

WORLD 6
NZ PM ARDERN WINS
2ND TERM IN LANDSLIDE**MONEY 7**
INDIA IS GRADUALLY MOVING TOWARDS
AN ECONOMY BASED ON CLEAN ENERGY**SPORT 8**
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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-a-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 that the virus is genetically sta-



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

ble and there is no major mutation in the virus.

The PMO said three vac-

one is in Phase-III and Indian 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 category.

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-



ures 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 airsoft gun, which fires plastic pellets.

Kangana, sister booked for 'creating hatred'

On Bollywood casting director Sayyed plea, court orders probe

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Mumbai Police on Saturday registered an FIR against Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut and her sister Rangoli Chandel following an order by metropolitan magistrate court for allegedly promoting enmity between different communities.

Kangana found herself in the dock as the Mumbai court directed the Bandra police to investigate a complaint alleging that she and her sister Rangoli Chandel through their tweets had tried to create "hatred" and "communal tensions" between Hindus and Muslims.

After hearing a complaint filed against Kangana and her sister Rangoli Chandel by Bollywood casting director and fitness trainer Munawwarali alias Sahil A Sayyed,



Metropolitan Magistrate Jaidev Ghule of Bandra 12th court ordered investigations under section 156(3) of CrPc into Sayyed's complaint alleging among other thing that both Kangana and Rangoli had tried to create "hatred" and "communal tensions" between Hindus and Muslims and that Kangana had tried to lower the image of Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and created disaffection among the people against the Maharashtra Government.

9.9 lakh lt liquor seized in dry Bihar ahead of election

1,139 illegal guns, drugs recovered in election-related raids and searches

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Despite prohibition imposed in the State, over 9.89 lakh litres of liquor have been seized in Bihar so far ahead of the first phase of polls for 71 Assembly seats. And not just booze, authorities have also seized 1,139 illegal guns from across the State, known for its illegal gun factories.

While more than 2.54 lakh people having criminal background have been put on notice, there has been a seizure of ₹16.81 crore of unaccounted money, including about 90 lakh Nepalese currency. Raids and checks have also yielded a huge quantity of

contraband drugs including 956,625 kg poppy, 106,825 kg hashish, 10.5 kg poppy rolls, 40 packet smacks, 150 gram brown sugar. The revelation was made in a seizure report of the Election Commission (EC). Over 200 "expenditure sensitive pockets" have also been identified by the EC in the State, which shares its borders with Nepal.

The flying squads, static surveillance team and other agencies have seized 9,89,973 litres of liquors including "mahua" (Madhuca indica) made liquor from different locations, mostly rural areas.

This is the first assembly polls in dry Bihar. "The liquor mafia in the dry State has suddenly become more active in s m u g -

gling alcohol as it is often used by politicians to lure voters", officials added.

"The drug consumption has significantly increased after a statewide ban has been imposed on alcohol. As a result, an increase in the secretive supply and sale of narcotics like brown sugar has been observed", officials said.

The income tax flying squad has recovered ₹16,81,29,023 unaccounted money, of which about 90 lakh are Nepalese currency notes.

The special surveillance team and field surveillance unit has recovered about ₹11.72 crore during checking of vehicles from different locations.

"More than 2,100 gun licences have been cancelled", said an EC official. About 2,56,447 having criminal backgrounds or bad characters have been put on notice across the State. This means if anything happens, they would be behind bars.



CAPSULE

9 KILLED IN PILIBHIT JEEP-BUS ACCIDENT

Pilibhit: At least 9 people lost their lives and more than 30 were injured in a collision between a jeep and an Uttar Pradesh roadways bus in Pilibhit on Saturday, police said. The accident occurred in Purnapur Police Station area of the district, a senior police official said.

BENGAL WOMAN LYNCHED ON 'THEFT' SUSPICION

Canning: A group of people beat a 41-year-old woman to death and injured her husband in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district on suspicion that they were thieves, police said on Saturday.

BJP LEADER SHOT IN UP AHEAD OF BYPOLL

Firozabad (UP): A local BJP leader was shot dead by bike-borne assailants in Firozabad district of Uttar Pradesh ahead of the November 3 Assembly bypoll in the area, following which three people were detained, police said on Saturday.



HOME THEATRE

Must watch for dog parents

PUP ACADEMY 2

Netflix
***ing: Don lake, 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 Saxena

Real emotions are revealed

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 Saxena



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*.

Estatic 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 Jumanji, 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.

Devoleda 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. It 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 Manek, 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 Navratri Menu specially curated for your Festive Indulgence! at Select CITYWALK. **Falahari Malai Paneer Tikka** (Fresh Cottage Cheese chunks in *vrat* special creamy marinade of cashew nut, cream & cardamom; Cooked in tandoor)

Price: ₹310 plus GST
Navratri 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



U'khand revises Covid deaths TOLL NOW STANDS AT 924

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In a development which puts up a question mark on the reporting system of the health department and its management of Covid-19 in Uttarakhand, the state health department sharply increased the death toll from the disease on Saturday. The death toll which a day earlier was on 829 was revised to 924 on Saturday. The department explained that 89 deaths which had occurred in the past were not reported by many hospitals.

The department said that out of these 89 deaths reported late, 28 were from Kailash hospital, 24 from Mahant Indresh hospital, 21 from Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) hospital, five from Himalayan hospital, three from district hospital Roorkee and two each from Max hospital Dehradun, Vinay Vishal Hospital and Jaya Maxwell hospital Haridwar. The department reported the death of six



patients on the day.

The Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Uttarakhand state Covid-19 control room, Dr Abhishek Tripathi said that some hospitals are late in providing details of deaths in their hospitals. He warned that action against these hospitals can be taken. However the

private hospitals are denying the allegation that death details are being provided late. The director of Kailash hospital, Pawan Sharma told The Pioneer that the hospital is regularly updating the deaths to the health department.

Meanwhile, the tally of Covid-19 patients in

Health dept adds 89 deaths in tally which it claims were not reported earlier by hospitals

itive front the recovery rate from the disease has climbed to 88.16 per cent and the infection rate is 6.69 per cent. The authorities reported 165 patients from Dehradun, 117 from Haridwar, 94 from Nainital, 48 from Pauri, 27 from Almora, 73 from Chamoli, 41 from Pauri, 26 from Rudrapur, 31 from Uttarkashi, 27 from Almora and 22 from Tehri Garhwal.

The State now has 5,538 active patients of the disease. Dehradun district with 1,711 active cases is at top of table while Haridwar with 775 active cases is on second spot. Nainital has 563, Pauri 422, Udham Singh Nagar 364, Uttarkashi 322, Tehri 274, Rudrapur 221, Chamoli 206, Champawat 195, Pithoragarh 194 and Almora 182 active cases of the disease. With 109 active cases of Covid-19, Bageshwar is at the bottom of the table of active cases in Uttarakhand.

Uttarakhand mounted to 57,648 on Saturday with the State health department reporting 606 cases of the disease.

The authorities discharged 665 patients of the disease after their recovery from different hospitals of the State. A total of 50820 patients have so far recovered from the disease. On a pos-

HPC meet elicits strong objection from Chair, calls it unauthorised

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A meeting of the high powered committee (HPC) on the Char Dham all-weather road project on Saturday was termed unauthorised by the committee's chairman Ravi Chopra even as the member secretary of the committee held the meeting in the absence of the chairman and four members.

While Chopra pointed out that the meeting had been called by the HPC member secretary and Garhwal commissioner Ravinath Raman on the directions of the chief secretary and not on the directions of the committee chairman, Raman stated that the HPC chairman and other members had been requested to attend the meeting.

It will be recalled that earlier in September, a Supreme Court bench had ordered the Centre to adhere to a March 2018 circular of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and reduce the width of the roads under the ambitious



Char Dham project from 12 metres to 5.5 metres.

The Supreme Court appointed HPC is monitoring the construction of the Char Dham road project and ensuring that the same is done as per the directions of the apex court. On Thursday, the HPC member secretary called a meeting of the committee on Saturday on the directions of the chief secretary.

According to Chopra, the member secretary cannot call any meeting of the HPC without the concurrence of the Chair. Stating that as a mem-

ber secretary, Raman is accountable for the HPC which is an independent body created by the Supreme Court and answerable only to the court, Chopra added that the member secretary had no authority to impose any other's directions for its functioning.

He stressed that the meeting held on Saturday was unauthorised and in violation of the apex court orders. "As member secretary your duty is to carry out the orders of the Supreme Court and not the chief secretary. I have not agreed to your calling the meeting on October 17. The said meeting has no locus. It is without any authority," wrote Chopra in an email to Raman.

According to sources, the working of the HPC was discussed in the meeting on Saturday. After the said meeting, Chopra said that it was highly objectionable and a sign of the state government's wrongful infringement in the functioning of the HPC.

BJP'S NEW STATE OFFICE TO BE BUILT IN TRADITIONAL STYLE

Nadda unveils foundation virtually, CM attends Bhumi Pujan

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National president JP Nadda virtually unveiled the foundation stone for the party's new state office here on Saturday. The BJP state president Banshidhar Bhagat, chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat and others participated in the Bhumi Pujan held on the occasion at the Ring Road.

Speaking on the occasion, Nadda recalled his closed connection to Uttarakhand. He said that all facilities will be taken care of in the party's new office. Requirements for media, social media and digital library will also be addressed. He said,

"One major difference between the BJP and other parties is that for us the party is the

family but in the other case, the family is the party." Pointing at the importance of the party office, he said that during the Covid-19 pandemic, the party had successfully conducted its virtual rallies from its existing office. Referring to the importance of the digital and social media he said that in the coming times, the party will also create WhatsApp groups at the booth level.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat said that the party's new state office will display the culture and traditional architecture of Uttarakhand.

He said, "Since forming our Government, we have made an effort to revive the utilisation of local resources and traditional

architectural styles. Provisions have also been made by the government to encourage people to adopt the traditional architectural styles which will not only benefit them but also provide employment to numerous craftsmen and artisans while lending a unique traditional identity to the buildings."

Rawat added during events at the existing state office of the party at Balbir Road, the locals face inconvenience in movement. Stating that though the locals had not complained about this the CM apologised to them for the inconvenience.

Due to limited space, even the party workers used to face difficulties.

However, the party's new office will be ready in a year which will prove considerably

beneficial to the party members while also resolving the inconvenience faced by residents of Balbir Road.

The BJP State president Banshidhar Bhagat said that all aspects related to the party workers will be taken care of in the new office. The new office building will have seating capacity for 500 people, 55 rooms and four halls.

Union Education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', MPs Ajay Tamta, Ajay Bhatt, Anil Baluni and other office bearers of the party attended the event virtually from New Delhi. State minister Dhan Singh Rawat, MPs Teerath Singh Rawat, Mala Rajya Laxmi Shah and various office bearers were present at the event in Dehradun.



Harish Rawat raises issue of Industrial unemployment



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

To attract the attention of the government on increasing unemployment in the industrial sector, former chief minister and general secretary of All India Congress Party (AICC) Harish Rawat took out a 'Parikrama Yatra' of SIIDCUL Haridwar on Saturday.

The Congress leader did a circumvallation of the industrial area with a select group after offering prayers at a temple on the day.

He said that the government has brought many anti labour policies by amending the labour laws.

He said the objective of his Yatra is to attract the attention of the state government on the plight of the labourers.

Rawat demanded that the State Government should enter into a MoU with the industrial units so that the vacant posts in these units are reserved for the local youth.

He said that locals have the inherent right over the jobs in

the industrial units. The Congress leader said that many industrial units are engaging in harassment of the labourers.

"Some units have reduced the salary while some have increased the working hours. Government should look into this. It appears that the political parties don't have a broad understanding on employment generation," he said.

Rawat added that the Congress party would make employment generation a major election issue. He said that on

coming to power the Congress party would fill all the vacant posts in the government and it would revive all such posts which were declared dead by the BJP government. Rawat said that self employment would be made the major objective of the Government and for it necessary constitutional and financial measures would be taken.

The president of Uttarakhand Kisan Congress Committee Sushil Rathi and trade union leaders were present on the occasion.

Undertakes 'Parikrama Yatra' of SIIDCUL, Haridwar for drawing attention of Govt

Citizens to protest today against planned felling of 10k trees for airport expansion

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Various public groups and concerned citizens have come together to oppose the proposed felling of nearly 10,000 trees in a part of the Shivalik elephant reserve for the planned expansion of Dehradun airport.

Apart from an online petition which has garnered thousands of signatures, concerned citizens have planned to tie Raksha Sutra threads on the trees in the Thano range on Sunday.

Meanwhile, registering its strong opposition to the tree felling plan, student activist group, Making a Difference by Being the Difference (MAD) pointed out that the draft Environmental Impact Assessment for the same was proposed by the project consultant falsely recording that no Schedule-I fauna has been reported in the area and that there is an absence of dense forest in the said area.

The group members also pointed out that the said expansion could land a fatal blow to the traditional moment of ele-

phants from the western part of the State right up till the Tanakpur border with Nepal.

MAD has already registered a strong protest on the same issue in a meeting with the principal chief conservator of forest, Jai Raj and has handed over a representation to him.

The organisation is rallying with other sister organisations to create a moment to stop anything that fatally impacts the environmental balance of the already perturbed Doon Valley.

Pointing out that the 1989 notification letter and spirit tries to protect the environment

and ecology of the Doon valley, MAD has announced its opposition to the project.

MAD also plans to involve the Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board on the observation made by the project consultant of the airport expansion project, so as to get all agencies to work and solve the problem.

Not opposing better facilities, MAD has pointed out that it was always open to the Government to purchase land in Doiwala for any such project, instead of felling green trees.



GUEST COLUMN



Dr BKS Sanjay



Dr Gaurav Sanjay

The link between poverty and road traffic accidents

social and financial suffering of the Road traffic accident (RTA) victims. We feel that road traffic accidents and increase in poverty are interlinked and therefore, we want to highlight the impact of RTA on the society and the nation.

More than a million people die worldwide every year on the roads after suffering from RTA. This situation is quite terrifying and serious in India. Almost 5 lakh accidents occur in our country annually. According to the World Health Organisation 2019 report, low and middle income countries account for more than 90% of road traffic related deaths, despite having only around 60 % of the world's registered vehicles. Although our country is having only 1% of the world's total registered vehicles it

accounts for more than 11% of the world's RTAs. One can imagine how grim the situation is likely to become in the near future as number of vehicles is increasing manifold in our fast growing economy.

As our country's per capita income is rising, so is the number of accidents. Road accidents do not differentiate between the sections of the society, rich or poor, skilled or unskilled, old or young. However, statistics show that majority of those who are affected, are in the age group of 20-40 years and are usually the bread earners of their families.

Poverty and road traffic injuries are strongly interlinked. Poor people are more likely to be involved in a road traffic crash, and the economic impact on people with low incomes can

be more significant, pushing people deeper into poverty or limiting their future potential to be economically stable. Given that RTA related deaths and serious injuries are largely preventable, road safety should be considered an issue that can contribute to poverty alleviation at national and household level.

According to a recent UN and World Bank report, almost one fourth of the people in India are still living below the poverty line. Those who cannot afford food three times a day cannot afford costly medical treatment. In India, 50-70% of the hospital expenses are met by the patient even in most of the government-funded hospitals and almost 100% from their pocket if it entails a private hospital.

After the traffic accidents, everybody's financial condi-

tion becomes poorer than before. About 50% of the families either borrow money from someone or sell their meagre assets, like land, house, cattle, vehicle, ornaments etc for the treatment of their beloved. But unfortunately, in spite of the best available treatment in our country one-fourth to a half remain temporarily or permanently disabled and become liability to the family from being an asset at a point of time.

It is necessary for all of us to spread awareness on preventing these accidents, because they have taken the form of an epidemic. If something is not done it is bound to go out of control. We have delivered 193 free public awareness lectures and spread the message among thousand of students and other citizens in Uttarakhand and

neighbouring states.

Poor people are more prone to traffic accidents because usually they are pedestrians or using cycles as the mode of their transportation because they cannot afford motorised vehicles. But whenever they meet with an accident they are usually hit by a motorised vehicle and the impact is usually fatal because they don't have any protective shields or safety equipment as the motorised vehicles have installed in them. Once they sustain the accidents then it is difficult for them to get the best medical care due to their financial constraints and the associated poverty. Particularly in India these people usually go to the government hospitals which are mostly not well equipped to deal with such injuries.

Road accidents push families into the poverty through the loss of money spent on prolonged medical treatment which is common in orthopaedic injuries. We would like to cite an example of a 25 year old standing on the side of the road when he was hit by an SUV from behind and sustained open fractures of leg and thigh which was treated at multiple hospitals and developed complications. At this stage patient came to us to get treated and became well only after five years of the initial injury. This is not the only one but there are many such examples the authors have seen.

The incidence of RTAs can be reduced significantly if the number of vehicles on the road is also reduced. The Covid-19 pandemic has been a boon to

reduce the road traffic fatalities as media report state that the incidence of traffic accidents and resultant fatalities has been reduced by almost 50% from March to September 2020 in comparison to last year.

According to our research, 90% of these accidents occur due to the driver's negligence. The results of Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act 2019 are visible as informed by Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari in Parliament in March 2020. If people follow the traffic rules the incidence of road traffic accidents and associated fatalities will reduce significantly and so will the associated poverty.

(The writers are orthopaedic surgeons based in Dehradun)

Jeep, bus collision leaves 9 dead, 30 hurt in Pilibhit



Pilibhit (UP): At least 9 people lost their lives and more than 30 were injured in a collision between a jeep and an Uttar Pradesh roadways bus in Pilibhit on Saturday, police said.

The accident occurred in Purnapur Police Station area of the district, a senior police official said.

Superintendent of Police, Pilibhit, Jaiprakash Yadav said, "In an early morning accident involving a jeep and a roadways bus, nine persons were killed, while over 30 persons were injured." He added that the deceased include passengers of the bus as well as the jeep.

"Seven of the passengers died on the spot and the

injured are undergoing treatment at the district hospital. The ill-fated bus was coming from Lucknow to Pilibhit, and most of the passengers are from Pilibhit and nearby areas," he said.

Police officials said that the accident site is approximately 40 kilometres away from the district headquarters. **Agencies**

Woman lynched on suspicion of being thief in Bengal, 4 held

Canning (WB): A group of people beat a 41-year-old woman to death and injured her husband in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district on suspicion that they were thieves, police said on Saturday.

Four persons were arrested in connection with the incident which happened at Chinepukur village under the jurisdiction of Kashipur police station on Friday.

According to the complaint lodged by the deceased woman's husband, Ali Hossein Molla, a total of 14 people beat him up with sticks and rods accusing him of stealing something from the house of one of them.

When Ali protested, the accused persons who were his neighbours assaulted his wife, Sufia Bibi, till she fell unconscious.

Local people took the couple to a local primary health centre from where the woman was shifted to a hospital in Kolkata. She was declared brought dead there, police said.

An investigation was initiated after the complaint was lodged and the main accused along with three others were arrested, police said adding that efforts are on to nab the others named in the FIR. **PTI**

BJP leader shot dead in UP's Firozabad ahead of Assembly bypoll, 3 detained

Firozabad (UP): A local BJP leader was shot dead by bike-borne assailants in Firozabad district of Uttar Pradesh ahead of the November 3 Assembly bypoll in the area, following which three people were detained, police said on Saturday.

D K Gupta, 46, was shot at in the Nagla Beech area Friday evening when he was returning home after closing his shop. He was rushed to a hospital where he died, they said.

The police said three people have been detained for questioning based on a complaint filed by Gupta's family.

The area falls under the Tundla assembly constituency, where a by-election is scheduled for November 3.

Among those detained is a person named Viresh Tomar with whom Gupta had some rivalry, they said, adding the duo even had an exchange of words on Facebook recently.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sachindra Patel said, "All the angles are being thoroughly examined. Police teams were formed and Viresh

Tomar and two others were detained for questioning yesterday night itself," he added.

The family members staged a protest demanding justice. The slain BJP leader's sister, who sat on the dharana along with others, alleged that the Vaishya samaj was being targeted. They said they would not allow the cremation till justice was not done.

Later local MP Chandra Sen Jadaun and Firozabad Sadar seat MLA Manish Asija reached the spot and pacified them on the promise that those responsible for the attack would be punished and the family would be taken care of by the party.

The cremation was then carried out in police presence.

The MP and the MLA also participated in the funeral procession after paying homage on behalf of the party by placing the party flag on the body.

Senior police officers had reached the spot and a large number of security personnel were deployed in the area. **PTI**

K'taka floods: Dy CM breaks down over inability to visit home district

Bengaluru: Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister Govind M Karjole on Saturday said he would not be able to travel 600 kms to carry out survey of flood-ravaged north Karnataka region which is worst-hit due to heavy rain in the last fortnight.

Karjole's emotional outburst assumes significance, in the wake of his becoming a butt of jokes on social media sites, with his political rivals attacking him for taking part in the election campaign in favour of the BJP's candidate in Sira which is going for bypolls on November 3 instead of visiting his district Bagalkote, which is one of the worst-affected districts.

Karjole and his family members had just recovered from Covid-19. He, along with his family members, had been hit by the virus last month and recovered only last week. **IANS**

Ambassador V Madhavan Nair celebrates 101st b'day this week

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

He could be the only surviving Ambassador in the country who scored a 'faultless and brilliant' 101 not out in his bout with life. Ambassador V Madhavan Nair, born in the famous Chettur family of Kerala in 1919 had a silent but joyous 101st birthday in company of his wife and daughter in New Delhi this week. The new generation may not have heard of this illustrious son of India as he belonged to another era.

Nair entered the Indian Civil Service in 1943 and retired in 1977 after serving the country for 34 years. The career took him to various countries in Asia, Africa and Europe. The period 1950s to 1970s was known for coups in some of



Ambassador VM Nair with wife Krishna and daughter Parvati

the newly liberated countries and he had the privilege to watch these developments from close quarters.

He was in Alexandria as India's Charge d' Affaires when the then monarch King Farouk was overthrown in a coup d'état by

Mohammed Naguib and Gamal Abdel Nasser in 1952. Naguib was overthrown by Nasser himself and put under house arrest for decades. The King escaped to Italy by his personal yacht!

While he was serving as India's Ambassador to Morocco and Tunisia, Nair was to witness an unsuccessful bid by the Morocco Army to upstage King Hassan II. The Ambassador could be the only Indian to get a special privilege to see the tooth of Budha preserved in Candy and that too out of turn. The Budha's tooth is taken out for public display only once in seven years but the royal visit of the King of Nepal to the island nation offered him the rare chance to get a glimpse of it!

The Ambassador has sweet memories about Cambodia and Phnom Penh which he describes as a big town but scarcely a city. He had special relations with Prince Norodom Sihanouk and till day remembers clearly the sailing expedition undertook through River Mekong.

To some of the questions put to him by The Pioneer, the Ambassador chose just one query for answering. When asked why India was always under attack by most of its neighbours, he just replied; "Is it the only country to be attacked by neighbours?"

Nair is one not to rest with his laurels. He is still obsessed with the world of diplomacy and wants to be a diplomat in his next birth too.

Central team reaches Kerala as number of cases crosses 96K mark

KOCHI/CHENNAI: As the total number of Covid-19 patients undergoing treatment in various hospitals in the State breached the 96,000 mark on Saturday, a special Central medical team flew down to Thiruvananthapuram to take stock of the critical situation in Kerala.

The department of health on Saturday diagnosed 9,016 new Covid-19 patients out of which 7,464 contracted the pandemic through contact. The State has failed in increasing the number of patients while the Test Positivity Rate stood at 17.3 per cent on Saturday. Malappuram district diagnosed 1,519 patients on Saturday which is higher than

Chennai in Tamil Nadu where 1,132 new cases were detected on Saturday.

The number of active patients across Tamil Nadu came down to 40,192 by Saturday. The directorate of health and preventive medicine in its bulletin issued on Saturday said that 4,295 new patients were diagnosed in the State.

There were 26 deaths reported from Kerala while the fatality rate in Tamil Nadu came down to 57. A comparative study of the details released by the Governments of the State show that situation in Kerala has become dangerous while Tamil Nadu has succeeded in containing the spreading of the pandemic. **PNS**

Mithun Chakraborty's son Mahaakshay booked in rape, cheating case

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Oshiwara police have registered a case against yesteryear actor Mithun Chakraborty's son and actor Mahaakshay alias Mimoh based on a complaint of rape and cheating filed by a 38-year-old woman.

In a complaint lodged against Mithun's son Mimoh

under sections 376 (rape), 376 (2) (n) (repeated rape), 328 (causing hurt by means of poison), 417 (cheating), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 34 (common intention) of IPC, the complainant has named Mithun's ex-wife Yogita Bali as a co-accused in the case.

In her complaint, the 38-year-old woman stated that she was in a relationship with

Mimoh from 2015 to 2018 and during this period he had promised to marry her.

She alleged that during their relationship, she had gone to see Mimoh's flat at Adarsh Nagar in Andheri West, which he had purchased in 2015. "At that time, he offered me a spiked soft drink that had been spiked and forced her to have physical relations with him," he added. The complainant went on to allege that when she became pregnant, Mimoh

asked her to abort the baby and gave her pills.

"The woman said she used to ask Mimoh about their marriage. But in January 2018, he told her that he cannot marry her, which led to an altercation between them. She said when she called him, his mother Yogita Bali threatened her," a senior police officer said, quoting the contents of the complaint lodged by the woman.

According to the complainant, she subsequently shifted to Delhi with her brother to stay with their family friend. "In Delhi, she lodged a complaint against Mimoh and his mother Yogita Bali with the Oshiwara police station in July this year.

Based on the complaint under IPC sections 376 (rape) and other sections, the Oshiwara police are investigating the case.

In March 2020, the Delhi High Court had asked the woman to file her complaint in the court, where the offence had taken place. Subsequently, she lodged a complaint against Mimoh and his mother Yogita Bali with the Oshiwara police station in July this year.

Based on the complaint under IPC sections 376 (rape) and other sections, the Oshiwara police are investigating the case.



Residents wade through a flooded street in Hyderabad on Saturday

PTI

Rebuilding temple: Security stepped up along Tripura-Mizoram border

Agartala/Aizaw: Tripura and Mizoram beefed up security and promulgated prohibitory orders, even as the Tripura authorities stopped reconstruction of a temple at the disputed Phuldungsei village along the inter-state border.

Mizoram Chief Secretary Lalnunmawia Chuango on Saturday said that in view of the public resentment, the state government has taken precautionary measures along the inter-state borders with

Tripura. "Tripura Home Secretary is yet to respond to our Home Secretary Lalbiakhsang's letter over the inter-state border issue," Chuango said.

According to Mizoram's Mamit district officials, prohibitory orders under section 144 Cr P were clamped in Phuldungsei, Zampui and Zomantlang villages in view of the proposed construction of a temple in the area by an indigenous organisation of Tripura.

North Tripura district Superintendent of Police Bhanupada Chakraborty said that troopers of the Tripura State Rifles and police were posted at Phuldungsei village on Friday.

"The deployment of security forces was done in view of the controversy over the rebuilding of a temple. However, there is no untoward incident yet or any kind of tension on our side," Chakraborty told IANS. **IANS**

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
Tender Notice	
Dy. Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Project/Northern Railway/Moradabad acting for & on behalf of President of India invites E-tender in Single packet system from the experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria for the under noted work:	
1	Name of work with its location "Provision of Electronic Interlocking at RISHIKESH station in place of Sida-4 interlocking in signaling system on RWL (EXCL.) RKSH section of Moradabad Division, Northern Railway." (Tender No. Sig/P/IE/RKSH/MB/03-2020)
2	Approx. cost of the work Rs. 4,49,63,896.25 (Rs. Four Crore Forty Nine Lac Sixty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Six & Paise Twenty Five Only)
3	Earnest Money Rs. 3,74,800/- (Rs. Three Lac Seventy Four Thousand Eight Hundred Only)
4	Completion Period 07 (Seven Months)
5	Date/Time of Tender submission and Tender opening Tender can be uploaded from 29.10.2020 to 13.11.2020 upto 11:00 Hours on the website of IREPS at www.ireps.gov.in and the tender will be opened on 13.11.2020 at 11:30 Hours.
6	Detailed of Tender Notice and form Detailed tender information and tender will be available on the website of IREPS at www.ireps.gov.in from 23.10.2020 and e-tender can be uploaded from 29.10.2020 to 13.11.2020.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. No manual offers are acceptable. Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. 	
Tender No. Sig/P/IE/RKSH/MB/03-2020 Dated: 17.10.2020 2260/2020	
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NORTHERN RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE	
Dy. Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Project/Northern Railway/Moradabad acting for & on behalf of President of India invites E-tender in Single packet system from the experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria for the under noted work:	
1	Name of work with its location "Provision of EI at 2 stations (SANEHROD & KOTDWAR) in place of Rudimentary interlocking in signaling system on Najibabad (EXCL.). Kotwar section of Moradabad Division, Northern Railway." (Tender No. Sig/P/IE/SNX-KTW/MB/04-2020)
2	Approximate cost of the work Rs. 5,24,23,172.13 (Rs. Five Crore Twenty Four Lac Twenty Three Thousand One Hundred Seventy Two & Paise Thirteen Only)
3	Earnest money Rs. 4,12,100/- (Rs. Four Lac Twelve Thousand One Hundred Only)
4	Completion period 09 (Nine) Months
5	Date/Time of Tender submission and Tender opening Tender can be uploaded from 29.10.2020 to 13.11.2020 upto 11:00 Hours on the website of IREPS at www.ireps.gov.in and the tender will be opened on 13.11.2020 at 11:30 Hours.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. No manual offers are acceptable. Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. 	
TENDER NO. Sig/P/IE/SNX-KTW/MB/04-2020 Dated: 17.10.2020 2259/2020	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

कुमाऊँ विश्वविद्यालय, नैनीताल (उत्तराखण्ड)	
KUMAUN UNIVERSITY, NAINITAL (UTTARAKHAND)	
फार्म नं. 538	वॉक-इन-इन्टरव्यू दिनांक: 17/10/2020
विश्वविद्यालय के विभिन्न विभागों में रिक्रूट/अवकाश रिक्त पदों के सापेक्ष/स्ववित्तपोषित पाठ्यक्रमों में शिक्षण हित में अतिथि व्याख्याताओं की नियुक्ति हेतु वॉक-इन-इन्टरव्यू आयोजित किये जाने हेतु विज्ञप्ति प्रकाशित की गई है विस्तृत सूचना विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट www.kunainital.ac.in से प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।	
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CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PETROCHEMICALS ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY (CIPET)		
(Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers Govt. of India)		
Advt.No.CIPET HO/NP/CM/F/2020 Date: 18.10.2020		
RECRUITMENT OF ASSISTANT PLACEMENT OFFICER [ON CONTRACT BASIS]		
CIPET invites online applications for the following contractual position for its Centres across the country:		
Name of the Position	Vacancy available at	Remuneration
Asst. Placement Officer (08*)	CIPET: GSTS - Agartala, Amritsar, Aurangabad, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Dehradun, Imphal & Valsad	Rs.35,000/-p.m (consolidated)
*tentative only and likely to increase. For detailed information on online application, essential qualifications & experience general terms and conditions etc., please visit our website: www.cipet.gov.in . Applications are strictly submitted only through ONLINE. The print out of the application submitted through online along with necessary enclosures (uploaded in online) should be sent by Speed Post to "Principal Director (New Projects), CIPET Head Office, T.V.K. Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032" on or before 06.11.2020. The Candidate should mention "Adv. No. CIPET HO/NP/CM/F/2020", "Name of the Post" and "Name of the Centre applied" in bold letters on top of the envelope. Principal Director (New Projects)		

Canara Bank	
CORRIGENDUM	
This is in reference to two advertisements published in Pioneer News Paper (Ultrafrank Edition) on 11.10.2020 for e-auction Sale Notice by Canara Bank Regional Office-1, Dehradun for sale of 7 and 8 immovable properties on 28.10.2020 and 12.11.2020 respectively. In said advertisement it was mentioned that "EMD amount 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited by way of Demand Draft in favour of Authorized officer or shall be deposited through RTGS/NEFT/fund transfer to credit of account of Canara Bank as mentioned in column 6 on or before 26.10.2020 5 p.m. and on or before 10.11.2020 5 p.m. respectively".	
This line shall read as:	
Bidder may visit https://www.ibapi.in where "Guidelines" for bidders are available with educational videos. Bidders have to complete following formalities well in Advance:	
Step 1: Bidder/purchaser Registration: Bidder to register on e-auction Platform (link given above) using his mobile number and email id.	
Step 2: KYC Verification: Bidder to upload requisite KYC documents. KYC documents shall be verified by e-auction service provider (may take 2 working days).	
Step 3: Transfer of EMD amount to Bidder Global EMD Wallet: Online/off-line transfer of fund using NEFT/Transfer, using challan generated on e-Auction Platform.	
Step 4: Bidding Process and Auction Results: Interested Registered Bidders can bid online on e-Auction Platform after completing Step 1, 2 and 3.	
Please note that Step 1 to 3 should be completed by bidder well in advance, before e-Auction date.	
Intending bidders shall hold a valid digital signature certificate and email address.	
Bids shall be submitted through online procedure only.	
All other terms and conditions except the above remains unchanged.	
Date : 17.10.2020	Authorised Officer, Canara bank

Kerala CM's ex-Secy admitted in hospital amid customs heat

KOCHI: M Sivsankar, former principal secretary to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan was admitted to Thiruvananthapuram Medical College on Saturday following complaints of back pain. Sivsankar had been admitted to a private hospital in the capital city late Friday evening while he was being taken to the Customs office for questioning in connection with the gold smuggling scam.

On Saturday morning, he was subjected to angioplasty and a team of cardiologists examine him to diagnose the possibilities of cardiac issues. When it was found that Sivsankar was perfectly alright by the medical team, he started complaining of back pain and he was shifted to Medical College Hospital.

Meanwhile a senior Congress law maker P T Thomas alleged on Saturday that the CPI(M) led Kerala Government was out to subvert the probe by the central agencies into the Gold Smuggling Scam and LIFE Mission bribery charges. The NIA is yet to furnish documents linking the accused to terrorism related activities though they were arrested in early July. **PNS**

610 more test coronavirus positive in J&K

Srinagar: In all, 610 more persons tested coronavirus positive in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, taking its COVID-19 tally over 87,000 and active cases to 8,704.

The Information and Public Relations Department said 247 new cases were reported from Jammu division and 363 from Kashmir division.

The UT's total tally is 87,364, of which 77,288 have recovered. Six more fatalities took J&K's death toll to 1,372.

In all, 809 patients were discharged from different hospitals. Of the active cases in J&K, 3,538 are in Jammu division and 5,166 are in Kashmir division. **IANS**

AMU ex-student chief gets Bihar poll ticket, triggers controversy

Aligarh: For Bihar Assembly elections, Congress party has nominated former president of AMU Students Union Mashkoor Ahmed Usmani from Jale Assembly constituency of Darbhanga district who advocated Jinnah's portrait in the AMU.

BJP MP Satish Kumar Gautam said that giving by tickets to Jinnah supporter Mashkoor, the Congress has shown its mindset and is yet to get out of Jinnah's mindset. Mashkoor spoiled the atmosphere of AMU by supporting Jinnah. He is anti-national. Congress has proved that by giving tickets to Mashkoor, it is

sympathetic to those who speak against the country and will continue to encourage them. Every Hindu knows that Mashkoor Usmani will not be able to stand anywhere in the election.

Due to people like Mashkoor, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not getting reservation in AMU. The MP said that Hindu voters know where to send Mashkoor Usmani. They will send him to his actual place and will not find him again.

BJP Youth Front District President Mukesh Lodhi said that by giving tickets to Mashkoor, the Congress has revealed its mindset. **PNS**

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 ₹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.

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 sanitizer has to be followed.

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

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

A 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

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

works with a result of increase of 22500 TCM (Thousand Cubic Meter) of water storage 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.



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.

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 back-up 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**

NZ PM Ardern wins 2nd term in landslide

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

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

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

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

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

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**

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

AP ■ OTTAWA

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

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

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

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

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

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.

WESTERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM
Tender notice no. BCT/20-21/207 dtd. 24.09.2020 & BCT/20-21/208 dtd.: 24.09.2020 due for opening on 20.10.2020 Should be treated as **CANCELLED**
D-0363
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

SBFC
SBFC FINANCE PVT.LTD.
(Bestville Small Business Finance India 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.sbfc.com | Corporate Identity Number: U67190MH2008PTC178270
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 Wine Private Limited and Elxir Benedictine 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 Bhutia
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 female 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 Fath 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**

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 Manufacturers 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 Materials, & 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-IId) 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 thousand 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

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 website www.ireps.gov.in

Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Tender Opening date
83201029A	Rate contract for inj. Cetusximab 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

AXIS BANK
Axis Bank Limited, Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, 1-14, 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(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 the 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, 1-14, 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. H109-1, Admeasuring Super Area, 1200 Square Feet, Situated At 9th Floor, Tower No. 5/4H, In The Residential Scheme/Complex Known As "Roadwood Residency", Situated In Village Faridpur, Sector-78, Tehsil Tigan & District Faridabad, Haryana Alongwith Proportionate, Undivided Impartible Share And Interest In The Said Land Underneath The Building In Which Said Unit Is Located And In The Common Areas And Facilities Provided In The Building Complex.	

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.

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

IANIS ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to encourage web check-in, airline

major IndiGo has introduced a service fee for usage of check-in counters at the airports.

Accordingly, the fee has come into effect from Saturday.

"We encourage all passengers to web check-in as per the government directive, using our website or mobile app. The 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.

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

IANIS ■ SAN FRANCISCO

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

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

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

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

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

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

Low base, attractive interest rates lift Sept domestic PV sales

IANIS ■ 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' off-take 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

IANIS ■ 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 in 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 Divyanga Park at Indrapuram and Nandi Gausala 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,

Banks, Electric Sub-station, Commercial Shops and establishments, weighbridges, and automobile shops.

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Axis Bank Limited, Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, 1-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.) 201301

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation 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 05-11-2020, 11:30 A.M. at Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, 1-14, Sector-128 Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301 for recovery of Rs. 91,51,138/- due as on 17-10-2020 along with further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred up to the date of actual payment and 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 On Line from Km. 12/02 to Km. 16/18 between KNBN (In.) to KMUK (In.) including Tollygunge Yard and Carshed lines of Metro Railway, Kolkata". **Tender Value :** ₹ 2,10,82,665.43. **Cost of Tender Document :** Nil. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 2,55,500/-.

Completion Period : The contract shall be in force up to 30.06.2022. **Date of Closing :** 10.11.2020 at 12.00 hrs. The tender document and other details can be obtained from the website : www.reps.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 Laxminarayan Malviya, Mr. Subramanian Barathan, Ms. Vidya Malviya, 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 650014065943 in the name of M/s AXL Lighting Limited and another demand noticed dated 29-8-2019 to Mr. Bantwal Laxminarayan Malviya, Mr. Sadanand Madhusudan Sahasrabudhe, Mr. Subramanian Barathan, Ms. Vidya Malviya, 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 510003496624 in the name of Mr. Lakshmi Narayan Bantwal Malviya, 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. 185,65,184.00 & Rs. 95,65,796.00) 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 Hiranandani Devanahalli" & 4200 Sq Ft. of undivided share in the converted land bearing Survey No. 22/1, 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 Ammanikere 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 East: Villa No. 476
On or Towards the North: drive Way
On or Towards the West: 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	07927500080 09724093774
09/11/2020	24/11/2020	ADI	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-ADI	07922205888 09724093751
03/11/2020	18/11/2020	BRC	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-BRC	02652641592 9724091750
04/11/2020	19/11/2020	RTM	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-RTM	07412230080 09752492750
06/11/2020	25/11/2020	BVP	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-BVP	02782443360 09724097750
12/11/2020	27/11/2020	MMCT	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager- MMCT	022-23094142 09004490065
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 09724094555
05/11/2020	19/11/2020	PRTN	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-PRTN	02673241295 09724094555
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.reps.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.

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For Principal Chief Materials Manager

"I am surrendering / cancelling / my registered project **SAVY HOMZ (SAMA JWADI 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."**



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.



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."

KKR aim to sort out batting woes

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

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 handling 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 for the team.

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

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

CSK, but leaked runs against RCB and MI. To add to their woes, star spinner Sunil Narine has been reported for suspect 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 ruling out pace spearhead Bhuvneshwar Kumar and all-rounder Mitchell Marsh, the Orange Army is facing a conundrum of whether to strengthen their batting or their bowling unit, a fact that skipper David Warner conceded.

The team heavily relies on its batting unit, mainly on the top four comprising Jonny Bairstow, Warner, Manish Pandey and Kane Williamson. A cause of concern for the Sunrisers is Rashid Khan's form. After returning impressive figures like 3/14, 0/12, 3/12, the Afghan leg-spinner remained ineffective in the team's last two losses. And skipper Warner will desperately hope that his star spinner finds his mojo back which is imperative for the team's success.



Collective batting effort takes CSK to 179/4

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



Shane Watson congratulates CSK teammate Faf Du Plessis on his fifty | IPLT20.com

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 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 held the side reach a competitive total.

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 steam-rolled 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



Rohit Sharma prepares to bat at nets | @mipaltan

78 not out from 44 balls.

In the bowling front, pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Trent Boult have formed the most successful pair this IPL with 12 wickets apiece from eight matches so far. Spinner Rahul Chahar chipped in against KKR with two wickets for 18 runs.

On the other hand, KXIP are languishing at the bottom of the table despite having the top-two

leading run-getters of the tournament in skipper KL 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.

A captivating duel may be in store between Gayle on one side and Bumrah and Boult on the other.

KXIP have other in-form batsmen in Rahul and Agarwal, with both or at least one of them scoring big in almost every match.

But their bowling has been the weakest link. Barring Mohammad Shami and Ravi Bishnoi, none of the bowlers have inspired confidence, especially in the death overs.

Not being able to find the right balance despite trying out many options has also contributed to KXIP's rapid slide.

MATCHES
SUNRISERS HYDERABAD 18
KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS 11
Stats: Faisel Features

DUGOUT

MOTION PICTURE



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



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

BOOM'S WILLINGNESS TO IMPROVE

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

DON'T BAT IN PRACTICE PANTS

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

POINTS TABLE						
		P	W	L	NR	PTS
1	MI	8	6	2	+1.353	12
2	DC	8	6	2	+0.990	12
3	RCB	9	6	3	-0.096	12
4	KKR	8	4	4	-0.684	8
5	SRH	8	3	5	+0.009	6
6	CSK	8	3	5	-0.390	6
7	RR	9	3	6	-0.778	6
8	KXIP	8	2	6	-0.295	4

Planning to start domestic cricket from Jan 1: Ganguly

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The much awaited domestic cricket season will start from January 1, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly said on Saturday.

The BCCI Apex Council met on Saturday evening and a good amount of time was spent on discussing the domestic calendar which had been thrown in disarray by the surging cases of Covid-19 in India.

"We have had extensive discussions on domestic cricket and we have tentatively decided to start the competitions from January 1, 2021," Ganguly told PTI from Dubai.

When asked if it would be a curtailed season or not, the former Indian captain said the board won't be able to accommodate all domestic tournaments for practical purposes.

"We will certainly have the full fledged Ranji Trophy redball tournament. It will probably not be possible to hold all tournaments," Ganguly said, hinting that BCCI is eyeing the January-March window for Ranji Trophy.

The BCCI president also assured that the junior cricket and women's tournaments will be held between March and April.

"We also have elaborate plans for

our age group and women's cricket. We will start with Ranji Trophy and then we will also have the other tournaments between March and April," he said.

He also informed that the Indian team will be allowed to train in Australia during their quarantine phase.

"Cricket Australia has sent us an itinerary and we discussed the modalities of that itinerary. We will be playing four Tests and that will end in third week of January," the BCCI president said.

The Indian team is expected to play three ODIs, three T20Is and four Tests Down Under.

On the home series against England, Ganguly said that the BCCI is monitoring the situation and the final itinerary will be prepared in due time.

"The England series is good three and a half to four months away. We still have time. We are monitoring the situation (Covid-19) which is pretty fluid and will take a call accordingly," he said.

While hosting the series in India (Ahmedabad, Kolkata and Dharamsala being likely venues) remains priority, the UAE is a second option.