and spirit of democracy and participative gov- ernance. "The (media) reports say that direc- tions have already been issued to the concerned officials to make changes in the procedure pertain- ing to the issuance of these certificates," Abdullah said. "It is highly unfortunate that no wider consultations with any political party of the state and other stakeholders were carried out," he added. The former Jammu and Kash- mir chief minister said "any misad- venture could disturb the fragile and precarious peace" in the sensitive state of Jammu and Kashmir. "In addition, it is a brazen act to further create mistrust among people here and can have serious ramifications for the pros-

pects of peace and harmony in J-K," Abdullah said. The NC leader also pointed out the timing of the SAC's reported move. "The assembly has been dissolved and elections are due within months. This makes the move of your administration open to question as we believe the role of the gov- ernment is more in the nature of a caretaker government," Abdullah said. He asked the governor to roll back the decision immediately, saying his party had decided to oppose it. "We hope that you roll back any decision made in this regard immediately. We also want to convey and register our displeasure and a unanimous decision to oppose this move," he said. Article 35A of the constitution em- powers the Jammu and Kashmir As- sembly to define 'permanent resi- dents' of the state who are eligible for special rights and privileges, which the legislature can provide. The Su- preme Court is currently hearing a bunch of petitions seeking abrogation of the legislation, which was added by a presidential order in 1954 through Article 370 of the Constitu- tion. (PTI)

If anyone is obstructing Ram temple, it's Cong: Yogi Adityanath

HYDERABAD, DEC 2/-—/Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Sunday accused the Congress of ob- structing construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya and charged the Rahul Gandhi-led party and TRS with indulging in Muslim appease- ment. "If anyone is creating ob- struction in the way of construc- tion of a grand temple in the birthplace of lord Ram, it's Congress, Con- gress," he said, addressing a BJP election rally in Sangareddy. "We should all make efforts to understand the intention of the Con-



gress party," he said. Adityanath said BJP is for good governance, develop- ment, and wants to fulfil the model of "Ram Rajya" in the country. Addressing an- other election rally at Tandur town of Vikarabad dis- trict, the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister hit out at Asaduddin Owaisi led AIMIM. "If BJP forms govern- ment in Telangana, I can tell you that Owaisi will have to run away just like Nizam was compelled to run away from Hyderabad. BJP will give security to all but will not

allow those who spread an- archy," he said. He accused both Congress and TRS of indulging in Muslim ap- peasement and making religion a foundation for making schemes for them. The BJP, he said, does not discrimi- nate between caste, creed and religion while drafting policies. "Congress says if it forms government in Telangana it will provide area development funds to Muslims. Congress policies are divisive, with wrong in- tentions," Adityanath said. Congress and TRS are "play- ing with" the interests of people in Telangana and once more they would make efforts to take the State to- wards "Nizamshahi", he al- leged. "BJP did only devel-

opment, but never did ap- peasement of anyone. Con- gress, TDP, TRS all do only dynastic politics. And Owaisi party also does only Muslim appeasement poli- tics," Adityanath claimed. Adityanath said KCR had, before the 2014 elections, promised to make a Dalit Chief Minister if his party came to power. "Now, they (TRS) are handing over the 'virasat' (legacy) to (his) son and daughter." "TDP (Pre- sident) Chandrababu Naidu handed over (reins to his son)... like Sonia Gandhi handed over to Rahul Gan- dhi... till dynastic tradition runs in India, democracy cannot be strengthened. It needs to be stopped", he said. (PTI)

BJP not doing issue based politics: Gehlot

BIKANER, DEC 2/-—/Sen- ior Congress leader Ashok Gehlot Sunday ac- cused BJP of mixing poli- tics with caste and other issues. "There is huge re- sentment among people against Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje. Ask- ing about mother and fa- ther of anyone can be an issue of criticism, but it cannot be an issue of do- ing politics," Gehlot told reporters here. "BJP is not doing politics based on issues. It has mixed other issues including castes," he said. Target- ing Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Gehlot alleged he was the first prime minister who is not doing politics on the issues maintaining the dignity of his post. "He should do politics on na- tional and international issues", the Chief Min- ister said. He said that elec- tions are like festivals and should be celebrated with brotherhood and good feeling. Gehlot said Congress president Rahul Gandhi has also said that the party doesn't have fight with anyone, but it is a fight of ideology, policies and programmes. "They talk about Rahul Gandhi, Pandit Nehru, but Prime Minister Modi and Vasundhara will have to take 100 births to become Nehru," he said. On de- monetisation, Gehlot said it was a black chapter and prime minister "shattered" the coun- try's economy. He also accused Vasundhara Raje government of closing down various public welfare schemes of the previous Congress gov- ernment. The Congress government had not closed down public welfare schemes of Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and Vasundhara Raje gov- ernments, he said. (PTI)

Cong leaders offer prayers when polls near: Rajnath

BANSUR/JAIPUR, DEC 2/-—/Home Minister Rajnath Singh Sunday claimed Con- gress leaders start offering prayers at temples when elec- tions are near whereas for the BJP it is an integral part of its culture. Addressing a press conference in Alwar district's Bansur, he said temples and cows were not an elections stunt for the BJP. "Congress leaders start offering prayers at temple when elections ap- proach. They are not seen praying in temples earlier. Temples and cows can be an elec- tion issue for the Congress, but it is not an election stunt for the BJP. It is integral part of our cultural life," Singh said. Singh on Sunday claimed Congress leaders start offering prayers at temples when elections are near whereas for the BJP it is an integral part of their culture. He said temples and cows were not an elections stunt for the BJP. "Congress leaders start offering prayers at temple when elections are approaching. They were not seen praying in temples ear- lier. Temples and cows can be an election issue for Con- gress, but it is not an election stunt for the BJP. It is integral part of our cultural life," he said at a press confer- ence here. Earlier at an election rally in Bansur, he alleged it was be- cause of the Congress,



"For BJP offering prayers at temples are integral cultural issues"

which ruled India for 55 years, that the nation was in the list poor countries and claimed the party had deceived the peo- ple. "We (BJP) have not done the politics of pulling wool over people's eyes. We look into the eyes of people," he said. Singh claimed the Congress had established 103 ITIs in 50 years, while the Vasundhara Raje government had set up 958 new ITIs in five years. Addressing a press conference in Jaipur, he said Pakistan should seek India's help if it cannot handle terrorism alone. He said that if, with the help of the US, terrorism and Taliban could be fought against in Afghanistan, then Pakistan could also seek help from India if it feels that it cannot fight terrorism alone. "Jammu and Kashmir is not an issue. It is integral party of the country and it will remain so. The issue is of terrorism, and Paki- stan can discuss it," Singh said. (PTI)

Gandhi, Mandela peace walk ends in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, DEC 2/-—/A 1,200-km peace walk by an Indian group, retracing the footsteps of world peace icons Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela across three South African provinces, has ended at the birth place of the anti-apartheid activist in Mvezo. The Gandhi@150 to Mandela@100 Peace Walk South Africa - which ended on Friday - was conceptualised by serial long-distance walker Nitin Sonawane, who has walked in several countries to promote global peace. Sonawane set off with Yogesh Mathuria, Sangram Patil and Dilip Tambolker from his home town of Pune in India together with Jalandharnath Channole from the Gandhi Ashram and Japanese monk Nippozen Myohoji, who joined the team after being in- spired by Sonawane during his walk through Japan. Under- terred by sceptics, who cautioned that the crime in South Africa was not conducive to the idea of walking the long distances with little support, Sonawane arrived in the coun- try on September 21 to start planning. Their first stop was Nelson Mandela Museum in Mthatha, Qunu from where they proceeded to Mvezo, SABC news reported. Sonawane said the response from all the commu- nities in South Af- rica, including the whites, blacks and Indian, have been ab- solutely amazing. "In- dian people of 4th and 5th generation of Indians who were brought to South Af- rica in 1860 as inden- tured labourers sometimes drove 60-km to bring us food," he said. "In Eastern Cape Province the (Black) Xhosa peo- ple who initially did not believe us when we said that (we) had walked 1,000-km to get to Mandela's place were greatly excited afterwards," he said. There had also been huge in- terest from the large Indian expatriate community in South Africa, some joining in for parts of the walk as the team passed through their towns. Sonawane said there had not been a single untoward incident regarding safety as they plodded on for about 25-km daily, especially when people learnt what the purpose of their walk was. (PTI)



India's poor, on the frontlines of polarizing pollution war

NEW DELHI, DEC 2/-—/Air purifi- ers for the affluent, masks for the not so rich and inhaling polluted air all day - without literally a breather - for those who can't afford a roof over their heads. It's maximum exposure for millions of people who are bearing the brunt of hazardous air quality, say experts. As the air quality index (AQI) hovers between "very poor" and "severe", slipping into "poor" on better days, the toxic air and hazy skies over the Delhi-NCR region and other parts of India are driving one more wedge between the haves and the have-nots,

leaving those forced to live and work in the outdoors vulnerable to pulmonary and other diseases. "The class bias is evident when the pollution level peaks," said Sunita Narain, who heads the Centre for Science and Environ- ment (CSE) and is a member of the Su- preme Court-appointed Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control). "We can fight pollution only when authori- ties think about both rich and poor and both join hands in this fight to protect the environment, otherwise the rich can roam in diesel vehicles and use purifi- ers to protect themselves but the poor face more exposure and do not

even have money for treatment," Narain told PTI. Rickshaw pullers and construction workers are the worst hit. And 19-year-old Shyam, who recently moved from Darbhanga in Bihar to Delhi to become a rickshaw puller, is proof that pollution hits us all, but some more than others. "I am saving money for a computer course but my health has been poor for the last one month," said the youngster, adding that he had spent all his savings in getting treatment for a recent respiratory in- fection. "We can't afford the hi-fi masks that we often see our passengers wear," Shyam said with a wry laugh. These

day, he said, he feels he pedals with a weight on his chest. The rickshaw is home for Shyam. Rupak, who came to Delhi from Rourkela 30 years ago, escapes into his humble home in east Delhi's Trilokpuri area at night but his fragile health is evidence of the long hours spent outdoors. The 49-year-old boasts that he could not so long ago ride his rickshaw faster than most autos. But it is that time of the year when he slows down, not because of his age but because of the alarming pollution. "It becomes diffi- cult to breathe if I ride faster and my eyes burn. On normal days, I earn up to

Rs 500 per day. But in the winter months, I manage to earn just Rs 300-



350 per day," Rupak said. "There were days when I had to go without food, but this exposure to toxic smog is the worst," he added. (PTI)