

MONEY 6

INDIA IS GRADUALLY MOVING TOWARDS AN ECONOMY BASED ON CLEAN ENERGY

WORLD 7

NZ PM ARDERN WINS 2ND TERM IN LANDSLIDE

SPORT 8

RCB BEAT ROYALS IN IPL

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**USUAL SUSPECTS**

SWAPAN DASGUPTA

No need to rewrite Jinnah's history

Every 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 Siddiqui, 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."

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

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 support he was head and shoulders above all those leaders who were sceptical 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 hindsight.

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 reformed to suit the exigencies of the present. Overnight, the Muslim Leaguers of yesterday 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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

For the first time in the last 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 administration 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

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



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

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

The PMO said three vac-

scientists and research teams are collaborating and strengthening the research capacities in neighbouring countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Mauritius, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

There are further requests from Bangladesh, Myanmar, Qatar 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 system.

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 74,86,714

DEATHS: 1,13,779

RECOVERED: 65,87,287

ACTIVE: 7,84,454



STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	15,86,321	41,752	13,58,606
Andhra Pradesh	7,79,146	6,406	7,35,638
Karnataka	7,58,574	10,427	6,37,481
Tamil Nadu	6,83,486	10,586	6,32,708
Uttar Pradesh	4,52,660	6,629	4,11,611
Kerala	3,34,229	1,140	2,36,989
Delhi	3,27,718	5,981	2,98,853
West Bengal	3,17,053	5,992	2,77,940
Odisha	2,66,345	1,174	2,44,227
Telangana	2,20,675	1,265	1,96,636
Bihar	2,03,060	990	1,91,515
Assam	1,99,749	853	1,70,263
Rajasthan	1,71,281	1,735	1,48,291
Madhya Pradesh	1,59,158	2,753	1,42,707
Gujarat	1,58,635	3,629	1,40,519
Chhattisgarh	1,55,987	1,425	1,26,869

Global Hunger Index: India 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 Korea.

Last year, India's rank was 102nd among 117 countries. China, Belarus, Ukraine, Turkey, Cuba and Kuwait, fig-

ure among the top 20 with GHI scores of less than five. The Global Hunger Index is a peer-reviewed annual report, jointly published by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe, designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger at the global, regional, and country levels.

French teacher beheaded for class on Prophet caricatures

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

AP ■ PARIS

A suspect shot dead by police 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 AP

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 assault gun, which fires plastic pellets.

Naveen reviews Puri heritage project progress



Wants to complete land acquisition by Jan 1 next

PNS ■ PURI

Chief 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

(Lions Gate), he visited around the Meghnad Pacheri (outer wall of the Jagannath Temple) and reviewed the progress of the works.

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.

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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.

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216 new +ves in BBSR; total 26,995

■ 4 more die; total toll rises to 133

■ 85 more infected in Cuttack; total 13,082

BHUBANESWAR: The daily Covid-19 cases continued downward trend in 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 each from Old Town and Jharpada and four each from VSS Nagar and Unit-6.

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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 pool.

◆ Total now 2,66,345

◆ Highest new cases of 259 in Khordha again

◆ 17 more deaths; total toll 1,121

◆ 2,842 recover; total recoveries 2,44,22

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.

While five died in Khordha district, two succumbed in Cuttack. One casualty each was reported from Angul, Baleswar, Jagatsinghpur, Kandhamal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh, Puri, Sundargarh and Sambalpur districts.

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HOME THEATRE

Must watch for dog parents

PUP ACADEMY 2
Netflix
***ing: Don Iake, Christian Convery, Aria Birch, Gabrielle Miller**
Dog Voice Over: Riley O'Donnell, Chance Hurstfield, Dylan Schombing, Brian George
Rated: 6/10

There 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



series that takes off where the first one ended — a street pup — Boxer

being thrown out of pup academy for bringing in other street dogs into the

academy who then wreaked havoc 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 their way.

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

— Shalini Saksena



BLACKPINK: LIGHT UP THE SKY
Netflix
***ing: The band members: Jisoo, Jennie, Rosé, and Lisa**
Rated: 5.5/10

K-pop made its presence felt back in 2012 when Psy released his single — *Gangnam Style*. The song had gone viral and propelled Psy into instant stardom. Since then K-pop has become a must-listen for all music lovers. So it is not surprising that when the all-woman 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 during a musical programme for 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 and sing.

The documentary introduces

the girls collectively and individually which gives us a 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 not gold.

— Shalini Saksena

Real emotions are revealed

TELLY TALE

IT'S CHAMPI TIME
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 Shehnaz's absence in this season.

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

Shehnaz 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 Rajeev for being a phenomenal co-star, Radhika Anand for penning this marvelous script, Anil Sir and of course Bodhi Tree Productions for bringing this fabulous concept to life. And last but not the least, a big thank you to 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 steps 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 festive season.

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 lives. Both Shakti and I share a passion for 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 inspire."

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 Sharda 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

Watching 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*. Not because the storyline is something out of the box, but because Yashraj Mukhate decided to mix a scene from the popular show and it went viral within no time.

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 a watch.

"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. I felt bad. But I am a very stubborn person, if I take up a job, I do my best to make it happen



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 Maneek, who was then replaced by 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.

Plan Your Day

A delightful Navratra Menu specially curated for your Festive Indulgence! at Select 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
Navratni Special Thali

(*Malai paneer tikka* two pcs, *kuttu puri* two, *paneer makhani/shahi*, *falahari kofta*, *aloo tamatar subzi*, *samvat pulao*, salad, *raita*, *sabudana papad*, *vrat wale aloo/banana chips* & sweet)

Price: ₹440 plus GST



Ganjam admn readies for possible floods

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

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 Ganjam 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 low-lying areas that are susceptible to flood.

3 killed as car falls into canal

Ex-MP Amar Pradhan's son among deceased

PNS ■ CUTTACK

Former Sambalpur MP Amar Pradhan's son Ankur 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.

Yoga in Puri beach for health awareness



PNS ■ PURI

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

after the golden beach, identified under the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project (ICZMP), recently received the 'Blue Flag' certificate. The programme is a pilot project of the State Directorate of AYUSH, Department of Health & Family Welfare. It started with 200 participants, all Covid-recovered persons, in 10 locations of the beach.

Parents protest 'partial' school fee MoU

Seek Govt directs schools to take tuition fee only

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Parents of various schools of the city under the aegis 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



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

International School, DAV School, ODM School, Young Fonix, BJEM, Mothers' Public School, Xavier School, Saint Josef, Kedargouri, Venkateshwar, Amruta Vidyalaya and Narayani School joined the demonstration.

Woman doc dies of Covid in R'kela

PNS ■ ROURKELA

A 29-year-old woman doctor, APriya 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 infected with coronavirus about ten days back. She was a native of Nalandia district of Bihar and her cremation would take place here on Sunday after the arrival of her family members. Significantly, the number of deaths of doctors on Covid duty has gone up to four in Sundargarh district so far.

BMC lifts Aparajita office sealing order

ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN WITH A MALICIOUS INTENT: MP

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Saturday withdrew its order of sealing the office of Bhubaneswar BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi. On October 10, the BMC had sealed the MP's office for 15 days after a video showing Sarangi celebrating her birthday with a large number of women supporters with no Covid-19 precautions went viral. "In pursuance of a decision taken by the BMC to open all closed-down shops, commercial establishments and institutions in view of the ensuing Puja celebration, the sealing order for the MP's office at Palaspalli is hereby withdrawn," read a BMC letter. The BMC also asked

Sarangi to make her office premises available for sanitisation immediately and ensure adherence to all Covid-19 guidelines in the premises. Meanwhile on the day, Sarangi severely criticised the BMC for closure of her office alleging that the civic body closed her office-cum-residence while it had no such power under the Epidemic Diseases Act. At a news conference, she 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-wishers has been detected with Covid yet. Quoting a Government notification, she said a building can be closed for 48 hours only in case of large-scale Covid outbreak. "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



done with a malicious intent, contrary to the spirit of law and is in clear violation of the provisions in law. This has caused me pecuniary hardship, mental agony and has been done to malign my image before the society. I reserve my right to claim adequate compensation from the BMC for such excessive use of authority beyond its jurisdiction, to initiate defamation proceeding and initiate such other legal proceedings as may be suitable," Sarangi said.

'CM aerial visit to flood-hit 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 clarification in this regard. 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," asked Pradhan. He also wanted to know the 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.

DRIVE AGAINST EXTORTION

Gangster Raja Acharya arrested

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A day after the Commissionerate police announced tough action against the extortion mafias, the cops on Saturday arrested gangster Sandeep alias Raja 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 station. "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



Cuttack and Bhubaneswar to inform police if somebody asks them for extortion money. He assured that the complainant's name would be kept a secret. Meanwhile, the denizens have welcomed the crackdown by police and said such drive should be carried throughout the year instead of during the Puja festivities.

Biraja Rath Yatra starts sans devotees

PNS ■ JAIPUR

The nine-day-long Rath Yatra in the Biraja Temple in Jaipur 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 servitors 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

Congress leaders came down heavily 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 Taraprasad 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 speciality 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 established at an expenditure of Rs 450 crore. Besides, a world class nursing school and a public health were approved, he said. Although foundation-stone was laid by the then Union Health Minister JP Nadda in 2018, yet 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 had deceived the people of north Odisha, particularly Baleswar, adopting delaying and denying tactics. They demanded that the project established soon.

BJD MP Murmu accuses OTV of defaming her

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Levelling serious allegations against some OTV reporters, Keonjhar BJD MP Chandrani Murmu has 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 Bajjayant 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 Jaipur

PNS ■ JAIPUR

Police on Saturday arrested eleven criminals from 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 Jaipur 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 Bandhadhiha 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



ORNAMENTS, 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.

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 Environment 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 issue.

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 spot.

BRAHMAPUR BJD HOLDS BLOOD DONATION CAMP

Brahmapur: The Biju Yuva Janata Dai (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 Chaudhury, BJD town president Bijay Samal, R Muralimohan, Mukunda Gouda, Jagannath Sabat, Rajanish Mishra, Sanghamitra Dalei, Mamata Bisoyi and Fair Khan were present.



VILLAGERS RESCUE PANGOLIN IN BALESWAR (PIX)

Baleswar: A pangolin was rescued by villagers and later handed over to forest officials at Daripokhari village under Upada 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 Kuldihia Wildlife Sanctuary. "The pangolin will be released into a suitable place after its health checkup," informed the Forest Ranger.



KEONJHAR TU LEADER RECOVERING FROM COVID
Champur: 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 negative.

Missing sisters' bodies found in river

PNS ■ BALANGIR

Bodies of the two young sisters, who had jumped into the Tel river under the Tushura police station in Balangir district two days ago, were recovered from river in separates districts on Saturday. First, the body of Anchal 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

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

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 city.

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

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

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

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 points, would be permitted

crocodile research centre through online booking.

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

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, KIIIT & 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 free education.

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

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 recovered.

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 cases.

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 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 provided three gunmen as security cover to the family.

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 governments 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.

Agencies

State daily Covid-19 ...

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The deceased in Khordha were a 57-year-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 woman.

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

The other deceased were a 56-year-old 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 75-year-old man of Sambalpur.

However, another 2, 842 persons recovered on the day, taking the total 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 thermal 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 mandatory.

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

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 deities.

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 universal access.

He directed to complete

The heritage corridor should be designed in such a manner that persons with disabilities are able to go around Parikrama on their own, he said.

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 northern 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 Shree Jagannath Temple 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 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 members were opposing the alleged sale of the Bagala Dharmasala land.

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

New farm laws are attack on soul of every farmer: Rahul

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi on Saturday kept up his attack on the central government over the recently enacted farm laws, saying these are a blatant attack on the soul of every farmer and 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 Punjab and Haryana a few days ago and every farmer and labourer knows that these three

laws are an attack on them.”

He said he was happy that the Punjab government has decided to convene a special session of the Assembly on these laws on October 19 where MLAs will “decide about these farm laws”.

Hitting out at the BJP-led 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 government.

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

these were passed in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha? Why were they afraid of a debate? Entire country would have seen the debate and decided if these laws are for farmers’ benefit,” he said.

“But in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, the voice of India’s farmers was suppressed. I am happy that in the Punjab assembly, farmers, labourers’ voices will be heard in the special session,” said Gandhi.

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 the bills.

Farmers hold protests across Punjab over new farm reform laws

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH / PHAGWARA

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 agitators’ demand of revoking 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 parleys.”

In Ludhiana, a group of agitating farmers demonstrated 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 slogans against the Centre and demanded the withdrawal of three farm reform laws.

Over the past several days, farmers have been blocking rail tracks, laid siege to toll plazas, fuel pumps, shopping malls and staged sit-ins outside the residences of several BJP leaders in the state.

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

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

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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 utilization 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

untreated wastewater near STPs should be tapped and treated in STPs to ensure 100 per cent utilisation of the available infrastructure and no untreated municipal sewage to reach stormwater drain.

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 possible.”

“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

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) 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 commissioner requested the central government to take over six hospitals and medical colleges under the North MCD which

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 Govt

Durgesh Pathak, Senior AAP leader

includes Hindu Rao Hospital, 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 BJP ruled North MCD was undergoing a financial crisis, therefore, they want the central government to take over these hospitals, he said.

Pathak said, “In this letter,



Adesh Gupta

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 Government.”

Covid-19 tally in J’khand draws close to 96K mark

PNS ■ RANCHI

The Covid-19 tally drew 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

active cases in the district up at 1360.

Chief minister Hemant Soren on Saturday met doctors, who are treating Education Minister Jagannath Mahto at Bhagwan Mahavir Medical 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 Patralek, 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-

ment has so far collected swab samples of 28.42 lakh people 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 department.

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%.

ISIS CONSPIRACY

15 convicted for bid to set base in Delhi

PNS ■ NEW 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 Junood-ul-Khilafa-Fil-Hind (a group seeking to establish Caliphate in India and pledging allegiance 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 their other associates were identified and questioned to unravel their further plans," the NIA said in a statement.

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) and fine.

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 of ₹48,000, Mufti Abdus Sami, 7 years RI and fine of ₹50,000 and Azhar Khan, 6 years RI with a fine of ₹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 ₹ 38,000.

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

Cong launches Smart Village Campaign

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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 environments.

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 enthusiasm.

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, paying the way for execution of 48,910 separate works across the state.

Singh assured of adequate allocation for the schemes to be undertaken under the second phase, which has been kick-started 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 deliberations 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 1 acre playgrounds have been developed.

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,

according to the United Nations.

"Today, let us strive 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' body 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 India".

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 independence 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) making 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 (DHCB) 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 DHCB 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

Union 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 factors.

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 than 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 his Ministry is doing water conservation by using the soil/murum from water bodies, drains and rivers for construction of Highways.

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

works with a result of increase of 22500 TCM (Thousand Cubic Meter) of water storage capacity at 'No cost to State 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 convergence has been appreciated and accepted by NITI Aayog, which is in the process of forming policy based on this work done.

The Minister further informed that the Tamaswada Pattern adopted in Wardha and Nagpur districts is another effort towards Rain Water Harvesting, Conservation and Ground Water Recharge.

These works are done on 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 bodies.

Gadkari informed that his Ministry is doing water conservation by using the soil/murum from water bodies, drains and rivers for construction of Highways

Govt issues SOPs for cultural functions, programmes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The 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 zones.

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 gratis.

"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/ religious/ 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

The BJP on Saturday came down heavily on the Congress for its unequivocal support for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and the opposition party to include the restoration of Article 370 as a promise in its Bihar polls manifesto.

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 to put their promise of bringing back article 370 in the party's poll manifesto for Bihar.

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

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

Chidambaram had welcomed 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, should not be perceived as "anti-national".

Javadekar pointed out that the Congress knew very well that the people of the entire country had endorsed the decision to scrap J&K's special status.

"Congress leaders P Chidambaram and Digvijaya 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 separatists," said the BJP leader.

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 go.

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 sever J&K from India.

All original Gupkar Declaration signatories barring 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 J&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.

Peace and tranquillity along LAC 'deeply disturbed': Jaishankar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar 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-month-long border standoff between India and China in eastern Ladakh where each side has

deployed over 50,000 troops.

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



initiatives like trade, travel, tourism, and societal activities on the premise of peace and

tranquillity along the border.

"It is not our position that we should solve the boundary question. We understand that it is a very complicated and difficult issue. There have been many nego-

tiations at different levels...That is a very high bar for a relationship," Jaishankar said.

"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 been the case since the late 1980s," he added.

"Now, if peace and tranquillity is deeply disturbed, then obviously there will be an impact on the relationship and that is what we are see-

ing," he said referring to the border situation in eastern Ladakh.

Jaishankar said both China and India are rising and assuming "bigger" role in the world, but the "big question" is how the two countries find an "equilibrium".

"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 Ladakh.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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.

A 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 message.

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 sources.

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 said.

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 payments 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

In a bid to encourage web check-in, airline lmajor 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 check-in 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



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As much as ₹1.08 lakh crore 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 cash-strapped 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 added.

Low base, attractive interest rates lift Sept domestic PV sales

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

Low base, along with more sustainable pent-up demand, boosted domestic passenger vehicles’ sales in September on a year-on-year basis.

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 previous year.

Besides, the data showed that car sales in the country rose by 28.92 per cent to 163,981 units in September, 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 a year ago.

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 per cent.

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 performance, 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, commercial 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 units. Two-wheeler sales segment, however, reported a marginal 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 economy based on clean energy

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

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 a pilot project in Delhi on HCNG 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 higher 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 along with CNG.

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 forward to work closely with the industry so that we can go forward, said Kapoor.

Will make Ghaziabad world class city: Minister



PNS ■ GHAZIABAD

On 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 Sikkim.

Earlier, Singh also inaugurated Divyng Park at Indirapuram and Nandi Gaushala at Rajnagar 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 dream.

JDA to develop Agro-warehousing scheme near Amber

Jaipur: In order to fillip the economic growth in the city, Jaipur 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 project.

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,

HDFC Bank Q2 consolidated profit rises 16pc to ₹7,703 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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 Bank said.

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

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

First time since lockdown, 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 fortnight 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.

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 (standalone) grew to ₹36,069.42 crore in the second quarter of FY2021 from ₹33,755 crore in the year ago quarter.

“While the previous quarter largely bore the brunt 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.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Genex Child Development Programme, 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 initiative.

Under the Genex Girl Child Development 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 release.

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 aim is to make girls economically strong and narrow 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.

AXIS BANK

Axis Bank Limited, Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128,Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.) 201301

Controlling office: Axis House, Bombay Dyeing Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025.

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(b) 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. 91,51,68/- 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/or realization due to the secured creditor from Mr. Akshay Batra and Mr. Yudhvir Batra. **The reserve price will be Rs. 44,96,837/- and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 4,49,683.7/-**

Account Number	Location / Details of the Immovable Property/Secured Assets possessed and put for sale	Encumbrances, if any known to the Bank.
PHR0792 00729188	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- Gurgaon Haryana- 122001	

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the secured creditor's website i.e. <https://www.axisbank.com/auktion-notices/>

Date : 18-10-2020
Place: Noida

Sd/-,
Authorized Officer,
Axis Bank Ltd.

Metro Railway, Kolkata
Kolkata's Pride

ZONAL CONTRACT FOR UP-KEEP OF TRACK

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 Tollgyunge 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

IndusInd Bank

New Tower, Hyatt Regency Complex, New Delhi 110 066

Possession Notice [see rule 8(1)] (For Immovable property)

Whereas The Authorised Officer of the IndusInd Bank Ltd, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 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 Malliya, Mr Subramanian Barathan, Ms Vidya Malliya, Mr Sadanand Madhusudan Sahasrabudhe** to repay the cumulative amount mentioned 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 Malliya, Mr. Sadanand Madhusudan sahasrabudhe, Mr. Subramanian Barathan, Ms Vidya Malliya**, 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 Narayan Bantwal Malliya, together with further interests from **01.08.2019** plus costs, charges and expenses, etc. thereon within 60 days from the date of the said notices.

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 of 4055 Sq.Ft. consisting of ground, first floor & right to use common amenities in the project known as 'House of Hiranandini Devanahalli' & 4200 Sq.Ft. of undivided share in the converted and bearing Survey No. 221, 28/1, 28/2, 29/1, 29/2, 29/3, 31/1 of Prassannahalli Village measuring in all 5 Acres 18 guntas & survey no. 155/2 157 & 158 of Sanna Amankere Village Kasba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluka, Bangalore Rural District measuring in all three Acres 34 guntas and the villa is bounded as under:

On or Towards the West: Drive Way
On or Towards the East: Villa no. 476
On or Towards the North : drive Way
On or Towards the South : Villa no. 468

Date: 13.10.2020 Place: Bengaluru 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 material will be held in November, 2020 as per program given below:-

1 st Round	2 nd Round	Depot	Depot Officer in Charge	Contact No.
02/11/2020	19/11/2020	SBI	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-SBI	07927500380 09724093774
09/11/2020	24/11/2020	ADI	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-ADI	07922205888 09724093761
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 09724097760
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	022-24929571 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

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 as per scheduled time. (3) e-Auction catalogues will be available on site www.ireps.gov.in e-Auction portal. (4) In case of any assistance required regarding e-Auction, digital signatures, Registration procedure and participation, please contact above mentioned Depot Officer. (5) All payment transactions shall be done through the online payment gateway.

D-367 **For Principal Chief Materials Manager**

Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) | follows us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

"I am surrendering / cancelling / my 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."**

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 election sites.

While holding a competitive 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 hiccups.”

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 Day.

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

Day crowds but determined to 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 hours-long 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 testing.

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

Democratic challenger, former Vice President Joe Biden, encountered lines when they went to cast early ballots on Friday. Some described the decision to vote this year as one that

required deliberation and even courage.

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

County Board of Elections early 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 safeguard his health. **AP**

Biden warns Trump wants to scrap health law

Washington: Joe Biden is warning Michigan voters that President Donald Trump wants to strip health insurance from tens of millions of Americans with preexisting conditions.

Campaigning outside Detroit on Friday, the Democratic nominee said Trump promises to protect the insurance eligibility of all Americans but in reality wants to scrap the 2010 Affordable Care Act.

That law for the first time set a federal standard that requires insurers to offer health insurance to customers regardless of their health history.

Biden says Trump “can only see from his penthouse” in Manhattan and doesn’t see most Americans’ daily struggles.

A 2017 study from the Department of Health and Human Services found that as many as 133 million Americans could be defined as having a “preexisting” condition by the standards insurers used before the 2010 law.

Biden noted that the number could rise in the wake of the pandemic. **AP**

Obama to campaign for Biden, Kamala

Macon: Former US president Barack Obama will campaign for Democratic party presidential candidate Joe Biden in Pennsylvania next week, the Biden campaign has said.

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) president 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. **PTI**

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 Aliyev, 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. **AP**

NZPM 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 promised not to take her new supporters for granted and to



govern for all New Zealanders.

“We are living in an increasingly 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 required to wear masks or social distance. **AP**



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

AP

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 Prayuth Chan-ocha to leave office, the constitution 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. **AP**

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL, SKIMS MC&H, BEMINA & SKIMS, SOURA, SRINAGAR
Tel: 0194-2402617 Ext: 2159, email: mechanicalskims@gmail.com

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:

Sr#	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (in lacs)
1.	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Inspecting and Commissioning of various types lifts along with CMC for 03-years at New Maternity Hospital, SKIMS.	175.00

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 details.

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-II) 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 of issue of LOI or Allotment Order.
x.	Budget Head	Ongoing works for the year 2020-21

No: SIMS 139 EX/MECH/2020-21/2485-95-5484-87
Dated: 15.10.2020**Sd/- Executive Engineer**
Mechanical, SKIMS

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

AP ■ OTTAWA

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

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

“The Chinese ambassador has decided to engage in beligerent 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.

Trudeau also said China is 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 national security.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE			
Northern Railway Central Hospital, New Delhi for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders through www.ireps.gov.in for the following items. For detail information please log on to webs/e-t www.ireps.gov.in			
Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Tender Opening date
83201029A	Rate contract for inj. Cetuximab 500 mg	100	13.11.2020
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			2264/20

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY KANKE, RANCHI-834006 (JHARKHAND)	
NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR OUTSOURCHING OF AGENCY FOR HOUSEKEEPING SERVICES AT CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY, RANCHI	
Sealed tenders are invited from the eligible bidders for the outsourcing of agency for 'Housekeeping Services' at Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi. Tender documents can be purchased from the Establishment Section of Central Institute of Psychiatry, Kanke, Ranchi-834006 by submitting tender fee (Rs. 300/- Rupees Three Hundred) in the form of Demand Draft favoring 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 10.11.2020 upto 3.00 P.M. (Tuesday)	
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	

<div>  <div> AXIS BANK Controlling office: Axis House, Bombay Dyeing Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025. </div> </div>		
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 of actual payment and/or realization due to the secured creditor from Ms. Honey Roy & Mrs. Bani Roy. The reserve price will be Rs. 18,80,820/- and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 1,88,082/- .		
Account Number	Location / Details of the Immovable Property/Secured Assets possessed and put for sale	Encumbrances, if any known to the Bank.
PHR0792 03241253 & HTR0792 03280067	Residential Unit Bearing No. H/09-1, Admeasuring Super Area, 1200 Square Feet Situated At 9th Floor, Tower No. 5(H), In The Residential Scheme/Complex Known As "Redwood Residency", Situated In Village Faridpur,Sector-78, Tehsil Tigaoon & District Faridabad, Haryana Alongwith Proportiate, Undivided Imperible 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.	
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the secured creditor's website i.e. https://www.axisbank.com/auction-notices/		
Date : 18-10-2020 Place: Noida		Sd/-, Authorized Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.

WESTERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM
Tender notice no. BCT/20-21/207 dtd. 24.09.2020 & B C T /2 0 - 2 1 / 2 0 8 d t d . : 24.09.2020 due for opening on 20.10.2020 Should be Treated as CANCELLED D-0363
Like us on :  facebook.com/WesternRly

SBFC
SBFC FINANCE PVT.LTD. (Erstwhile Small Business Fincredit Indvt Pvt. Ltd.) Unit No. 103, First Floor C & B Square, Sangam Complex, 127, Andheri-Kurla Road, Village Chakala,Andheri (East), Mumbai -400059 Telephone: +91 22 - 67875300 Fax: +91 22 67875334 www.sbfci.com Corporate Identity Number: U67130MH2008PTC178270
PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform & notify the Public about the relocation of Laxmi Nagar, 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,Property 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 Dear All,
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 Wina Private Limited and Elxiir Benidictine LLP with effect from September 12, 2020,
He is not authorised to represent the aforesaid companies and me in any matter whatsoever. Any person dealing with him shall do so at his own risk and responsibility Sd/- Ms. Anki Bhulia Director

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

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 hiatus.

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

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 pregnancy. **AP**

Turkey’s Black Sea gas find reaches 405bn cubic meters

Istanbul: Turkey’s president has announced the discovery of an additional 85 billion cubic meters of natural gas reserves in the Black Sea.

Speaking aboard the drill ship Fatih on Saturday, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said explorations in the Tuna-1 well were complete after reaching a depth of 4775 meters (5,222 yards).

In August, Turkey announced the discovery 320 billion cubic meters of natural gas reserves off the Black Sea coast, which energy analysts considered notable but not large enough to turn Turkey into a regional energy hub.

Ankara says it plans to extract and use the gas by 2023, hoping to eventually decrease its dependence on energy imports. Last year’s imports totaled more than \$41 billion.

Turkey has increased its mar-

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 neighboring Greece over the delimitation of continental shelves.

“We will continue our search for hydrocarbon resources in the Black Sea and the Mediterranean,” Erdogan said.

This week, Turkey redeployed its 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. **AP**



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



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

AB deVilliers again

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

PTI ■ DUBAI

AB 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 pads.

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 a fine catch.

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

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 six.

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 over.

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 in four overs.

Morris gave RCB their first

'AB is IPL's most impactful player'

PTI ■ DUBAI

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 presentation ceremony.

"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 Capitals.

"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 (Devidutt Padikkal) has batted beautifully. Finch (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 season."

"(Chris) Morris has been brilliant, just that energy 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-



Skipper Virat Kohli reacts after RCB win

IPLT20.com

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 skipper has been in rampaging form this IPL.

"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."

"Last game I didn't perform my role as well as I should have, but this time I did. It's a cat and mouse game, I always respect the bowlers. If they bowl well to me, they'll have the upper hand."

RR captain Steve Smith was crestfallen after yet another defeat, their sixth in nine games.

"Sure it is a hard pill to swallow. Just got AB'd there. That's two in a row we were in the box seat to win but didn't. Disappointing," he said.

"I think it was a good score on a slow wicket. I thought we built the pressure pretty well and it took a pretty special innings to take RCB home."

breakthrough when he had the subbed Stokes caught down the leg side.

Uthappa scored two more boundaries, off pacer Navdeep Saini, before his slow sweep went into the hands of the deep mid-wicket fielder off the bowling of leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal.

Sanju Samson got going with a six that landed into the second

tier of the Dubai International 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

the RR innings.

Chahal, meanwhile, bowled two front foot no balls which were struck for boundaries by Smith, giving his team 10 runs and two additional deliveries.

After RR scored 19 runs in the long 18th over bowled by Chahal, Tewatia hit Udana for a six and four to collect 15 from the penultimate over.

KKR aim to sort out batting woes

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

MATCHES	18
SUNISERS HYDERABAD	07
KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS	11
Stats: Faisel Features	

A new captain in the saddle, Kolkata Knight 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 Indians, Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bangalore with four wins and as many defeats. But if the two-time champions want to seal a play-off spot, their batsmen need to step up, shrug off their inconsistencies and win matches as 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, Shubman 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 prolific 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

bowling action and he has missed two matches since then.

The Sunrisers, who occupy the fifth spot on the points table with just three wins from eight outings, are also struggling. With the injuries rulling 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 for the team's success.

side here on Sunday.

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.

Mumbai Indians have 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 suffered an eight-wicket defeat on Friday.

Table-toppers MI boast of top batsmen such as captain Rohit Sharma (251 runs) and his opening partner Quinton de Kock (269) and both are in good touch, while the middle-order

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Faf Du Plessis hit his fourth half-century of the season before Ambati Rayudu produced another useful cameo as a collective batting effort propelled Chennai Super Kings to 179 for four against Delhi Capitals, here on Saturday.

Du Plessis (58) added 87 runs with Shane Watson (36) after early fall of Sam Curran (0), setting it up nicely for the CSK.

Rayudu hit 45 off 25 balls while Ravindra 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 the stadium.

They added 50 runs in 3.3 overs during their unbeaten fifth wicket partnership.

While Watson relied on



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

Young pacer Tushar Deshpande bowled a tight line with decent speed and was

rewarded when Curran, without measuring the bowler, swung his arms but just managed a top-edge that was taken by Anrich Nortje (2/44).

The ball was stopping a bit on the slow Sharjah wicket but after four quiet overs, Du Plessis creamed off 14 runs from Nortje's first over, hitting his compatriot for a six and two fours.

Watson, using his experience, 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 not let off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin take

Top meets the bottom

PTI ■ DUBAI

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

side here on Sunday.

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.

Mumbai Indians have 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 suffered an eight-wicket defeat on Friday.

Table-toppers MI boast of top batsmen such as captain Rohit Sharma (251 runs) and his opening partner Quinton de Kock (269) and both are in good touch, while the middle-order

is manned by the likes of 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 Chahal 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.

The self-proclaimed Universe Boss made his first appearance this IPL with a bang, hitting a 45-ball 53, a

knock that was laced with five sixes and a four in KXIP's win over Virat Kohli's Royal Challengers Bangalore.



advantage of the slow surface, taking easy runs off him.

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

Format C-2

(For political party to publish in website, newspapers, TV)

Declaration about criminal antecedents of candidates set up by the party

(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.)

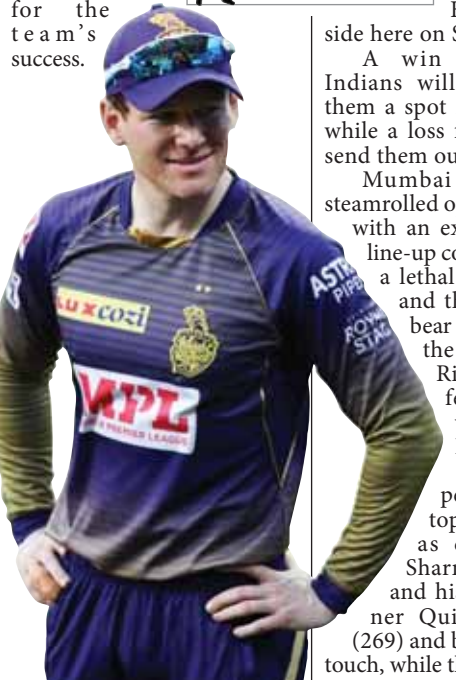
Name of Political Party: **Bharatiya Janata Party**

*Name of Election: **Bye-Election to 102-Tirtol (SC) Assembly Constituency**

Name of State/UT: **Odisha**

1	2	3	4	5			
Sl. No.	Name of Constituency	Name of Candidate	(A) Pending criminal cases	(B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences			
			Name of Court, Case No. & status of the case(s)	Sections of the Acts concerned & brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed	Maximum Punishment imposed
1	102- Tirtol (SC) AC	Rajkishore Behera	SDJM, Jagatsinghpur, GR Case No.394/2007	u/s 294, 147, 336, 427, 149 of IPC and u/s 05 of Loudspeaker & fire works and sec 04 of PDDP Act, Political demonstration, criminal cases	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
2	102- Tirtol (SC) AC	Rajkishore Behera	SDJM, Jagatsinghpur, GR Case No.261/2009,	u/s 188 IPC Political demonstration, criminal cases	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
3	102- Tirtol (SC) AC	Rajkishore Behera	SDJM, Jagatsinghpur, GR Case No.263/2009	u/s 188 IPC Political demonstration, criminal cases	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
4	102- Tirtol (SC) AC	Rajkishore Behera	SDJM Jagatsinghpur, GR Case No.406/2013	u/s 143, 186, 283, 341, 294, 431, 506, 149 IPC and section 4 of PDDP Act, Political demonstration, criminal cases	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

*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.





the pioneer agenda

FROM THE INSIDE

A super thriller all the way

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

2



4

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

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



Photos: Ayandrali Dutta

Will this year see the beginning of the return of the Durga Puja in its original form? SAIMI SATTAR discusses the idea with Kolkata denizens to find out more

THE HOMECOMING

This 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 41-year-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 likely 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 its call.

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-of-mouth. “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 dekho at the *prati-ma*. 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 *dhumochi naach* made popular in the non-Bengali speaking areas by countless Bollywood films as well as *pandal*-hopping but it is the



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 LIKELY TO WIN AN AWARD THAT YEAR. THE LAMENT WAS THAT THE EMPHASIS WAS NOW ON AN EXTRANEANOUS JOURNEY WHILE THE FESTIVAL WAS MORE OF AN INWARD CRUISE OF DEVOTION WHICH HAD GONE COMPLETELY MISSING

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...

For 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 video-record 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.

In Bhyrappa's *Uttara Kaanda*, Sita looks back on her life—abandoned 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.

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



Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Monday

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Tuesday

Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Blue
Lucky day Sunday

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Thursday

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Test of astrologer/astrology

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