AN ECONOMY BASED ON CLEAN ENERGY

WORLD 7

NZ PM ARDERN WINS

2ND TERM IN LANDSLIDE

ROYALS IN IPL

**VIJAYWADA** 



RNI Regn. No. ORIENG/2007/22475

Late City Vol. 16 Issue 281

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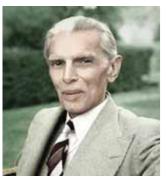


### No need to rewrite Jinnah's history

very election generates a controversy that is at variance with the main issues concerning the electorate. Last week, during the campaigning for the Bihar Assembly election next month, there was a flutter of excitement over a charge levelled by Union Minister Giriraj Singh against a Congress candidate in Darbhanga district. The outspoken Minister who has courted controversy many times in the past, described the Congress candidate as a "sympathiser" of Mohammed Ali Jinnah. This, indeed, was the report in the Indian Express (Delhi edition) of October 17

Since the charge levelled by the Minister was in translation, I can only guess that he meant 'Jinnah bhakt' or something more pointed than 'Jinnah admirer'. Whatever the actual usage, the charge invited a sharp response from Shahid Siddigui, a Muslim editor who has travelled through both the Bahujan Samaj Party and Samajwadi Party. In a twitter intervention he wrote: "LK Advani is a Jinnah fan, not Indian Muslims. We regard him as a destroyer and divider of Indian Muslims. He was an egoistic leader who knew he had failed in his last days. Pakistan was his greatest blunder.

Siddigui's attack on Jinnah was emphatic and clear. There is a body of Muslims who are insistent that Jinnah's separatism lowered the collective clout of the Indian Muslims



Last week, during the campaigning for the Bihar Assembly election next month, there was a flutter of excitement over a charge levelled by Union Minister Giriraj Singh against a Congress candidate in Darbhanga district. The outspoken iviinister who has courted controversy many times in the past, described the Congress candidate as a "sympathiser" of Mohammed Ali Jinnah... It is not for me to say whether the Congress candidate in Darbhanga district is a Jinnah admirer or not. Frankly it is of no consequence. But

that is no reason to

rewrite history

and handed over India to Hindu supremacy. This, they feel, would never have happened had Pakistan and Bangladesh been part of a united Siddiqui's point is

interesting, but it belongs to the realms of counterfactual history and part of the what-if games all of us love to engage in occasionally. The reality was however different. From the pages of history two things are apparent and beyond contradiction

First, that at least till the Partition plan was announced by Lord Mountbatten in early-1947 Mohammed Ali Jinnah was unquestionably the supreme leader of Indian Muslims. True, he may not have been the only leader and had some challengers. But in terms of popular shoulders above all those leaders who were sceptica of the movement to create Pakistan — a homeland for Indian Muslims

Secondly, it is also clear that the initial support for the Pakistan movement and for Jinnah — between, say 1939 and 1946 came from Muslims living in those areas that are today a part of India. Aligarh Muslim University was the intellectual hotbed of the Pakistan movement and the Muslim League was dominant in the Muslim reserved seats of Bihar.

United Provinces, Central Provinces and the Bombay and Madras Presidencies. In Punjab, Sind, NWFP and Bengal the Muslim League had powerful challengers. This means that at least until the awkward reality of Partition confronted them, the Muslims of Bihar and UP at least were enthusiastic supporters of Jinnah. They constituted the core of the Pakistan movement, as has been documented by historians

It is also a fact that a substantial body of Muslims from Bihar, UP and the erstwhile States of Bhopal and Hyderabad migrated to both wings of Pakistan, till 1965 at least. The Muhajirs may today be politically marginalised and alienated from the politics of contemporary Pakistan. But it is undeniable that they were the most enthusiastic supporters of Pakistan at the time of its creation. Moreover, till 1971 at least, they were a privileged community in the country that Jinnah created.

It is also undeniable that the creation of Bangladesh following the War of Liberation, led to a fundamental reassessment of the past. The views proffered by Siddiqui may well be true today, but that view is essentially a post-1971 phenomenon.

Historical memory tends to play tricks on peoples and communities. There is a wealth of studies in Germany that indicated how a substantial body of Germans went into denial over the country's Nazi past after the defeat in 1945 Historians have recorded comments such as "we didn't know" and "no one in my family was a Nazi" that proliferated after 1945 and persisted till the 1970s. Today's Germany has abjured Hitler and his legacy. But that reassessment is in

In India too there is historical amnesia over facets of British rule. The rule of a vast country could not have happened by a tiny minority of Britons. British rule depended on collaboration by locals and particularly local elites. Yet, after 1947, there is a veil of silence over the past.

A British historian once jokingly told me that hadn't met any Indian whose family was a Raj loyalist. Of course he hadn't. That is because, like in the case of the Indian Muslims, the past had been reforged to suit the exigencies of the present. Overnight, the Muslim Leaguers of vesterday became supporters of the Congress after 1947.

It is not for me to say whether the Congress candidate in Darbhanga district is a Jinnah admirer or not. Frankly it is of no consequence. But that is no reason to rewrite history.

## Covid cases, daily count drop sharply

India's daily cases down to 70K; PM cautions against complacency; virus is genetically stable

 $F^{\text{or the first time in the last}}_{\text{one-and-half months, the}}$ number of active coronavirus cases in India has dropped below the 8-lakh mark. However, reviewing the pandemic situation in the country on Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi cautioned against any complacency even as experts have warned that the onset of winters and the forthcoming festivals could lead to a spurt in the cases as has happened in Kerala after Onam.

With 70,816 patients recovering in the last 24 hours, India's tally of active cases dropped to 7.95 lakh. Though India continues to report the highest number of new cases in the world, the daily surge has come down from over 90,000 fresh daily cases in mid-September to about 70,000 since the past week.

Decline in cases in Maharashtra has contributed in the overall decrease, even as the sharp surge in daily Covid-19 cases in Kerala, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal has worried the Central Government, which has rushed high-level teams of experts to help control the pandemic there.

Chairing the meeting to review the Covid-19 pandemic situation and the preparedness of vaccine delivery, distribution, and administration, the Prime Minister noted a

steady decline in the daily cases and the growth rate but he insisted on continued social distancing and Covid-appropriate behaviour such as wearing the mask, regularly washing hands and sanitation, especially in the wake of the upcoming festival season.
"The Prime Minister

directed that we should make use of experience of successful conduct of elections and disaster management in the country. In a similar manner, vaccine delivery and administra tion systems should be put in place. This should involve the participation of States/UTs/district-level functionaries, civil society organisations, volunteers, citizens, and experts from

TOTAL

CASES: 74,86,714

**DEATHS: 1,13,779** 

ACTIVE: 7,84,454

**RECOVERED:** 

65,87,287

all necessary domains. The entire process should have a strong IT backbone and the system should be designed in such a manner so as to have a lasting value to our healthcare system," a PMO statement said. The meeting was attended

by Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, Principal Secretary to PM, Member (Health) NITI Aayog, Principal Scientific Adviser, senior scientists, officers of PMO, and officials from various other departments. The PMO said two pan-

India studies on the Genome of SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19 virus) in India conducted by ICMR and Department of BioTechnology (DBT) suggest

Maharashtra

Karnataka

Tamil Nadu

Kerala

Delhi

Odisha

Telangana

Rajasthan

Madhya Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh

West Benga

Andhra Pradesh

TOTAL CASES

15,86,321

7,79,146

7,58,574

6,83,486

4,52,660

3,34,229

3,27,718

3,17,053

2,66,345

2,20,675

2,03,060

1,99,749

1,71,281

1,59,158

1,58,635



A health worker collects a nasal swab sample to test for Covid-19 at a Government hospital in Jammu on Saturday

that the virus is genetically stable and there is no major mutation in the virus

13,58,606

7,35,638

6,37,481

6,32,708

4,11,611

2,36,989

2,98,853

2,77,940

2,44,227

1,96,636

1,91,515

1,70,263

1,48,291

1,42,707

1,40,519

1,26,869

41,752

10,427

10,586

6,629

1,140

5,981

5,992

1,174

853

1,735

2,753

3,629

cines are in advanced stages of development in India, out of which two are in Phase II and The PMO said three vacone is in Phase-III and Indian RECOVERED **DEATHS** 

ening the research capacities in neighbouring countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Maldives. Mauritius, Nepal and Sri There are further requests from Bangladesh, Myanmar,

scientists and research teams are collaborating and strength-

Oatar and Bhutan for clinical trials in their countries

To help the global community, the PM directed the health authorities that India should not limit its efforts to its immediate neighbourhood but also reach out to the entire world in providing vaccines, medicines and IT platforms for vaccine delivery

### Dr Reddy's, RDIF get nod for Sputnik V trials in India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Dr Reddy's Laboratories on Saturday said it along Russian Investment Fund (RDIF) has received approval from the Drug Control General of India (DCGI) to conduct phase 2/3 human clinical trials for Covid-19 vaccine Sputnik V in India.

This will be a multi-centre and randomised controlled study, which will include safety and immunogenicity check, the Hyderabad-based drug major said in a statement.

'This is a significant development that allows us to commence the clinical trial in India and we are committed to bringing in a safe and efficacious vaccine to combat the pandemic," Dr Reddy's Co-chairman and Managing Director GV Prasad said

RDIF CEO Kirill Dmitriev said the entity was pleased to collaborate with the Indian regulators.

### Global Hunger Index: India French teacher beheaded for at 94th among 107 nations

#### **Fares poorer than** all its immediate neighbours; put in 'serious' category

PNS NEW DELHI

India has been ranked 94th among 107 nations worldwide in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020, faring poorer than all its immediate neighbours and being put in the "serious" hunger category. Neighbouring Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan too are

in the "serious" category but ranked higher than India in the latest GHI. While Bangladesh ranked 75, Myanmar and Pakistan are at the 78th and 88th position. Nepal at 73rd and Sri Lanka at 64th position are in "moderate" hunger cat-



egory. In the region of south, east and south-eastern Asia, the only countries which fare worse than India are Timor Leste, Afghanistan and North

Last year, India's rank was 102nd among 117 countries. China, Belarus, Ukraine, Turkey, Cuba and Kuwait, figure among the top 20 with GHI scores of less than five. The Global Hunger Index is a peerreviewed annual report, jointly published by Concern

Worldwide Welthungerhilfe, designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger at the global, regional, and country levels.

# **class on Prophet caricatures**

18-year old suspect shot dead by police is Chechen refugee

**AP** PARIS

suspect shot dead by police A suspect shot deal 2, 1
after the gruesome beheading of a history teacher — who discussed caricatures of Islam's Prophet Muhammad with his class, leading to death threats — in an attack near Paris was an 18-year-old Moscow-born Chechen refugee, officials said on Saturday.

France's anti-terrorism prosecutor's office said authorities investigating the killing of Samuel Paty in Conflans-Sainte-Honorine on Friday also arrested nine suspects, including the teen's grandfather, parents and 17-year-old brother. Paty had discussed carica-



A man lays a flower outside the school where a slain history teacher was working, in Conflans-Sainte-Honorine, Paris, on Saturday

tures of Islam's Prophet Muhammad with his class, leading to threats and a complaint from a parent, police officials said.

Islam prohibits images of the prophet. The officials could not be named because they were not authorised to discuss ongoing investigations.

The French anti-terrorism prosecutor Jean-Francois

Ricard said an investigation for murder with a suspected terrorist motive had been opened.

Ricard told reporters that the suspect, who had been granted a 10-year residency in France as a refugee in March and was not known to intelligence services, had been armed with a knife and an airsoft gun, which fires plastic pellets.

### **Naveen reviews Puri heritage** project progress



acquisition by Jan 1 next

PNS PURI

hief Minister Naveen →Patnaik on Saturday visited Puri to review the progress of the heritage project and beautification work under

ABADHA scheme. After paying obeisance to

the deities near the Singhdwar

the Meghnad Pacheri (outer wall of the Jagannath Temple) and reviewed the progress of He reviewed in details all aspects of the Shree Jagannath

Heritage Corridor scheme. On the south east side from the erstwhile Emar Mutt site, he reviewed the arrangements that are being planned for a queue management system.

Turn to Page 4

### Govt allows political gatherings for by-polls

BHUBANESWAR:In view of the bye-elections to the Tirtol and Baleswar Sadar Assembly constituencies, the State Government on Saturday stated that political meetings, other functions and gatherings in connection with the bye-polls would be allowed in these constituencies

Notably, the Government prohibited social, political, sports, entertainment, academic, cultural, religious and other large congregations till October 31, 2020 to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

In the fresh guidelines on Saturday, the Special Relief Commissioner's Office said political meetings and gatherings would be allowed only within the jurisdictions of the two constituencies and this order would come into force with immediate effect.

Turn to Page 4

### 216 new +ves in BBSR; total 26,995 4 more die; total

#### 85 more infected in Cuttack; total 13,082

BHUBANESWAR: The daily

each from Old Town and

Jharpada and four each from

VSS Nagar and Unit-6.

toll rises to 133

Covid-19 cases continued downward trend Bhubaneswar with 216 new infections registered on Saturday. With this, the city's positive tally reached 26,995, out of which 3011 were active cases. Of the new cases, 161 were local contacts and 55 quarantine cases, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) said. The local contacts included 11 each from Chandrasekharpur and Nayapalli, 10 each from Unit-9 and Patia, seven from Laxmisagar, six each from Pokhariput and Bomikhal, five

Turn to Page 4 | pool.

### State daily Covid-19 cases decline to 2,196

PNS BHUBANESWAR

The daily Covid-19 cases continued to show a declining trend in the State with 2,196 new ones reported from 29 districts and the State pool on Saturday. With this, the total caseload reached 2,66,345.

Of the new cases, 1,274

were detected from quarantine and 922 were local contacts.

Khordha again recorded the highest single-day 259 cases followed by Cuttack 175, Sundargarh 140, Mayurbhanj 119, Jajpur 113, Nuapada 108, Angul 107, Baleswar 104, Kalahandi 94, Jagatsinghpur 86, Kendrapada 82, Bargarh 80, Puri 77, Balangir 71, Jharsuguda 71, Subarnapur 70, Keonjhar 67, Nabarangpur 50, Malkangiri 38, Sambalpur 37, Kandhamal 34, Dhenkanal 33, Boudh 32, Koraput 29, Nayagarh 20, Bhadrak 16, Rayagada 14, Ganjam 13 and

Gajapati seven.

Besides, 50 positive cases were detected from the State

Total now 2,66,345

Highest new cases of 259 in Khordha again

17 more deaths; total toll 1,121

2,842 recover; total

With 41,353 Covid tests done during the period, the cumulative tests rose to 40,01,065.

Meanwhile, 17 more patients succumbed to the disease on the day, taking the total toll to 1,121.

cumbed in Cuttack. One casualty each was reported from Angul, Baleswar,

While five died in Khordha district, two suc-

Jagatsinghpur, Kandhamal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh, Puri, Sundargarh and Sambalpur districts. Turn to Page 4

#### **HOME THEATRE**

## Must watch for dog parents

Netflix \*ing: Don lake, Christian Convery, Aria Birch, Gabrielle

Dog Voice Over: Riley O'Donnell, Chance Hurstfield, Dylan Schombing, Brian George Rated: 6/10

here is something inherently cute and sweet when one watches movies that have animals especially dogs. Remember The Call of the Wild, Benji and Marley & Me? While not all animal movies have a happily ever after, but it doesn't take away the aww factor from them and Pup Academy that dropped its second season on the OTT platform is no different. It goes without saying that the pups are adorable, sweet and cute and if one has ever had a dog before, a need to have another one is going to be tough to resist.



If you are not a dog lover, this one ended — a street pup — Boxer

being thrown out of pup academy for academy who then wreaked havoc

bringing in other street dogs into the may have a change of heart.

In the meantime, why not have fun and watch the little pups get up to no good, get into trouble and do what pups do best — shower love on their master.

But then the show is not about the story as much as it is about the bond between a human and pup and how much it affects the dog if he doesn't have this bond with his chosen human. The adage: Dog is man's best friend couldn't have had a better setting than this show. So much so that there is a dog named D.O.G. Couldn't be cuter than this.

However, if one is looking for a story that stimulates the brain, this is not a show to watch. The story is simple and banal and take-off from Season 1 — a bunch of wolves, instead of dogs — who want to take over the running of the academy

The good part is that it is familyfriendly and a perfect watch for all dog parents and kids of all ages.

### **Plan Your Day**

delightful Navratra Amenu specially curated for your Festive CITYWALK. Falahari Malai Paneer Tikka (Fresh Cottage Cheese chunks in vrat special creamy marination of cashew nut, cream & cardamom; Cooked in tandoor)

Price: ₹310 plus GST Navratri Special Thali (Malai paneer tikka two ncs. kuttu puri two, paneer makhani/shahi, falahari kofta, aloo tamatar subzi. samvat pulao, salad, raita, sabudana papad, vrat wale aloo/banana chips &

Price: ₹440 plus GST





### Real emotions are revealed

BLACKPINK: LIGHT UP THE SKY Netflix

ing: The band members: Jisoo, Jennie, Rosé, and Lisa Rated: 5.5/10

-pop made its presence felt back in 2012 when Psy back in 2012 when rsy released his single — Gangnam Style. The song had gone viral and propelled Psy into instant stardom. Since then Kpop has become a must-listen for all music lovers. So it is not surprising that when the allwoman band came into the scene with their debut album Square One after a gap of seven years launched by YG Entertainment,

the group won its first award the girls collectively and during a musical programme for individually which gives us a Whistle at Inkigayo, becoming the girl group that won the award the fastest. Since then the album's tracks have since surpassed 1.73 billion streams worldwide.

This and much more is revealed in *Black Pink: Light Up the Sky*, a documentary that follows the lives the girl group and how they reached where they are today given that each one of them came from a different background.

But the thing binding them was and is their love to perform

The documentary introduces

little peek into what makes them tick. But the real emotions come into play when their guards are down and they talk about missing their family and experiences that a 15-16-year-old would normally be part of.

The whole, now that we are so successful, how do we live up to the expectations of the fans is real. Where they will be when they are 42-44 — married with kids? How long will this success last? It gives a glimpse of real fears and reiterates that all that glitters is

— Shalini Saksena



### ELLYTALE

Sidharth Shukla has been a part of both Bigg Boss 13 and 14 and two things have remained common for him. One is the platform and the other is champi



While we have seen Shehnaz Gill as his *champi* queen in the past season, Hina Khan is filling in for Shehnaaz's absence in

Khan is often seen giving Sidharth Shukla a powerful *champi*, which seems to be the booster to keep him going in the

Shehnaaz has always been very possessive about Sidharth when they were together in the house. Wonder what she has to say about the champi sessions in this season

#### **ALL BECAUSE OF AAHANA'S MARZI**

A glittering award ceremony celebrating Asia Pacific's leading cinematic performances, the Asian Academy Creative Awards through a virtual event, announced the list of national winners of its third edition. Touted as the epitome of success for artists, this award is looked upon by fans across the continent and signifies artistic dominance. In a major coup across



the leading categories of this gala, Aahana Kumra bagged the national award for 'Best Actress In A Leading Role' for her

phenomenal performance in Voot Select's Original series Marzi.

Ecstatic about her big win at the 2020 Asian Academy Creative Awards, Aahana Kumra said: "When I read the script of Marzi, I immediately knew it would emerge to be a game changer. The character of Sameera Chauhan will always be closest to my heart. This is a milestone win for me and it simply wouldn't have been possible without the love from my fans and support from the entire cast and crew of Marzi. I would like to thank Raieev for being a phenomenal co-star, Radhika Anand for nenning this marvelous script. Anil Sir and of course Bodhi Tree Productions for bringing this fabulous concept to life. And Voot Select for giving me a fantastic platform to showcase my talent. I look forward to delivering more of such impactful performances and will continue to dedicate myself to each character that I bring alive on screen.'

Based on the novel *Liar* which is written by the BAFTA and Emmy nominated Jack and Harry Williams, Voot Select's original Marzi is a crime thriller that follows a web of lies and betrayals through a date night which leaves everyone conflicted on who is speaking the truth. The series has a rating of 7.3 on IMDB and is an odyssey of the marvelous slate of originals available on Voot Select. Launched on March , the OTT platform has captivated viewers across all age groups with its diverse content lineup.

#### **DANCE WITH THE SISTERS**

It's official! This festive season, the dancing divas and absolute sensations Shakti and Mukti Mohan will be seen donning a new hat. That's right! In Zee Café's all new show, Dance With Me, the Mohan sisters will set the floor ablaze as the celebrity dance experts. Rumor has it that the talented duo will jazz things up engaging with fans via fun hook step sessions. So, here's an exclusive opportunity to brush up those moves as Shakti and Mukti take center stage every week. Inviting viewers with khul ke nacho as the clarion call, the show is set to launch on October 25 airing every Sunday at 10 pm on Zee Café and 10 am on Zee TV, November 1 onwards along with Zee5

Confirming the buzz doing the rounds, Shakti and Mukti Mohan on their Instagram made the official announcement on October 16. Sharing the happy news with her fans and followers, Shakti unveiled the foot-tapping promo that features professional dancers and people from all walks of life grooving to the peppy beats. The track, created by ace composer Mayur Jumani, mixes popular Bollywood numbers that are sure to get you grooving as you break free and make way for happiness this

Speaking about the announcement. the reality TV superstar and dance maestro

Shakti Mohan said: "Nothing compares to the feeling of dancing your heart out. I believe it to be the most beautiful emotion that truly elevates happy moments in our lives. Both Mukti and I feel an instant rush of positivity and energy boost whenever we're on stage and it we're super excited to be a part of Zee Café's latest show Dance With Me. We have put a lot of heart and soul in curating the best performances that are sure to set you dancing in your living rooms and we hope the viewers enjoy watching the show as much as we did in being a part of it."

To this, her sister and dance partner Mukti Mohan added: "Growing up, dance has always been an intrinsic part of our dance that goes beyond words and we can't wait to celebrate the joy dancing together with our fans truly unleashing the spirit of khul ke nacho on Zee Café's Dance With Me. This being one of the most interactive show's at present, we're super excited to directly engage with dance enthusiasts through fun hook steps and performances that both entertain and

#### SINHA FAMILY ON KAPIL SHOW

This weekend, The Kapil Sharma Show will be welcoming one of the legendary superstars of Bollywood Industry; Shotgun aka Shatrughan Sinha



with his son Luv Sinha. The duo will come to promote their upcoming song; Zaroorat, featuring Shatrughan Sinha and daughter Sonakshi Sinha. It will be quite exciting for the viewers to watch Kapil and Shatrughan Sinha discuss the tremendous journey of the veteran actor while unveiling few unknown facts about his remarkable career in the Indian film industry.

The episode will definitely be a joyful ride for the viewer and to add to the fun and entertainment quotient, Krushna Abhishek and Kiku Shardha will be seen donning new characters in the show.

## Welcome your favourite bahu

Star Plus is all set to roll out the Season 2 of the much awaited show Saath Nibhaana Saathiya from tomorrow. MUSBA HASHMI speaks with DEVOLEENA BHATTARCHARJEE aka Gopi Bahu about how excited she is to be back on screen and how the character changed when she stepped into the show

atching one or the other daily soap is our guilty pleasure. There is no denying that it makes for a good watch if one wants to take a break from the reality of their lives. Of late, daily soaps are so in trend and the one which tops the charts is *Saathiya*. out of the box, but because Yashraj Mukhate decided to mix a scene from the popular show and it went viral within no

Even Rupal Patel, who played Kokila Ben couldn't help but appreciate Mukhate's take on the popular scene. Now that the show has already received it's share of admiration from the audience, it is just the right time for the makers to launch Saath Nibhaana Saathiya 2 on Star Plus tomorrow.

Devoleena Bhattacharjee, who was seen in Bigg Boss 13 is all set to play Gopi Modi once again. If one is to ask what Season 2 has on offer for the audience, it's a no-brainer that they have to give it

"I can't give out the story for Season 2, because we are also not told about the whole story, we just shoot as per our director's direction. Also there are frequent changes during the shoot. But one thing is for sure, that the entertainment quotient will surely be high and with a message of women empowerment. There will be a new love angle between Gehna and Anant. I am sure audience will love it," Bhattacharjee tells you.

Ask her about how excited she is to be back on screen as Gopi and she is quick to answer - that her excitement has no bounds. "I am super excited. I never imagined that I will be coming back on TV as Gopi. It gives me a different feel. Most of the times when there is a Season 2 of a show, the character remains the same but the actors change. But I am getting to play Gopi again and it is nothing short of a gift to me," she tells you.

A new season, she says, come with a lot of new challenges. "With a second season, the expectations of the audience are high. So it is challenging that way. To bring a second season of a hit show is risky in itself, because of the high expectations. But I think, we have proved ourselves and now the responsibility lies on the newer lot and it's there chance to prove themselves. Having said that, it doesn't mean we

First six months in the show were challenging. Things were not falling in place. I got to know that people felt that this was not my cup of tea. It felt bad. But I am a very stubborn



don't have any responsibility, it is just that they have a larger part of play in it," she explains. If one is to remember, the infamous

scene of the show where Gopi washes off Ahem's laptop with soap and water and hang it to dry, one would remember Giaa was then Bhattacharjee. Ask her if it is challenging to step in to the shoes of an already established character, she says that for her the role was as new as it can be.

"I never thought that I am replacing someone. If I had would have focused about these things, I would have not been able to pull that off. My focus was on to do justice to my character. That's all. I saw it as a new role," she says. Initially, Bhattacharjee struggled with

the character, so much so that people told him that she won't be able to play it. "First six months were challenging. Things were not falling in place. I got to know that people felt that this was not my cup of tea. It felt bad. There were talks that the show might get off air after Giaa's replacement. People expected me to act like Giaa, but that's not possible. I have a different personality and I will act in my way, I can't copy someone. But despite all this, I am a very stubborn person, if I take up a job, I do my best to make it happen. So was with Gopi. I fought for my character. I did things in my own way. I just didn't let it go. I put in all my efforts and hard work and eventually it did work. And when the

audience accepted me, Gopi's character was changed quite a bit. She was shown as a progressive woman. Even her style was changed," she tells you.

She tells you that she has a lot of fun memories from the sets of the previous season. "I was like the queen on the sets. I shared a good rapport with everyone. We did so much fun. Some days were exciting, some were good and some were bad. I laughed, cried, got angry and what not. We were like a big family and we enjoyed every bit of it," Bhattacharjee recalls.

Daily soaps are always tagged as over dramatic and over the top, Bhattacharjee has a say on that. "That's not true. The reason people love daily soaps is that they find a connection with it. Everything that has been show happens with us at some point of time. It's just that we modify it as per the need of the story. Otherwise it is not over dramatic, it is just a reflection of the society," she opines.

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## Ganjam admn readies 3 killed as car falls into canal for possible floods

In view of the forecast of heavy rains on October 19 and 20 due to a fresh low pressure over the Bay of Bengal, the Ganiam district administration on Satur held an emergency meeting to take stock of preparedness and asked its staffs not to leave headquarters till the end of this month.

Ganjam Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange directed the line departments and Revenue Department to be prepared to

ensure zero casualty. He stated that damages are likely to occur due to incessant rains; and hence, the officials must be ready to meet any eventuality.

All water bodies in the district have been swelling due to heavy rains last week.

The damages due to another low pressure would be severe, the Collector said and asked officials to keep enough stocks of relief materials in different parts of the district.

He directed the Sub-

Collectors to be in touch with Sarpanches as part of the preparations and asked the Swayam Siddha, Covid Monitor and Covid Sakhi volunteers to remain alert.

Besides, the officials and volunteers were asked to download 'zoom' app to discuss the situation if need arises.

It was decided in the meeting that movement of people and vehicles would be stopped on bridges and lowlying areas that are susceptible

## Ex-MP Amar Pradhan's son among deceased

PNS ■ CUTTACK

 $F_{\text{Amar Pradhan's son Ankur}}^{\text{ormer Sambalpur MP}}$ along with two of his friends was killed in a road mishap near Telengapentha on the Cuttack-Bhubaneswar road in the wee hours of Saturday.

The two other deceased hailed from the Goplapur area in Cuttack district.

Ankur and his friends were on their way to Cuttack from Bhubaneswar in a Jaguar car when the vehicle met with an accident at around 3 am.

The speeding car lost control and fell into a roadside canal.

Getting information,



police rushed to the spot and rescued the three youths trapped inside the car.

All the injured were imme-

diately rushed to the SCB Medical College Hospital here, where doctors declared them brought dead.

Woman

doc dies

of Covid

in R'kela

A 29-year-old woman doctor, Priya Shree, who was doing her post-graduation and

also doing Covid duty at the Ispat General Hospital here,

died at the Jaiprakash Hospital on Saturday. She had got infect-

ed with coronavirus about ten

She was a native of Nalanda district of Bihar and

her cremation would take place

here on Sunday after the arrival

of deaths of doctors on Covid

duty has gone up to four in

Significantly, the number

of her family members.

PNS ■ ROURKELA

days back.

### **INBRIEF**

MP ACHARYA TESTS COVID +VE Bhubaneswar: Rajya Sabha BJD member Prasanna Acharya has tested positive for Covid-19. He has been admitted to the Vikash Hospital in Bargarh, his native place. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has wished him speedy recovery.



#### **SPCB TO HAVE 2 NEW REGIONAL OFFICES**

Bhubaneswar: Two more Regional Offices of the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) would be opened in Balangir and Koraput districts, Forest and Énvironment Minister Bikram Keshari Arukh has informed. With this, the SPCB would have total 14 Regional Offices. The Balangir Regional Office would cover Subarnapur, Boudh and Nuapada districts and the one in Koraput would have Koraput, Nabarangpur and Malkangiri districts under its jurisdiction. The SPCB had also proposed two more Regional Offices in Gajapati and Kandhamal districts, but the proposal was rejected due to distance

#### **BBSR AIRPORT GETS ISO CERTIFICATION**

Bhubaneswar: The Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) here has been certified as ISO 50001:2018 standard for the energy management system, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has informed. This is a result of the airport's laudable efforts to achieve the highest standards in energy management operations. The certification is valid till September 13, 2023. Last year, the airport had bagged the Airport Service Quality (ASQ) 2018 award for being the 'Best Airport'.

#### TN MAN GETS 5-YR JAIL FOR TORCHING TRAINS IN PURI

Puri: The CJM Court here on Friday sentenced a person of Tamil Nadu to five years of imprisonment for torching several train coaches at the Puri railway station in 2015. Convicting Ramachandran Subash, CJM Indu Sharma also imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on him. Notably, a major fire had broken out at the railway station on November 12, 2015, in which three coaches, one each of Nandankanan Express, Tirupati Express and Puri-Howrah Express, were gutted. Ramachandran with possession of a matchbox was arrested from the

#### BRAHMAPUR BJD HOLDS BLOOD DONATION CAMP

Brahmapur: The Biju Yuva Janata Dal (BYJD), Brahmapur Mahanagar organised a blood donation camp at the Kuthari Temple premises on the 75th birthday of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. BYJD Mahanagar president Ajit

Panda organised the camp on local MLA Bikram Panda's advice. A total of 125 units of blood were collected. Besides, tree saplings were also distributed. Among others, BJD Ganjam district president Dr RC Chyaupatnaik, Jeevan Bindu district coordinator Subash Moharana, former Corporator Dandapani Nayak, Bhismacharya Chaudhuty, BJD town president Bijay Samal, R Muralimohan, Mukunda Gouda, Jagannath Sabat, Rajanish Mishra,

#### **VILLAGERS RESCUE PANGOLIN IN BALESWAR (PIX)**

Sanghamitra Dalei, Mamata Bisoyi and Fair Khan were present.

Baleswar: A pangolin was rescued by villagers and later handed over to forest officials at Daripokhari village under Oupada block in Baleswar district on Friday night. Some youths spotted the pangolin roaming near a canal. Later, one Pradeep Kumar Rout rescued the animal and handed it over to the Dantur Forest Beat House.

Forest Ranger Babita Soren reached the spot and initiated the pangolin's health checkup. It was believed that the animal had come out from the Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary. "The pangolin will be released into a suitable place after its health checkup," informed the Forest

#### KEONJHAR TU LEADER RECOVERING FROM COVID Champua: Keonjhar Forest and Mines Workers' Union general secretary Maheswar Rout is recovering from Covid-19 and is now in self-quarantine at Bhubaneswar. He had been admitted in a private

hospital, from where he has been discharged after being found

### Missing sisters' bodies found in river

 $B^{\text{odies of the two young sisters, who had jumped into}}$ 

First, the body of Anchal

Agarwal of Gudbhela village in Balanagir district, had gone out by a scooter telling their parents that they would visit Tushura. When they did not return till late hours, the family members informed police. Police found their scooter and sandals from the river bridge. Fire Services personnel were pressed into service but had not been able

### Yoga in Puri beach for health awareness



After a success of the Mo Beach campaign and the Blue Flag eco label accorded to the Golden Beach, Puri, the district administration started a two-day beach-based public health programme, Mo Beach Yoga, on Saturday.

The initiative is aimed at promoting public health and environment education in a novel way amidst Covid-19

**ACTION HAD BEEN** 

MALICIOUS INTENT: MP

The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) on

On October 10, the BMC

had sealed the MP's office for

15 days after a video showing

Sarangi celebrating her birth-

day with a large number of

women supporters with no

Covid-19 precautions went

taken by the BMC to open all

closed-down shops, commer-

cial establishments and insti-

tutions in view of the ensuing

Puja celebration, the sealing

order for the MP's office at

Palaspalli is hereby withdrawn,"

The BMC also asked

read a BMC letter.

"In pursuance of a decision

BJP MP

TAKEN WITH A

PNS BHUBANESWAR

Bhubaneswar

Aparajita Sarangi.

after the golden beach, identified under the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project (ICZMP), recently received the 'Blue Flag' certifi-

The programme is a pilot project of the State Directorate AYUSH, Department of Health & Family Welfare. It started with 200 participants, all Covid-recovered persons, in 10 locations of the beach.

**BMC lifts Aparajita** 

office sealing order

Sarangi to make her office

premises available for sanitisa-

tion immediately and ensure adherence to all Covid-19

Meanwhile on the day,

Sarangi severely criticised the

BMC for closure of her office

alleging that the civic body

closed her office-cum-resi-

power under the Epidemic

claimed that her supporters

seen in the video had been

allowed entry to her office

only after observance of the

Covid protocol. Neither she

and nor any of her well-wish-

ers has been detected with

can be closed for 48 hours only

in case of large-scale Covid out-

"The sealing of my office-cum-residence for a period of 15 days amounted to forcible

dispossession from my legally-held possession. This has been

At a news conference, she

Diseases Act.

guidelines in the premises.

### Parents protest 'partial' school fee MoU

Seek Govt directs schools to take tuition fee only

PNS BHUBANESWAR

 $P_{\text{the city under the aegis of}}^{\text{arents of various schools of}}$ Organisation of Parents Associations' Forum (OPAF) on Saturday organised a demonstration here, protesting a "partial" MoU reached between the Government and school owners when they (parents) have suffered financially a lot due to Covid pandemic.

"Instead of considering plights of parents, the State Government with help of a so called parents' association is providing supports to commercially-run schools. The MoU submitted at the High Court is partial and meant to support private schools, alleged OPAF president Dr Gagan Bihari Rout and other functionaries.

They demanded that the

done with a malicious intent,

contrary to the spirit of law and

is in clear violation of the pro-

niary hardship, mental agony

reserve my right to claim ade-

quate compensation from the

BMC for such excessive use of

authority beyond its jurisdic-

tion, to initiate defamation

proceeding and initiate such

other legal proceedings as may be suitable," Sarangi said.

This has caused me pecu-

visions in law.

Quoting a Government and has been done to malign notification, she said a building my image before the society. I



Organisation of Parent Associations' Forum

ଫା ଛାଡ ମାମଲାରେ, ପକ୍ଷପାଡ MOU ଧୋକ୍କା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଦାଇଡ୍ ଖସାଇବା ବିରୋଧରେ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନ

schools take only tuition fees to meet expenditure of salaries of teachers and other employees and waive all other charges. The Government should issue a specific direction to schools in this regard.

Parents of the Sai

'CM aerial visit

areas doubtful'

**RTI** activist puts

5 posers to CMO

BHUBANESWAR: Raising

questions over Chief Minister

Naveen Patnaik's recent aerial

visit to flood-affected districts.

RTI activist Pradip Pradhan on

Saturday demanded that the

Chief Minister's Office give a

Addressing a Press meet,

Pradhan put five questions

and sought answers from the CMO. "Has the CM really

made an aerial visit to flood-hit

districts? If yes, which areas the

CM visited in just 19 minutes,"

names of officers and doctor

who accompanied him, if any.

He too wanted that all videos of

the CM visit be made public

"According to Airport Authority

of India, the State Government's

helicopter flew for 19 minutes

from 10.10 am 10.31 am. It is

difficult to conduct the aerial

survey in 19 minutes. People

have the right to know the

truth," said Pradhan.

He also wanted to know the

asked Pradhan.

to flood-hit

International School, DAV School, ODM School, Young Fonix, BJEM, Mothers' Public School, Xavier School, Saint Kedargouri, Venkateshwar, Amruta

Vidyalaya and Narayani School Sundargarh district so far. joined the demonstration.

### **DRIVE AGAINST EXTORTION** Gangster Raja Acharya arrested

**PNS** ■ BHUBANESWAR

Aday after the Commissionerate police announced tough action against the extortion mafias, the cops on Saturday arrested Acharya on the charge of demanding protection money.

The anti-extortion wing of the city police arrested the gangster; and he was questioned at the Capital police sta-

"Raja was extorting Rs 20,000 from a person every month in connection with construction of a house. We are currently questioning him," informed Commissioner of Police Sudhanshu Sarangi.

"Extortion (Dada Bati) is a serious issue and strict action will be taken against those indulging in such crime," Sarangi said.

He also requested the residents of the twin city of



inform police if somebody asks them for extortion money.

He assured that the complainant's name would be kept

Meanwhile, the denizens have welcomed the crackdown by police and said such drive should be carried throughout the year instead of during the

Puia festivities.

the Tel river under the Tushura police station in Balangir district two days ago, were recovered from river in separates districts on Saturday.

Agarwal (21) was found at Badatenda under the Tarbha PS in Subarnapur district. Later, the body of Anchal's elder sister Anmol (25) was recovered

of Boudh district. Anchal and Anmol, daughters of Ramtar to trace the girls in the water.

### Biraja Rath **Yatra starts** sans devotees

**PNS** ■ JAJPUR

The nine-day-long A Rath Yatra in the Biraja Temple in Jajpur town kicked off under the shadow of the Covid pandemic on Saturday.

The entire town is under Section 144 CrPC. All entry points to the temple are barricaded and sealed debarring devotees to attend the

Rath Yatra.
The 60-feet-high chariot was pulled by servitors in the presence of police. All the servi-tors had been tested for Covid-19

Notably, the Orissa High Court has allowed the Rath Yatra after hearing PILs and directed the administration to conduct it by adhering to the Covid-19 guidelines



### **BALESWAR BY-POLL** Congress slams BJP for AIIMS delay

**PNS** ■ BALESWAR

ongress leaders came down Cheavily on the Narendra Modi Government at the Centre for the inordinate delay in establishing the AIIMS Satellite centre here.

The project was approved during the Congress-led UPA Government 2013-14, they claimed while campaigning for party candidate for the Baleswar Sadar by-poll.
Addressing mediapersons,

MLA Taraprasdad Bahinipati alleged that the dream project is lying idle due to apathetic attitude of the Modi Government on account of which people of north Odisha are not getting proper healthcare. They are going 250 km to avail the services of AIIMS at Bhubaneswar.

Party spokesperson Sudarshan Das said the proposed 350-bed super specialiy hospital was approved to be

The proposed 350-bed super speciality hospital was approved to be established at an expenditure of ₹450 crore-**Sudarshan Das** 

Although foundation-stone was laid by the then Union

had deceived the people of north Odisha, particularly Baleswar, adopting delaying and denying tactics.

established at an expenditure of Rs 450 crore. Besides, a world class nursing school and a public health were approved, he

Health Minister IP Nadda in 2018, vet only a boundary has been built around the 25-acre plot at cost Rs 1.60 crore. Bahinipati alleged that the BJP-led Union Government

They demanded that the project established soon.

### BJD MP Murmu accuses OTV of defaming her

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Levelling seri-lous allegations against some OTV reporters, Murmu

Keonjhar BJD MP Ćhandrani accused them of harassing, torturing and defaming her. In a statement, she said the reporters

had circulated a morphed obscene video pertaining to her. Murmu said OTV MD Jagi Mangat Panda and her husband and BJP leader

Baijayant Panda are trying to save reporter Ramesh Rath by claiming that this is an attack on the OTV by the State Government. "Both Jagi Panda and Jay Panda are

friends to powerful people in Delhi and using their connections to run media stories that OTV reporter Ramesh Rath being questioned by police is an attack on media and journalism," she said. Notably, Rath had on Friday been picked up by the Keonjhar police for questioning and later released.

### 11 dacoits, property receivers held in Jajpur

**PNS** ■ JAJPUR

Police on Saturday eleven criminals Dharamsala in the district for their involvement in many crimes in the district and its nearby areas.

"We have arrested Sk Basar Ali of Mahanga, Zakir Khan of Kendrapada, Bimal Das of Patkura, Sk Irfan of Brahmabarada, Sk Shoiba Allam of Chandapur and Arfan Khan of Charinagal," said Jajpur SP Meena.

Besides, Sk Riasad and Sk Babu of Kendrapada town, Sanjay Kokate, Amarendra Samant and Kesto Khatua of Cuttack were arrested for receiving stolen properties, said the SP.

Earlier, Madhabananda Sahoo of Bandhadiha village under the Dharmasala PS had filed an FIR that three miscreants looted 800 grams of gold ornaments, 15 kg of silver and cash of Rs one lakh by brandishing arms and assaulting his son



## CASH, GUN SEIZED

Maheswar when he was returning home from his jewellery shop on October 6 night. The cops seized two sharp weapons, a revolver, silver ornaments weighing 12 kg, 76 grams of melted gold, Rs 5,89,100, four bikes and 11 mobile phones from the criminals' possession.

## **HC** hearing on idol height to continue

PNS CUTTACK

The Orissa High Court on Friday adjourned the hearing to Monday on the batch of writ petitions seeking to quash the idol-height restrictions imposed by the State Government for the ensuing

Durga Puja. A Division Bench headed by Chief Justice Mohammad Rafiq adjourned the hearing when the Advocate General failed to furnish details of the idol constructions by different Puja Committees of Cuttack

"Advocate General Mr AK Parija prays for time to furnish details of nine numbers of Puja Committees, who as per of the Police report Commissioner constructed idols above four feet," said the

At least 25 Puja Committees have approached the court seeking to remove the idol-height restriction.

Among other restrictions, the Government has asked the Puja Committees to limit the idols' height to four feet only while idols of seven feet and more are traditionally built.

## B'kanika Park now open for day visitors

Much to the joy of tourists, the Bhitarkanika National Park would be opened for day visitors from October 19 after remaining closed for about seven months with adherence to the Covid guidelines.

The tourists are going to follow the Covid protocol issued by the Forest Department, informed Rajnagar Mangrove (Forest) and Wildlife Division DFO Bikash Ranjan Dash.

Earlier on October 1, the park authorities had allowed tourists only for night stay at the cabins of the Dangamala

A maximum of 500 visitors per day, including those who would come by boat from the Gupti, Khola and Chandabali entry

crocodile research centre through online booking.

points, would be

permitted

Now, a maximum of 500 visitors per day, including those who would come by boat from the Gupti, Khola and Chandabali entry points, would

### KISS helps 4 hapless **Anandpur kids**

**PNS** ■ BHUBANESWAR

The KISS Foundation has extended a helping hand to four hapless kids of Anandpur in Kendujhar district who have been living a miserable life in the absence of their parents for a few years having no senior member in the family to look after them.

The children's father is languishing in jail after being convicted a lifer in a murder case. Their mother abandoned them and is missing since then. As their parents are not available, one of the sisters, a minor, works as a daily wage labourer to run the family.

Knowing this from media, KIIT & KISS and KISS Foundation founder Dr Achyuta Samanta came forward to help out the kids. He immediately coordinated with these kids through his repre-

sentatives and assured them that they would be admitted to the KISS, where they would get

The KISS Foundation would provide Rs 3,000 per month to each of the children

The kids are overjoyed after getting such help. Álong free education. with people in their locality, they thanked the KISS Foundation and Dr Samanta.

216 new +ves in BBSR ...

From page 1

The quarantine cases included nine from Patia, five from Satya Vihar and five from Nayapalli.

On the day, four patients succumbed to the disease, pushing the total toll to 133.

However, the city registered more recoveries than the positive cases with 307 patients recovering from the disease. So far, 23,830 persons have recov-

Cuttack city recorded 85 positive cases on the day, taking the total to 14,031. Of the new cases, 50 were quarantine, 27 institutional quarantine and eight home quarantine

However, 71 persons got cured from the disease in the city on the day, taking the total recoveries to 13,082.

### Shaurya Chakra awardee Balwinder | State daily Singh Sandhu cremated in Punjab

Amritsar: A large number of people turned up on Saturday at the cremation of Shaurya Chakra awardee Balwinder Singh Sandhu, who was shot dead by two unknown assailants in Punjab's Tarn Taran district.

Earlier, the family had refused to cremate the body unless the accused were arrested, but then agreed to conduct the last rites after an assurance was given by the Tarn Taran district administration about prompt action in the case.

The administration also assured them about their request for a government job for one family member.

The cremation was also attended by Khemkaran assembly constituency MLA, Sukhpal Singh Bhullar. The police department has provid-

ed three gunmen as security cover to the

The 62-year-old Sandhu, who fought terrorism in Punjab, was shot dead in the district on Friday, months after the government withdrew his security cover. The

motorcycle-borne men pumped four bullets into him when he was at his office adjoining his home at Bhikhiwind.

Earlier, Sandhu's wife Jagdish Kaur Sandhu, had told reporters, "The family would not cremate him unless the killers are arrested. She had also demanded security

cover for her family. "All the family members -- I, my late

husband, his brother Ranjit Singh Sandhu and his wife Balraj Kaur Sandhu -- are Shaurya Chakra awardees and this award was given by the Centre for our fight against militancy." "Both the state and central govern-

ments are accountable for the intelligence failure that resulted in the killing of my husband at the hands of terrorists, Sandhu"s wife had said. She also said if the state government

failed to provide security to the family, then it was the responsibility of the Centre to do the needful.

## Covid-19...

From page 1

The deceased in Khordha were a 57year-old woman, a 70-year-old man, a 73-year-old man, a 76-year-old man(all of Bhubaneswar) and a 37-year-old

The Cuttack casualties were a 65year-old woman and a 49-year-old man.

The other deceased were a 56-yearold man of Angul, a 69-year-old man of Baleswar, a 79-year-old man of Jagatsinghpur, a 53-year-old man of Kandhamal, a 74-year-old man of Keonjhar, a 58-year-old man of Mayurbhanj, a 66-year-old man of Nayagarh, a 77-year-old man of Puri, a 64-year-old woman of Rourkela and a 75year-old man of Sambalpur.

However, another 2, 842 persons recovered on the day, taking the total Agencies recoveries to 2,44,227.

### Govt allows...

From page 1 However, the SRC laid following conditions for the political meetings and gatherings:

(1) In closed spaces, a maximum of 50% of the hall capacity will be allowed with a ceiling of 200 persons. Wearing of masks, maintaining social distancing, provision of ther-mal scanning and use of hand wash or sanitiser will be mandatory.

(2) In open spaces, keeping the size of the ground/open space in view, the district administration shall give permission for gathering for such number of persons as would be appropriate for ensuring strict observance of the physical distancing norms. Wearing of masks provision of thermal scanning and use of hand wash or sanitiser will be

The District Magistrate shall ensure strict enforcement of the conditions for holding the political meetings and other functions and

### Naveen reviews.

From page 1
He directed that devotees must be able to have a hassle-free entry through the Singhadwar and adequate arrangements should be made for their comfort when they wait in queue to go inside the temple for Darshan of the

Patnaik advised the authorities to use technology for ensuring safety and security so that arrangements made are not very obtrusive.

While reviewing from the southern side of the Meganand Paccheri, he advised to create tree-shaded spaces so that Parikrama is comfortable with special emphasis on an uni-

The heritage corridor should be designed in such a manner that persons with disabilities are able to go around Parikrama on their own, he While reviewing on the western side, he advised that no

utilities like electric substation or control in master plan should be next to the Meghanath Paccheri. The present Cesu control room would be suitably shifted. For devotees coming from faraway places, adequate arrangements for keeping their belongings should be made, the CM directed. While reviewing the north-

ern side, he advised to make adequate arrangements for serving Mahaprasad to large numbers of people at one go.

For elderly devotees, adequate arrangements for electric carts should be made so that they don't face any issue even if they are to park their vehicles at a distance, he said.

He directed to complete

the land acquisition process by January 1, 2021 and start of work on the corridor project. Chief Administrator of the

Administration (SJTA) Krishan Kumar said the works would be completed in time under the guidance of the CM. Among others, 5T Secretary VK Pandian, Puri

Shree Jagannath Temple

Collector Balwant Singh and other senior officials were present in the review meeting. Meanwhile, six members of the Youth Congress were detained by police after they

showed black flags to the CM near the Mausi Maa Temple when he was on his way to the city.
The Youth Congress mem-

bers were opposing the alleged sale of the Bagala Dharmasala

On January 16, the CM had last visited the Jagannath Temple and laid foundation for seven projects worth Rs 510 crore for the beautification

In Ludhiana, a group of agitating farmers demonstrat-

ed outside a hotel at Ferozepur road when a meeting of the Punjab BJP led by its state unit

chief Ashwani Sharma was in

progress. The protesters raised

### New farm laws are attack on | Farmers hold protests across Punjab over new farm reform laws soul of every farmer: Rahul

 $F^{\rm ormer\ Congress\ President}_{\rm Rahul\ Gandhi\ on\ Saturday}$ kept up his attack on the central government over the recently enacted farm laws. saying these are a blatant attack that such legislations weaken the country's foundation.

Delivering a virtual address from New Delhi at the launch of the second phase of Smart Village Campaign in Punjab, he said, "These three laws are an attack on the soul of every farmer of this country, they are an attack on their sweat and blood. And farmers and labourers of this country understand this." Referring to his "tractor

rallies" against the laws during his recent visit to Punjab and Haryana, Gandhi said, "I came to Puniab and Harvana a few days ago and every farmer and labourer knows that these three

He said he was happy that the Punjab government has decided to convene a special session of the Assembly on MLAs will "decide about these said." farm laws".

central government over the farm laws, Gandhi said, "If we weaken the country's foundation, India will be weakened. When Congress party fights, we do that to protect and strengthen the foundation.

This is the difference between us and the central gov-They talk of the building,

but they thrust schemes from the top without talking to the panchayat and the people and their laws weaken India s foundation.

"If these laws were in favour of farmers and labourers, then why did the government not allow a debate before

and Rajya Sabha? Why were they afraid of a debate? Entire country would have seen the debate and decided if these laws these laws on October 19 where are for farmers" benefit," he

"But in Lok Sabha and India's farmers was suppressed. I am happy that in the Punjab assembly, farmers, labourers" voices will be heard in the special session," said

The three farm bills -- the Farmer's Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020 -- were passed by Parliament recently. Subsequently, President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to

### PNS ■ CHANDIGARH /

Farmers under banners of different organisations held protests across Punjab and burnt effigies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as they accused the BJP-led government at the Centre of maintaining a "stubborn attitude" towards the agi-

the newly enacted farm laws.

On Saturday, protests were held at many places, including in Phagwara, Muktsar, Amritsar, Patiala and Bathinda which led to a disruption of vehicular traffic. Farmers assembled at Phagwara-Hoshiarpur road and held a march. They then burnt the effigy of prime minister alleging that their leaders were "disrespected" during a meeting with Agriculture ministry officials in Delhi.

Representatives of several farmers' bodies had on Wednesday walked out of a meeting held in Delhi to discuss the farm laws with the



Union agriculture secretary after finding no Union minister present at the meeting. Addressing the protesters in Phagwara, BKU (Doaba) General Secretary Satnam Singh Sahni said, "We have been agitating against these

farm laws for the last three months. But the Centre has turned a deaf ear to our demands.

Refuting reports about fissure among agitating farmer bodies, he asserted that they were all united in their fight

against the "anti-farmer" laws. Another farmer leader Manjit Singh Rai said, "If PM Modi shows sincerity in the matter and himself intervenes and invites the agitating farmers, we will go for such par-

Covid-19 tally in J'khand

slogans against the Centre and demanded the withdrawal of three farm reform laws. Over the past several days, tracks, laid siege to toll plazas, fuel pumps, shopping malls and staged sit-ins outside the residences of several BJP lead-

Rail traffic has been disrupted and in turn, coal supply for thermal power plants have been impacted by the farmers"

The farmers have been demanding that the three farm laws passed by Parliament

recently be repealed. They have expressed apprehension that the new laws will pave a way for the dismantling of the minimum support price system, leaving them at the "mercy" of big corporates.

## **DJB chairman Jain** visits wastewater treatment plants

The Chairman of Delhi Jal ■ Board (DJB) Satyendar Jain on Thursday inspected Wastewater Treatment Plants at various locations in National Capital and emphasized lifting of extra water from drains to ensure 100 per cent capacity utlization of the existing 'Sewage Treatment Plant'.

Jain visited Rohini (15

MGD), Rithala (60 MGD), Coronation Pillar (30 MGD) alongwith Timarpur Oxidation Pond and Bhalaswa Lake site and directed officials to fix all defunct equipments and biogas plants on immediate basis and to utilize 80 acres of vacant land at Rohini STP, 60 acres of Forest at Rithala and 250 acres of forest near coronation pillar STP for improving groundwater table through the application of treated effluent

The minister also said that

STPs should be tapped and treated in STPs to ensure 100 per cent utilisation of the available infrastructure and no

Jain said "Due to burgeoning of population in our city more and more water will be required. While it is essential to use water wisely, it is also necessary to take steps to reduce the load on the available resource and create ways for its substitution in activities where

untreated municipal sewage

to reach stormwater drain.

"The government is committed to Clean Yamuna and improve depleting ground water levels of Delhi. On the same lines DJB started using the treated water for activities other than drinking like horticulture purposes or giving it various other agencies who can use this water to wash busses, trains, etc," he said.

BJP betraying people by not handing over hospitals to city Govt, says AAP The North MCD

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

 $A^{\mathrm{am}\,\mathrm{Aadmi}\,\mathrm{Party}\,(\mathrm{AAP})\,\mathrm{on}}$  Friday said that the North Corporation Commissioner under the direction of then mayor Adesh Gupta who is now Delhi BJP chief in a letter issued on July 28, 2018 requested the Center to take over six hospitals and medical colleges under the civic body.

Senior AAP leader Durgesh Pathak asked, "If in 2018 Adesh Gupta was ready to handover these hospitals to the Center then why is the BJP doing politics and betraying people by not handing over these hospitals to the AAP government? Pathak said, "The North

MCD commissioner had written a letter to the Central Government regarding handing over the hospitals and medical colleges under the North MCD to the Central government". In this letter, the commis-

sioner requested the central

government to take over six

hospitals and medical colleges

under the North MCD which

Kasturba Gandhi Hospital, Rajan Babu TB Hospital, Girdhari Lal Hospital, Maharishi Valmiki Hospital and Balak Ram Hospital. In this letter, the Commissioner noted that from the past 2-3 years the BIP ruled North MCD was undergoing a financial crisis, therefore, they want the central government to take over these

commissioner had written a letter to the Central **Government** regarding handing over the hospitals and medical colleges under the North MCD to the **Central Govt** 

> Durgesh Pathak, Senior AAP leader

includes Hindu Rao Hospital, ospitals, he said.

Pathak said, "In this letter,



the Commissioner has clearly noted that the BJP has completely failed to run these hospitals. In this letter, it was also noted that this is not the first time when any department of the MCD is being handed over to the central government. Earlier, the fire department, Delhi electricity board, Jal Board, and other agencies were also, once upon a time, under the MCD but for various reasons and for their proper functioning, these agencies earlier

were handed over to the Delhi

#### draws close to 96K mark PNS RANCHI active cases in the district up at ment has so far collected swab

The Covid-19 tally drew **L** close to 96,000 in Jharkhand after as many as 542 people, including 242 in Ranchi alone, were found infected on Saturday, figures released by the health department stated.

The Covid tally in Ranchi, which accounted for nearly half of the cases on Saturday, shot up to 23,948. Despite achieving a recovery rate close to 90 per cent, Ranchi had around 2300 active cases of Covid-19 infection on Saturday evening.

Meanwhile, eight more people died of the viral infection on Saturday, taking the Covid toll in the state up at 832, government data said. At least four of the eight Covid victims were from East Singhbhum, the district which has seen 323 Covid casualties so far, the highest among all districts in Jharkhand. East Singhbhum, however, reported only 66 fresh cases of infection and 55 recoveries, taking the number of

Chief minister Hemant

Soren on Saturday met doctors, who are treating Education Minister Jagarnath Mahto at Bhagwan Mahavir Medica Superspecialty Hospital in Ranchi, and sought updates from them on the medical condition of the minister. Soren also sought suggestions from doctors regarding alternate treatments that could help Mahto recover faster.

At least five ministers in Jharkhand have been infected by Covid-19 virus so far. Health Minister Banna Gupta, Agriculture Minister Badal Patralekh, and Drinking Water and Sanitation Minister Mithilesh Thakur have overcome Covid-19 infection. Minority Welfare Minister Haji Hussain Ansari died a day after testing negative for Covid-19, while Mahto is said to be critical and admitted in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of Medica hospital.

The Jharkhand govern-

and tested 28.27 lakh of them for Covid-19. On Saturday, health workers collected swab samples of 22,569 people and tested 20,952 of them. While 95,967 people have tested positive for Covid-19 so far in Jharkhand, 88,559 of them have recovered. As many as 6576 people were battling the infection across Jharkhand on Saturday, as per latest figures with the state health depart-

samples of 28.42 lakh people

As per Govt data, Jharkhand Covid-19 mortality rate was 0.86 per cent against the national average of 1.50 per cent. The Covid recovery rate in the state was 92.28 per cent against the national Covid recovery rate of 87.80 per cent. The doubling rate of Covid-19 infection in Jharkhand was 113.5 days against the national average of 80.78 days. The growth rate of the infection in Jharkhand during the past one week was 0.61 per cent against the national average of 0.86%.

# to set base in Delhi

A Special NIA court in Delhi has convicted 15 accused persons in connection with the ISIS Conspiracy case.

The case pertains to criminal conspiracy hatched by the ISIS to establish its base in India by recruiting Muslim youth for ISIS, a proscribed terrorist organisation by using different social media platforms.

The case was registered at Police Station NIA, New Delhi on December 9, 2015 under section under provisions of the Indian Penal Code and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

During investigation, searches were conducted by the NIA in various cities across the country and 19 accused persons were arrested.

It was revealed that the accused persons had formed an organisation styled as Junoodul-Khilafa-Fil-Hind (a group seeking to establish Caliphate in India and pledging alle-giance to ISIS/ISIL) to recruit Muslim youth to work for ISIS and commit acts of terrorism in India at the behest of one Yusuf-Al-Hindi alias Shafi Armar alias Anjan Bhai, who was based in Syria and was purportedly the media chief of

ISIS.
"This case had a huge impact on the like-minded people who were likely to join ISIS. After the arrest of the ISIS terrorists, their activities were



**After completion** of investigation, the NIA had filed chargesheets against 16 accused persons in 2016-2017

minimised and theirother associates were identified and questioned to unravel their further plans," the NIA said in a state-

Several ISIS sympathisers, who had gone to join ISIS, were intercepted at various locations in the Middle East and were deported to India. The investigation conducted by the agency stopped the facilitation of the ISIS members in India as well as abroad, it said.

After completion of investigation, the NIA had filed charge-sheets against 16 accused persons in 2016-2017.

On Friday, 15 accused were convicted and sentenced with

rigorous imprisonment (RI)

The convicted terrorists include Nafees Khan, 10 years RI with fine of ₹1,03,000, Mudabbir Mushtaq Sheikh, 7 years RI and fine of ₹65,000, Abu Anas, 7 years RI and fine ₹48,000, Mufti Abdus Sami, 7 years RI and fine of ₹50,000 and Azhar Khan, 6 years RI with a fine ₹58,000.

Others convicted include Amzad Khan, 6 years RI with ₹78,000 fine, Mohd. Shariff Moinudeen, 5 years RI with ₹38,000 fine, Asif Ali, 5 years RI and fine of ₹38,000, Mohd. Hussain, 5 years RI and fine of Rs 38,000 and Syed Mujahid, 5 years RI and fine ₹38,000.

The five others convicted are Najmul Huda, Mohd. Obedullah, Md. Aleem, Md. Afzal and Sohail Ahmad for five years and a fine each of ₹

This case was first of its kind in which an extensive terrorist conspiracy involving online radicalisation was hatched on cyber space.

# 15 convicted for bid Cong launches Smart Village Campaign

Congress on Saturday kick-started the Smart Village Campaign (SVC) with the virtual launch of a ₹2,775 crore campaign to power the complete rural transformation of the State in Punjab.

The smart village concept is to focus on core areas like renovation of ponds, street lights, parks, gymnasiums, community halls, drinking water supply, model anganwadi centers, smart schools and solid waste management, thus making villages self-sustaining by providing enabling envi-

While doing so, the focus shall be on 'inclusive' growth, i.e. to include households such as women -headed households, persons with disabilities, critically ill persons, families of martyrs, scheduled castes, etc, he said.

Party sources said that the same is to be replicated by all the Congress ruled States in way to showcase a better format of the Modi government's Adarsh Village concept which has not shown much enthusi-

Launching the campaign virtually from the national Capital, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said the scheme would lead to the creation of enormous rural infrastructure to raise the living standard and quality of life by capitalising on technological advances, as part of his government's Rural

Transformation Strategy.
Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, officials and Sarpanchs, joined in from



a total of 1,500 digital locations, paving the way for execution of 48,910 separate works across

Singh assured of adequate allocation for the schemes to be undertaken under the second phase, which has been kickstarted on the successful culmination of Phase I, which was launched in 2019 for the execution of 19,132 works at a cost of ₹835 crores.

Underlining the importance of villages to keep the nation's foundations strong, Rahul Gandhi said any weakening of the rural structure would impede the nation's progress. He stressed the need to strengthen these foundations for a better India, pointing out that protecting the villages and the people living there would help protect the cities and the country.

Congress' ruled other states of Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Puducherry is also studying the project initiated by their counterpart in Punjab.

Rahul said the Congress

believed in working at the grassroots and Congress governments start programmes only after taking the views of the Panchayats into accounts. Since the schemes under SVC have been envisaged after delib-

erations at the ground level,

they will deliver the desired

results, he said. Adequate funds in Punjab had already been transferred to all 13,264 Gram Panchayats in Punjab, the Chief Minister said, adding that his government intends to give assistance to those house-owners who are living in houses having temporary roofs. The intention is "Har ghar pakki chhat" i.e. to provide the rural poor with better housing facility. In addition, 750 stadiums

are being taken up for development in rural areas for 2020-21 in Punjab. For this purpose, a target of minimum of 5 stadiums per block has been allotted for this purpose. New designs of 4 acres, 2 acres and acre playgrounds have been

**Gadkari informed** that his Ministry is

doing water

conservation by

using the

soil/murum from

water bodies.

drains and rivers

for construction of

**Highways** 

works with a result of increase

of 22500 TCM (Thousand

Cubic Meter) of water storage

Government'. This has charged

ground water table. Due to

deepening and training of river,

drains, etc, the floods have

reduced, which otherwise

spreads in nearby field due to

reduced discharge capacity of

rivers and drains. This con-

vergence has been appreciated

and accepted by NITI Aayog,

which is in the process of

forming policy based on this

informed that the Tamaswada

Pattern adopted in Wardha

and Nagpur districts is anoth-

er effort towards Rain Water

Harvesting, Conservation and

the basis of Scientific and

Complete Development of

Mini-Micro Watersheds based

on study of HydroGeology,

Topography and Civil Engineering. Work is done

essentially in the direction

from Ridge to Valley.

Tamaswada Pattern is most

helpful to create augmented

Surface rain and Ground Water

storages. It creates Flood free as

well as Drought free situation

in treated Watershed. These

type of works are resulting in

Preservation and Conservation

of Traditional natural water

These works are done on

Ground Water Recharge.

The Minister further

### Govt issues SOPs for cultural functions, programmes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

he Union Culture Ministry has issued detailed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for 'culture functions and programmes' on preventive measures to control the spread of Covid-19, according to which, no cultural activities will be allowed inside containment

According to an official from the Ministry, these SOPs have to be followed by the management of theatres and performance spaces, as well as the entertainment/creative agencies, artists and crew or any other persons who hire the auditoria or any other open/closed performance spaces, whether on payment or

"Comprehensive guidelines have been issued for artists and crew, management of green rooms, stage management, costume and makeup trials, sanitization of the venue including stage, open area seating etc," the official added.

Further, State/UT Govts may consider proposing additional measures as per their

field assessment.

Guidelines issued by the Union Home and Health Ministries shall be strictly complied with during all activities and operations, said the official.

Social/ academic/ sports/ entertainment/ cultural/ reli-gious/ political functions and other congregations have already been permitted with a ceiling of 100 persons, outside containment zones only.

In closed spaces, a maximum of 50 per cent of the hall capacity will be allowed, with a ceiling of 200 persons.

Wearing of face masks, maintaining social distancing, provision for thermal scanning and use of hand wash or sanitizer will be mandatory, while in open spaces, keeping the size of the space/ground in view, strict observance of social distancing, the mandatory wearing of face masks, provision for thermal scanning and hand wash or sanitiser has to be followed.

"State/UT Govts will issue detailed SOPs, to regulate such gatherings and strictly enforce the same," said the official.

### BJP hits out at PC over his call for restoration of Article 370



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress for its unequivocal support for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and the opposition tion of Article 370 as a promise in its Bihar polls manifesto.

to put their promise of bring-

In August 2019, a presidential notification along with the passage of requisite legis-lation in Parliament resulted in Article 370 becoming redundant and the state of J&K splitting into two- J & K,

Nadda drew a link between former Congress president Rahul Gandhi's recent praise for Pakistan and Chidambaram's pro-Article 370 statement.

Chidambaram had welshould not be perceived as "anti-national".

Javadekar pointed out that the Congress knew very well

"Congress leaders P Chidambaram and Digvijaya

The BJP on Saturday came down heavily on the

In a sharp riposte to Congress leader and former Union finance Minister P Chidambaram's comment on restoring article 370, BJP president J P Nadda alleged that the opposition party was subscribing to a "Divide India" agenda. Another senior BJP leader and union I & B Minister Prakash Javadekar sought to dare the Congress ing back article 370 in the party's poll manifesto for Bihar.

Ladakh- Union Territories.

comed the formation of the 'People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration' and called for the people of J&K to be given back their rights that existed before August 5, 2019. Terming the Centre's decisions as "unconstitutional", he said that mainstream parties, as well as people of J&K,

that the people of the entire country had endorsed the decision to scrap J&K's special status

Singh are saying that the decision to abrogate Article 370 was wrong and so, Congress will take it back. Can the Congress include this in the Bihar poll manifesto? They know very well that the people of Jammu, Kashmir,

Ladakh and the rest of the country welcomed the move to abrogate Article 370. They have seen the kind of progress in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in the past one year. But Congress is echoing the language of the soft sepa-

Alleging that Congress was endorsing the agenda of soft separatists, he regretted that the opposition party repeatedly went against the mood of the people

The Union Minister accused Sonia headed BJP of praising China and Pakistan. Maintaining that Article 370 was always temporary in nature, Javadekar listed the various benefits secured by the people of J&K and Ladakh in the last one year.

"Congress is continuously adopting positions that go against the sentiments of the people of this country. Rahul Gandhi also praises Pakistan. They like to praise Pakistan and China on any issue.

The Constitution also stated that Article 370 is for a limited period, after which it will

Separatism has ended and all the vulnerable sections of the society got the benefit of reservation.

Many welfare laws were implemented in Kashmir," said

the Union Minister. Union Fisheries Minister

Giriraj Singh also expressed 'outrage' at Congress' stance and questioned whether the party wanted to severe J&K rom India. All original Gupkar Declaration signatories bar-

ring for J&K Congress chief GA Mir came together for the first time on Thursday since the abrogation of Article 370. The Gupkar Declaration was a resolution passed by National Conference (NC), Peoples Democratic Party(PDP), Congress, CPI(M), JKPC and ANC on August 4, 2019 (a day before the abrogation of article 370), pledging to protect the "identity, autonomy and special status" of I&K.

After the meeting, NC president Farooq Abdullah announced the formation of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration' and called for the restoration of J&K's special status.

### VP Naidu calls for building equitable society on Int'l Day for Eradication of Poverty

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday called for building a more equitable society on International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

The theme for the Day this year addresses the challenge of achieving social and environmental justice for all,

together for the uplift of the downtrodden & build a more equitable society. We need to address the root cause of poverty in all its dimensions, be it economic, social, legal or environmental," the Vice

President Secretariat tweeted quoting Naidu.

### SCBA condemns Andhra CM's allegation against sitting judge of apex court

**PTI** ■ NEW DELHI

Supreme Court lawyers' Abody has condemned Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's action of writing a letter to Chief Justice of India S A Bobde in which allegations have been levelled against a sitting judge of the top court.

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) said in its resolution that "such action by constitutional functionaries is opposed to conventions causing serious inroads impacting the independence of the judiciary as enshrined in the Constitution of

The SCBA resolution was passed days after another lawyers' body, Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA), had condemned the "unwarranted" release of the letter written by Reddy saying "it tends to scandalise and breach the indepen-

dence of judiciary" The resolution of SCBA said

that its executive committee, at a meeting on October 16, strongly condemned the action of the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh in releasing his letter to the

Chief Justice of India (CJI) mak-

ing allegations against the sitting judge in the public domain. A similar resolution was also passed earlier this week by the Delhi High Court Bar Association (DHCBA) stating that the "ill-founded" letter "unfairly and without reason casts aspersions" on the conduct of the apex court judge and judges of the Andhra Pradesh

High Court. The DHCBA said the October 6 letter is an abject and

uncalled for interference in the due administration of justice by the

high court judges. In an unprecedented move, the chief minister wrote the letter to the CJI, alleging that the Andhra Pradesh High Court was being used to "destabilise and topple my democratically elected Government.

### **GADKARI TO MAHA GOVT**

### Form State Water Grid to tackle flood crisis



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

I Jnion Minister for Road Transport, Highways and MSMEs Nitin Gadkari has requested the Maharashtra Government to take initiative for preparation of detailed project report (DPR) for formation of the State Water Grid to overcome the recurring flood crisis in the State. This would help the Government to ensure the availability of the water in drought prone areas and save the resources to manage the flood crisis. In a letter dated 14th October, 2020 to Chief Minister Udhav Thackeray, his cabinet colleagues and Sharad Pawar, MP, he has sought early decision of the State Government on this issue, followed by actions thereon.

Gadkari has drawn the attention of the Chief Minister in this letter towards the serious issue of heavy loss of lives and property that occur in the state of Maharashtra every year due to floods. He has added that the floods create and trigger serious problems in different parts of the State and there is an urgent need to chalk out a plan to manage this natural disaster that becomes grave because of other man made The Union Minister has

suggested to the Government of Maharashtra to take up the ambitious project of formation of the State Water Grid on the lines of the National Power Grid and Highway Grid. The idea is to divert the flood water from one river basin to the other river basin in the drought prone area of the state. The areas with shortage of the water, scanty rainfall can get relief by the Grid. This would help to increase the area under irrigation, while bringing significant reduction in the numbers of suicides of farmers. The letter goes on to say that various studies have shown that the incidents of the farmers' suicide have come down in the areas where the irrigation cover is more that 55%

The Minister mentioned that this would also help to increase agriculture produce and strengthen the rural and national economy. The diverted flood waters would relieve the stress on the local resources. Transportation of goods and passengers through rivers (Water Transport) can be commenced in near future. Fishing and other businesses can flourish alongside and major employment can be generated if such project is taken up as an essential infrastructure.

Gadkari has informed that tion of Highways.

N.H. construction and water conservation results not only in increasing water storage capacity but saving environment. Initially this activity was done on large scale in Buldhana district as pilot project and hence named as 'Buldhana pattern'. With this activity in Maharashtra, around 225 lakh

his Ministry is doing water conservation by using the soil/murum from water bodies, drains and rivers for construc-

# This synchronisation of

### cubic meter of material from water bodies, drains and rivers has been used in Highway

## Peace and tranquillity along LAC 'deeply disturbed': Jaishankar

**PTI** ■ NEW DELHI

xternal Affairs Minister S EJaishankar on Saturday said peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control(LAC) is "deeply disturbed" and this is obviously impacting the overall relationship between India and China.

Jaishankar made these comments against the backdrop of the over five-monthlong border standoff between India and China in eastern Ladakh where each side has

The Sino-India boundary question a very "complicated" and difficult issue, he said at a webinar on his book 'The India Way', giving a historical perspective to development of the relationship between the two neighbouring countries in the last three decades The external affairs min-

ister said the relationship between India and China, which was "very difficult", was normalised since late 1980s through a plethora of

initiatives like trade, travel,

on the premise of peace and

There have been many nego-

boundary question. We under-

the bor-

not our

position

"It is

1980s," he added. "Now, if peace and tranquillity is deeply disturbed,

Ladakh. a relationship," Jaishankar Jaishankar said both "I am talking about a

much more basic bar which is that there must be peace and tranquillity along the LAC in the border areas and that has find an "equilibrium". been the case since the late

then obviously there will be an impact on the relationship and that is what we are see-

China and India are rising and assuming "bigger" role in the world, but the "big question" is how the two countries

That is the basic case I addressed in my book," the minister said, adding he completed the manuscript of the book in April, before the border row erupted in eastern

#### ing," he said referring to the border situation in eastern deployed over 50,000 troops. tranquillitiations at different levty along els...That is a very high bar for

stand that it is a very complitourism, and societal activities cated and difficult issue.

### 2% fee on credit card use to top up Paytm wallets

Paytm users will have to pay a 2 per cent fee on the amount added to their e-wallet using a credit card.

Until now, users had to pay 2 per cent fee if they loaded more than ₹10,000 in their e-wallets via credit card in a month.

message saying "Nominal charge of 2 per cent is applicable on adding money using credit card. Nominal fee is applicable since we pay high charges to your bank/payment network when you add money using a credit card. Please use UPI or debit card to add money for free" is displayed when customers attempt to add money to their Paytm wallet via a credit card.

Paytm is also providing an offer, wherein users will get 2 per cent cashback up to Rs 200 on adding minimum Rs 50 using credit card, as per the

When contacted, a Paytm Payments Bank spokesperson said customers have the flexi-



bility to add money to their Paytm wallet from any of their preferred funding source, including UPI, net banking and cards

"The banks and credit card companies charge a fee for loading money into the Paytm wallet from any of these

The 2 per cent charge is passed on to customers, who use credit cards for adding funds to their wallet. For all other sources, we will continue to absorb the cost of loading money," the spokesperson

The spokesperson further said the company has temporarily waived the 5 per cent charge that is levied on money transfer from wallet to bank accounts as a promotional offer for the festive season.

'The amount added in the wallet can be used to transfer money to another wallet or bank account, to make pay ments to online and offline merchants via QR codes, to process bill payments, do recharges and multiple other forms of transactions. All such transactions will also continue to be free of cost for our customers," the spokesperson said.

In 2017, Paytm had introduced a similar fee on amounts added to wallet via credit cards, but had rolled back the decision after pressure from users.

### IndiGo introduces service fee for check-in counter usage

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

n a bid to encourage web check-in, airline major IndiGo has introduced a service fee for usage of check-in counters at the airports. Accordingly, the fee has come into effect from Saturday.

"We encourage all passengers to web check-in as per the government directive, using our website or mobile app. The checkin fee at the airport counters is applicable on all bookings made, starting from October 17," the airline said in a statement.

The airline added that it is committed to take all precautionary measures for a contactless and hassle-free travel experience for its passengers.



### ₹1.08 lakh crore worth loans sanctioned under discom liquidity package



s much as ₹1.08 lakh crore A worth of loans under the liquidity package for stressed power distribution utilities have been sanctioned so far, REC said on Saturday.

In May, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced ₹90,000 crore liquidity infusion into cashstrapped discoms, facing demand slump due to the lockdown to contain COVID-19.

This package was later increased to ₹1.2 lakh crore by the Ministry of Power.

'Till date, REC and PFC (Power Finance Corporation) have sanctioned ₹1.08 lakh crore and released nearly ₹30,000 crore to discoms under the scheme," REC said in a statement.

The loans under the package will be co-funded by PFC and REC in equal proportion. The loans would be sanctioned in two equal tranches.

REC also said it has sanctioned ₹ 2,790 crore to Jammu Kashmir Power Corporation Ltd (JKPCL) under the scheme.

The agreement was signed between the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, JKPCL REC and PFC.

Under the liquidity infusion scheme of the Centre REC and PFC are extending financial assistance at a concessional rate of interest, it

Riding on 5G, Apple may see 15% iPhone growth next fiscal year

Apple is expected to witness 15 per cent iPhone growth next fiscal year and the primary wave of Apple 5G telephones has placed the ball in carriers and builders court, research-driven US venture capital firm Loup Ventures has forecast.

"While we believe it will take carriers years to build a compelling 5G infrastructure, Apple is ready today with a lineup of phones that should enjoy a three-year upgrade cycle, compared to a typical one-year duration," wrote Gene Munster and David

"Additionally, the company continues to advance augmented reality. We see the combination of AR and a 5G iPhone as the basis for why Apple is the best way to invest in 5G".

According to a report in DigiTimes, Apple iPhone 12 series shipments are expected to reach as many as 80 million units by the end of the year owing to more affordable pricing strategy.

Shipments of the new iPhone lineup, including the iPhone 12, iPhone 12 mini, iPhone 12 Pro and iPhone 12 Pro Max, will at least top 70 million units by the end 2020, with the possibility of hitting 80 million barring a further escalation of the US-China trade conflicts, it reported.

According to Munster and Stokman from Loup Ventures, "We imagine the variety of iPhones which are three years or older has elevated by 90 million items over the previous year, which supplies a tailwind for iPhone demand within the coming year".

### Low base, attractive interest rates lift Sept domestic PV sales

IANS NEW DELHI

ow base, along with more Lsustainable pent-up demand, boosted domestic passenger vehicles' sales in September on a year-on-year

According to industry data released on Friday, a total of 2,72,027 passenger vehicles were sold in the domestic market, representing a rise of 26.45 per cent, against the 2,15,124 units off-take during the like period of 2019.

The data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) also showed a sequential growth in sales during September.

In August, the domestic passenger vehicles' sales had risen by 14.16 per cent to 215,916 units from 1,89,129 units sold during the corresponding month of the previ-Besides, the data showed

that car sales in the country rose by 28.92 per cent to compared with 127,194 units during the year-ago period. As per SIAM, the data

does not include sales figures from some key players such as Tata Motors. In terms of utility vehicles,

sales grew by 24.50 per cent to 96,633, while vans' offtake went up by 10.64 per cent to 11,413 units against the same month

However, three-wheeler sales were 18,640 units in September 2020 compared to 66,362 units on a y-o-y basis, marking a decrease by (-) 71.91

Additionally, two-wheeler sales were 1,849,546 units in September 2020, compared to 1,656,658 units, representing a growth of 11.64 per cent.

On the second quarter FY21 performace, SIAM data showed that passenger vehicle sales rose 17.02 per cent to 726,232 units from 620,620 units sold during the corresponding month of the previous year. In contrast, comunits.Two-wheeler sales segginal growth of 0.17 per cent to 4,690,565 units from 4,682,571 units."In quarter-2 some segments have shown signs of recovery. Passenger vehicles and two-wheelers are positive, although on a very low base of previous year," said SIAM President Kenichi Ayukawa.

### India is gradually moving towards an HDFC Bank Q2 economy based on clean energy

As part of reforms oriented towards providing cleaner auto fuels in the country, government will soon launch a pilot on hydrogen CNG or HCNG soon, a senior government official said on Saturday.

Petroleum secretary Tarun Kapoor said that a pilot project on HCNG is being undertaken in Delhi soon that will improve efficiency and reduce emissions drastically. Speaking the Inaugural Session of Alternative Fuel

Technology for Vehicles: A Cure-all for Sustainable Mobility' organised by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in association with CSIDC, Government of Chhattisgarh, Kapoor said.

India is becoming a leader in CNG, there has been a significant transition with the need to move towards cleaner fuels like CNG, ethanol, biodiesel, and electric vehicles. He said that we need to ensure that CNG is available and affordable ensuring that vehicles are modelled to incorporate CNG smoothly.

Discussing city gas distribution, he shared that there is significant work happening especially in the infrastructure so that CNG is seamlessly available. "We will be doing pilot project in Delhi on HĈNG that will improve efficiency and reduce emissions drastically," the secretary said.

Talking about ethanol, he mentioned that by the next year, there would be a jump in the ethanol production and India is planning to introduce E12 and E15 shortly.

Gradually, we will have blended petrol all over the country and moving to a high-er percentage. We have to make pure ethanol available that is happening in several countries and, some countries also have multi-fuel vehicles like Brazil. There is a pilot project which will be implemented for pure ethanol that will take place in Pune shortly, he said. Kapoor deliberated about

the need to make biodiesel affordable and freely available. On the sector of compressed biogas, he discussed that it's an area of focus as it's important for the agriculture sector and there is a huge source available in the country. He also discussed the projects undertaken by the government for setting up biogas plants that will help in producing a large quantity of biogas that will also flow in the city gas distribution network making it available

On Electric Vehicles, the oil marketing companies are available to facilitate and, we are looking forward to better swapping coming to the petrol station, retail outlets, putting up electric charging. We look for-ward to work closely with the industry so that we can go forward, said Kapoor.

along with CNG.

## consolidated profit rises 16pc to ₹7,703 cr

HDFC Bank on Saturday reported a 16 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to ₹7,703 crore for the second quarter ended on September 30, 2020. The private sector

lender had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹6,638 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago. Total consolidated income

during the quarter under review rose to ₹38,438.47 crore from ₹36,130.96 crore in July-September 2019, the bank said in a release. Consolidated advances

grew by 14.9 per cent to ₹10.89 lakh crore at the end of September 2020 from ₹9.47 lakh crore a year earlier, HDFC

On standalone basis HDFC Bank said after providing ₹2,597.2 crore for taxation, it earned a net profit of ₹7,513.1 crore, an increase of 18.4 per cent over the quarter ended September 30, 2019. Total income (stand-

alone) grew to ₹36,069.42 crore in the second quarter of FY2021 from ₹33,755 crore in the year ago quarter. "While the previous quar-

ter largely bore the burnt of the COVID-19 pandemic, some of the softness continued into the current quarter leading to lower retail loan origination, use of debit and credit cards by customers, efficiency in collection efforts and waivers of certain fees. As a result, fes/other

income were lower by approximately ₹800 crore.

### Festivities boost diesel sales in Oct, demand up over last year

IANS I NEW DELHI

 ${
m F}$ diesel sale in the country has crossed over the pre-covid level with the country's most widely consumed fuel witnessing a nine per cent year-on-year growth in the first 15 days of October. The surge in demand after months of subdued sales is the direct result of an increase in the transport activities ahead of the festival season as consumers move out to make those necessary purchases. According to official sources, during the first fort-night of October, the sale of diesel increased by nine per cent (YoY) to reach a level of 2.65 million tonne. The growth is even more significant at close to 25 per cent in relation to the previous month of September.

### Will make Ghaziabad | JDA to develop world class city: Min | Agro-warehousing



PNS ■ GHAZIABAD

if any known t

Authorized Office

n Saturday evening, Union Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways General VK Singh inaugurated the free vehicle zone food bazar in a ceremony at the Rajnagar District Center (RDC) developed by the Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA) on the lines of Gangtok, the capital of

Earlier, Singh also inaugurated Divyang Park at Indirarapuram and Nandi Gaushala at Rainagar Extension. A cost of ₹10.89 crore has been incurred on these three projects.

On this occasion, General VK Singh said in a function organised at RDC that we want to make Ghaziabad a world class city. GDA is playing an important role in realizing this

# scheme near Amber

Development Commissioner (JDC) Gaurav Goyal announced that in the meeting of PWC, for the first time JDA has decided to develop Agro-Warehousing Scheme near Amber tehsil in Jaipur.

JDC said that in Zone 12 falling in village Akeda and Maheshpura in Amber tehsil, one lakh nineteen thousand square meters of land has been earmarked for the pro-

In it, 33000 square meters has been reserved to develop 18 big warehouse plots.

Balance of the land will have facilities like Hotels, Restaurants, Petrol Pumps,

Jaipur: In order to fillip the economic growth in the city, Commercial Shops and establishments, weighbridges, and automobile shops. Speaking about its loca-

tional advantage JDC informed, that the scheme is situated on Jaipur-Sikar National Highway Number 11 in the west direction on a 30 meters wide road that is just 2 kms before Tatiawas Toll Plaza. From the highway, it is only 10 Kms away, 30 Kms from Jaipur Airport, 20 kms from Jaipur Railway Station and 10 Kms from Vishwakarma Industrial

JDA's famous housing project Anand Lok and Swapna Lok are very near to the upcoming project.

### **Genex to provide FD of** ₹11,000 to girl child to promote gender equality

**PTI** ■ NEW DELHI

enex Child Development OProgramme, that works on gender equality, on Saturday said it will provide a fixed deposit of ₹11,000 to every girl child born in India, whose parents register for the initia-

Under the Genex Girl Development Child Programme, every girl born in the country, whose parents register for the same, will be given ₹11,000 fixed deposit at the time of birth. This is irrespective of the religion, social status or geographical location of the parents, Genex said in a

This programme is open to everyone in the entire coun-

try and it is free to avail the benefits of this initiative, it said, adding parents can register on

www.Genexchild.Com. This initiative is designed to empower the girl child with her own money when she turns 18 and she would then have all the right to use the same for her education, business or marriage wherever she deems fit. This is just a step to make her feel independent at the age of 18.

the age gap, Genex added. Genex founder Pankaj Gupta said, "We feel privileged to be announcing the initiative along with our 1,50,000 network partners. It is just a small step towards making the next generation an independent.

The aim is to make girls eco-

nomically strong and narrow

#### Indusind New Tower, Hyatt Regency Complex, New Delhi 110 066 Possession Notice [see rule 8(1)] (For Immovable property) /hereas The Authorised Officer of the IndusInd Bank Ltd, under the Securitisatic

deconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated 29.08.2019 calling upon the Borrowers M/s AXL Lighting Ltd, Mr Bantwal Laxminaraynan Mallya, Mr Subramanian Barathan, Ms Vidya Mallya, Mr Sadanand Madhusudan Sahasrabudhe to repay the cumulative amount entioned in the notice being Rs. 1,85,65,184/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty Five Lacs Sixty Five Thousand One Hundred & Eighty Four Only) as on 31.07.2019 in the Account Number 650014065843 in the name of M/s AXL Lighting Limited and another demand noticed dated 29-8-2019 to Mr. Bantwal Laxminaraynan Mallya, Mr. Sadanand Madhusudan sahasrabudhe, Mr. Subramanian Barthan, Ms Vidya Mallya, to repay the cumulative amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 95,65,796/- (Rupees Ninety Five Lacs Sixty Five Thousand Seven Hundred & ninety six Only) as on 31.07.2019 in the Account Number 510003469624 in the name of Mr. Lakshmi Narayana Bantwal Mallya Ingelter with further interests for in the name of Mr. Lakshmi Narayan Bantwal Mallya, together with further interests from 01.08.2019 plus costs, charges and expenses, etc. thereon within 60 days from the date of the The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the

public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 13th day of October of the year 2020.

The Borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of IndusInd Bank Ltd. for an amount of Rs. 2,81,30,980/- (I.e. Rs. 18565184.00 & Rs. 9565796.00) as on 31.07.2019 and further interests from 01.08.2020 plus costs, charges and expenses etc. thereon. DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY All those piece & parcel of residential property situated being & lying at residential villa no.467 present Devanahalli town Municipal Council Khata No.250/28/1/14/467 with a built up area o

4055 Sqr Ft. consisting of ground, first floor & right to use common amenities in the project known as "House of Hiranandani Devanahalli" & 4200 Sgr Ft, of undivided share in the onverted land bearing Survey No. 22/1, 28/1, 28/2, 29/1, 29/2, 29/3, 31/1 of Prassanahal Village measuring in all 5 Acres 18 guntas & survey no. 155/2 157 & 158 of Sanna Ammaniken llage Kasba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluka, Bangalore Rural District measuring in all three Acre 34 guntas and the villa is bounded as under On or Towards the East: Villa No. 476 On or Towards the West: Drive Way On or towards the North: drive Way

Date: 13.10.2020 Place: Bengaluru

On or towards the South: Villa no. 468 Authorised Officer, IndusInd Bank Ltd.

#### **WESTERN RAILWAY** STORES DEPARTMENT

e- AUCTION SALE PROGRAM DURING NOVEMBER, 2020 FOR P-WAY & OTHER VARIOUS SCRAP

SPECIAL ATTENTION: ALL STEEL PURCHASERS & RE-ROLLERS Public e-auction for disposal of P. way scrap, rail scrap & other various scrap mat will be held in November, 2020 as per program given below:

1⁵ Round	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round	Depot	Depot Officer in Charge	Contact No.
02/11/2020	19/11/2020	SBI	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-SBI	07927500080 09724093774
09/11/2020	24/11/2020	ADI	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-ADI	07922205888 09724093751
03/11/2020	18/11/2020	BRC	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-BRC	02652641592 9724091750
04/11/2020	19/11/2020	RTM	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-RTM	07412230080 09752492750
06/11/2020	25/11/2020	BVP	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-BVP	02782444360 09724097750
12/11/2020	27/11/2020	MMCT	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager- MMCT	022-23094142 09004499006
11/11/2020	26/11/2020	MX	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-MX	022-249295 <b>7</b> 1 09004495750
10/11/2020	25/11/2020	DHD	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-DHD	02673241295 09724090455
05/11/2020	19/11/2020	PRTN	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-DHD	02673241295 09724090455
17/11/2020	27/11/2020	RJT	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager- RJT	02812476943 09724094770
or detailed	information alo	one cente	at the concerned Danet O	fficare Nata: (1)

For detailed information please contact the concerned Depot Officers. Note:- (1) Railway reserves the right to withdraw any lot from e-Auction. (2) e-Auction will start a er scheduled time. (3) e-Auction catalogues will be available on site <u>www.ireps.gov.ir</u> -Auction portal. (4) In case of any assistance required regarding e-Auction, digita signatures, Registration procedure and participation, please contact above nentioned Depot Officer. (5) All payment transactions shall be done through the

For Principal Chief Materials Manager

registered project SAVY HOMZ (SAMAJWADI AWAS YOJNA) (Number - UPRERAPRAJ13263) from U.P. RERA due to personal reasons. Please submit your claim if in respect of any booking has been done in this project by any person / organization etc. the said claim along with complete details should be sent within 15 days to U.P. RERA's email ID CONTACTUPRERA@UP-RERA.IN and the claim details should be sent at Secretary U.P. RERA Headquarters, Naveen Bhawan, State Planning Institute, Kalankankar House, Old Hyderabad, Lucknow-226007."

"I am surrendering / cancelling / my

#### Metro Railway, Kolkata Kolkata's Pride ZONAL CONTRACT FOR UP-KEEP OF TRACK

Axis Bank Limited, Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector 128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Secured Creditor will be sold on "As

is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 06-11-2020, 11:30 A.M. at Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301 for recovery of Rs. 91,51,138/- due as on 17-10-2020 along with further interest as

applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred up to the date of actual payment and/c realization due to the secured creditor from Mr. Akshay Batra and Mr. Yudhvir Batra. The **reserve pric** 

will be Rs. 44,96,837/- and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 4,49,683.7/-

Assets possessed and put for sale

vebsite i.e. Https://www.axisbank.com/auction-notices/

PHR0792

Date: 18-10-2020

Location / Details of the Immovable Property/Secured

Flat Number 105, First Floor, Along With The Car Parking Space No. Opp- 35, In Group Housing Tower No -1 (Gold Leaf Crescent) Located In The Valley View Estate, Situated In The Revenue Estate Of Village Gwal Pahari, Tehsil Sohna Dist

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the secured creditor

office: Axis House, Bombay Dyeing Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumb

Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway, Metro Rail Bhavan, 33/1, J.L. Nehru Road, Kolkata-700071 for and on behalf of the President of India invites Tender Notice for e-tendering for the following work. Name of Work Zone No. 4 (b) i.e. "Zonal Contract for Up-Keep of track and track bed of Both Up and Dn Line from Km. 12/02 to Km. 16/18 between KNBN (In.) to KMUK (In.) including Tollygunge Yard and Carshed lines of Metro Railway Kolkata". Tender Value: ₹ 2,10,82,665.43. Cost of Tender Document : Nil. Earnest Money : ₹ 2,55,500/-Completion Period: The contract shall be in force up to 30.06.2022. Date of Closing: 10.11.2020 at 12.00 hrs. The tender document and other details can be obtained from the website: www.ireps.gov.in The bidding for the tender is to be submitted only through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer, if received shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected. Abridged e-tender Notice No.: Civil-2347-2020 (Open)

FASTER • SAFER • SMOOTHER • CLEANER

#### mercial vehicle sales stood at 133,524 units from 167,173 units showing a de-growth of (-) 20.13 per cent.Similarly, three-wheeler off-take declined. The segment's sales decrease by (-) 74.63 per cent to 45,902 units from 180,899

### **AS US ELECTION NEARS**

## Virus surges in key battleground States

**Madison:** Rising coronavirus cases in key presidential battleground states a little more than two weeks before Election Day are the latest worry for election officials and voters fearing chaos or exposure to the virus at polling places despite months of planning.

The prospect of poll workers backing out at the last minute because they are infected, quarantined or scared of getting sick has local election officials in Midwest states such as Iowa and Wisconsin opening more early voting locations, recruiting backup workers and encouraging voters to plan for long lines and other inconveniences.

Confirmed virus cases and deaths are on the rise in the swing states of Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Wisconsin broke records this week for new coronavirus cases, deaths and hospitalisations, leading to the opening of a field hospital to handle COVID-19 patients. Gov. Tony Evers said he plans to activate the Wisconsin National Guard to fill any staffing shortages at

presidential election during a pandemic is "tricky business," the governor said, "People are ready to have this election over, and I think it will be a successful election with very few hic-

In Iowa, Scott County Auditor Roxanna Moritz opened additional early voting sites in and around Davenport, the state's third-largest city, to try to reduce the number of people casting ballots on Election Day and to keep the virus from spreading in large precincts.

"We have to remember that there is this thing called COVID," Moritz said. "Our numbers aren't getting any better. The more people I can get to early vote, the better." The pandemic's recent trajectory close to home has some voters reconsidering a lifetime habit of entering a voting booth on Election

Tim Tompkins, a welding engineer in Iowa, took the day off work to cast an early ballot at the Bettendorf Community Center. Tompkins, 62, said he and his wife, Pat, were afraid of coronavirus exposure in Election vote, so they brought their own sanitizer to the community center Friday.

"We'd go through a vat of boiling COVID to get the current president out of office," Tompkins said.

In some states, voting early still has carried health risks. Voters in Georgia, Texas and elsewhere encountered hourslong lines that required congregating with hundreds of other people this week. In Georgia, nearly a quarter of the workers in a warehouse where Fulton County's election supplies are kept and voting equipment is readied tested positive for COVID-19.

The positive test results for 13 of the preparation center's 60 workers shouldn't delay election operations, county elections director Rick Barron said. Barron said Georgia's most populous county is working to hire replacement staff and to implement additional safety measures, including daily rapid test-

Voters in several Midwest states contested by U.S. President Donald Trump and his

Vice President Joe Biden, encountered lines when they went to cast early ballots on

Friday. Some described the deci-

sion to vote this year as one that

Biden warns Trump

Americans with preexisting conditions.

wants to scrap health law

protect the insurance eligibility of all Americans

but in reality wants to scrap the 2010 Affordable

standard that requires insurers to offer health

insurance to customers regardless of their health

penthouse" in Manĥattan and doesn't see

Health and Human Services found that as many

as 133 million Americans could be defined as

having a "preexisting" condition by the stan-

dards insurers used before the 2010 law.

most Americans' daily struggles.

the wake of the pandemic.

That law for the first time set a federal

Biden says Trump "can only see from his

A 2017 study from the Department of

Biden noted that the number could rise in

Robert Baccus, 52, an independent contractor from Columbus, Ohio, was among hundreds in line at the Franklin

voting center. He said he doesn't trust voting by mail, so early voting was his best option for casting a ballot while trying to safeouard his health. AP safeguard his health.

### Obama to campaign for Biden, Kamala

Washington: Joe Biden is warning Michigan voters that President Donald Trump wants to Macon: Former US president Barack Obama will strip health insurance from tens of millions of campaign for Democratic party presidential candidate Joe Biden in Pennsylvania next week, the Campaigning outside Detroit on Friday, the Biden campaign has said. Democratic nominee said Trump promises to

President Donald Trump, however, told his supporters here that Obama was an "ineffective" campaigner and this was good news for him as in 2016 "they did a lousy job and that's why I'm your president". Biden, 77, was the vice president during Obama's two terms. While Obama has endorsed Biden and his running mate Harris by making online campaigns for them, this would be the first time that the 59-year-old former president would be campaigning in person.

Four years after he left the presidency, Obama because of his oratory skills, still remains the biggest crowd puller for the opposition Democratic party. "On Wednesday, October 21, (former) presdent Obama will travel to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to campaign on behalf of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris," the Biden campaign said in a statement on Friday afternoon.

### Armenian missile killed 13, wounded over 50: Azerbaijan

Baku (Azerbaijan): Azerbaijan on Saturday accused Armenia of striking its second-largest city with a ballistic missile that killed at least 13 civilians and wounded 50 others in a new escalation of their conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Armenian Defence Ministry denied launching the strike, but the separatist authorities in Nagorno-Karabakh put out a statement listing alleged "legitimate" military facilities in the city of Ganja, although they stopped short of claiming responsibility for the attack.

Azerbaijani officials said the Soviet-made Scud missile destroyed or damaged about 20 residential buildings in Ganja overnight, and emergency workers spent hours searching in the rubble for victims and survivors

Scud missiles date back to the 1960s and carry a big load of explosives but are known for their lack of precision.

In a televised address to the nation, Azerbaijan's president,



Ilham Alivey, denounced the missile strike as a war crime and warned the leadership of Armenia that it would face responsibility for that.

"Azerbaijan will give its response and it will do so exclusively on the battlefield," Aliyev said.

While authorities in both Azerbaijan and Armenia have denied targeting civilians, residential areas have increasingly come under shelling amid the hostilities that have raged for three weeks despite Russia's attempt to broker a cease-fire.

Stepanakert, the regional capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, came under intense shelling overnight, leaving three civilians wounded, according to separatist authorities.

### NZ PM Ardern wins 2nd term in landslide

Auckland: New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern won a second term in office on Saturday in an election landslide of historic proportions.

With most votes counted, Ardern's liberal Labour Party was winning 49% of the vote compared to 27% for its main challenger, the conservative National Party.

Labour was on target to win an outright majority of the seats in Parliament, something that hasn't happened since New Zealand implemented a proportional voting system 24 years ago. Typically, parties must form alliances to govern, but this time Ardern and Labour can go it alone.

In a victory speech in front of hundreds of cheering supporters in Auckland, Ardern said her party had gotten more support from New Zealanders that at any time in at least 50

years.
"This has not been an ordinary election, and it's not an ordinary time," she said. "It's been full of uncertainty and anxiety, and we set out to be an antidote to that." Ardern supporters for granted and to distance.



govern for all New Zealanders. "We are living in an increas-

ingly polarized world, a place where, more and more, people have lost the ability to see one another's point of view," she said. "I think in this election, New Zealanders have shown that this is not who we are." A record number of voters cast early ballots in the two weeks leading up to the election.

On the campaign trail, Ardern was greeted like a rock star by people who crammed into malls and spilled onto streets to cheer her on and get selfies with her

Her popularity soared earlier this year after she led a successful effort to stamp out the coronavirus. There is currently no community spread of the virus in the nation of 5 million and people are no longer



Pro-democracy protesters gather during a protest in Bangkok on Saturday

### TRANSIT SHUTDOWNS FAIL TO DETER THAI PRO-DEMOCRACY PROTESTS

**Bangkok:** Pro-democracy activists in Thailand staged a fourth straight day of high-profile protests in the capital on Saturday, thwarting efforts by the authorities to stop them, including a shutdown of the city's mass transit systems.

Unlike protests a day earlier, which saw police using water cannons to keep the protesters at bay. Saturday's demonstrations were peaceful, with no reports of any clashes by the time participants started heading home in the evening.

The protesters are calling for Prime Minister *AP* | tion to be amended to make it more democratic

and the nation's monarchy to undergo reform. All stations of Bangkok's elevated Skytrain

transit system were closed Saturday afternoon to try to keep protesters from gathering. The underground MRT system was also shut, and police blocked off several roads.

Protesters met anyway as planned at the Skytrain stations, where they held small impromptu rallies, in effect establishing a temporary but active presence across the city.

### Canada won't stop calling for human rights in China: Trudeau

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Friday his government will not stop standing up for human rights in

On Thursday, the Chinese ambassador to Canada warned Ottawa against granting asylum to Hong Kong residents fleeing the situation. Cong Peiwu said if Canada cares about 300,000 Canadian citizens in Hong Kong — and Canadian companies doing business there - it should support efforts to fight what he called fight violent

"We will stand up loudly and clearly for human rights," Trudeau said. "Whether it's talking about the situation faced by the Uighurs, whether it's talking about the very concerning situation in Hong Kong, whether it's calling out China for its coercive diplomacy."

Trudeau said Canada stands with with allies around the world and the United States, to Australia, to Great Britain, to

European nations to many nations around the world who share these concerns.

opposition Canada's Conservative leader said the Chinese ambassador should apologize or be expelled from

"The Chinese ambassador has decided to engage in belligerent rhetoric unbecoming of his office," Conservative leader Erin O'Toole said in a written statement. "To be clear, this was a

threat to the 300,000 Canadians in Hong Kong. And a barely veiled one at that. It was of the kind of tone and tenor one would expect from someone seeking protection money not someone who is the official emissary of a member of the United Nations Security The government should also swiftly set up a "path" for political refugees to come to Canada from Hong Kong and impose sanctions on Chinese officials over the national security law, O'Toole added.

Protests against the Hong Kong and mainland Chinese governments swelled last year, and Beijing clamped down on expressions of antigovernment sentiment in the city with a new national security law that took effect June 30.

The law outlaws subversive, secessionist, and terrorist activity, as well as collusion with foreign powers to interfere in the city's internal affairs. The U.S., Britain and Canada accuse China of infringing on the city's freedoms.

national security.

### WESTERN RAILWAY

**CORRIGENDUM** Tender notice no. BCT/20-21/207 dtd. 24.09.2020 & BCT/20-21/208 dtd 24.09.2020 due for opening or 20.10.2020 Should be Treated as **CANCELLED** 

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#### SBFC

SBFC FINANCE PVT.LTD. (Erstwhile Small Business Fincredit India Pvt. Ltd.) Unit No. 103, First Floor C & B Square Sangam Complex, 127, Andheri-Kurl Road, Village Chakala, Andheri (East Mumbai -400059 | Telephone: +91 22 67875300 | Fax: +91 22 67875334 | www.sbfc.com| Corporate Identity

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform & notify the Public about the relocation of Laxmi Naga Delhi Branch of SBFC Finance Pvt Ltd.effective from 15.01.2021 From: SBFC Finance Pvt Ltd, G-59, 1st Floor, Main Vikas Marg, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi - 110092

To: SBFC Finance Pvt Ltd, Propert No. 1/10 & 1/12, First Floor, Lalita Park, Near Laxmi Nagar Metro Station, Delhi-110092

For more details, please contact: SBFC FINANCE PVT.LTD. Toll Free : 1800 - 102- 8012

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Lokesh Construction Private Limited CIN: U70101DL1992PTC186666

Notice: Cessation of an Employee Subject: Mr. Rajinder Singh no longer associated with the Companies mentioned below DearAll

This is to inform you that Mr Rajinder Singh is no longer associated with Me or any of the following companies namely, Lokesh Constructions Private Limited, Karma Lifestyle Private Limited, Anki Wine Private Limited and Elxiir Benidictine LLP with effect from September 12

He is not authorised to represen the aforesaid companies and me in any matter whatsoever. Any person dealing with him shall do so at his own risk and responsibility

Ms. Anki Bhutia

### Feds to execute woman who killed victim, cut baby from womb

Turkey's Black Sea gas find

reaches 405bn cubic meters

Washington: A woman convicted of fatally strangling a pregnant woman, cutting her body open and kidnapping her baby is scheduled to be the first female inmate put to death by the US government in more than six decades, the Justice Department said Friday.

Lisa Montgomery is scheduled to be executed by lethal injection on December 8 at the Federal Correctional Complex in Terre Haute, Indiana. She would be the ninth federal inmate to put to death since the Justice Department resumed executions in July after a nearly 20-year

Montgomery was convicted of killing 23-year-old Bobbie Jo Stinnett in the northwest Missouri town of Skidmore in December 2004.

Montgomery drove from her Kansas home to Stinnett's house in

**Istanbul:** Turkey's president has

announced the discovery of an addi-

tional 85 billion cubic meters of nat-

Fatih on Saturday, President Recep

Tayyip Erdogan said explorations in the

Tuna-1 well were complete after reach-

ing a depth of 4775 meters (5,222

discovery 320 billion cubic meters of

natural gas reserves off the Black Sea

coast, which energy analysts consid-

ered notable but not large enough to

turn Turkey into a regional energy hub.

use the gas by 2023, hoping to even-

tually decrease its dependence on

energy imports. Last year's imports

Turkey has increased its mar-

totaled more than \$41 billion.

Ankara says it plans to extract and

In August, Turkey announced the

yards).

Speaking aboard the drill ship

ural gas reserves in the Black Sea.

Skidmore under the guise of adopting a rat terrier puppy, prosecutors said.

When she arrived at the home, Montgomery used a rope to strangle Stinnett, who was eight months pregnant, but Stinnett was conscious and trying to defend herself as Montgomery used a kitchen knife to cut the baby girl from the womb, authorities said.

Prosecutors said Montgomery removed the baby from Stinnett's body, took the child with her, and attempted to pass the girl off as her own.

Montgomery's lawyers argued that she had been suffering from delusions when she killed Stinnett, but a jury rejected her defense. Her lawyers had also argued that she was suffering from pseudocyesis, which causes a woman to falsely believe she is pregnant and exhibit outward signs of

itime search for hydrocarbon

resources, with several drill ships in

waters near the country. Its vessels in

the Eastern Mediterranean have been

at the heart of a dispute with neigh-

boring Greece over the delimitation of

hydrocarbon resources in the Black Sea

and the Mediterranean," Erdogan said.

survey ship Oruc Reis to disputed

waters in an area among Greek islands,

Cyprus and Turkey's southern coast.

Turkey pulled the vessel to shore last

month for maintenance and resupply,

saying the move would give diplomacy

a chance, but the military and diplomatic

spat continues. Erdogan warned that

Turkey would use diplomacy and "all its

might" to defend the energy rights for

Turkey and Turkish Cypriots.

"We will continue our search for

This week, Turkey redeployed its

continental shelves.

### SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL **SCIENCES, SOURA EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL, SKIMS**

MC&H, BEMINA & SKIMS, SOURA, SRÍNAGAR Tel: 0194-2402617 Ext: 2159, email: mechanicalskims@gmail.com

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR** 

Re- 01 Notice Inviting E-tenders Gist of NIT NO. 48 OF 2020-21 Dated. 15.10.2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS, Soura, MC&H Bemina Srinagar, invites online e-bids in two (02) cover systems from Original Lift Manufactures or their Authorized Dealers/authorized Representatives/ registered and reputed firms having experience in installation of lifts in Govt. Institutions/ departments, detailed in the tender document for the following works: Name of the work Estimated Cost (in lacs)

"	Traine or the train
1.	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Inspecting and Commissioning of various types lifts along with CMC for 03-years at New Maternity Hospital, SKIMS.

Budget Head

Dated: 15.10.2020

No: SIMS 139 EX/MECH/-2020-21/2485-95-5484-87

175.00

of issue of LOI or Allotment

Ongoing works for the year

Order.

2020-21

The complete tender document is available at website http://jktenders.gov.in. Interested bidders/tenders may view, download the e-bid document, seek clarifications and submit their bids online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Tender Document contains qualifying criteria for bidders. Specifications, Bills of Quantities, & Terms and conditions of the contract and other relevant

i.	Date and time of downloading/Sale of tender documents (Starting Date)	17.10.2020 from 11:00 Hours
ii.	Date and time of Bidding Queries/ clarification/pre-bid meet	28.10.2020 at 11:00 Hours
iii.	Last Date & Time of Bid Uploading	06.11.2020 up to 16:00 Hours
iv.	Date of submission of hard copies. (Only Original EMD/DD for Document Fee	07.11.2020 up to 14:00 Hours
V.	Date & Time of Commercial/technical Bid (Cover-I) opening	09.11.2020 11:00 Hours (or next convenient day)
vi.	Date & Time of Financial Bid (Cover-IInd) Opening of the qualifying Bidders	Shall be intimated separately
vii.	Cost of e-bid Document	Rs. 8700/- (Rupees Eight thousand & seven hundred only)
viii.	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (CDR/FDR)	Rs. 350000/- (Rupees Three lacs & fifty thound only)
ix.	Completion Time	Six (06) months from the date

Sd/- Executive Engineer Mechanical, SKIMS

Trudeau also said China

engaging in coercive diplomacy by imprisoning two Canadian men in retaliation for the arrest of a Chinese Huawei executive on an American extradition warrant. In December 2018, China imprisoned two Canadian men, Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor, and charged them with undermining the country's

### E-TENDER NOTICE

President of India invites E-Tenders through www.ireps.gov.in for the following items. For detail information please log on to website www.ireps.gov.in Qty.

		,		
3201029A	Rate contract for inj. Cetuximab 500 mg	100	13.11.2020	
	SERVING CUSTOM	EDC WIT	LACMILE	2264/20

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA** CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY KANKE, RANCHI-834006 (JHARKHAND)

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR OUTSOURCHING OF** AGENCY FOR HOUSKEEPING SERVICES AT CENTRAL <u>INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY, RANCHI</u>

Sealed tenders are invited from the eligible bidders for the outsourching of agency for 'Housekeeping Services' at Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi. Tender documents can be purchased from the Establishment Section of Central Instutute of Psychiatry, Kanke, Ranchi-834006 by submitting tender fee (Rs. 300/- Rupees Three Hundred) in the form of Demand Draft fovoring Administrative Officer, Central Institute of Psychiatry, Kanke, Ranchi-834006 or by submitting Cash Rs. 300/- (Rupees Three Hundred Only) in the Cash Section of Central Institute of Psychiatry, Kanke, Ranchi-834006 w.e.f. 19.10.2020 to 09.11.2020 between 10.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M. The tender documents can also be downloaded from the website free of cost. The last date of submission of tender is

The details of the tender is available in our website i.e. www.cipranchi.nic.in and also in CPP Portal website i.e. at the www.eprocure.gov.in. Sd/-, Director

CIP, Ranchi, Jharkhand

if any known to

Axis Bank Limited, Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector 128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.) ng office: Axis House, Bombay Dyeing Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbi

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Secured Creditor will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 07-11-2020, 11:30

A.M. at Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301 for recovery of Rs. 34,91,528/- due as on 17-10-2020 along with further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred up to the date o actual payment and/or realization due to the secured creditor from Ms. Honey Roy & Mrs. Bani Roy

ccount lumber	possessed and put for sale
HR0792 3241253 & ITR0792 3280067	Residential Unit Bearing No. H/09-1, Admeasuring Super Area, 1200 Square Feet Situated At 9th Floor, Tower No. 5(H), In The Residencial Scheme/Complex Known As "Redwood Residency", Situated In Village Faridpur, Sector-78, Tehsil Tigaon & District Faridabad, Haryana Alongwith Proportiate, Undivided Impartible Share And Interest In The Said Land Underneath The Building In Which Said Unit Is Located And In The Common Areas And Facilities Provided In The Building Complex.

10.11.2020 upto 3.00 P.M. (Tuesday)

The reserve price will be Rs. 18,80,820/- and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 1,88,082/-.

03241253 & HTR0792 03280067	1200 Square Feet Situated At 9th Floor, Tower No. 5(H), In The Residencial Scheme/Complex Known As "Redwood Residency", Situated In Village Faridpur, Sector-78, Tehsil Tigaon & District Faridabad, Haryana Alongwith Proportiate, Undivided Impartible Share And Interest In The Said Land Underneath The Building In Which Said Unit Is Located And In The Common Areas And Facilities Provided In The Building Complex.	
	erms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the sttps://www.axisbank.com/auction-notices/	ecureo

Date: 18-10-2020



Given the strength and depth we have in our batting-line, and the different skill-levels and skill-sets that we have, we have to be as adaptable as possible going forward



The preparations for play-offs haven't started. We are taking every game as it comes. Whatever happens we got to keep it simple, stay humble and play to our strengths



I'm very very nervous and erratic (in chase) and I get very stressed like any player. I want to perform for the team and show the owners I'm here for a good reason



Skipper Virat Kohli reacts after RCB win

for a good reason.

dle. When Unadkat was bowling, I was looking leg side but to be honest I was nervous because I knew

I had to hit it well. Luckily I got a few away," he said. With four fifties, including a 33-ball 73 against

Kolkata Knight Riders, the former South African

"I'm very very nervous and erratic (in chase) and I get very stressed like any player. I want to per-

form for the team and show the owners I'm here

I should have, but this time I did. It's a cat and mouse

game, I always respect the bowlers. If they bowl well

RR captain Steve Smith was crestfallen after yet

"Sure it is a hard pill to swallow. Just got AB'd

"I think it was a good score on a slow wicket.

there. That's two in a row we were in the box seat

I thought we built the pressure pretty well and it took

the RR innings.

to me, they'll have the upper hand."

another defeat, their sixth in nine games.

to win but didn't. Disappointing," he said.

a pretty special innings to take RCB home.'

Last game I didn't perform my role as well as

skipper has been in rampaging form this IPL.

We wanted to use Jaydev to the bigger boundary, he bowls a lot of slower stuff into the wicket. Obviously the boundary was not big enough for De Villiers



Yuzvendra Chahal fiancé Dhanaashree Verma arrives at Dubai International Stadium on Saturday to watch IPL game between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Rajasthan Royals IPLT20.com



Mumbai Indians pacer Jasprit Bumrah chats with KKR's young pace duo of Shivam Mavi and Kamlesh Nagarkoti @KKRiders

#### **BOOM'S WILLINGNESS TO IMPROVE**

Mumbai Indians' bowling coach Shane Bond heaped praise on Jasprit Bumrah, saying the India fast bowler's desire to improve makes him one of the best fast bowlers in the world. Bumrah is one of the world's premier fast bowlers currently, having led the India attack in their first-ever Test series win in Australia in 2018-19. "It's been fun, always loved working with Booms (Bumrah), six years now," said Bond in a video on Mumbai's pace attack posted by MI on Twitter. "The thing I love about Jasprit is his willingness to want to improve. He's turned up in this series (IPL 2020), he has got another different ball in his armoury and when you're seeing it from a player who's self-motivated, doing things in the background to make himself better, then there's no surprise to me that he's one of the best fast bowlers in the world."

#### **DON'T BAT IN PRACTICE PANTS**

Mumbai Indians' opening batsman and wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock put up a perfect performance with the bat on Friday night, scoring a 44-ball 78 to lead his team to an eight-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders. But if you ask team head coach Mahela Jayawardene, his show on the batting crease wasn't exactly perfect. In a video released by the Mumbai Indians on Twitter, the former Sri Lanka batsman is seen telling De Kock to avoid batting in practice pants which the South African did on Friday. "Apart from Quinny going and batting with his practice pants, everything else was pretty decent," he said during a post-match pep talk in the team camp, leaving others in splits. "Ok, so don't do that again because the marketing guys are going nuts, people went nuts as well. If it works, it works but we'll sort something else," he said to De Kock.

MOTION PICTURE

## AB deVilliers again

Former South African skipper's 22 ball 55\* takes RCB past finish line

muthoot

MPL

**PTI** ■ DUBAI

B de Villiers' swashbuckling 22-ball 55 fashioned an incredible seven-wicket victory for Royal Challengers Bangalore over Rajasthan Royals on Saturday.

Chasing 178, De Villiers smashed six sixes to help RCB win the game after all seemed lost for them following the dismissal of Virat Kohli with the team struggling at 102 for three in the 14th over.

The seasoned South African launched into Jaydev Unadkat for three successive sixes in the 19th over to swing the match in his team's favour. He finished the game in style, hitting Jofra Archer for a maximum with two balls still to go

RCB lost Aaron Finch (14) after Australia's limited overs captain had hit two sixes.

Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal stitched a 79-run partnership for the second wicket but consumed too many deliveries in doing so, failing to keep pace with the required run rate.

Kohli brought the team's hundred by lofting Rahul Tewatia for a big six over long-on, but Padikkal, while trying to break the shackles after struggling his way to 35 off 37 balls, got out when his pull shot failed to clear Ben Stokes in the deep.

And then came the big wicket of Kohli, thanks to a brilliant piece of fielding by Tewatia, who pulled off a catch inches from the line at deep midwicket on the rebound after the batsman whipped it off his

The ball travelled at a

great speed but Tewatia, coming off a wicket in his previous ball, balanced himself after nearly falling over the line to complete

Kohli made 43 off 32 balls with the help of two sixes and a

The required run rate rose rapidly as RCB struggled to find the big overs, but de Villiers had other ideas.

Earlier, skipper Steve Smith's counterattacking 36-ball 57 guided Rajasthan to 177 for

> Smith struck six fours and one maximum before Chris Morris bowled a brilliant final over, conceding only four runs while taking two wickets to check RR from going past 180.

Fast-medium bowler Morris finished with excellent figures of 4/26 in four overs

Earlier batting first, Rajasthan were off to a brisk start as opener Robin Uthappa (41 off 22 ball) launched into the RCB attack with a flurry of fours and a six.

Back in his favoured

position alongside Ben Stokes after another change in the combination, Uthappa saw his team play two quiet overs before smashing Washington Sundar for four boundaries in the innings' third

Isuru Udana was pulled and then lofted over long-on by Uthappa for the day's first maximum as RR raced to 38 for no loss

Du Plessis (58) added 87

(0), setting it up nicely for the

while Kavindra Jadeja hit four

sixes in his fiery 33-run knock

as CSK collected runs in the last

three overs. One of Jadeja's

sixes landed on the road outside

overs during their unbeaten

fifth wicket partnership.

They added 50 runs in 3.3

Rayudu hit 45 off 25 balls

in four overs. Morris gave RCB their first

### 'AB is IPL's most impactful player'

RCB skipper Virat Kohli on Saturday called AB de Villiers the "most impactful player in IPL" after the South African blasted a 22-ball 55 to set up an incredible win against Rajasthan Royals.

"AB is always been someone who's been ready to look at the situation and adapt his game accordingly. In my eyes he's the most impactful player in the IPL," Kohli said during the post-match presen-

"If he goes, the opposition know they have a slim chance and there's a good reason for that. It's purely because of the presence of someone like him that teams feel we are never out of the game."

To be honest, you're always tense in chase because you're not sure how many balls AB is going to get. Credit to Gurkeerat as well, he stuck with AB, got that important boundary. It doesn't matter who the bowler is, he does what he does?

The seven-wicket victory takes RCB to 12 points same as table-toppers Mumbai Indians and Delhi

'The individuals are stepping up and we've been done that all through the tournament, which is why we have 12 points. Very happy right now because after this we get three days off," Kohli said.

Talking about his team, the Indian skipper said:
"Our game pattern is very clear. Young Dev (Devdutt Padikkal) has batted beautifully, Finchy (Aaron Finch) has played some impact innings. We understand the dynamics and we're sticking to our plans. The bowling has really stepped up this sea-"(Chris) Morris has been brilliant, just that ener-

gy he brings. (Navdeep) Saini, *Washy* (Washington Sundar) and Isuru (Udana) as well, the bowling has come together well."

De Villiers, who was adjudged the Man of the Match for his blistering knock, said he was nervous in the 19th over as he had to hit those big sixes to get his team home.

"I didn't hit even one of them (sixes) off the mid-

breakthrough when he had the tier of the Dubai International subdued Stokes caught down the Uthappa scored two more

boundaries, off pacer Navdeep Saini, before his slow sweep went into the hands of the deep midwicket fielder off the bowling of leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal.

Sanju Samson got going with a six that landed into the second Cricket Stadium. But he also fell to Chahal, taken at long-off by Morris as RR slipped to 69 for three after a good start.

On the lookout for quick runs, Smith found an ally in Jos Buttler and the two added 55 runs while steadying the ship.

Buttler fell for a 24-ball 25, but Smith continued to anchor

additional deliveries.

two front foot no balls which were struck for boundaries by Smith, giving his team 10 runs and two After RR scored 19 runs in

Chahal, meanwhile, bowled

the long 18th over bowled by Chahal, Tewatia hit Udana for a six and four to collect 15 from the penultimate over.

### Collective batting effort takes CSK to 179/4 KKR aim to sort out batting woes rewarded when Curran, with- advantage of the slow surface, taking easy

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Δ new captain in Kolkata Knight Stats: Faisel Features Riders would look to sort out their batting woes and

strive for consistency when they face Sunrisers Hyderabad in an intriguing mid-table clash here on Sunday. After a string of below par performances, Dinesh Karthik

handed over the reins to his deputy Eoin Morgan hours before KKR's match against Mumbai Indians on Friday. But the World Cup-winning England captain's campaign as leader was off to a disappointing start with MI handing KKR an eight-wicket mauling. KKR are still in the top four

of IPL points table behind Mumbai İndians, Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bangalore with four wins and as many defeats. But if the twotime champions want to seal a play-off spot, their batsmen need to step up, shrug off their inconsistencies and win matches for the team.

After a massive 82-run loss to RCB, the KKR batsmen failed yet again against MI bowlers as they were reduced to 42 for 4 in the eighth over. Half of KKR batsmen were gone for 61 in the 11th over. An 87-run unbroken stand for the sixth wicket between Morgan (39 not out) and pacer Pat Cummins (53 not out) took them to 148 for 5.

But MI needed just 16.5 overs to overhaul the target, losing two wickets in the process.

At the top, Shubhman Gill has failed to capitalise on his starts, while Rahul Tripathi has not gone past the 20-run mark after his brilliant 81 against the Chennai Super Kings.
Nitish Rana has been prof-

ligate and Karthik's batting slot has been experimented with throughout the tournament. Andre Russell and Morgan have also not been able to make the kind of impact expected from players of their calibre.

The KKR bowlers did well to fashion narrow victories against Kings XI Punjab and

 $F^{\text{af Du Plessis hit his fourth}}_{\text{half-century of the season}}$ CSK, but leaked runs against RCB and MI. before Ambati Rayudu pro-To add to their woes, duced another useful cameo as pelled Chennai Super Kings to

Narine has been reported for suspect 179 for four against Delhi bowling action and he has Capitals, here on Saturday. missed two matches since then. The Sunrisers, who occupy runs with Shane Watson (36) the fifth spot on the points table after early fall of Sam Curran

with just three wins from eight outings, are also struggling. With the injuries ruling out pace spearhead Bhuvneshwar Kumar and all-rounder Mitchell Marsh, the Orange Army is facing a conundrum of whether to strengthen their batting or their bowling unit, a fact that skipper David Warner conceded.

The team heavily relies on its batting unit, mainly on the top four comprising Jonny Bairstow, Warner, Manish Pandey and Kane Williamson.

A cause of concern for the Sunrisers is Rashid Khan's form. After returning impressive figures like 3/14, 0/12, 3/12, the Afghan leg- spinner remained ineffective in the team's last two losses. And skipper Warner will desperately

hope that his star spinner finds his mojo back which is imperative the



A win for Mumbai Indians will virtually seal them a spot in the play-offs while a loss for KXIP could send them out of contention.

steamrolled opposition teams with an explosive batting line-up complemented by a lethal bowling attack and the latest side to bear their brunt were the Kolkata Knight Riders who suf-

> wicket defeat on Friday. Tabble-toppers MI boast of top batsmen such as captain Rohit Sharma (251 runs) and his opening partner Quinton de Kock

safe ground-strokes considering

Young pacer Tushar Deshpande bowled a tight line While Watson relied on with decent speed and was



the sluggish track Du Plessis did not hesitate to improvise, playing a lot of scoop shots. He pulled the short ones with ease.

out measuring the bowler, runs off him. swung his arms but just managed a top-edge that was taken by Anrich Nortje (2/44). The ball was stopping a bit reach a competitive total.

after four quiet overs, Du Plessis creamed off 14 runs from Nortje's first over, hitting his compatriot for a six and two Watson, using his experi-

ence, got some quick runs by placing the ball instead of going after the bowlers. His handling of the both pacers and spinners was sensible as he kept the scoreboard moving. Du Plessis completed his

fifty with a single of Nortje but Watson was castled by the South African in the next ball.

The Capitals batsmen did off-spinner let Ravichandran Ashwin take

Rabada sent back Du Plessis while Nortje got rid of rival skipper MS Dhoni (3) but Rayudu and Jadeja helped the side

Format C-2 (For political party to publish in website, newspapers, TV) Declaration about criminal antecedents of candidates set up by the party

Applicable

Applicable

As per the judgement dated 25th September, 2018 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP(Civil) No.536 of 2011(Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

Name of Political Party: Bharatiya Janata Party

\*Name of Election: Bye-Election to 102-Tirtol (SC) Assembly Constituency Name of State/UT: Odisha

lame of A)Pending criminal cases lame of Court Name of Acts concer Case No. & Court & ffence(s) & Punishment status of the date(s) of case(s) offence(s) u/s 294, 147, 336, 427, 149 of IPC and u/s 05 of 102- Tirtol (SC) Raikishore agatsinghpi lot Applicable **GR Case** fire works and Applicable No.394/2007 sec 04 of PDPP Act, Political riminal cases SDJM, u/s 188 IPC 102- Tirtol (SC) Rajkishore Political agatsinghpur **GR Case** No.261/2009 riminal cases u/s 188 IPC

102- Tirtol (SC) Rajkishore Jagatsinghpur, Not Applicable **GR Case** Behera Applicable No.263/2009 criminal cases u/s 143, 186, 283, 341, 294, 431, 506, 149 102- Tirtol (SC) Rajkishore IPC and section Jagatsinghpur, Not Applicable 4 of PDPP Act. Applicable GR Case No.406/2013 Political \*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by

MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.

### Top meets the bottom is manned by the likes of knock that was laced with five

**PTI** ■ DUBAI

the stadium.

They have been in rampaging form with five straight wins but Mumbai Indians can ill afford to be

complacent against a Chris Gayle-inspired Kings XI Punjab

Mumbai Indians have

fered an eight-

(269) and both are in good appearance this IPL with a ouch, while the middle-order bang, hitting a 45-ball 53, a

Suryakumar Yadav (243 runs) and Ishan Kishan (186 runs). Rohit played second fiddle

to de Kock in MI's win against KKR, with the South African hitting 78 not out from 44 balls. In the bowling front, pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Trent

Boult have formed the most successful pair this IPL with 12 wickets apiece from eight matches so far. Spinner Rahul Chahar chipped in against KKR with two wickets for 18 runs. On the other hand, KXIP

are languishing at the bottom of the table despite having the top-two leading run-getters of the tournament in skipper K L Rahul (387 runs at a strike rate of 134.84) and his opening partner, Mayank Agarwal (337 runs). KXIP's problem has been

that their batting and bowling have not fired in unison on most occasions even though their confidence has been boosted by the return of Gayle. self-proclaimed The Universe Boss made his first sixes and a four in KXIP's win over Virat Kohli's Roval Challengers Bangalore.



'ପ୍ରଭାକର ପଣ୍ଡା ଲାଠୀ, ବ୍ଲହ୍ଲପୁର ଆପଣଙ୍କର ପବିତ୍ର ଆତ୍ମାର ଶାତି ଓ ବଦ୍ରତି ନିମତେ ମହାପ୍ରଭୁ ଶ୍ରୀଳଗନ୍ନାଥଙ୍କ

ଜସନ୍ତୟ : ପହା- ବିଷ୍କୁସିୟା, ଜସନ, ବୃଦ୍ଧି ଜର୍ଣ, ହୋତି,ସମିତା, ଅଶୋକ, ଅଳକା, ସଞ୍ଜଣ, ଶାହିନୀ, ବିହାତ, ରିଡିକା, ଆହିତ୍ୟ ଅଛତ, ଉଶାନ ଏବଂ ଅନ୍ୟ ପରିବାର ବର୍ଣ

ପାଦପଦ୍ୱରେ ବିନମ୍ର ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା କର୍ଲ୍କ ।

October 18, 2020



I'd rather be by myself than be spending any time or energy on somebody that I didn't feel sure about

A super thriller all the way

Batla House puts to rest a lot of controversies and versions on the infamous Batla House encounter

Test of astrologer/astrology/

The astrological chart at the moment makes one aware of the potential seeded in mind, making it possible to foresee the future



his year, 41-year-old Arpita Sarkar is relieved that rather than being stuck for hours in traffic in the month preceding Duga Puja, she has been able to commute smoothly to and from office. "Things had come to such a head that we had decided that even though we hate spending these days away from Kolkata, we would do so," she says. But a tiny miniscule virus had other plans. So now, for the six days of the Puja, rather than engage in pandal-hopping, Arpita along with her family will cook something special at home, probably go to a relative's house where children too would be able to catch up with their cousins. That is what *Pujo* signified for us when we were growing up. Heading to Mama baari or Bade Papa's place with our parents is what we did as children. Even though, it is a community celebration, the crowds that have become synonymous with Durga Puja are not the essence of the festival," says 41year-old Arpita who works as an HR in a multi-national company in Kolkata and counts dance and drama as her areas of interest. She often performs at the cultural programmes organised during Puja and this year she is recording the performance which is being put up jointly with other artistes on YouTube channels.

Over the years, for Bengalis and non-Bengalis, Durga Puja came to be centered around how many pandals they had hopped, which one displayed the best theme and which Puja Committee was like ly to win an award that year. The lament, especially among the older generation, was that the emphasis was now on an extraneous journey while the festival was more of an inward cruise of devotion which had gone completely missing. But nature often has a way of setting humans on the path of course correction, sometimes in the form of a virus, only if they are willing to listen to

Like every year, Ayandrali Dutta, travel and food writer who has made Delhi her home for the past 12 years, will be making her way back to Kolkata be a part of the 168-year old ancestral Burrabazar Mallick Bari Durga Puja that is celebrated at her house. "Over the past five-six years, Durga Puja has become a social media activity where you have to do a check in at all the pandals," says Dutta who sees her annual homecoming as something akin to the Goddess Durga's return to her maternal house.

At Ayandrali's, till last year, there would have been around 300-400 people visiting and eating at her house. These would be family friends, relatives, people who had heard about the puja through word-ofmouth. "This won't happen this year," says Ayandrali firmly. While the *aarti* would take place, the ceremonial conch would be blown but the place where the five-feet idol is placed would not be flocked with people who had queued up for a dekko at the pratima. This year there would not be more than five-six at one time. But Ayandrali believes that this was very much-required. "We needed to slow down and cut down on lot

of frills which we thought were an important part of life. After all, that is what we have been doing during the past seven months and it has done us a lot of good. It has made us realise that minimalism could be a part of life. Instead of 400 people eating earlier, now there would be 50 and that it is perfectly fine. If we are feeding for the sake of charity, we can do it in some other place and in some other way," she says adding that Pujas had become a larger than life affair.

While Ayandrali is much younger, Arup Sarkar, a retired government servant can recall a time when Pujas were simpler affairs. "The budgets have become huge due to sponsorship by political parties and corporates. There is an excess of everything - lighting, theme, decoration. A lot of money is thrown around on the display but the devotion that is needed is nowhere to be found. Earlier, the way the face was crafted, the body made and the decorations done were exceptional. The idols were simpler but they inspired devoutness. The bhakti that came from the heart is no longer there," he says. He hopes for a return to the simplicity of earlier times but is not relying on the fulfilment of his wishes — even during the pandemic.

Arpita, a trained Bharatnatyam and Odissi dancer, too is not fond of the theme pandals. "The competitions are a way of showing off how much money can be splurged. The focus is on making expensive pandals and political parties have jumped into the fray as well. When we were younger, we went to see the pandals every year. The idols and *pandals* were the same each year but they inspired devotion. Since they are so intricate and expensive now, there are many restrictions about where we can sit and what we can touch so much so that people are not able to enjoy themselves," she says.

Arup points out that earlier there was a lot personal involvement. "The entertainment was different. Everyone from the extended family pitched in ensuring that the festivities went off smoothly. On the cultural side, someone sang, another one

recited. It was unparalleled anand," he says. Ayandrali too agrees that the complexion of Puja underwent a change as different members of the household became busier and a lot of work was outsourced to people. "Earlier every member had a responsibility to go and get the flowers, buy the vegetables, decorate the house and more so there was personal touch. Many of us no longer stay in Kolkata and when we return for Puja we prefer to outsource the work and spend time with family," she says.

Of course, like contemporary times, earlier too pujas entailed dressing up to the nines; dhaaki players who by their rhythmic percussions signalled the arrival of Maa Durga to her maternal home; the dhunochi naach made popular in the non-Bengali speaking areas by countless Bollywood films as well as pandal-hopping but it is the

new norms of social distancing that have forced many to sit back and rethink about the hijacking of this festival by Mammon. The change had started around 25 years

back when the concept of "theme puja" made an entry. From 1993-94 each of the paara (area) began to conceptualise the pandal around a contemporary issue. It could be questioning violence against women while celebrating a goddess or

depicting the condition of refugees or creating awareness about social issue of contemporary relevance. As the pandals grew in scale, awards started being handed out for different categories like best idol, lighting, decoration, social work and more. To remain a contender in the competitions needed a scaling up of budgets and corporate sponsorship or by political parties entered the picture. And after that there was no looking back as each year the magnificence and size of the *pandals* grew and visitors from and around Kolkata lined up.

However, 48-year-old Sutirtha Basu, a regional manager in a pharmaceutical company has a different take. Sutirtha, who used to visit nothing less than 50-60 pandals every Puja, feels that these gave artistes and craftspeople a platform to display their talent. "Artistes who conceptualise the pandals are from arts college and are really talented. Depending on the theme, they get village artisans adept in crafts like mud, metal or others to make the pandals and give them an opportunity to showcase their ability. An entire economy depends on Durga Puja. These people have tremendous flair but it was never exhibited," he says and adds, "The awards are a recognition of the hard work and talent." Not just the pandals and idols but also the social work done by Puja Committee is rewarded.

Despite the changes, a bonedi puja or the one celebrated at a Zamindar baari (home) like the one at Ayandrali's ancestral home, still maintains tradition. "Even if they do not assemble at any other time, they make sure to come during puja. They dress up in traditional attire, wear the heirloom jewellery and have cultural programmes," says Arup.

In fact, historically it was only the zamindar and other rich families who celebrated Durga Puja at their homes. "There was no paara puja which started 100-110 years back during the British Raj. The zamindars objected to the paara pujas as earlier they had exercised a monopoly over organising Durga puja. Being allowed to visit one was considered to be a favour bestowed upon one. While all the paara people were not freedom fighters but they wanted that they should be able to express their hatred against the British. So the asur (demon) in the *pratima* (idol) was depicted like the British and the Goddess was shown to be killing him," says Basu.

Fast forward to today. And whether we would be able to annihilate materialism and imbibe the true spirit of the festival, this year and in the ones that follow, is a story that is unfolding and yet to be written.

**MEANWHILE** IN THE CAPITAL

or sometime now the Durga Puja Committees in Delhi were in a quandary about the way they could go ahead and celebrate the festival without endangering people while ensuring that the festivities remained intact. The Purbanchal Bangiyo Samiti, a forum of 38 committees which celebrate Durga Puja in East Delhi formed about two years ago decided to take the lead and, post several parleys with Manish Sisodia, Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi finally managed to come out with a set of guidelines that attempts

to do both. While the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Govt. of India had already issued a Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in the first week of the month, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) suggested some additional measures. All the event organisers have to obtain requisite permission from the District Magistrate concerned for organising the festival events well in advance. The order says that the capacity of each event site would be decided on the basis of area and social distancing norms, laid down by MHA by which in a closed space, a maximum of 50 per cent of the hall capacity would be allowed, with a ceiling of 200 persons, and in an open spaces the size of the ground would be kept in view and strict observance of social distancing norms would be followed. Naturally, the seating capacity for each such site would be determined according to the norms of social distancing and observing Covid-appropriate behaviour.

This would include ensuring separate entry and exit at each event which will be strictly regulated and only those wearing a face mask would be allowed inside

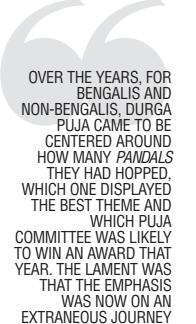
Every organising committee is supposed to videorecord the entire event and a soft copy of the unedited video recording in pen-drive and a certificate, certifying that no violation of the SOPs/Guidelines issued by Govt. of India and Govt. of NCT of Delhi has taken place, shall be submitted to Nodal officers within three hours of closing of the programme of each day. In case of any violation of SOPs/guidelines the permission for conducting such an event shall be revoked immediately for all subsequent days. At all events only sitting on chairs with social distancing norms shall be allowed. Suitable arrangements have to be made for an adequate number of temporary toilets and other public facilities like electricity, water, sanitisers and thermal screeners at each site venue.

Mrinal Biswas is the general secretary, Milani Cultural & Welfare Association, Mayur Vihar, as well as the Purbanchal Bangiyo Samiti, a forum of 38 committees which celebrate Durga Puja in East Delhi formed about two years ago. Says he, "Only 11 of the 38 committees will organise the Durga Puja with a small Idol. The rest would have a kalash/ghot puja. The idol would be eco-friendly with water-based colour and of the height of three-five feet. Some of the puja committees would be organising online pushpanjali. No cultural events, bhandara and stalls would be allowed.

At the Milani Clubhouse, they are registering members and handing out digital tokens for visiting the place where the idol is kept. The restricted entry would be rotated after every half an hour so that everyone gets a chance to offer prayers while maintaining social distancing. Children below 12 and elderly people above 65 will not be allowed inside.

For the immersion, a metal tank is being arranged by Purbanchal Bangiyo Samiti at Mayur Vihar Kali Bari Ph-1 and at Purbasha Kali Bari (IP extn) premises with each Puja committee being given a different time slot. Puja material like flowers, leaves and decorative items will not be allowed at the time of immersion.





WHILE THE FESTIVAL

WAS MORE OF AN

INWARD CRUISE OF

**GONE COMPLETELY** 

**DEVOTION WHICH HAD** 



October 18, 2020

Batla House enlists the details of an anti-terror operation and lives in uniform. It also puts to rest a lot of controversies and versions on the infamous Batla House encounter, writes J GOPIKRISHNAN

# A super thriller on anti-terror ops

he book Batla House written by former police officer Karnal Singh is a real thriller and gold mine of information on the anti-terror operations, history and great analysis on the terror outfits targeting India. Karnal Singh (IPS) who retired as Chief of Enforcement Directorate was the Chief of Special Cell of Delhi Police which conducted the encounter with Indian Mujahideen (IM) terrorists at Batla House in Delhi in September 19, 2008. The terrorists were hiding in a flat in Batla House after unleashing a series of terror attacks in various places in Delhi six days ago on September 13 evening by placing bombs in waste depositing boxes, which killed 22 people and injured more than 130 people. There were lot of controversies and different versions and even a movie was produced on the Batla House encounter, which was the finest precision operation of the Special Cell, the counter terrorism unit of Delhi Police.

After 12 years, the writer — Karnal Singh — the man who headed the encounter is declassifying the details of country's much talked about encounter operation. Apart from thrilling moments of the encounter declassified by the very man who conducted the operation, the writer explains how his trusted deputies cracked the case within six days of the serial blast which shook the Delhi on September 13, 2008 evening. This book also details the personal life of police personnel and their sacrifices in family life for the Call of Duty for the Nation.

Singh goes in detail about the life of his team members of the Special Cell, where the life of the policemen is always 24x7. The blast day was a Saturday and the writer, who was then Joint Commissioner and head of the Special Cell of Delhi Police, was helping younger son in solving Maths problems. While rushing to the blast spot hearing the serial blasts in Delhi, he tells wife to call elder daughter, who was in the city enjoying weekend with friends, back home. In six days of hectic work, team cracked down the hiding terrorists. There are many tearful moments in the book when the writer talks about late Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma, who lost life in the encounter.

On September 18, a day before the operation, Singh recounts getting calls from wife reminding him of their elder daughter's birthday. That very day, the writer learns (from other colleagues) that the key officer Mohan Chand Sharma's



son was in intensive care unit with acute dengue and dipping platelet counts. When he asked Sharma, the officer dimissed it saying wife and parents were taking care of the child, and got back to work. ACP Sanjeev Kumar Yadav who led the back-end team in the operation was facing tussle with wife due to his late hours. On the day of the operation too, he had fought with his wife and upon getting a call from office did not think twice before leaving his wife mid way to rush to office.

The writer details the lives of all his team members giving due credits to them, which is very rare in service stories. From constables to officers, the book details their role in the operation unearthing the location of the hiding terrorists by tracing emails and mobile phones, using human intelligence, analysing the previous blasts in Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Surat etc. The writer acknowledges the role of each team mate checking the blast sites, explosive materials, forensic work and digital mapping to the person and how they undertook the recce operations before the shootout.

The writer clears all the doubts on the Batla House encounter in the minds

of many for the past 12 years. There were many questions including why Sharma was not wearing a bullet proof jacket. In their defence, it was a secret operation and the main team was disguised in plain cloth shirts. Batla House is a crowded area and densely populated by Muslims. As it was the festive season, the team decided to strike in the day, as many would be trying to catch up on sleep post night celebrations. Singh and team reached the spot upon hearing about the bullet injuries of Sharma, requisitioning more force and commandos. He details how he entered the encounter spot with a small team, weaving their way through narrow bylanes, past angry crowds.

This book exposes the dark side of Indian politics that works on appeasing minority vote bank. As all the terrorists belonged to a community and hailed from Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh and shoot out location was a densely Muslim populated location in Delhi, the entire political vultures were parading in the

This book is full of so many interesting stories. One terrorist, who left the scene in the morning, got so frightened upon hearing the news of the encounter

that he landed at a TV channel for live show in the evening. Nine bombs had been planted and explosion and diffusion took only in eight areas only. Explosion happened at five areas and bomb diffusion happened in three areas. One bomb did not work and could not be identified. The email claiming the role by Indian Mujahideen (IM) sent to media houses after the first blast claimed nine spots. Book also explains back ground of many terrorists, their role in money making by engaging in kidnapping for ransom, apart from role of radicalising agents.

The writer explains tough laws for dealing with terrorists. One such example is two days after the Delhi Blast, one terrorist Aftab Ansari (already facing death conviction jailed in Kolkata for 2002 American Centre) sent message to Singh saying he wanted to give details of the Delhi blasts. He had been caught by Singh in Delhi in 1995 and was jailed for some years. Once out of jail, he masterminded the American Centre blast and is now facing death conviction from 2005. After consulting Intelligence Bureau, Singh decided not to meet him in Kolkata jail. This episode shows how flimsy are our laws in dealing terrorists

and Ansari is still on appeal against the death conviction. The writer argues for different rules while arresting a person involved in terrorist cases. He says civilian norms on arrest can't be applied to a terrorist, explain the loopholes in it. When a person is arrested, police is mandated to inform relatives or near and dear ones. This is helpful for the other accomplices in the terror operations.

Singh explains the need for the maximum possible information to be shared with media to avoid fake and wrong stories. He explains in detail, how Delhi Police suffered bad press due to the stoppage of press conferences by Home Ministry and how he managed to handle the media by calling people to provide right things.

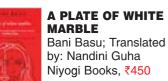
He narrates how a lady journalist and her journalist husband gave valuable inputs on tackling wrong reports being spread in media. The writer explains how he met the Jamia Milia University Vice Chancellor and appraised the exact information. Earlier the Vice Chancellor declared legal help as some students were arrested. Actually the terrorists were living in garb of students and were doing private jobs. After an explanation by

BATLA HOUSE: AN **ENCOUNTER THAT SHOOK THE NATION Karnal Singh** Rupa, ₹29 Singh and DCP Alok Kumar with all evidences, the Vice Chancellor changed the

mind. The writer also explains how he convinced then Union Minister Kapil Sibal with all details, when many ruling party leaders were questioning the Batla House encounter, as Delhi Assembly elections and Lok Sabha elections were nearing. Sibal appraised the facts to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh that

Apart from the thrilling narration of a detailed probe on the blast and identifying the hidden terrorists in six days and executing encounter in a crowded area, that too in daylight, this book explains many others aspects of policing.

This book is a classic book to be placed in Police academies and libraries for reference as it explains how to handle operations and future cases on human rights violation allegations and how to conduct trials. The book also details the history of terror outfits like SIMI, HuJi, IM and their linkages with Pakistan and its ISI funded training and how they radicalise the youth to work against India. Let us hope more declassifications will come from Singh in the future through more books.



First published in 1990 in the original Bengali, *A Plate of White Marble* tells the tale of the 'new woman' of an era that just witnessed the independence of a nation. Bandana, the protagonist, though grieves over her husband's early death, never conforms to the social connotation and ideals of 'widowhood', thanks to her uncle. She dares to begin her life afresh in every possible sense. But naturally, the road proves to be full of thorns as she gradually faces bitterness from many quarters of the society. The only thing she clings to is her son, but once that anchor too is lost, she leaves behind the safe concrete walls of what she used to consider 'home', only to work for a far greater cause — she joins a children's home to work for those who need her the most

> **UTTARA KAANDA** S.L. Bhyrappa Eka, ₹599

In Bhyrappa's Uttara Kaanda, Sita looks back on her lifeabandoned at birth and abandoned again by her husband. Her entire life has been a quest for home, a sense of belonging. When they return from their long exile, Rama is anointed king of Ayodhya, but a pregnant Sita is sent away to live in a forest. Her exile doesn't end. Uttara Kaanda is Sita's soliloquy: O Rama, I loved the pure man you were in your youth, not the man you have become not this man who is shackled by the royal throne. My love for you died sixteen years ago. A master of detail, Bhyrappa mines the ancient epic to humanise characters who have, for centuries, been looked upon as gods beyond reproach, bringing us as close as we'll ever come to understanding them.

## A tribute to the frontline protectors

### Sashidhar Vempala's book is about the lives and stories of the forest guards who are the real men behind the tiger conservation and the wildlife in India, writes DEEPAK KUMAR JHA

he story of India's wildlife success is incomplete, unless its frontline warriors are part of it. They are the first line of defence in protecting India's precious natural heritage and safeguarding its ecosystems. According to Sashidhar Vempala, author of first of its kind coffee table book, titled The Tigers Behind the Tigers, these men and even women are the unsung heroes of India's conservation success story. Vempala is an acclaimed wildlife photographer, documentary filmmaker, conservationist and a sustainability professional. His films on conservation topics and human wildlife conflict, have won awards at international forums.

The book talks about the lives and stories of the forest guards, who are the real men behind the conservation of tigers and the wildlife of India. The gist of six chapters of the book is that these men in khaki, patrolling the jungles are the real reason the tiger survives today.

All over India, 1,75,000 men and women serve the forests of India, 24x7, striving to protect the amazing natural habitat. Several lose their lives battling poachers of both wood and animals, many are seriously injured in animal attacks, but they go on with a courage and valour that is inspirational. They have learnt the ways of the forest, the sounds, the animals tracks, the secrets and a sense of fearlessness, always bumping into the wild and that too, dangerous ones when on foot.

This book, published during



the Covid pandemic lockdown period, is a collection of pictures and the stories captured during Vempala's work with them and hence it's a tribute to these frontline forest protectors, who are always at the frontlines of wildlife protection in our country.

In a recent conversation with Agenda, Vempala raised apprehensions about the possibility of the big cat being susceptible to Coronavirus when Jim Corbett National Park built quarantine wards. "But what about the forest guards? Are they still on duty?," asked Vempala. But then he goes on to say most guards are under permanent lockdown anyway.

Vempala in his book says each forest has a legend and even the vehicles have their stories. He refers to one such instance in the department bus at Kabini which

has many untold luck stories. Many, who cannot afford the exorbitantly high costs and monopoly of Jungle Lodges and Resorts, have to take this bus. The bus is considered extremely lucky in terms of a good sighting of the wilds when on board.

Each chapter deals with the importance of the frontline workers, who have made it possible to help tigers, lions, elephants, rhinos etc grow in numbers for decades. Saving Tigers on Land, Saving Tigers in the Mangroves, Some Fauna They Save, Human Elephant Conflict, Conflict Within and the Godspeed are the titles which deal separately on subjects and issues like economic valuation of the tiger reserve, gene pool protection services, carbon sequestration, zone of

influence outside the reserve,

anti-poaching camps, the Sunderbans mangroves, some keystone species saved by the fauna along with hundred images.

While the book has notes on

Kaziranga, a separate chapter makes for an interesting read on the human elephant conflict. Vempala talks about a case study in West Bengal where he mentions that for many centuries, elephants have roamed the forest of South West Bengal which has no natural elephant/animal corridor. Yet, the elephants have passed on their knowledge of the routes to their young ones.

Previously, the size of herd of elephant was small -15-20, and total numbers of elephant that roamed the zone was between 30 and 45. This was for the period 1970s-1980s when the forest cover was degraded to some



THE TIGERS Sashidhar Vempala

extent. But in recent time, in the last 35 years, the zone has improved considerably in terms of green cover and the numbers of elephants have also increased to more than 100.

The author narrates the stories of women officers taking care of Nature comprising the wild, the greens and the humans and their vested interests in keeping the cycle going. "No one wants to give up what they get and that's why the solution can only be collective and not conflicting," Vempala narrates, highlighting that the conflict needs immediate mitigation and the

protectors need their powers. While it is understood that animals look for their own meals, there is an interesting chapter on how the wild have their dedicated cooks who besides making

their own meals, also cook for small animals to mighty ele-

phants of the jungles. In the last chapter, Vempala rues about the paltry wages of the guards risking the lives. World over, every year, more than 100 rangers are killed in the line of duty. India loses more forest rangers each year than any other country in the world. Yet, a forest guard in India is rarely felicitated or celebrated.

The book urges us to acknowledge the work of the forest frontiers and details how they work around the clock; what is a forest guards' life like and how they ensure that the tiger and all other wildlife is protected in the forest. The book also mentions that the forest reserve runs on acute shortage of manpower and of available approved positions, they operate at 60 percent, going to as low as 30 percent in some lesser important reserves. Daily wagers form the bulk of the frontline forest force and they supplement the permanent staff of guards and foresters.

Such is Vempala's passion for the constituents of forest, that he founded a nature conservation organisation — Guardbook Conservation Foundation – which works towards forest conservation and supporting the forest guards of India in their duties. Guardbook helps the forest guards not only with boots, jackets and torches but also with powering up camps with solar energy, setting up rainwater harvesting pits and a lot more.

## Farm reforms for realising its full potential

There are exigent issues in Indian agriculture. India, despite being the largest milk producer and second largest producer of food in the world, has just 2.3 per cent share in global export market, with low value addition. We process less than 10 per cent of agricultural produce and lose ₹90,000 crore rupees annually due to wastages. 44 per cent of Indian workforce is engaged in agriculture, contributing only 14 per cent to GDP - keeping these people tied in very lowincome traps.

India's agricultural productivity is drastically low even as compared to global counterparts like BRICS; at Chinese yield levels, India could nearly double its production or halve the amount of land devoted to cultivation - freeing up that land for other purposes. So far, the Government's strategy to help the farmers has been to provide subsidies, especially the MSP and input subsidies. However, only 6 per cent of the farmers have benefitted from the fruits of MSP, which mostly happen to be the big farmers; farmers from only few States like - Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana; and mainly for wheat and paddy. Another undesired offshoot of the MSP policy is the excess procurement of food grains by the Government — it has to procure 90 per cent of wheat from Punjab and Haryana — while 62,000 tonnes of food grains was damaged in FCI warehouses between 2011 and 2017.

At the time of independence, facing food deficit, we needed the targeted approach of MSP to increase the production of food grains. cide. In 2019 alone, around inputs and assured price at the

Currently, while having food surplus, we are suffering with the unsustainability of growing water intensive food crops at the lands ill-suited for them, owing also to free water and highly subsidised electricity, resulting in alarming fall of water table in certain States, especially Punjab and Haryana.

If agriculture is to be made profitable, a focus on productivity increase, crop diversifi-cation, exports and food processing is essential, while creating infrastructure for minimising losses.

#### The productivity trap The productivity differ-

ence between the rainfed agricultural area and irrigated lands is immense. Swaminathan Commission stated that 60 per cent of cropped area falls under rainfed agriculture contributing to only 45 per cent of total agricultural output. Thus, poverty is concentrated and food deprivation acute in this area. Agriculture is a very high-

risk enterprise, much more so for small and marginal farmers which form 86 per cent of Indian farmer community and possess land holdings of less than 2 hectares. It is difficult to make agriculture profitable for them because they are too small for the use of modern implements, suffer from high input cost due to lack of economies of scale, leading to low productivity. Only 40 per cent of them manage access to formal credit, with low penetration of crop insurance. Thus, bearing the brunt of vagaries of nature as well as market volatility of food crops, stuck in the debt trap of money-lenders; these farmers are pushed to sui-



10,000 farmers and farm labourers died by suicide.

The Ashok Dalwai Commission has also called productivity increase as the single most important factor in doubling the income of marginal farmer group.

#### **Contract Farming and FPOs**

In the recent policy initiative, the Government has adopted a two-pronged strategy: Contract farming and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO). Contact farming will help the farmers, especially small and marginal farmers to access formal credit, modern implements, technical assistance, low cost

farm gate; thus, increasing crop productivity, avoiding wastage, shielding the farmer from pre and post-production risks. Another benefit of contract farming is selection of crops based on agro-climatic and soil condition of the area, making the agriculture sustainable.

FPOs are registered groups of local farmers — especially small and marginal ones — with a company like management structure. The function of FPOs is to help farmers in pre and post production operations from access to formal credit, inputs, technical assistance to primary processing, marketing, etc. They will also be well placed to negotiate over contract farming or private purchase of food produce with private players. They will be given monetary grant and credit guarantee by the Government to promote local produce. Government has also created Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) of Rs 1 lakh crore for creating postharvest infrastructure, which will be mostly functional by providing interest subvention on such projects; and the Government intends to utilise this Fund through the FPOs.

It will have to be seen how much of this vision is actually implemented on the ground. The sustainability of the FPOs, post Government grant period, shall also be an area of concern. State rights and APMCs

Allegations of encroachment of State rights and federalism are also being made as the Central Government used the entry 33 of the Concurrent List to bring out the farm Acts. It would be interesting to note that none other than Prof MS Swaminathan, the biggest wellwisher of farmers' rights in India, had recommended shifting agriculture to the Concurrent List and creation of a single Indian agriculture market in his report in 2006. While the APMCs were

formed for fair and transparent

price discovery for farmers, they have failed and succumbed to cartelisation, while becoming highly politicised. In return to the mandi fee, the services provided to the farmers are abysmal with no cold storage facility, no facility for grading, sorting, packaging of food produce. Before the onset of e-NAM, the pan India e-trading portal by the Central Government, and push for mandis to connect most weren't providing e-trading facilities. Ashok Gulati, an agricultural expert, has placed an important question in the public domain: instead of fearing the redundancy of APMCs, why don't the State Governments take this opportunity to make them a competitive option for farmers by providing better services at lower price? In fact, we are seeing a trend to that effect -Karnataka has greatly reduced the mandi fee; Punjab and Haryana have reduced the mandi fee for basmati by 50% or more. So, the future of APMCs is to become more efficient and effective and not be wrapped up,

and States must work to that

Farmers vs corporates The reforms in agricul-

ture have also created certain areas of potential hazard to farmer's interests. As restriction for stocking up food is removed, it can lead to big retailers or corporates manipulate prices in the market, often to the disadvantage of the farmers. In contract farming also, corporates can dictate price to farmers and reject produce on the basis of quality, shape, size, colour, etc. Same fear of less negotiating power of farmers vis-à-vis big buyers, during sale of food produce even outside APMC, exists.

#### **Create Market Regulator**

While capitalism has taught the world that competition improves quality of options, we are equally aware of tendencies of monopolies forming without any active oversight of State, rendering the competition neither free nor fair. Hence, an independent market regulator and dispute redressal forum (akin to TRAI and TDSAT) must be created for agricultural sector to check unfair practices by corporates and private players and

protect the interests of farmers. Further, if the farmers are to be truly free and agriculture to be made profitable and sustainable — there's still no alternative to Government's own work on the front of setting up cold chain for farmers in villages, implementing more irrigation projects, recharging of aquifers, greater push to extension services and primary processing at farms.

(The author is a public policy analyst and a lawyer, an alumnus of National Law University, Jodhpur) Instead of whipping up the esoteric phobia that the new farm laws will render APMCs redundant, the protesting State **Governments should** take this opportunity to make these sluggish bodies competitive for farmers by providing better services at



SONAL SHUKLA

### PERSPECTIVE |

## New revolution in making in Kyrgyzstan

are not accidental. The primary reason is that all of them have suddenly ceased in a span of few days. The rag-tag Opposition backed groups are fast occupying Government establishments, including the most prestigious Parliament building of the country. Currently, the protesters are appointing their favourites as mayors, ministers and even Prime Minister. The only problem with these self-declared or mobappointed authorities is that all of them can be overturned by stronger and well-armed groups again. So, there would be no end to such chaos if it persists like this. The safe road ahead is to bring legitimate authorities back to the seat of power as per the law of the land.

However, Kyrgyzstan is no stranger to such calamities as its people had a good experience of Tulip Revolution of 2005 and the resurgence of violence in the year 2010. The Tulip Revolution is also known as the First Kyrgyz Revolution that led to the ouster of President Askar Akayev in early 2005. Going back to the recent history of the country, what we find is the people of Kyrgyzstan had a strong yearning for democracy. The country conducted parliamentary elections on February 27, 2005. The revolution started after the parliamentary elections when Askar's allies came out victorious. But it was alleged that the election was marred by widespread election frauds. In fact, such malpractices were also confirmed by the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) after the election. Thus, a massive protest campaign started to dislodge the corrupt and authoritarian regime of Akayev, who had been ruling the country since the 1990s. The revolution was a turning point for Kyrgyz people as it made them realise that democracy is possible in their country.

The 2010 crisis took place because President Kurmanbek Bakiyev was ousted from power in an uprising on April 7, 2010. His stronghold in the south of Kyrgyzstan witnessed massive violence. During that time, the pro-Bakiyev supporters organised resistance to the interim Government led by President Rosa Otunbayeva by seizing Government buildings and taking officials hostage. What added fuel to the fire was that the sizeable Uzbek community in the country backed the interim Government. Taking advantage of the power vacuum, criminal gangs and

The sudden political unrest and drug mafias aided in sparking communal violence in the southern city of munal violence in the southern city of Osh between Kyrgyz and Uzbek groups. It forced thousands of Uzbeks to flee the to become a sphere of Russian influence region. Most of them had fled to after 1991. Kyrgyzstan, known as the neighboring Uzbekistan only. As per the only democracy in Central Asia, has lit- UN estimate nearly 4,00,000 people erally turned herself into a mobocracy were displaced during this violence. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees regarded the crisis as ethnic clashes. But many say that there was a strong element of Bakiyev in stoking violence across. But only this factor could hardly be blamed for mass killings and indiscriminate fighting among numerous

The current political turmoil started only after the results of the parliamentary election held on October 4 was declared. Interestingly, only four political parties out of 16 have crossed the threshold to claim a seat in the country's Parliament called Supreme Council. This council was earlier known as the Supreme Soviet of the Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic until 1991. Unfortunately, out of all these four parties, three are closely connected to ruling President Sooronbai Jeenbekov. None of the established Opposition parties has even secured a single seat in Parliament. Therefore, all the 12 Opposition parties have come together after the election to reject the results. That is how the current political drama unfolded across the country, mainly in the capital city of Bishkek. The primary charges brought against the pro-Jeenbekov parties are vote-buying and voter intimidation. For now, the authorities have annulled the results of the disputed election, necessitating a re-run of he vote in the country of more than 6.5 million people. What now the protesters are demanding is the immediate impeachment of the President. A group set up by several Opposition parties called as the Peoples Coordination Council Opposition for now has assumed all state powers and dissolved the Parliament. Meanwhile Parliament agreed to nominate Opposition leader Sadyr Zhaparov for the post of Prime Minister. He also aired his view that he would propose a constitutional reform before holding presidential and parliamentary elections within two to three months from now. But he was uncertain about the backing of the coordination council about his candidature because there are strong differences of opinions among all the allies. It was absolutely unclear when Parliament could be convened to approve his appointment as Prime Minister. This all demonstrates that the current situation is too fluid. And there is every possibility that some other leaders might also

claim key political offices. As Prime Minister Kubatbek Boronov resigned, Jeenbekov called for an all-party meeting to resolve the political crisis.

Former President Almazbek Atambayev might play a key role in this crisis. It's very apparent from the series of events that have taken place in and around Bishkek. The mob led by Atambayev's son went to the State Committee for National Security and released his father from the prison. Therefore, Jeenbekov has termed this crisis as an attempt to seize power. Precisely, Zhaparov do not have a clean background and he was sentenced to prison for ten years for taking a person hostage. He is a former MP from the nationalist Ata Jurt Party. Around the same time, some other notorious leaders have also appeared in the scene just to take the advantage of the chaos. Among them the most prominent one Melis Myrzakmatov, who was a former mayor of Osh city, is now back from his self-exile and started gathering his supporters. He is well known for his ultra-nationalistic campaigns in the region wherein ethnic clashes took place in the year 2010. Incidentally, he was the mayor of the Osh when these conflicts took place there.

The problem at the heart of Kyrgyzstan is that it is the poorest nation of the former Soviet Union. There is an acute shortage of natural resources in this country. But after the sudden collapse of the USSR, the country became a gateway of trans-shipment of Chinese goods for the whole post-Soviet republics. And the problem was that since the beginning, no single group or leader could have monopoly over the country's political landscape. It is only the coalitions that have been dominating the political scene so far. But ironically, there is no broad consensus among all these coalition groups. And again, those who were not included in the coalitions have also been able to exert control over some pockets across the country.

Another issue is that in most of the Central Asian Republics, the power of the First Secretary was brought to practice. But this did not materialise in both Kyrgyzstan and in Tajikistan. As a result in Tajikistan, the absence of an efficient leadership led to bloody civil war in that country. When it comes to Kyrgystan, the power calculation was initially stable, but gradually the fissures have come to the fore. In fact, frequent changes of leadership have led to fierce political competition. Many a time, there is insufficient legitimacy of people who are occupying the corridors of power in Bishkek. These have added to

It has been a fortnight since the Kyrgyz people raised the banner of revolt against the October 4 parliamentary election results, which have been annulled for fresh polls. However, aggravating the crisis is Opposition groups' inability to arrive at a consensus on picking up a leader



what we have witnessed today in Kyrgyzstan.

At present, it's simply mob rule. Now, to be pragmatic, Bishkek needs to find a way to hold a fresh parliamentary election. But the worst-case scenario could be a fresh civil war. The chances of such a catastrophe are too high. Too many groups are claiming and re-claiming their leaders as genuine representatives of the people. Better for Kyrgyz people is to see that situation remains under control. The plain and clear message for both the vigilante and the activists is not to destroy public properties in the days to come. After all these are public assets. No one will gain anything by smashing public squares. Of course, they represent symbols of power and authority. But in reality, they are run by the politicians. Hence instead of crushing the physical structures, it is better to change the leaders. And bring back true leaders so that they would be able to safeguard common interests. Finally, it's high moment for Jeenbekov and the rest of the political folk display complete sense and sensibility to save the fragile democracy of this former Soviet republic.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)

### **Sir Syed Ahmad's pluralistic ethos**

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan (1817-1898) is generally misunderstood as a rabid communalist or, at best, a parochial activist who promoted Western education among his co-religionists by founding in 1877 Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College which grew into Aligarh Muslim University in 1920. He was a social reformer who sought to improve morale, ducation and infuse critical thinking and scientific spirit among his country people. Several articles in his Urdu periodical, The Aligarh Institute Gazette, are illustrative of his concern for social reform and enlightenment among the Hindus of the day.

In his following piece with a telling title, "Hindus too should visit England" (Aligarh Institute Gazette, 27 April 1866), against the backdrop of their reservations about sea voyage, he advises: "We recommend all Indians, particularly the competent lawyers, to undertake a visit to England. We should make it a point to sponsor the visit of talented, sincere persons of integrity to England. They will learn there the norms of governance. Their interaction with the British public figures will be of immense benefit to India and Indians.

Equally sagacious is his following advice to Hindu brethren, published in Aligarh Institute Gazette, October 29, 1868: "Your plight is owing to your low morale while you keep blaming others. Would you like to remain in the same mess forever? We believe that if Hindus persist in their superstitions, other communities in the country will outpace them and assume honour and power. Hindus will only then regret, full of remorse. We are confident that their giving up superstitions will accrue to them very rich dividends."

Against the backdrop of the British policy of "divide and rule" by creating discord among Hindu and Muslims, he instructed them to live in harmony. "India is inhabited by the adherents of many religions. Hostility on the grounds of their religious diversity mars their relationship. They have turned more antagonistic to one another by the day. As citizens of the same country let us have cordial relations, good

conduct and treat one another well as fellow countrymen. We cannot have a single religion for the whole country. However, this should not give rise to intolerance and bigotry...We Indians are afflicted with such sectarian hostility that we have turned into foes, forgetting all of our common ties. Those guilty of it are utterly foolish. This foolishness will disgrace

us and our country

Female infanticide, remarriage of widows as a taboo, and child marriage vitiated the then Hindu society. Far from demonising Hindus and placing the blame at the door of Hinduism, Sir Syed exhorted them to reflect on these issues and act in a logical, humane way: "Our fellow countrymen oppose the remarriage of widows. So doing, they violate the laws of nature. This prohibition is against the will of the creator of this world."

On receiving reports about cordial inter-caste programmes in Punjab, he delightfully remarked: "We are proud of those gentlemen in Punjab who have eliminated intercaste segregation and forged a bond among all. Let our other Hindu brethren emulate this practice. This will bring about real progress and happiness in our country.

He spoke highly of those Bhargavas, Thakurs, Vaishyas, Chaturvedi's, Chaubeys, Jats and Brahmins who had set up educational institutions in Agra, Bareilly, and western UP: "Out Hindu brethren have excelled us, while we sit idly. They have paid special attention to promoting education."

Equally gratified he was to note Rajputs having meals together with members of other castes, as mentioned in Aligarh Institute Gazette, January 3, 1873: "In Jaipur, food was served. All of them sitting on the same table took it. Rajputs joined, without any reservation."

Being an educationist, he realised the importance of interaction and academic excellence which could take the country to greater heights. He urged: "Let all patriots note that if you have a sincere love of your country, you should encourage overseas education. This will sensitize our youths to the latest happenings in the world, boost their morale and Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was one of the most outstanding gems India produced in the 19th century. The rationalist, moralist and humanist dynamic force who devoted his life in promoting modern scientific education, particularly among Muslims, is often forgotten about his pluralistic vision. On his . 203rd birth anniversary on October 17, it is time to remember that Sir Syed was a bridge builder between



ABDUR RAHEEM KIDWAI

reinforce their confidence."

Sir Syed had cordial relations, notwithstanding occasional ideological differences, with the leading reformers of the day. He paid glowing tributes in his writings and speeches to Raja Ram Mohan Roy (1774-1823), Dadabhai Naoroji (1825-1917), Sir Surender Nath Banerji (1848-1925), Keshab Chandra Sen (1834-1884), Swami Dayanand Saraswati (1824-1883) Lala Lajpat Rai (1865-1928), Raja Shiv Prasad (1824-1985) and Bhartendu Babu Harish Chandra (1850-1885). Sir Syed brought out for

years an Urdu periodical aptly titled Tahzeebul Akhlaq (Social Reformer) which upheld the ideals of pluralism, peaceful coexistence, critical thinking civic sense and self-respect. In the words of noted historian Professor Mushirul Haque, "As a Muslim, he considered it his duty to help the Muslims; as an Indian, he made it a point to work for the good of the whole country. There was no ambiguity in his concept of nation."

(The writer is a Professor of English. Presently, he is Director at UGC Human Resource Development Centre, Aligarh Muslim University)







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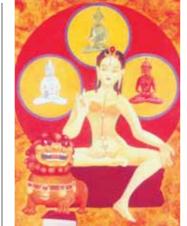




#### ARIES March 21-April 19

This week is a good time to enjoy your health and add extra charm to your persona. You are cheerful, hopeful, and full of life. You take good care of yourself, and the people you are concerned with. Compromising on health issues is not advisable. Balancing in your work and relations is important. On the career front, be cautious if you are in a job. Follow the discipline and set rules of the organisation you are working with, else be ready to face some displeasure of your seniors. Businessmen should be careful in their money transactions. There are conflicts and confrontations which may make you lose your calm. On the personal front, you may get involved in a great relationship. You are likely to be in a romantic mood.

Lucky number 10 Lucky colour Golden Lucky day Sunday



#### **LEO** July 23-Aug 22

You are a very positive, creative, and happy go lucky person. This is reflected in your personality. It is an excellent time to flaunt your charm and enjoy the path of personal development. The completeness, sense of vitality and peace in mind will make you very efficient this week. On the career front, you are confident and ready to face any challenges that come your way. You may win and earn accolades for your performance this week. You will be in your senior's good book. Do not let this success get into your head. On the relationship front, be careful as there are chances of counterfeit love. Investigate before you take any final decision. Existing relations should clear the doubts and confusions, if any, to avoid misunderstanding in future.

Lucky number 14 Lucky colour Green Lucky day Friday



#### **SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

You are likely to change your mind about something that you think is wrong with you physically. Do not ignore what your doctor has told you. Those suffering from serious ailments need to be under the constant observation of doctors. Others also need prevention from seasonal ailments, which might aggravate if timely attention is not taken. On the work front, confusion about whether to leave the present job, start a business, or some undesirable circumstances is likely to occupy your mind. Changing your field would gets you nowhere. Find out your interest and potentials. This is the time to be firm in your decisions and keep your ears and eyes open. On the personal front, there exits hope and happiness on the emotional level, along with a sense of security.

Lucky number 11 Lucky colour Brown Lucky day Monday



#### **TAURUS** April 20-May 20

This week you need a break from normal life. There is a need to slow down from the hectic work pace and relax. Do not push yourself when you are tired, it may cause illness and injury. On the career front, you have the benefits of your communication both verbal or written and will get the good news regarding your career. Businessmen can acquire a secure position monetarily. Those in service will get the support of their seniors and boss this week, which is likely to prove a stepping stone in their career. Be cautious, stay focused on what you want to achieve. On the personal front, a new beginning and higher expectations are on the cards. This is the time when you need not put extra efforts in the relationship

Lucky number 8 Lucky colour Pastel colours Lucky day Wednesday



#### VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week work at balancing your chakras or your body, mind, and spirit. Pay adequate attention to all three. Meditation, *Pranayam* and walk in the nature would work wonderfully. The benefits are far greater than any effort you can put in. Professionally, connections with new people, especially people from other lands, will be beneficial. This is the time to make new business deals, sign new projects and assignments. Crack your potential. Stars are favouring you. Creativity, change, and development are the themes of the week. On the personal front, new ideas and plans will help you to revitalise your relations with the loved ones. Love is in the air and you are in full mood to express your feelings. This is a good time to make relations.

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Yellow Lucky day Thursday



#### CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week take some time out for yourself. You are on the right track now, keep doing what you are doing. Learn more about rituals from the past. They will deepen your spiritual understanding and practice and help you to bring balance. On the career front, lots of activity, getting things accomplished is on the cards. You may make your peers look bad. You don't feel tired; being workaholic is your passion. Keep your behaviour in check, there are chances of using harsh words that create a hostile situation around you. Maintain your cool and equilibrium whatever the situation, that quality will add a feather in your career. On the relationship front, if you are currently committed, it may well rise to new and better heights

Lucky number 13 Lucky colour Peach Lucky day Tuesday



#### **GEMINI** May 21-June 20

Listen to your body with great care and attention. You are either overeating or starving yourself to lose weight. Both situations are bad for health. Bringing balance in food habits not only helps you to maintain your weight but it gives you a confident mindset. You are otherwise hale and hearty, enjoy the week. On the work front, investment done in the past is coming to fruition this week. This can be literal such as a bank account returning money to you. You will be reaping what you have sown. You are in the good books of your senior and soon there will be rewards. On the personal front, love and emotions will take back seat. You prefer isolation. Those committed must stay connected with their time to keep the spark alive.

Lucky number 17 Lucky colour Sky Blue Lucky day Wednesday



#### LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

You need to balance your health efforts with your personal and professional responsibilities. Make sure that you are taking time out for your self, for rest and healing. If you put yourself last on the list of things, your health will suffer. Make sure to take adequate rest and sleep, too. On the professional front, if you are looking for a job, you have the ability and the skill to find it. If you are already employed, you will find a better position. If there's no room for a promotion in the current job, give serious thought to finding something where there is this possibility. On the relationship front, if you are committed don't hesitate to speak your mind to your beloved. You stand with pride and express your feelings. This will only improve your relationship.

Lucky number 19 Lucky colour Black Lucky day Saturday



#### **AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you are likely to feel stressed out. You may be suppressing your emotions, and this will impact your body negatively. Be careful how, when, and where you vent your emotional reactions. Work to reduce your stress level. Think positive. Stay calm and connected. Anger is a silent killer. On the career front, tension is indicated. Be positive, this is a temporary phase. If you are trying for a job change, this is the right time. Making plans only will not help, execute them with sincerity. You have the potential to achieve the desired position. On the personal front, the time is right for soul-searching and discovery of the inner realms. It is a very positive time for you and an excellent opportunity to strengthen relationships.

Lucky number 22 Lucky colour Blue Lucky day Sunday



couple of years back, a very dear

friend sought appointment for his

estranged wife. Though they had

separated, they remained good friends.

The lady offered her birth particulars,

based on which her astrological chart

moment of consultation. The ruling

planets emerging at that that moment

did not match with those of the chart

drawn against birth particulars provided

by her. It implied that the birth particu-

lars were not right. In the Krishnamurty

check whether the birth chart is right. I

then asked the lady: "Are your birth particulars correct?" "Yes", she affirmed.

There was no fun in arguing with her. So,

I made all my observations based on

consultation reflected. After having

went home. She then called up and

good astrologer.

what the chart drawn at the moment of

answer to her questions, she satisfactorily

thanked ex-husband for leading her to a

that the lady was quite happy with you.

birth particulars she furnished." He was

left aghast when I shared the birth par-

He then asked me: "Please tell me the

My friend then called me informing

system, there is a proven method to

was drawn. I, then, drew the chart at the

#### **CANCER** June 21-July 22

Tension and depression might take toll leaving you exhausted and under-confident person. Reading, meditation, and light exercises will give you relief and good sleep will help improve your state of mind. Uncertainties and confusion in life will melt away if you have a positive and creative mind. On the work front, you need to make some quick decisions. Make sure your intelligence and logic are used for a good cause Do not waste your time in disputes. Solution for a problem is already there or will come soon. On the personal front, work with a cool mind rather than the raging heart. If you are already in a relationship, this can be a make-or-break period. This is a time to get very clear about what you want out of your relationships, and then take steps accordingly.

Lucky number 21 Lucky colour White Lucky day Monday



#### SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

On the health front, you seek to self-validate and believe in your talents. Your motto of a diseases-free, happy family will get you busy. It is time to see how totally different and wonderful things can be. Professionally, you are positive and will try to bring love and compassion in your work. You are highly intuitive too. People are amazed to see this persona of you. This is a time to focus on your goals and targets. Be firm and determined. Those in business need to be tough in the money transactions. On the personal front, mind, heart, and emotions are going in different ways. This is a highly emotional time in love relationships. Things can quickly become heated. Treat your lover like a friend. Don't be in a hurry to end or to begin a relationship.

Test of astrologer/astrology

Lucky number 15 Lucky colour Grey Lucky day Friday



### PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week keep your stress level under control to stay in good health. Deal with any problems that come up physically, don't try to avoid them. Be sure to get enough rest. If you need healing, ask for it. Sensitive people need caring, nurturing, massage, and hugs from dear friends which will go a long way toward keeping them healthy. On the career front, other people may oppose your new ideas or proposals, but if you know that you are right to go ahead. You are enthusiastic, full of energy and want to put your best, but others are not taking it positively. Leave your simplicity behind, be smart and little articulate. On the personal front, your relationship will move into a lighter, easier, and more balanced phase when you are sure of yourself

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Red Lucky day Thursday

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 9873283331



### **ASTROTURF** BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

ticulars she had furnished. "Sir, she gave you wrong birth particulars. It was the one given to me at time of marriage to hide her actual date of birth. Later, I found her true horoscope. How come, your observations were so apt, even though she did not furnish her true birth particulars?" "Well, I ignored the birth chart, and instead counted on what the

astrological chart at the moment of con-

sultation reflected". I replied. "How can the chart drawn at the moment of consultation reveal her state of affairs so correctly?" He countered. "Remember, there is continuum in time. What one is faced at a particular moment is culmination of doing and undoing in the past. Seeded in the present moment is how future is expected to unfold. The chart at the moment of consultation, reveals what prevails in your mind, and the way it is going to progress in the emerging times. If you know that you are planting a mango seed, being aware of its chemistry, you may be able to figure out the timeline of its progressive growth. The astrological chart at the moment makes aware of the potential seeded in mind, which makes it possible to foresee the impending future events."



We are often faced with such challenging encounters in our professional life, particularly in marriage matching. It has been observed that many parents of girls in marriageable age, fudge their birth particulars so that it matches with the groom's chart, to seal the marriage. They though hasten their girl's marriage, but with what end? In their rush to shed their responsibility, they don't care for their own daughter's marital happiness. When problems arise, the groom side comes with the question: "Sir, we had done matching before the marriage. Yet, why is it not working?" When cross checked, it comes out that the girl's chart

Recently, I came across such a situation when hassled parents of a newly married son came the other day with their charts. They asked me to suggest some puja that may help restore his marital happiness. Well, marital discord is always because of attitudinal differences of the partners. So, problem is seeded in their minds. How can any pundit invade their mind space through *puja* to make necessary attitudinal correction? They have to self-correct themselves to ensure marital happiness.

A look into the boy's chart revealed

that he had an inflated ego — bound by his own self-defined do's and don'ts coming as it may with Mars conjunct Uranus, opposite Jupiter. He can't digest anything happening at variance with his own beliefs and perceptions. Being tactless and undiplomatic, his ill-timed and ill-framed reactions often unnerves others. When I looked at the girl's chart, it was found fudged. After making necessary correction, the chart revealed her true nature.

She was born in Gemini lagna. The sign lord Mercury conjunct Sun and Jupiter were in the *lagna*, opposite erratic Uranus, mischievous Neptune and Saturn in the marriage signifying 7th house. Debilitated Moon was opposite Venus. It implied that the girl lived in her own delusionary perceptions, distanced from ground realities. She wished to live exclusively on her own terms, least bothered about other's sensibilities and concerns. Her sense of reasoning and judgment would be impaired. If things don't move her way, she may go wild. The result is there to see.

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