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उत्तराखण्ड शासन

समस्त प्रदेशवासियों
को
विजयादशमी
की

हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं



प्रिय भाइयों/बहनों

आप सभी को विजयादशमी की बधाई और शुभकामनाएं। विजयादशमी का पर्व, विशेष रूप से अधर्म पर धर्म की विजय और आपसी प्रेम व सहयोग का पर्व है। इस दिन मर्यादा पुरुषोत्तम भगवान श्रीराम चन्द्र जी ने रावण का वध कर असत्य पर सत्य की जीत पाई थी।

कोरोना काल में विजयादशमी के त्योहार में और भी अधिक सावधानी बरतने की आवश्यकता है। सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग, मास्क, सेनिटाइजर का प्रयोग जरूर करें।

आप सभी को एक बार फिर से विजयादशमी की बहुत-बहुत शुभकामनाएं।

त्रिवेन्द्र सिंह रावत

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तराखण्ड

जब तक दवाई नहीं, तब तक ढिलाई नहीं



सूचना एवं लोक सम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड द्वारा जनहित में जारी।

HOME THEATRE

Mirzapur 2 as good or bad as 1



MIRZAPUR 2
Amazon Prime Video
*Ing: Pankaj Tripathi, Divyendu Sharma, Ali Fazal, Shweta Tripathi, Harshita Gaur, Rasika Dugal, Rajesh Tailang, Sheeba Chadha, Anjum Sharma, Vijay Varma and others
Rated: 6/10

First things first, *Mirzapur* has not reformed itself from being perhaps one of the most violent, sleazy, abusive and yet unashamedly lurid. Season 2 is even more so, at least in the first three mentioned traits. The disclaimer at the beginning attempts to assuage your alarm by saying totally fictitious and the like. However, the knowledge of this sort of a scenario being a reality in the cow belt of the nation, the unabated goondas, the police criminal nexus, the impunity and violence with which criminals conduct their business keeps you on the hook all through the 10 episodes of Season 2, which, by the way, has set itself up for a third season. Personally, I eschew and cringe at pronounced screen violence and in this one the bloodbaths are what makes for the story.

Mirzapur is India's *Game of Thrones* with just a tad less history to it. The man who will be King of Mirzapur has to be powerful, with no chinks of vulnerability in his demeanour. He should be able to kill at will even if it is his favourite and loyal servant for decades or his own father! Corruption of the system matches up with the corruption of the mind, boy and soul of all its main characters who have, come to think of it, done a pretty good job if you hate them all in equal measure.

Will not be able to call *Mirzapur* riveting but yes it draws your blood to your temples, makes you curdle in fear and cringe in disgust with such pointed venom and force that it automatically qualifies for a binge watch.

The end is predictable and similar to the first season, the characters have matured and the violence here prevails only to push the story into a state of no return and the climax sets up the window for the next season with the polish of a veteran.

Mirzapur will be watched in the third season too. How watch-worthy is such content can be a topic for debate on any platform.

Meanwhile waiting avidly for the sequel of *The Family Man*.

Short & sweet Worth a watch

LAGHUSHANKA
SonyLiv
Short film, 14 minutes
*Ing: Sanjay Mishra, Raghav Juyal, Abhishek Chauhan
Rated: 8/10

The thing about short films is that they are really loaded second to second to tell a story. In this format the story has to be short but have the potential of leaving a long term impact. Stunning climax, an ending you may not have fathomed, and every frame meant to tell the story, or should one say race to finish the story because the director has just 14 minutes to leave a mark on you.

Laghushanka is of that

potent, telling and interesting category. It deals with the issue of bedwetting by an adult girl who has a marriage staring down her face, a hysterical family and the prospect of it coming out in the open in her sister's presence.

The film has been treated with a lot of acumen, tender loving care and slick production which keeps you hooked from the beginning to the end.

It also delivers a powerful message on human weakness and ailments that are often treated with insensitivity and indifference.

This head turner film is neither insensitive nor indifferent to the issue it has at and must watch.



A SUITABLE BOY
Netflix
*Ing: Tabu, Ishaan Khatter, Tanya Maniktala, Rasika Dugal, Ram Kapoor, Mikhal Sen, Namit Das
Rated: 6/10

Many of us over the last 27 years would have tried to reach out to a copy of *A Suitable Boy* only to balk at the sheer size of the novel — 1349 pages. This alone was a good enough for a large number of people to stay away from one of the longest novels published in a single volume.

But thanks to Mira Nair, one can now find out why the book had created quite a stir when the book was out in 1993. The subject was enough to make it the talk of the town — a mother's quest to look for a suitable boy for her youngest daughter.

Even though there are a few misrepresentations of how women behaved back then and what they were, one can give them a miss and instead concentrate on how Nair has brought the 1951 era alive once again on the screen. The six-episode limited series takes one on a journey on what it was like to live in a post-Independent India. A few clippings give us a sneak peek of what it was like when people voted for the very first time. But the mini-series and the book is not about post-Independent India but the lives of people in that time and how a mother

goes about choosing a husband for her daughter and rejecting many because they are — of course — not suitable. A mother knows best the adage which comes across loud and clear.

Despite the fact that Tanya Maniktala's character keeps smiling even though there is an internal turmoil, she does a great job as the daughter who has to do the choosing. Tabu, Ishaan Khatter and Ram Kapoor



do a brilliant job in supporting roles. In fact, they are the backbone of this mini-series.

While many may not agree with the whole concept with a mother looking for a suitable boy given that we are living in the 21st Century. But the truth remains that arranged marriages and a parent choosing husband/wife is not such an alien concept even today.

Overall, the mini-series is entertaining and keeps you glued wanting to know what comes next and who is finally the suitable one.

— Shalini Sakseena

Of magic and life lessons

OVER THE MOON

Netflix
*Ing: Cathy Ang, John Cho, Ruthie Ann Miles, Sandra Oh, Phillipa Soo, Robert G Chiu
Rated: 6.5/10

There is something so sweet and cute about watching animation especially if it is a fairy tale. There is a reason why even adults love watching them.

The whole idea of seeing a kid believe in fairy tales and living it, makes us relive the same and, as we look back to times when we were kids and believed in Santa Claus and the idea of an old lady who lives on the Moon and keeps herself busy by spinning. But as adults, we do know that the dark patches on this natural satellite are actually deep craters on its surface.

Over The Moon, is one such sweet fairy tale even though it does have a lot from Disney — a castle, a princess, a side kick and neon colours that covers the entire canvas. But then Disney is the benchmark when it comes to animation and it is no wonder that the makers would want to be as close as they can get to perfection.

This lunar adventure has

magical locations, fantastic animation, good music and sweet characters. The stark contrast when the protagonist lands on Moon, makes one feel a bit disconcerting but the vibrancy and positive life lesson — family is what matters most — makes this a must watch especially if one has kids.

— Shalini Sakseena

Retelling a classical tale

REBECCA

Netflix
*Ing: Lily James, Armie Hammer, Kristin Scott Thomas, Sam Riley
Rated: 5.5/10

Many of us have either seen or read *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier. Hence, there are no surprises when it comes to the climax or what is to come next. What is different here than the 1940 psychological thriller is directed by Alfred Hitchcock is of course the way the two films have dealt with the same story. Then there is the whole black and white as opposed to colour. The chilliness and the cold reserve that played out so brilliantly in the Hitchcock version is totally missing here. There is Laurence Olivier and Joan Fontaine as opposed to Lily James and Armie Hammer.

This *Rebecca* leaves you cold, unmoved and somewhat disconnected. Though it is never right fair to compare two movies with the same story as a viewer it is difficult to look at this film without doing the unforgivable. However, for those who have not seen the Hitchcock version, it will be a treat to watch the book come alive.

While there is no way one can even compare this *Rebecca* to the Olivier and Joan Fontaine characters to Lily James and Armie Hammer's, the latter manage to hold their ground well. James, who has done movies like *Mamma Mia*, *Here We Go Again!* and *Cinderella*, plays Mrs de Winter well. But instead of coming off as somebody who is naive and innocent, she comes across as a person who is more curious and we know where that leads. Still one can't ignore her performance here which is delivered well. One however, finds it difficult to understand what her motive is especially when she realises that her husband did kill her first husband and covered it up — is it because she realises that she is the only woman her husband loved or is it something entirely different? This *Rebecca* leaves the viewer to interpret the last look of the second Mrs de Winter.

A movie to watch if not seen Hitchcock's version.

— Shalini Sakseena

TELLY TALE

KULFI TURNS HOST

Popular child artist Akriti Sharma aka Kufli is all set to co-host Star Plus' upcoming singing reality show *Taare Zameen Par* alongside ace comedian Sugandha Mishra. The talented duo will enthrall viewers with various performances on stage, enabling a fun-viewing experience. Premiering on Monday, November 2, the show will highlight the musical journey of 20 children who will be nurtured, supported and encouraged by 3 celebrated mentors: Shankar Mahadevan, Tony Kakkar and Jonita Gandhi.

Little Kufli aka Akriti Sharma has won many hearts with her innocence in her earlier show *Kulfi Kumar Bajewala* and she is a pro at portraying emotions with much ease and perfection.

Kulfi Kumar Bajewala fame Akriti Sharma embarks on a new journey and she says: "I am happy and excited to host/anchor my first show on television. The



entire team has been kind and helpful especially Sugandha did! she has been the best partner to me. I get to learn so many things while shooting for this show since singing is my favorite hobby. In the coming days, I wish to learn the music from Shankar Sir who is the mentor on our show."

Gear up to watch a unique show which explores the talent, personality and goodness of young singing wonders.

THE UNBREAKABLE JODI

Sony SAB's widely acclaimed historical fiction show, *Tenali Rama*, continues to win viewers' hearts by reviving the ancient tales and anecdotes of the legendary scholar and poet Tenali Rama and taking them right into the heart of Raja Krishnadevaraya's Vijayanagar. The show continues to gain immense love and support for its engaging and values driven storyline that offers entertainment across all ages in a family.

Talking about the glorious success on television and sharing their experience so far, Krishna Bhargava — everyone's beloved



Pandit Rama Krishna and Tarun Khanna — the celebrated King Krishnadevaraya, get candid about their journey so far as artists and a lot more.

Krishna Bhargava, better known as Pandit Rama Krishna since past three and a half years shared key highlights of the journey so far: "I have lived this character for so long that I do not even remember my life before Tenali Rama. Pandit Rama Krishna is a part of me, and I am so glad that I have had the opportunity to adopt all the noteworthy qualities of Rama. This show has given me immense love and support from the fans, and it is indeed a heartwarming feeling when a character succeeds in making a positive change in someone's life. A lot of fans reach out to me talking about how the show made them smile or helped them cope with difficult times. As an actor, it is really fulfilling."

Tarun, while sharing his views on the reasons behind the success of this show, said: "Since my childhood till now, I have never come across a show that is a total family entertainer and at the same time high on values. *Tenali Rama* is a show that familiarizes the audience with our Indian culture. In my family my six-year-old son and my 75-year-old father-in-law watch this show together. There are hardly any shows that can bring such distinct age groups together. The characters have been so beautifully and cleverly designed that even a character like Amma who has no dialogues in the show has been loved. The characters are so well rounded and unique that makes him stand out in any situation. This is immense hard work and dedication that has determined the success of this show.

Sharing about their experience of working with one another, Krishna said: "I feel Rama and Krishnadevaraya's character are like Lord Krishna and Sudama. Rama practically worships Krishnadevaraya and would do anything for him. So, the chemistry between these two characters are really important for the show. After Tarun's arrival on the show, we never lacked the chemistry. It was there since day one." Adding further, Tarun said, "I was thrilled to be a part of this show as it is fulfilled my childhood dream of being a part of the world of Tenali Rama. Before joining the show, I had not watched any of the episodes and I

got the glimpse of Krishna's talent on my first day of the shoot. I have rarely seen artists who have such a stronghold on their language and Krishna is certainly one of those few actors."

BEATING THE BLUES AWAY

Given the tough past six months that we have spent during the lockdown, the current festive season is giving a whole lot of positive energy to everyone! Last year during this time, we all were excited and in a festive mood spreading cheer all around. In the same way, Sayantani Ghosh who is currently seen as Rasiya in *Colors' Barrister Babu* & will also be seen in *Colors Shandaar Ravivaar*, misses being in Kolkata for Durga



Puja. The actress says she feels nostalgic about being away from all the festivities in Kolkata. However, the popular show *Barrister Babu* and the upcoming two-hour special segment *Shandaar Ravivaar* are helping the actress cope up! Sayantani will be seen celebrating Durga Puja and doing the traditional dance in both the shows.

Commenting about the same Sayantani Ghosh said: "The ambience during Durga Puja in Kolkata is totally different. The festival fever is unmatched and everyone is gripped by the festive fervour. I miss the noise of the dhak (drums) and wearing new clothes. These were yearly rituals for me wherein there used to be one pandal in every single lane in Kolkata! This year, I am feeling a bit sad as I will not be able to go due to COVID-19. Although the flights are open now, I do not want to risk travelling, especially because of the current situation as my parents are senior citizens and I do not want to risk their health. In our show the current track is around Durga puja and so is my performance in *Shandaar Ravivaar* and the atmosphere around is really making me feel more nostalgic. Hopefully next year, by the blessings of Maa Durga, I'll be able to go there!"

'Interesting to play traditional father'

RAJENDRA CHAWLA, who plays Pratap Ratan Bansal in *Tera Yaar Hoon Main* on Sony SAB, speaks with **SHALINI SAKSENA** about how tough it was to shoot under the new normal, how this role is different and upcoming projects

■ **What is your role in the show?**

The show represents three generations — grandfather, father and son. I play Pratap Ratan Bansal who is the eldest in the family. He lives his life according to what he thinks is right. He doesn't belong to the era where the father is not a friend but someone who needed to be heard when he spoke without being questioned. According to him each relationship is defined and need not be merged.

■ **What is the best thing about your character?**

It is his quirkiness that is interesting. It is not as if he is in a foul mood all the time. However, the other person may think otherwise. He is a fun person to be with. He has fun with his grandson. But he has a grudge. He wanted his grandson to be a cricketer but he could be one. So, Bansal keeps taunting him about this. But he loves his family.

■ **Was it tough to go back to shooting after the lockdown opened?**

Yes, definitely. Before the show started its shoot, we had a virtual meeting with a doctor. He told us that while on the sets, we must always think that the person in front of us is asymptomatic. He told us that despite all the precautions the production house takes, we must not let our guard down. But doing this was so tough and scary. When we reached the set, the normal was to hug and greet each other. But on the first day, nobody exchanged more than two lines. Each one of us was scared that conversation would mean a hand on the shoulder and we had to maintain distance. We avoided talking to each other. It will take time to get things back to normal.

■ **How has played the role of a father a few times, how is this different?**

The first thing is that I have never played a father who is from the 40s and the 50s. Till now, I had played the role of a progressive father. Here I play a traditional father which is interesting. Also, the way I deliver the dialogues is different, language here is different. The character is Marwari. I don't know anything about the accent or how they behave.

■ **You have been in the industry for over two decades now. How have things changed?**

Back then there were fewer people in the industry but we managed to get things done. Now, there are a lot more people and jobs are defined. Earlier, a verbal agreement was enough. Now everything has to be done via emails — it has become a corporate set-up



Before the shoot started, we had a virtual meeting with a doctor. He told us that while on the sets, we must always think that the person in front of us is asymptomatic

now. This could be because there is far more work involved.

■ **Does this mean that competition has increased?**

Yes, there is competition. But it also means there is much more work in the industry. Many youngsters now don't have to struggle for work. There is theatre, there is TV, there is web and films that offer all kinds of diverse work. There is no dearth of work today. This means one gets to do varied work. Even cinema has changed. This is because the younger generation has access to more information.

■ **You have done TV shows and films. How are the two different when it comes to acting?**

There is no difference. For each platform, be it theatre, TV or films, I have always done my work honestly. The only difference is that in cinema, one gets more time to prepare for the character. The director has time to pay attention to how the character needs to go forward. In TV, this is not possible since the director has little time. So here, I have to be prepared 90 per cent before I reach the set.

■ **How did your acting career begin?**

I began with Marathi theatre. I met Satish Kaushik and ended up doing more Marathi. In time, I ended up with a Marathi serial. Since I didn't have any Godfather my previous work propelled me further. Wherever I am today, is due to the people I am in my work and I am grateful to them for it.

■ **What are your future plans?**

I am working on two shows. One, of course, *Tera Yaar Hoon Main* and the other is *Mere Dad Ki Dulhan* on Sony Entertainment Television. In between, if I get a film, I will do that as well. Also, I love to work with new-age directors. Working on web series doesn't involve too much time since they are finite.

WORLD 6
'I VOTED FOR A GUY NAMED TRUMP,' PRESIDENT SAYS**MONEY 7**
FY19 GST RETURNS FILING DEADLINE EXTENDED TILL DEC 31**SPORT 8**
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**USUAL SUSPECTS**
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Can Modi's appeal do wonders for Nitish?

Opinion polls in India may well be indicative but they are rarely accurate — as opposed to exit polls which tend to be nearer the mark. Part of the reason for unending inaccuracies lie in the flawed methodologies of the polls. Random sampling costs a lot of money, not to mention sampling rigour, and the limited budgets of media organisations often rule out a statistically robust survey. On top of that is the bizarre — but nevertheless real — inclination of some pollsters to produce results that appear good news to their clients. The importance of accurate predictions over make-believe good news has never been fully appreciated by either media organisations or political parties.

The real shortcoming of opinion polls in Indian elections can be located in the restrictions imposed by the Election Commission on the publication of the polls. Since it has been deemed that the campaign should not be influenced in any way by polls that predict winners and losers, the surveys are conducted before the battle lines in the constituencies are clear. The polls published so far contain a significantly large number of undecided voters — or voters who refuse to indicate their voting intentions. This means that small shifts can change the outcome. Accurate polls have to track the popular mood as the campaign progresses. Since this isn't possible owing to the restrictions imposed by the EC, speculation based on anecdotal evidence by politicians and media professionals abound.

Notwithstanding these obvious limitations, it is possible to make a few observations on the state of play in the Bihar Assembly elections.

First, there is a huge question mark surrounding the final turnout at a time of pandemic. The crowds at rallies may well be impressive and passionate about their preferences. However, while the mood of the rallies may well turn out to be infectious, it is pertinent to bear in mind the fact that those attending rallies constitute a small percentage of the electorate. Most voters make up their mind on the strength of accumulated experiences built up over the years, traditional affiliations and, finally, community choices. Rallies and smaller campaign meetings do help to disseminate messages, but they are never all-important inputs in the final vote.

This election may be further complicated by the underlying fear of being part of a crowd on voting day. Although the fear of the Covid-19 pandemic is more pronounced in the urban areas, there is still a significant proportion of rural voters who are loath to step out of their safe zones and go into polling stations. I personally feel that the Bihar election may see a dip in the turnout of voters in the 50+ age bracket. If this happens, it is conceivable that some of the advantages Nitish Kumar has gained on the strength of his governance record and a corresponding fear of the return of 'jungle raj' may be neutralised.

Secondly, as a leader and administrator, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is understated. He is a quiet worker and is not inclined to be theatrical in his style. The prolonged disruption of normal life since March has meant that his presence on the ground has become more fleeting. This reclusiveness hasn't affected the administrative reach of the State Government and its work during the migrant worker influx from other States has been quite exemplary. However, quiet work is often peripheral to a loud narrative which exaggerates hardships and underplays administrative depth. It is difficult to know if this can shape the final outcome. The past record is mixed. In Odisha, for example, Naveen Patnaik's low-key approach hasn't affected his party's election outcome. In a similar vein, the Left Front in neighbouring West Bengal prevailed for three decades on the strength of the CPI(M)'s formidable network — this despite the fact that in terms of campaigning in the three weeks prior to voting day, the Opposition was more visible. In Bihar, there is also the uncertainty over the JD(U)'s organisational weakness and its ability to harvest votes in the constituencies it is fighting. What are likely to be the consequences if the BJP's strike rate is significantly higher than that of the JD(U)? This possibility has opened the doors to speculation and many conspiracy theories.

Every election in India is bitterly fought and clouded in uncertainty till the counting of votes. However, when the votes are counted, the results often reveal a clear pattern. Bihar may well be no different.

KITCHEN BUDGET GOES FOR A TOSS

Soaring prices of veggie, pulse, other essential items dampen festive spirits

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Already suffering from the Covid-19-induced miseries, the 'aam aadmi' is finding it tough to manage his household affairs with his kitchen budget having doubled or tripled due to soaring prices of vegetables, pulses and even wheat flour (atta). As if the wiping out of the annual festivities due to coronavirus wasn't enough, the price rise has only added to the dampening of the festive spirits.


The kitchen staples are burning a hole in the common man's pocket. Prices of vegetables are already high as onions cost ₹80-100 a kg, potatoes ₹50-60 a kg and tomatoes ₹60-70 a kg while the retail prices of pulses have recently registered a steep hike. There has been a sharp increase in prices of most pulses including tur (arhar), moong, masoor and urad that have crossed the ₹100 per kg mark in most cities

across India.

Interestingly, a significant population avoids consuming onions during the 'navratri' period (for nine days) but despite the lower consumption the prices continue to be very high due to shortage of supply.

Officials of the Agriculture Ministry said potato prices too have surged more than 62 per cent since May as production fell in key growing States and demand soared amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Traders in Uttar Pradesh, the largest potato producer in the country, said prices will remain on these lines at least till March.

As for onions, according to Rajendra Sharma, a wholesale supplier of the bulb at Asia's biggest vegetable and fruits market Azadpur, the supply has reduced from Maharashtra and Karnataka due to its shortage. "Of the 28 lakh tonnes stored in Maharashtra, around 10-11 lakh tonnes remain now. The yearly consumption of onions



	MAXIMUM PRICE (₹) PER KG	CITIES
Onion	95	Mumbai
Potato	60	Port Blair
Tomato	80	Raiganj
Moong (dal)	138	Mumbai
Tur/arhar	130	Varanasi
Urad	130	Thiruchirappalli
Masoor	120	Siliguri
Wheat	48	Nashik
Atta	55	Port Blair

*PRICES AS PER MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOR OCT 24

in India is slated to be 160 lakh tonnes with Maharashtra alone consuming around 4,000-6,000 tonnes per day," he said.

"The heavy rain in September not only destroyed the new crop in Karnataka but also took a toll on stored onions in States like Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. Farmers in Maharashtra alone had marketable onions, having stored the 28 lakh tonnes at the start

of summer," he added.

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs has imposed a stock limit of two tonnes on retailers and 25 tonnes for wholesalers till December 31. The Ministry has also supplied 35,000 metric tonnes of onion to States and Union Territories to maintain certain stability in prices. The national acreage for rabi onions last season was 10

lakh hectares as against 7 lakh hectares of 2018-19. But the additional wastage has constrained supply. There are three main onion crops — kharif (June-July sowing, post-October harvest), late kharif (September sowing, post-December harvest), and rabi (December-January sowing, post-March harvest). The rabi crop has the least moisture content, making it amenable to

storage.

Given the steep hike in the onion price, the Telangana Government on Saturday decided to sell the edible bulb at ₹35 per kilo at the Government-run "Rythu Bazaars". Two kilos of onions would be sold per person and the consumers have to show any identity card.

According to Suresh Agarwal, All India Dal Miller Association, there is a shortage of pulses in the country as farmers have switched over from pulses to wheat and soyabean since 2018. Besides, the Government policies also led to this situation.

Most pulses come to India from South African countries, Canada and Myanmar. India had imported 3.17 MT of pulses in 2014. This rose to 5.8 MT in 2016. It further rose to 6.6 MT in 2017, followed by 5.6 MT in 2018. In 2018-19 though, the imports reduced to 2.527 MT.

Cashback of extra interest on loans up to ₹2 cr soon: Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In line with the Supreme Court's directions in view of the festival season and the Covid-19 pandemic, the Centre has finalised a scheme for grant of ex-gratia payment of the difference between compound interest and simple interest for six months of loans up to ₹2 crore.

The move will cost the State exchequer ₹6,500 crore. The Supreme Court had directed the Centre to implement such a scheme "as soon as possible".

As per the operational guidelines issued by Department of Financial Services, the scheme can be

availed by borrowers in specified loan accounts for a period from March 1 to August 31, 2020.

"Borrowers who have loan accounts having sanctioned limits and outstanding amount of not exceeding ₹2 crore (aggregate of all facilities with lending institutions) as on February 29 shall be eligible for the scheme," it said.

Housing loan, education loans, credit card debts, auto loans, MSME loans, consumer durable loans and consumption loans are covered under the scheme.

As per the scheme, the lending institutions shall credit the difference between compound interest and simple

interest with regard to the eligible borrowers in respective accounts for the said period irrespective of whether the borrower fully or partially availed the moratorium on repayment of loan announced by the RBI on March 27, 2020. The scheme is applicable on those who have not availed the moratorium scheme and continued with the repayment of loans.

The lending institutions after crediting the amount will claim the reimbursement from the Central Government.

According to sources, the Government will have to shell out ₹6,500 crore for the implementation of the scheme.

Income tax returns' deadline extended till December 31

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Aiming to provide relief to taxpayers facing constraints due to Covid-19, the Income Tax Department on Saturday yet again extended the deadline for individual taxpayers for filing their returns for Financial Year 2019-20 (assessment year 2020-21) by a month till December 31.

For those taxpayers whose accounts need to be audited, the Income Tax Return filing deadline has been extended by two months till January 31, 2021.

The Government had in May extended the date for filing ITR for FY2019-20 from July 31 to November 30, to give



compliance relief to taxpayers. In a statement, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said, "The due date for furnishing of Income Tax Returns for the taxpayers (for whom the due date (i.e. before the extension by the said notification) as per the Act was July 31, 2020) has been extended to December 31, 2020."

The due date for furnishing of ITR for the taxpayers, who are required to get their accounts audited (for whom the due date as per the I-T Act is October 31, 2020), has been extended to January 31, 2021, it added.

The CBDT said the deadlines have been extended in order to "provide more time to taxpayers for furnishing of Income Tax Returns".

Breather for choking Delhi likely tomorrow

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's air quality remained 'very poor' on Saturday with the Air Quality Index recorded at 347. The Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAQFAR), said that some locations entered 'severe' zone but that will be short lived as winds are expected to increase slightly.

Some areas like Mundka, Wazirpur and Alipur recorded 'severe' levels of pollution, authorities said. It said the air quality could improve on October 26.

"The overall Delhi in the Air Quality Index (AQI) is in the very poor category with few Delhi locations entering at higher zone but that will be short lived," it said.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Coronavirus continues to hit the BJP in Bihar, the latest being the party's election campaign and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

Making it public, Fadnavis tweeted on Saturday, "I have been working every single day since the lockdown but now it seems that God wants me to stop for a while and take a break! I have tested COVID19 positive and in isolation. Taking all medication & treatment as per the advice of the doctors."

"Those who have come in contact with me are advised to get Covid-19 tests done. Take care, everyone!" another tweet read.

Fadnavis, who is also the leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra Assembly, was appointed as the BJP incharge for Bihar elections last month. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on Friday during his rallies

Now campaign incharge Fadnavis tests +ve

in the State termed it as the first major election in the world amid the corona pandemic."

Before Fadnavis, Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister Sushil

Kumar Modi and former Union Minister and star campaigner Shah Nawaz Hussain had on Thursday announced about having tested positive.

The instances of BJP leaders testing positive coincidentally continue to come when their party in its poll manifesto has promised to provide free vaccination to the State residents triggering a major row.

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 78,60,149

DEATHS: 1,18,477

RECOVERED: 70,68,241

ACTIVE: 6,72,121

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	16,38,961	43,152	14,55,107
Andhra Pradesh	8,04,026	6,566	7,65,991
Karnataka	7,98,378	10,873	7,00,737
Tamil Nadu	7,06,136	10,893	6,63,456
Uttar Pradesh	4,68,238	6,854	4,33,703
Kerala	3,86,088	1,307	2,87,261
Delhi	3,52,520	6,225	3,19,828
West Bengal	3,45,574	6,427	3,02,340
Odisha	2,79,582	1,282	2,62,031
Telangana	2,30,274	1,303	2,09,034
Bihar	2,11,443	1,042	1,99,521
Assam	2,03,709	900	1,79,843
Rajasthan	1,84,422	1,826	1,65,496
Chhattisgarh	1,72,580	1,738	1,46,222
Madhya Pradesh	1,66,298	2,875	1,51,946
Gujarat	1,66,254	3,685	1,48,685

India vows to save Himalayan abode of snow leopards

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a move that would go a long way in the conservation of snow leopards and prevent land degradation of the Himalayan ecosystem inhabited by a large number of locals, India has identified three sets of landscape — Hemis-Spiti across Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh, Nanda Devi-Gangotri in Uttarakhand and Khangchendzonga-Tawang across Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh — for the restoration of the flagship species in the high-altitude region.

"The Government is committed to landscape restoration for snow leopard habitat conservation and is implementing participatory landscape-based management plans involving local stakeholders," Union Minister of State for Environment Babul Supriyo said on Friday on the eve of the International Snow Leopard Day 2020 on Saturday. He listed the three landscapes.

The iconic big cat's conservation status improved from "endangered" to "vulnerable" in 2017, as the Centre has been conserving the snow leopard and its habitat through the Project Snow Leopard (PSL), which was launched in 2009.

According to an estimate, there are around 7,000 leopards, found in 12 countries — India, Nepal, Bhutan, China, Mongolia, Russia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

In India, the geographical range of snow leopards encompasses a large part of the western Himalayas including Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

The landscape, covering around 47,000 sq km, has at least five national parks where wild animals including snow leopards can be spotted.

Hemis National Park is situated in the eastern Ladakh region of Jammu & Kashmir while the Great Himalayan National Park, one of the natural world heritage sites, is in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu region.

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CAPSULE

FREE VACCINE PROMISE IN PERFECTLY IN ORDER: FM

New Delhi: Amid Opposition's criticism of the BJP's Bihar poll promise of free Covid vaccines, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman asserted that the announcement was perfectly in order and a party can announce what it wants to do when it comes to power.

FAROOQ TO LEAD GUPKAR ALLIANCE

Srinagar: Seven mainstream parties of Jammu & Kashmir on Saturday gave a formal shape to their cobbled Gupkar alliance for the restoration of Article 370, electing National Conference's Farooq Abdullah as its chairman and FOP chief Mehbooba Mufti as vice-chairperson.

RISHI SUNAK 'BARRED FOR LIFE' FROM UK PUB

London: UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak and three fellow ruling Conservative Party members of Parliament from northern England have been "barred for life" by a local pub and restaurant in their constituency region after they voted against free school meals for children during the holidays.

The Pioneer

wishes its readers
HAPPY DUSSEHRA
The offices of The Pioneer will remain closed on October 25. The next issue of the edition will appear on October 27.

Covid-19

Recovery rate surges past 90% in U'khand

359 fresh cases, five deaths reported on Saturday

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

With increased recoveries and reduction in number of fresh cases the recovery percentage of Covid-19 in Uttarakhand crossed 90 per cent mark on Saturday. The authorities discharged 451 patients of the disease on the day after their recovery following which the recovery per cent became 90.05 percent in the state. Meanwhile 359 fresh

cases of the disease were reported on Saturday which increased the tally of the patients of the disease to 60155. The department also reported deaths of five patients on the day after which the death toll mounted to 984 in the state. One patient of Covid-19 each was reported dead from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rishikesh, Himalayan hospital, Dehradun, Mahant Indresh hospital, Dehradun, HNB Base hospital Srinaray and Vinay Vishal Health care hospital, Haridwar. The authorities reported 90 fresh cases of the disease from Dehradun, 63 from Haridwar, 48 from Nainital, 31 from Chamoli, 24 from Pauri, 20 from Uttarkashi, 18 each from Udhampur Singh Nagar and

Almora, 13 from Pithoragarh and Rudrapur, 12 from Bageshwar, seven from Tehri and two from Champawat on Saturday. Out of the 451 patients discharged on Saturday, 196 are from Dehradun, 98 are from Haridwar and 35 from Tehri. The state now has 4542 active patients of the disease. Dehradun district with 1115 active cases is at top of table while Nainital with 564 cases is now at second spot. Haridwar has 551, Pauri 462, Udhampur Singh Nagar 352, Uttarkashi 261, Chamoli 250, Rudrapur 202, Tehri 200, Pithoragarh 121, Almora 112 and Champawat 139 active cases of the disease. With 123 active cases of Covid-19, Bageshwar is at the bottom of the table of active cases in Uttarakhand.

Covid vaccination

Health workers to be immunised in first phase

U'khand starts the process of preparation of a database of health workers for immunisation

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

With an objective of vaccination of the health workers and the health service providers with Covid-19 vaccine, the state health department has initiated a drive to prepare a database of these workers. For preparation of this database, task forces at block and district levels would be set up. Informing about the plan to vaccinate the health workers in the first phase of vaccination when it is finally available, the

Secretary health Amit Singh Negi that training of the task force would be provided so that the work on preparation of database is expedited at a fast pace. On Saturday the health secretary chaired a meeting of senior officials of the health department and discussed the process of preparing the database. In the meeting the district magistrates, CDOs and the chief medical officers (CMO) of all the districts attended the meeting via video conferencing. Addressing the meeting the health secretary elaborated on different categories of the health workers and health service providers. Negi directed the state immunisation officer Dr K S Martolia to coordinate with districts for preparation of database and directed that help of organisations Indian

Medical Association (IMA) should be taken in this regard. The health secretary said that as per the guidelines of the union government the Covid-19 vaccine when available would be administered in the health workers in the first phase. The mission director NHM would be the nodal officer for the vaccination programme and the state immunisation officer would be coordinator of the programme. The meeting was attended by secretary in charge Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Director General (DG) of state health services, Dr Amita Upreti, Mission Director of National Health Mission (NHM), Sonika, Additional Mission Director, Dr Abhishek Tripathi, state immunisation officer, Dr K S Martolia.

1600 patients cured from Covid at AIIMS-R

The patients include a 90-year-old woman and a one-day-old newborn

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The doctors of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rishikesh have claimed that 68 patients of Covid-19 admitted in the institute who were more than seventy years old have recovered from the disease. The institute has so far treated and cured more than 1600 Covid-19 patients.

Administration, AIIMS- R, Professor U B Mishra said that the patients ranging from a 90 year old woman to a one day old newborn have so far been cured of Covid-19 in the institute. Informing about 90 year old Molly Devi of Mooladhar village, Kirtinagar, Tehri Garhwal, Mishra said that the old lady was admitted on September 8 after testing positive for Covid-19. "She was an asthma patient and after getting infected by Covid-19 she was having problems in breathing. She was discharged on September 25 after being in hospital for 17 days," he said. Mishra added that so far 170 Covid-19 patients between the ages of 60 and 70 have also gone home from AIIMS with health benefits.

The Dean of Hospital

Harak Rawat not in touch with leaders of U'khand AAP

AAP State spokesperson cites ignorance about any communication the BJP leader is having with party high command

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A mid speculations that a heavyweight cabinet minister Harak Singh Rawat could join the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the Uttarakhand unit of the party has clarified that Rawat is not in touch with any leader of the state unit of AAP. Addressing the media persons here on Saturday, the spokesperson of the AAP, Naveen Peershal said that the recent statement of Harak Singh Rawat that he would not contest the next assembly election is an internal matter of BJP and Rawat has no contact with any state level leader of AAP. The spokesperson how-

ever added that he is not aware of any parleys Rawat could have had with the central leadership of AAP. He said that the recent episode involving Harak Singh Rawat shows that there is no coordination between the Chief Minister and ministers in Uttarakhand. The AAP spokesperson said that Rawat is free to join AAP if he wants but he had to adopt the philosophy of the party. Peershal alleged that the CM is acting in an autocratic way and more than half of the BJP MLAs are not happy with him. Another spokesperson of the party, Uma Sisodia alleged that the state government is protecting BJP MLA Mahesh Negi who is accused of sexual exploitation of a woman. She said that the state government has failed to take a decision on having a DNA test of the MLA which hurts the dignity of the woman. Sisodia demanded that the Mahesh Negi case should be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the demand of the victim that DNA test should be conducted to ascertain paternity of her child should be accepted.

CM grants approval for a slew of projects

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has granted approval to the proposal for the reconstruction of the Lacchiwala nature park in Dehradun. This project will be executed in two stages at an estimated cost of Rs 1008.35 lakh. A sum of Rs one crore is also provisioned under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) for this purpose. Apart from this, the chief minister has also granted financial approval of Rs 306.42 lakh for improvement and tarring of the Patisain-Tachwad-Ekeshwar motor road in the Ekeshwar block of Chaubattakhal Assembly constituency in Pauri district along with Rs 28.04 lakh for construction of motor road from

Kot to Hunn via Chauthara in Ghansal Assembly constituency. Along with this, as part of the CM's announcement, Rs 17.24 lakh financial approval has also been granted for construction of Molkhandi Sakri motor road in Jaiharikhal block. In addition to these approvals, the chief minister has also approved a total sum of Rs three lakh for the marriages of the grand daughters of six freedom fighters in Dehradun, Pauri, Uttarkashi and Bageshwar districts. With this, each of the six applicants will receive a sum of Rs 50,000. Further, Rawat has also

granted administrative approval of Rs 928.55 lakh for Uttarakhand Open University, Haldwani, guest house, vice chancellor's residence and furniture fixing for multipurpose hall. This amount will be spent by the university from its own resources.

Senior advocate CN Thapliyal passes away

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Senior advocate, noted academic and one of the distinguished members of Dehradun Bar Association, Chitranand Thapliyal passed away on Saturday. He breathed his last at his E C road residence. He was 88. A strong votary of ethics in legal practices, Thapliyal apart



from being an eminent lawyer of the region was also a faculty with the law department of DAV (PG) College, one of the biggest colleges of the Uttarakhand region. Many generations took to the legal profession under his tutelage. He hailed from Pauri district of Uttarakhand. He leaves behind his wife, two sons, daughters-in-law and three grandchildren.

Prevent public inconvenience in festive period: DSCL CEO

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The works being undertaken as part of the Smart City project in Dehradun will be executed in two shifts - day and night. Further, works should be planned in such a manner that the public faces least inconvenience during the festive period. The Dehradun Smart City Limited (DSCL) chief executive officer Ashish Kumar Srivastava issued this direction for public convenience while conducting a site inspection of the works late on Friday night along with officials and contractors.



Regarding the smart road works the CEO directed that the work be expedited and that it not be done without barricading. He instructed the officials to ensure that other works are not impacted due to all the works being undertaken for the Smart City project. During the site inspection, Srivastava checked the smart road, multi-utility duct, Paltan

Bazaar and Parade Ground works, and sought information about observance of earlier directions. He further directed the officials and contractors to plan the works in such a manner that the public does not face any inconvenience during the coming festive period. Inspecting the Parade Ground, the CEO said that an attempt will be made to hold the Republic Day parade 2021 in the developed Parade Ground. For this, he directed the officials and contractors to execute the work here on a war footing while ensuring full safety of the labourers. He said that surprise inspections will be carried out at night in the future too to ascertain the quality of the works. He also instructed that during execution of the project works care should be taken that shopkeepers do not face problems due to the work. Meanwhile, as part of the water supply modernization efforts under the project - work on the first boring for the smart water supply SCADA system also began on Saturday. Dehradun mayor Sunil Uniyal 'Gama, MLA Vinod Chamoli, municipal councillors along with officials of DSCL and Jal Sansthan were also present on the occasion.

Hillbilly

10,000 DED, but that's not the Moh-and!



BY LOKESH OHRI

Rewind to 2003. I was meeting the secretary in-charge of Irrigation in Uttarakhand, with a request to save the canals of the Doon Valley, when they were being covered for road widening. "You asked

for the state, you asked for the capital! These things will continue to happen now," was his nippy gossipy aerial view response. Seventeen years since then, I have still been wondering, "Did we really ask for this mindless destruction?" By now, thanks to the infantile wailing of some Doon Valley citizens like me, most of us are aware that the felling of ten thousand trees is proposed in Dehradun's Shivoli Elephant Reserve in the forests of Thano, for the expansion of the Dehradun airport at Jolly Grant. For those who have flown into Dehradun, or even climbed up to Thano Top, a cursory aerial view impresses enough evidence that the airport has already caused immense damage to the Rajaji Tiger Reserve and the forests of Thano. Is it not poetic justice that Dehradun as a destination is coded by the airport authorities as DED? Might as well add an A to it and call it dead!

A couple of years ago, I happened to be in a meeting where the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand was addressing a group of tourism stakeholders and senior officials of the state, when the Union Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister walked in. After the usual exchange of pleasantries, the then state secretary in-charge for Civil Aviation began to impress upon the visiting central minister, the need for Dehradun airport's expansion so that the state could earn revenues by

providing night landing and parking of aircraft that find it difficult to land in New Delhi due to traffic congestion. The union minister politely punctured the argument saying, "India's biggest international airport was already coming up at Jewar in Greater Noida, and there was little opportunity for Uttarakhand in this regard, even if night landing facility was added or expansion undertaken at Jolly Grant. But, as they say, where fate shuts one door, callous officialdom backed by an unimaginative political class and their nexus with the construction lobby, opens another. Officials are now threatening to send us to the border, to face a Chinese build-up, for daring to oppose the felling of these trees. The new fig leaf is national security. What they do not mention is that the government's track record in maintaining and operating the really logistically significant airstrips in Uttarakhand - Gauchar and Pithoragarh, has been nothing short of dismal. One also fails to understand what strategic advantage a commercial airstrip could offer when the wholly equipped Sarsawa Airbase is just a few flying minutes away. Moreover, today's fighter aircraft are taking off over ever shorter airstrips, even express highways. Clearly, there is more to this expansion, ostensibly for Airbus flights, than meets the eye. The mystery deepens when we realise that the new expressway from New Delhi has already reduced the driving time to the valley to about 3.5 hours.

Have no argument against connectivity and the tourism dividends a big airport can yield. But Uttarakhand is becoming a classic case of creating a spectacle by setting one's own house on fire. We are creating record in already infamously destroying the very experience a visitor seeks - the experience of free roaming wildlife, green spaces and flowing rivers. Unfortunately, rather than focusing on pilgrimage values, that our state was once known for, and bringing them into tourism, we are trying our best to do exactly the opposite - corrupting pilgrimage with values of pleasure-seeking tourism. I don't visualise hordes of international tourists lining up to see our spanking new, large airport. Do you? Anyways, in the age of Corona, air-travel is already stigmatised as the biggest virus vector. People are increasingly wary of air-travel, and here we are, foolishly expanding our capacities for benefitting a privileged few, in the process destroying our only hope for clean, breathable air. In a country where air pollution has emphatically emerged as the number one killer, much bigger than Corona or any other virus, this is as stupid a crime as any.

I was in Bengaluru early this year for a conference on water, and we were taken on a field visit to several lakes around Devanahalli that have been contaminated by the new and expanded international airport. In Dehradun case, the expansion will bring the airport



right next to the Song river, a major feeder for Ganga downstream before Haridwar. Can we then prevent the Ganga from getting contaminated? By expanding the airport near the river, we are not jeopardising the nation's water security? Leaving this entire development debate aside, what really takes the cake is the callous attitude of the officials in conducting the Environment Impact Assessment for the expansion. If the forest officials

consulted, as the National Airports' Authority report states, could not find any Schedule-I species in an Elephant Reserve, they need to be sacked and sent back to school. Even a child knows that matter even Hill Mynahs and Hornbills, are a part of Schedule-I, and an integral part of the forest proposed to be destroyed. That we are systematically eating into their habitats and forcing them into extinction is also common knowledge. But the destruction of the Thano forest is not the only evil gift we are getting this Diwali. Another ten thousand or more trees are up for chopping for the widening of the Mohand highway. This is a newer project and the files seem to be moving even faster on this one, between Dehradun and New Delhi. In the face of such mindless destruction in the name of progress, I can only

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from **ARTI JAIN to AARTI JAIN** for all future purposes.

Aarti Jain
W/o Dheeraj Jain
R/o 273, Govindpur
Haridwar, Uttarakhand

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Defence, Foreign Ministers of US, ITBP has broken myth that some countries have powerful armies: Reddy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The visiting ministers will also call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval. Incidentally, the dialogue takes place days before Presidential elections in the US in early November. This will be the third edition of the annual dialogue. The last one was held in the US.

Meanwhile, a senior Trump administration official said in Washington on Friday the US is closely monitoring the border row between India

"And we encourage their involvement. That cuts across development investments, it

The senior official's remarks came in the midst of a growing global concern over China's expansionist behav-

Beijing claims sovereignty over all of the South China Sea. But Vietnam, Malaysia


the East China Sea are stated to be rich in minerals, oil, and other natural resources. They are also vital to global trade.

ITBP Director General (DG) SS Deswal also spoke at the event and lauded the bravery displayed by the troops recently in Ladakh under "very challenging circumstances".

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India was declared polio-free (wild polio virus) in March 2014. This was a huge accomplishment as India was considered one of the most challenging countries. Though polio still exists in neighbouring underdeveloped nations like Pakistan and Afghanistan, the instances have decreased by over 99% in comparison with the 1980s.

Polio is a crippling and sometimes fatal disease with no cure. However, there are safe and effective vaccines and infection of polio can be pre-



vented through immunization. Eradication of polio is based on preventing infection by immunizing every child until transmission stops and the country, region, and world is polio-free. Thanks to these vaccination efforts, cases of polio have been reduced by about 99% over the past decade.

However, since March 2020, the pandemic has disrupted life-saving immunisation endeavours around the

polio amid par



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

demetic: WHO

53,370 new cases
take India's
tally to 78

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD



TMC MPs Nusrat Jahan, Mimi Chakra


arty dance to traditional dhakis on Durga

Agency

PTI ■ NEW DELHI


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However, since March 2020, the pandemic has disrupted life-saving immunisation endeavours around the



world, putting millions of children at risk of diseases like polio, diphtheria, and measles. The disruption of such routine immunisation services may be unprecedented since the inception of the expanded programme on immunisation (EPI) in the 1970s, in both government and private sectors. In order to successfully eradicate polio, experts said that parents should get their child immunised with OPV

The World Health Organization and UNICEF in July 2020 had warned of an alarming decline in the number of children receiving life-saving vaccines around the world due to disruptions in the delivery and uptake of immunization services caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to new data by the two UN bodies, these disruptions threaten to reverse hard-won progress to reach more children and adolescents with a wider range of vaccines, which has already been hampered by a decade of stalling coverage.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The COVID-19 case fatality rate has further declined to

October 23, with 12,69,479 samples tested on Friday.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The members of the committee include former prime minister Manmohan Singh, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Union ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, Nirmala Sitharaman, Hardeep

Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla will be the member secretary of the high-level committee.

Quad interested in boosting rules-based order in Indo-Pacific: US

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Quad — comprising Japan, India, Australia and the United States — is not an alliance but a grouping of countries driven by shared interests and values and interested in strengthening a rules-based order in the strategically important Indo-Pacific region, a senior Trump administration official has said.

"There's nothing about the Quad that it is an alliance. It is not formalised. There's no reciprocal obligation among the countries who are involved. It's not an organisation that solicits its membership," a senior administration official said during a conference call with reporters ahead of the next week's 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue between India and the US.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defence Secretary Mark Esper are travelling to India to hold talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The

visiting American officials would also be meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi. To a query, the official said, the Quad ministerial meeting that they had in Tokyo in October just demonstrated the strong ties among the Indo-Pacific democracies. "I would say it's a grouping of countries who are interested in these discussions or those activities, the door is always open, the official said. The cooperation of the US and India on the Quad along with Australia and Japan really reflect a convergence of common values and interests in the region, the official said.

"We're the two largest democracies in the Indo-Pacific region, and we have shared values and interests with all four countries. It's not an exclusive grouping by any means. All four countries are interested and eager in welcoming other countries to the table for individual elements of cooperation that we do, some of them under the Quad framework but not all of them. That's for sure," the official said. "It is something that's flexible and reflects our common values and interests, and I think it is really for the long term," the official said. In November 2017, India,

Japan, the US and Australia gave shape to the long-pending proposal of setting up the Quad to develop a new strategy to keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any influence. In the midst of growing global concern over China's expansionist behaviour, the foreign ministers of the Quad member nations met in Tokyo on October 6 and reaffirmed their collective vision for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific. The foreign minister of the four countries held their first meeting in New York in

September 2019. The evolving situation in the Indo-Pacific region in the wake of China's increasing military muscle has become a major talking point among leading global powers. The US has been favouring making Quad a security architecture to check China's growing assertiveness. China is engaged in hotly contested territorial disputes in the South and East China Seas. Beijing has also made substantial progress in militarising its man-made islands in the past few years. Beili claims sovereignty over all of the South China Sea.

But Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei and Taiwan have counterclaims. In the East China Sea, China has territorial disputes with Japan. The South China Sea and the East China Sea are stated to be rich in minerals, oil and other natural resources. They are also vital to global trade. Although the US says no claims in the disputed waters, it has challenged China's growing territorial claims in the South China Sea by deploying warships and fighter jets to assert freedom of navigation and overflight rights in the strategically vital region.

I voted for a guy named Trump, says President

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump has casted his ballot Saturday morning in West Palm Beach, Florida, and he tells reporters afterward: "I voted for a guy named Trump". West Palm Beach is near his private Mar-a-Lago club. He used to vote in New York but changed his residency to Florida last year. There were several hundred supporters gathered with flags and signs outside the library where he voted. And there were chants of "Four more years". The president wore a mask while voting but he took it off as he approached reporters afterward in the building. He called it "a very secure vote. Much more secure than when you send in a ballot, I can tell you that". Democrat Joe Biden hasn't voted yet and it likely to do so in person in Delaware on Election Day, Nov. 3. Delaware doesn't offer early, in-person voting like Florida. Trump said at a Florida rally



President Donald Trump walks with Wendy Sartory Link, Supervisor of Elections Palm Beach County, after casting his ballot for the presidential election, on Saturday

on Friday that he likes being able to vote in person. "I'm old-fashioned, I guess," he said. The President has a busy Saturday, with rallies scheduled in North Carolina, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Oli's office rejects claims of using Nepal's old map in PM's Dussehra greeting

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli has been criticised by Nepali citizens for allegedly using the updated map of Nepal, showing three Indian areas as part of its territory, in his Dussehra greetings, a claim rejected by his office which said the revised map was not visible due to its small size. "In June, Nepal's Parliament approved the new political map of the country featuring Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura which is part of Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand. Oli in a Twitter message on Friday conveyed his best wishes to the people of Nepal for Vijaydashami or Dussehra. Many people on social media, including Facebook and Twitter, commented that the Prime Minister's office deliberately removed the updated map after his meeting with India's Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) chief Samant Kumar Goel.

"How can we consider using Nepal's old map in the PM's greeting without incorporating Limpiyadhura as a part of the territory?" asked Opposition Nepali Congress spokesperson Bishwa Prakash Sharma. Many people in their social media posts asked why did the prime minister's office remove the government's coat of arms from the map which includes Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura. In response to the criticism, Prime Minister's Press Advisor Surya Thapa in a statement claimed that the revised map was used in the prime minister's message, but was not visible due to its tiny size. "It is natural for the map to appear in such a manner due to its tiny size but the same map, if enlarged, may clearly show the updated areas," he claimed. He also asked the people not to be misled by such pre-planned efforts to spread rumours about the map included in the greetings.

"There should not be any confusion that the map used in the greetings is the updated version which was endorsed by Nepal's Parliament," Thapa said. The Press Advisor in his press note issued through social media also included an enlarged version of the map, which clearly shows the map which includes all the three territories. The ties between the two countries came under strain after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated an 80-km-long strategically crucial road connecting the Lipulekh pass with Dharachula in Uttarakhand on May 8. Nepal protested the inauguration of the road claiming that it passed through its territory. Days later, Nepal came out with the new map showing Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura as its territories. Prime Minister Oli has new map in November 2019 showing the areas as its territories. After Nepal released the map, India reacted sharply, calling it a "unilateral act" and

in June, Nepal's Parliament approved the new political map of the country featuring Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura which is part of Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand. Oli in a Twitter message on Friday conveyed his best wishes to the people of Nepal for Vijaydashami or Dussehra. Many people in their social media posts asked why did the prime minister's office remove the government's coat of arms from the map which includes Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura. The ties between the two countries came under strain after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated an 80-km-long strategically crucial road connecting the Lipulekh pass with Dharachula in Uttarakhand on May 8. Nepal protested the inauguration of the road claiming that it passed through its territory. Days later, Nepal came out with the new map showing Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura as its territories. Prime Minister Oli has new map in November 2019 showing the areas as its territories. After Nepal released the map, India reacted sharply, calling it a "unilateral act" and

Biden promises free Covid vaccine for everyone in US if elected as President

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has pledged that if elected as president in the November 3 election, he will ensure free COVID-19 vaccination for all Americans, laying out his pandemic response plan just days before the US presidential polls. In a major policy speech on the coronavirus in his home state of Delaware, Biden on Friday played US President Donald Trump for his policies to combat the coronavirus pandemic that has killed over 220,000 people and has had a devastating impact on the country's economy. "President Trump said we're rounding the corner, it's going away, we're learning to live with it. They are quotes. But as I told him last night, we're not learning to live with it. We're learning to die with it. This is a dark winter ahead," Biden, 77, said. Already more than 220,000 people in the US have lost their lives to this virus. Worse yet, a new study from Columbia University suggests that anywhere between 130,000 and 210,000 of those deaths were avoidable, he said. "Once we have a safe and effective vaccine, it has to be free to everyone, whether or not you're insured," the former vice president said.

He said that if elected, he would direct the federal government to "bulk-purchase as many doses as necessary of the COVID-19 vaccine so we can provide it free to those who are uninsured, under-insured or Medicaid-eligible." COVID-19 dwarfs anything we've faced in recent history and it isn't showing any signs of slowing down. The virus is surging in almost every state. We passed 4.8 million cases. And when Trump was asked this week what he'd do differently to get the pan-

dem response right from the start his answer was and I quote, "Not much. Not much," he said. Alleging that Trump does not have a plan to fight the coronavirus, Biden said the longer he is the president, the more reckless "he gets." "We don't have to be held prisoner by this administration's failures. We can choose a different path. We can do what Americans have always done: come together and meet the challenge with grit, compassion, and determination," he said.

Teens behind latest art damage on Berlin's Museum Island

AP ■ BERLIN

Several teenagers sprayed graffiti on a piece of art outside one of Berlin's most famous museums and that the vandalism was unrelated to the damage of more than 60 other artworks on the city's Museum Island that was smeared with an oily liquid early this month, police said on Saturday. A huge granite bowl in front of the Altes Museum, which is part of the German capital's museum complex and

houses antiquities, was defaced Friday night by some teenagers and adults, Berlin police said. Two of the suspects were temporarily detained. Museum Island is a UNESCO world heritage site in the heart of Berlin and one of the city's main tourist attractions. Dozens of other exhibits at the Museum Island complex were vandalized Oct. 3. Investigators said they had watched hours of surveillance camera footage but not found

any obvious sign of anyone applying the liquid. Museum experts have said the motive remains a mystery and there appeared to be no thematic link between the targeted works. They expressed optimism that the apparently random damage can be repaired. Berlin police said the graffiti sprayed on the granite bowl did not have any political content or appear related to the damaging of the other art works.

Rishi Sunak 'barred for life' from UK pub

PTI ■ LONDON

UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak and three fellow ruling Conservative Party members of Parliament from northern England were "barred for life" by a local pub and restaurant in their constituency region after they voted against free school meals for children during the holidays. The Mill pub and its connected 11 Mulino restaurant at Stokesley in North Yorkshire, which falls within Sunak's constituency of Richmond (Yorks), took to social media soon after a vote in the House of Commons earlier this week on extending the government's temporary free meals for schoolchildren as part of a campaign led by England team footballer Marcus Rashford. "The government voted against extending free school meals. This is disgusting," Alex Cook, the owner of the eatery, posted on Facebook on Thursday. "What's worse Matt

Vickers MP, Simon Clarke MP & Jacob Young MP, Rishi Sunak all voted against the scheme. DISGUSTING! All 4 are now barred from The Mill & 11 Mulino for life. I don't want the government's school meals," he said. His angry post, which has been shared over thousand times and signed off as "Team Mill", begins by saying that while he does not usually "do politics", the vote against free meals "has happened yesterday [Wednesday]", he said, in reference to the Commons vote which the government won by 61 votes. The pub, meanwhile, has announced that it will deliver 100 freshly cooked healthy meals to three separate food banks in the Middlesbrough area next week to try and make up for the government decision.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL
HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION Srinagar
Tel: 0194-2496089, Email ID: xemhchd@yashoo.in

Gist of e-tender
NIT No: MHCHD/TS/2020-21/175/e-tendering Date: 22.10.2020
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders, valid for 180 days, are invited from the Registered, reputed & experienced firms as detailed in the NIT for below mentioned works:
Name of Work: Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 2-Post Hydraulic Lifts and Pneumatic guns along with allied fittings at Regional Workshop at State Motor Garages Department, Bemina, Srinagar.
Est. Cost (Rs. in Lakhs): 12.45
Est. T/D.O. (In rupees): 1000/-
Earnest Money (Rs.): 25,000/-
Time of completion (in Days): 30
Position of AAA/funds: Available
1. Downloading of Bids: The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.tenders.gov.in from 22-10-2020 (18.00 hrs) and can be downloaded from 22.10.2020 (18.00 hrs).
2. Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic form on the above web site from 23-10-2020 (10.00 hrs) to 11-11-2020 (18.55 hrs) in two (02) covers.
3. Opening of Bids: The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 12-11-2020 at 10.00 hrs, or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.
No. DIPK-7928/20
Dated:-23.10.2020
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
MHCHD, Srinagar

Big suicide bombing in Kabul kills 18 at education centre

AP ■ KABUL

The death toll from the suicide attack Saturday in Afghanistan's capital has risen to at least 18 killed and 57 people wounded, including students, the interior ministry said. The explosion struck outside an education centre in a heavily Shiite neighborhood of western Kabul, Dasht-e Barchi. Interior Ministry spokesman Tariq Arian says the attacker was trying to enter the centre when he was stopped by security guards. According to Arian, the casualty toll may rise further as family members of victims of the suicide bombing are still searching the several different hospitals, including the wounded have been taken. No group claimed immediate responsibility for the bombing. The Taliban rejected any connection

with the attack. An Islamic State affiliate claimed responsibility for a similar suicide attack at an education centre in August 2018, in which 34 students and 57 people were killed. ISIS has launched large-scale attacks on minority Shiites, Sikhs and Hindus, whom it views as apostates. Hundreds of Sikhs and Hindus in Afghanistan fled the country in September after a gunman loyal to the militant group killed 25 members of the shrinking community in an attack on their share a place of worship in Kabul. The US signed a peace deal with the Taliban in February, opening up a path toward withdrawing American troops from the conflict. U.S. officials said the deal would also help refocus security efforts on fighting the Islamic State, which is a rival of the Taliban in Afghanistan.

There has been an upsurge in violence between Taliban and Afghan forces in the country recently, even as representatives from the two warring sides begin their own peace talks in Doha to end the decades-long war in Afghanistan. Earlier Saturday a roadside bomb killed nine people in eastern Afghanistan after it struck a minivan full of civilians, a local official said. Ghazni province police spokesman Ahmadullah Sirat said that a second roadside bomb killed two policemen, after it struck their vehicle that was making its way to the victims of the first explosion. Sirat added that the bombings had wounded several others, and that the attacks were under investigation. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks. The provincial police spokesman claimed the Taliban had placed the bomb.

THE RAJASTHAN SMALL INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Rajasthan Undertaking)
Udyog Bhawan, Task Mang. C Scheme, Jodhpur-342 005
Tel: 0141-2227079 Fax: 0141-2227257
Website: <http://industries.rajasthan.gov.in/rajisco> E-mail: rajisco@rajasthan.gov.in
CIN: U91108RJ1965SC001119 GSTIN: 08AAACR6761127
URN No.: ISR2021SSOB00007
Sealed bids are invited from reputed e-marketing services providers for providing e-marketing services for Rajasthan Handicraft Products on various leading e-marketing portals with 3 years maintenance services.
Last date of Bid Submission is 10.11.2020 at 1.00 PM and opening of Tenders is 11.11.2020 at 3.00 PM.
Interested tenderer can submit their bids only on rajisco.rajasthan.gov.in details can be seen of tender on our official website industries.rajasthan.gov.in/rajisco
Reg. Samwad/C/2020-21/6023 Managing Director

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION
General public is hereby informed that one male was found dead at Subway, Near Hanuman Mandir, Kashmir Gate, Delhi on 20.10.2020. In this regard a DD No. 59-A/US 174 CrP, Dated 20.10.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Kashmir Gate, Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under:
Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 30-35 years, Height: 5'8" Feet, Face: Round, Complexion: Shallow, Build: Thin, Wearing: Red Colour T-Shirt and Blue Colour Pant. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.
S.H.O
P.S. Kashmir Gate, Delhi
Ph: 011-23967889, 23968730
DP/669/N/2020

FY19 GST returns filing deadline extended till Dec 31

New Delhi: The government on Saturday extended the deadline for furnishing GST annual returns for FY 2018-19 by two months till December 31. The government had last month extended the last date for filing GST annual return and audit report for the 2018-19 fiscal by a month till October 31, 2020.

In a statement, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said the government has been receiving a number of representations regarding need to extend due date for filing Annual Return (Form GSTR-9) and Reconciliation Statement (Form GSTR-9C) for FY 2018-19.

The representations have been made on the grounds that due to the COVID-19 pandemic related lockdown and restrictions, normal business operations have still not been possible in several parts of the country, it said.

The statement said it has been requested that the due dates for the same be extended beyond October 31, 2020 to enable the businesses and traders to comply in this regard.



"In view of the same, on the recommendations of the GST Council, it has been decided to extend the due date for filing

Annual Return (Form GSTR-9) for FY 2018-19 by two months till December 31, 2020, the CBIC said.

GSTR 9 is an annual return to be filed yearly by taxpayers registered under the Goods and Services Tax (GST). It consists of details regarding the outward and inward supplies made or received under different tax heads. GSTR-9C is a statement of reconciliation between GSTR-9 and the audited annual financial statement.

Furnishing of the annual return is mandatory only for taxpayers with aggregate annual turnover of above Rs 2 crore while reconciliation statement is to be furnished only by the registered persons having aggregate turnover above Rs 5 crore. **PTI**

Base year revision for CPI-industrial workers suspicious: AITUC

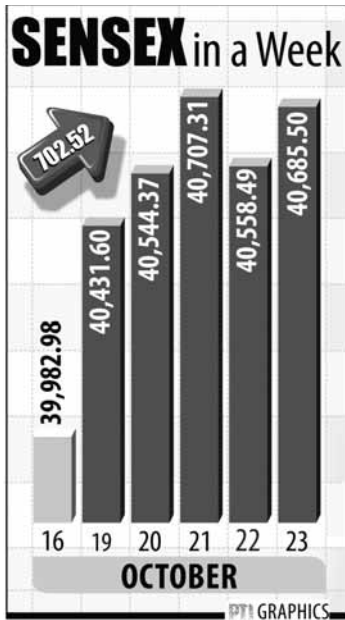
New Delhi: The All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) on Saturday said the labour ministry's move to revise base year for consumer price index for industrial workers (CPI-IW) is 'suspicious'. The AITUC further said that it is of the view that the move will lead to 'depression' in dearness allowance (DA) paid to workers. The labour ministry has recently revised the base year for CPI-IW to 2016 from 2012.

The retail inflation measured in terms of CPI-IW is the single most important price statistics with financial implications. The CPI-IW is primarily used to regulate the dearness allowance of government employees and the workers in the industrial sectors.

It is also used in the fixation and revision of minimum wages in scheduled employments besides measuring the inflation in retail prices. In a statement issued on Saturday, the AITUC said that the move to revise the base year for calculating DA is 'suspicious'. The Labour Bureau of the Ministry of Labour sent out emails announcing revision of base year for calculating CPI-IW from 2012 to 2016, on October 22, 2020, it claimed.

This decision follows the earlier pattern practiced by the labour ministry: making a show of consulting stakeholders at the last hour and then completely ignoring the responses received, it alleged. The entire lot of central trade unions had opposed through a written, signed communication, the recommendations of the Labour Bureau. The move, by point, only to discover that they have simply been brushed aside, the AITUC said. The so-called consultations on labour codes, including recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee on Labour, it added.

"Since the present decision of shifting the base year to 2016, linking factor of 2.88, proportions of items of household expenditures, points of data collections, all are going to result in a sharp fall in dearness allowance payable to industrial workers, the employers stand to gain that much as their profits," it opined. **PTI**



E-tailers begin 2nd festive sale round after 7-day fiesta

New Delhi: After registering record sales in the seven-day period to kick off the festive season after pandemic-induced lockdowns, e-commerce marketplaces like Amazon and Flipkart have announced the second round of online sales to keep up the momentum.

Amazon on Saturday announced its '1/2 Happiness Upgrade Days' where customers will get special offers on a wide range of products across categories from top brands till October 28.

The e-commerce platform is offering up to 40 per cent off on latest smartphones from top brands, 65 per cent off on large appliances and TVs and up to 80 per cent off on Amazon fashion and home and kitchen products.

The sale brings over 6,000 deals on consumer electronics and accessories, up to Rs 30,000 off on laptops, up to 75 per cent off on headphones and up to 60 per cent off on camera devices, the company said in a statement.

The customers can save big with a 10 per cent instant bank discount on Axis Bank, Citibank and ICICI Bank credit and debit cards and EMI transactions.

They can get 5 per cent instant discount plus up to 5 per cent reward points with Amazon Pay ICICI Bank credit card.

Flipkart has also started its 'Big Billion Days' sale from October 28 and after that, the e-commerce platform will begin the 1/2 Big Diwali Sale.

According to industry reports, the seven-day sales likely witnessed over \$4.8 billion (nearly Rs 35,273 crore) in sales, according to Bengaluru-based market research firm RedSeer. \$3.1 billion (about Rs 22,000 crore) of goods were sold online from brands and sellers in the first four-and-a-half days of the online sale event that started from October 15.

Online retailers are expected to generate approximately \$6.5 billion (Rs 47,751 crore) in sales during the festive month (October 15-November 15), with around 5.5-6 crore online buyers participating, according to a Forrester report. **IANS**

'IBC raised confidence of all investors in Indian economy'

New Delhi: The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) has not only strengthened the banking system by helping them resolve outstanding debt piled over years but has also come as a big booster of confidence of national and foreign investors in the Indian economy. As a senior SBI official said on Saturday.

In his address as the Guest of Honour in the inaugural session of the international conference (online) on 'Insolvency Resolution Paradigm: Global Headwinds and Responses', State Bank of India's Managing Director, Commercial Clients Groups, Arijit Basu, said that earlier banks only had 'loan structuring' option which used to take five to six years.

"Now, the IBC has provided equal opportunity to corporate sector and banks. It has changed the relationship between borrowers and creditors and provided a mechanism of insolvency."

"Unsolvable debt is a symptom of fundamental issues in the 'business model' of the concerned company. In case if you don't have a viable resolution plan, we (banks) have a viable resolution plan imposed," he said.

However, Basu expressed satisfaction that the big corporate houses in India have efficiently managed their cash flow during Covid-19.

The event was organised by the Indian Institute of Insolvency Professionals of ICAI (IIIP), in his address, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) President Atul Kumar Gupta highlighted the role of insolvency resolution in IBC ecosystem as insolvency professionals (IPs).

"About 62 per cent of insolvency professionals are CAs. Besides, IBC has opened several new opportunities for CAs in the form of valuer, liquidator, technical experts in the NCLT, the NCLAT, high courts, and also the Supreme Court, and also various kinds of advisory services," he said.

Gupta also appreciated the initiatives of the Central government in helping businesses to wade through the economic crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the session titled "Perspective on Global Insolvency Regime", Joint Secretary, Corporate Affairs, Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh said: "IBC has not only served corporates but livelihoods also. As per estimates, the total value of insolvency cases amount to about Rs 5.63 lakh crore. If it had undergone through liquidation, only about 7 per cent of the money would have been recovered. This would have adversely impacted the Indian economy."

"With IBC in place, there will be no sick companies and sick banks in the future."

In the same session, Paul Banister, Head, (Policy), Insolvency Service, UK, appreciated the response of India in handling the economic crisis caused by Covid-19.

"These are very difficult times. We already have a world-class insolvency regime but we are developing further against the context of crisis and changing international context including Covid and UK's exit from the European Union," he said. **IANS**

IBC has changed the relationship between borrowers and creditors and provided a mechanism of insolvency

Weak demand from power sector pushes up CIL's e-auction of coal

New Delhi: India's healthy debt to GDP ratio has created scope for raising investment funding for 'National Infrastructure Pipeline' through borrowings from overseas markets.

According to Sanjay Aggarwal, President, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, although, early signs of recovery are visible from the recent data on economic and business indicators, the need of the hour is to put the attention on refuelling consumption demand in the country to regain the lost growth momentum.

"Since the lockdown caused by Covid-19 in the month of March, the Government has very well addressed the investors' and the industry's sentiments, the focus should now be on fuelling consumption growth, which is one of the key engines of economic growth," Aggarwal said, adding that the PHD Chamber stands in full attention to refuelling consumption demand in the country to regain the lost growth momentum.

"Lockdown in various parts of the country and continuing economic crisis has dried up demand for the dry fuel pushing CIL to explore new avenues for growth."

The government had earlier asked state-run power companies such as NTPC to reduce coal imports needed for blending purpose and look more at the domestic sources.

The CIL has also set up various washeries to supply good quality coal that could replace imports. **IANS**

PHD Chamber: Refuel demand to attract pvt investments

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Steady oil prices holds up any reversion in petrol-diesel prices

New Delhi: The pump prices of auto fuels petrol and diesel remained unchanged on Saturday as softer global crude and product prices prevented oil marketing companies from carrying out any revision in prices.

With this, Petrol prices have now been unchanged for 32 days at a stretch while diesel prices were the same for the 22 consecutive days.

Price of petrol in the national capital stood at Rs 81.06 per litre. In Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, the fuel was sold for Rs 87.74, Rs 84.14 and Rs 82.59 per litre, respectively. Diesel prices in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata continued to be at Rs 70.46, Rs 76.86, Rs 75.95 and Rs 73.99, respectively.

Oil sector experts said that with global oil prices under pressure from slowing demand

Petrol prices have now been unchanged for 32 days at a stretch while diesel prices were the same for the 22 consecutive days

in the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic sweeping several western countries, crude price could fall in coming days. If this holds on for a week or so, there could be positive gains for auto fuel consumers in India by way of a fall in retail price of petrol and diesel.

Global crude prices are holding close to \$42 a barrel now. It has been hovering between \$40-42 a barrel for over a month, owing to lower oil demand and rising inventory, there is fear among oil producing companies that crude prices may start falling again. **IANS**

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED BOY

General public is hereby informed that this boy named Ankit Kumar S/o Jitender Pathak R/o RZF-82, Nihal Vihar, Nangloi, Delhi Age: 14 years, Complexion : Wheatish, Height : 5'2", Face : Round, Identification: An old scar mark on left side of face, wearing white colour T-shirt, black colour trouser and white colour sports shoes in feet, has been missing/kidnapped since 25.05.2019 from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. In this regard FIR No. 352/19 dated 25.05.2019 u/s 363 IPC has been lodged at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped boy may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: cic@cbl.gov.in SHO: P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi, Ph: 011-25946700, Fax: 24368639, Tel: 24368638/24368641

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one girl named Yogita, D/o Mukesh, R/o C-1325, Jahangir Puri, Delhi, Age: 22 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Strong, Wearing Grey colour Frock and Black Legging or Chappal in feet, has been missing from the area of P.S. Jahangir Puri, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 111A, dated 13.10.2020 has been registered at P.S. Jahangir Puri, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

Website: <http://nclt.nic.in> E-mail: cic@cbl.gov.in SHO: P.S. Jahangir Puri, Delhi, Ph: 011-24368639, Fax: 24368638, Tel: 24368641

JASCH INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Regd. Off. : 43/5, Bahalgarh Road, Sonapat - 131021 Tele : 0130 - 2216666, Fax : 011-66173923
CIN : L24302HR1985PLC022758 Website : www.jaschindustries.com, Email : accounts@jasch.biz

Extract of Standalone Reviewed Financial Results for the Quarter ended 30th September, 2020. (₹ in Lakh)

Sl No	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Half Year Ended		Year Ended
		30.09.20	30.06.20	30.09.19	30.06.19	
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	2645.23	1488.56	3117.23	4133.89	13077.64
2	Profit Before Interest, Depreciation & Taxes (EBITDA)	331.08	181.40	59.79	512.48	1154.72
3	Net Profit for the Period (before Tax and Exceptional Items)	245.53	85.37	(74.25)	330.90	620.02
4	Net Profit for the Period before Tax (after Exceptional Items)	245.53	85.37	(74.25)	330.90	620.02
5	Net Profit for the period after Tax (after Exceptional Items)	183.73	63.88	(60.99)	247.61	453.72
6	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after-tax)	183.73	63.88	(60.99)	247.61	453.72
7	Equity Share Capital	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00
8	Reserves	4904.18	4387.64	4326.65	4904.18	4656.57
9	Earnings Per Share (of ₹10/- each)	1.62	0.56	(0.54)	2.19	4.00
	Basic & Diluted:					

Notes :

- The above is an extract of the detailed form of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full form of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the website of Stock Exchange at www.bseindia.com and also on Company's website at www.jaschindustries.com.
- The Company has prepared these results in accordance with the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 (Ind AS) prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- Figures for the previous periods have been regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to the current period's classification.

Sonapat, 24th October 2020 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

Karnataka HC restrains Franklin Templeton to wind up schemes without investors' consent

Bengaluru: In a major victory for investors, the High Court of Karnataka on Saturday restrained Franklin Templeton (FT) India's decision from winding up its six debt schemes without obtaining the consent of unit-holders.

Pronouncing the verdict in petitions challenging the winding-up of six debt fund schemes of FT, a division bench of Chief Justice A.S. Oka and Justice Justice Ashok S. Kinagi directed that trustees should not take any action on the winding up of the six schemes till a simple majority consent of unit holders is obtained.

"We hold that no interference is called for by the decision of trustees to wind up of the said schemes. We hold and declare that the decision of the trustees to wind up the six schemes cannot be implemented until consent from the unit-holders is obtained in accordance with Clause C of Regulation 15."

Hence, we restrain the trustees to take any further steps based on the notice April 23, 2020 and May 28, 2020, issued till the consent of the unit-holders is obtained. It was open for trustees to obtain the consent of unit-holders and to take further steps," the division bench stated in its 330-page order.

Market regulator SEBI should have played a more active role in the matter and it failed in its duty towards taking prompt actions, the court noted, adding that the forensic audit report in the case is tentative and doesn't include final findings.

In view of the Supreme Court's vacation, the operation of the order has been stayed for six weeks to give time to FT

India to appeal the order, the Karnataka High Court ruled, directing that status quo on refund and redemptions should be maintained till then.

It also restricted the asset management company, Franklin Templeton, from taking on any fresh borrowings in the six debt schemes, which were shut in April.

Reacting on the High Court order, Franklin Templeton said: "Court has upheld the authority and decision taken by the Trustees to wind-up the schemes under regulation 39(2)(a). As per the judgement, for operationalising such a decision, approval of the unit-holders will be required under regulation 18(15)(c).

"We are considering the order and will take appropriate steps in consultation with our legal experts in the best interest of the unit-holders. Our focus remains on maximizing value for unit-holders in these schemes and returning monies as soon as possible," said FT in a statement.

Notably, on April 23 amid severe redemption pressure and liquidity, Franklin Templeton had decided to shut down its suite of six debt schemes, affecting 3,00,000 investors adversely and assets under management of Rs 26,000 crore. **IANS**

CFMA hails HC verdict in FTMF case, to move SC for unit-holders' interests

Chennai: Hailing the Karnataka High Court's verdict that upheld the rights of unit-holders of the Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund (FTMF), the Chennai Financial Markets and Accountability (CFMA), an investor's protection organisation, said it would approach the Supreme Court to safeguard the entire interests of investors.

The Karnataka High Court has directed Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund to not proceed with the winding-up of its debt schemes without obtaining the consent of its unit-holders. It clarified that the consent of unit-holders as per the regulations is to be obtained before going through the winding-up process.

Stating that the half-battle was won wherein rights of unit-holders are upheld by the Karnataka High Court, Nityasha Natraj, the counsel for the CFMA, noted: "There are few areas which the court has not decided upon (which) may set a wrong precedent for the Mutual Fund Industry."

He pointed out that it has been rightly observed by the court that the SEBI has failed to be proactive in this case. He reiterated that the CFMA would challenge the order in the apex court so that the entire interests of unit-holders are protected further.

"Leaving the fate of three lakh unit-holders at the mercy of trustees without knowing the content of forensic audit will set a bad precedent," he added. **IANS**

"The increased spending on infrastructure will give a multiplier effect to rejuvenate the aggregate demand in the economy and to mitigate the daunting impact of Covid-19 on the economy," said Aggarwal. **IANS**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Interior design and general painting contractor client Mr. Mahaveer Parash & Sons, Rajgudi Dist. of Shivajinagar, 8th floor, station building, Chhatrapati, Mumbai-400 020 invites offer through e-tender portal www.mps.gov.in under single packet system for the following tender: Tender No. DP-C/2774/R, Name of Work: Main Building Construction strengthening of cast iron screw piles (bridge No. 20) Placing of precast RCC box segments between abutment and pier No. 1 and strengthening of piers and other Misc works, Mumbai Division W. Rly. NIT (C) : 4.57.2001 : 5.14.64.542: ENIT (Rs.) : Rs.7,20,000. Bid submission closing date: 17.11.2020 at 15:00 hrs. Instructions of tenderer: Only e-bids submitted online through e-tender portal will be considered. Please note that printed offers will not be entertained. The date of tender, terms & conditions and scope of work are uploaded and are available only in electronic form in our website www.mps.gov.in. 0375

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We back all the bowlers in our team to get wickets and stop runs. We have a quality bowling lineup. We pride ourselves on that. And today I guess it just didn't happen

This now can be the start of his (Rana) campaign taking things forward. Today, against one of the best bowling lineups in the tournament, he played absolutely outstanding

We could've put more pressure on them (KKR) and gone more attacking but the way they played in between especially Narine coming and changing the momentum towards them

I've been lucky to get the first over so it's going to swing, it's going to be up front. The wickets are becoming a lot slower and lot drier. I think it just comes down to accuracy

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Leg-spinner Varun Chakravarthy dished out the best bowling performance of this IPL with a five-for after his batting colleagues stepped up in style as Kolkata Knight Riders beat Delhi Capitals by 59 runs here on Saturday.

Promoted to open the innings, Nitish Rana revelled in his new role as he overcame a personal tragedy to smash a whirlwind 81 and shared a game-changing 115-run stand with Sunil Narine (64) to lift KKR to an imposing 194/6 after being put in to bat.

Chasing a stiff target, Chakravarthy (5/20) and Pat Cummins (3/17) gave the Delhi Capitals batsmen a torrid time to restrict them to 135 for 9 in 20 overs.

Cummins gave a perfect start, dismissing both the openers Ajinkya Rahane (0) and in-form Shikhar Dhawan (6) in his first two overs.

Then Chakravarthy played the finisher's act in the back-end of the innings to choke the DC run chase.

Coming on the back of a horror batting show against Royal Challengers Bangalore when they crumbled to 84/8, KKR ticked all the boxes to keep their playoff hopes alive by securing their sixth win, with three matches left.

For DC, this was their second successive loss but they still maintained the second spot.

Skipper Shreyas Iyer was the top-scorer for DC with 47 as he, along with Rishabh Pant (27), held on after Cummins' twin strike. They took on the opposition attack in the second half but KKR's strategy to press in Chakravarthy paid dividends.

The spinners, led by Iyer, accounted for Pant boled out at deep square leg and in his next over he got two in two, dismissing Shimron Hetmyer (10) and Iyer off consecutive balls.



Varun Chakravarthy reacts after he dismisses Delhi Capitals Shimron Hetmyer during run chase on Saturday

DC trapped in Varun's Chakravyuh

Hetmyer fell while trying to clear the long on boundary, while Iyer could not connect well and was caught by Kamlesh Nagarkoti at long on.

In his next over, Chakravarthy dismissed Marcus Stoinis and then picked his five-for in the fifth ball, cleaning up Axar Patel with a straight one.

Earlier, new opener Nitish Rana made 81, while Sunil Narine, playing in his first match after being cleared of suspect bowling, smashed a 32-ball 64 to propel KKR to 194 for 6 after being asked to bat.

Promoted to open, Rana smashed 13 fours and one six in his 53-ball 81, while Narine also

came out all guns blazing, smacking four sixes and six fours as KKR put behind their horror show against RCB to post a stiff total.

The left-handed duo stitched together 115 runs from just 59 balls to seize the momentum.

Having crumbled for 84 in their last match against RCB, KKR once again were staring down the barrel at 42/3 after 7.2 overs.

Anrich Nortje grabbed the wickets of the under-performing Shubman Gill (9) and Rahul Tripathi (13) inside the Powerplay, while Kagiso Rabada accounted for Dinesh Karthik (3).

Just when KKR's tale of batting woes began to unfold, Rana came into the rescue act, tak-

'Our most complete performance so far'

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Kolkata Knight Riders skipper Eoin Morgan on Saturday said his team produced its most complete performance of the season so far when it upstaged the fancied Delhi Capitals by 59 runs to stay alive in the IPL.

"I think the timing of this couldn't be any better. Playing against a side who are second coming towards the business end of the tournament, two points is huge," Morgan said in the post-match conference.

"We had the most complete performance as a group in this tournament so far. Until today, we feel as if we hadn't played our best cricket. Today I think it was close to that," he added.

It was Narine (64) and Rana (81) who set it up for KKR in a 115-run partnership from 56 balls. Playing his first match after being cleared of a suspect bowling action, Narine batted at five and fired on all cylinders in his 32-ball 64.

"I think that rubbed off on Nitish Rana as well. Watching them play with the freedom that they did was outstanding."

"Sunil has been an integral part of this franchise for a number of years now. His ability as an all-rounder is key in

our team. He has him back and come in and perform not only with the ball but with the bat, I think is outstanding. He has just proved how valuable he is to the team."

He also spoke very highly of mystery spinner Chakravarthy who returned with the first five-wicket haul of this season.

"He has gelled really well in the team. I think he's been one of the positive stories out of our campaign so far," he said of the man who has been their leading wicket-taker this season with 12 from 10 matches.

He was then seen dedicating his half-century to his father-in-law, who died of cancer recently, by showing a jersey customised by KKR as a special tribute to him.

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RCB look to seal play-off berth

PTI ■ DUBAI

Their house in complete disarray after eight defeats from 11 outings, Chennai Super Kings will look to give their forgettable campaign a semblance of respectability when they take on in-form Royal Challengers Bangalore here on Sunday.

CSK, with six points from 11 games, still have a theoretical chance to make it to the play-offs, provided they do not lose any of their remaining three games, improve their net-run-rate and all other match results go their way.

The three-time IPL winners have struggled to win for the next months of the game, leading to heavy criticism towards skipper MS Dhoni for not showing enough faith in the youngsters. CSK brought in young Ruturaj Gaikwad and Narayan Jagadeesan against Mumbai Indians but both batsmen perished without opening their account.

The Super Kings batsmen were rocked by Trent Boult and Jasprit Bumrah's devastating pace-bowling spell, slipping to 21 for five inside the powerplay.

Their bowlers also failed to make an impact as the *Yellow Army* suffered its first-ever 10-wicket defeat on Friday.

Sam Curran's half-century was the only saving grace for the CSK. With 173 runs and 10 wickets in 11 games, the England all-rounder has been their silver in a devastating season.

CSK is expected to continue giving opportunities to the youngsters, treating the remaining three games as an audition for the next season.

"We have to make the most of the next three games and it is good preparation for the next years. Identify the batsmen, who will bowl at the death and hopefully the players will soak up the pressure," Dhoni said after the loss to MI.

They run into a RCB squad which has grown in confidence as the tournament has progressed. Virat Kohli and his men are placed third on the points table with 14 points, the same as



Virat Kohli & AB de Villiers

the table toppers MI and Delhi Capitals.

They will aim to grab the two points on offer, while also trying to improve their net-run-rate, which could play a vital role in deciding the top two teams heading to the playoffs.

RCB are coming on the back of two morale-boosting victories against Rajasthan Royals and Kolkata Knight Riders.

While AB de Villiers single-handedly fetched them the win against the Royals, pacer Mohammed Siraj tormented KKR by bowling a sensational spell, including a double-wicket maiden, in the eight-wicket victory over the two-time champions.

The pace trio of Chris Morris, Isuru Udana and Navdeep Saini have done well for the team, while spinners Washington Sundar and Yuzvendra Chahal have also proved effective.

RCB's strong batting lineup led by captain Kohli has also lived up to the billing. Young opener Devdutt Padikkal has looked in good touch, while de Villiers has been a key player.

The two team's last game against each other was also on this ground, with RCB inflicting a 37-run defeat upon CSK.

Sunrisers keep KXIP down to 126-7

PTI ■ DUBAI

Sunrisers Hyderabad bowlers produced a clinical performance to restrict Kings XI Punjab to a modest 126 for seven in an Indian Premier League match here on Saturday.

SRH bowlers responded impressively to their skipper David Warner's decision to field first, picking wickets at regular intervals to control the innings.

KXIP Skipper KL Rahul (27), Mandeep Singh (17) and Chris Gayle (20) all got starts but their innings never got going as they failed to grab the momentum.

SRH perfectly planned Gayle's dismissal who came at one down. They kept the big-hitting batsman quiet for a long time, consistent bowling wide of the off stump and in the process frustrated him.

Gayle repeatedly tried to force his way out of the shackles but was dismissed by his West Indian teammate Jason Holder (27/27), caught at long-off by Warner with a wide of the stumps delivery in the 10th over.

Rashid Khan (2/14) then went through the defence of captain Rahul in the first ball off the net over as KXIP slumped to 66 for three.

Glenn Maxwell's (12) struggle with the bat continued as he



Jason Holder celebrates with SRH teammates after taking wicket of Chris Gayle

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KXIP SKIPPER KL RAHUL (27), MANDEEP SINGH (17) AND CHRIS GAYLE (20) ALL GOT STARTS BUT THEIR INNINGS NEVER GOT GOING AS THEY FAILED TO GRAB THE MOMENTUM

too departed soon, holed out to Warner at long-on off Sandeep Sharma (2/29) before Deepak Hooda was stumped by Jonny Bairstow off Rashid.

Boundaries and sizes were hard to come by and KXIP batsmen's struggle can be gauged from the fact they failed to find the fence for more than 11 overs, which was finally broken by Nicholas Pooran in the 19th over.

Pooran ended being the top-scorer, making an unbeaten 32 off 28 balls.

One last chance for Royals

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Skipper Rohit Sharma's fitness should be a concern for defending champions Mumbai Indians as they aim to continue their dominant run, while a depleted Rajasthan Royals would hope to stay afloat when the two teams clash here on Sunday.

Mumbai roared back to form by crushing CSK by 10 wickets on Friday after their Super Over loss to the Kings XI Punjab. RR, on the other hand, lost to the SRH by 8 wickets in their last game.

Table-toppers MI are on course to make it to the play-offs but the game is crucial for Royals, who are languishing at seventh place and a loss would mean a step closer to exit.

Questions remain on whether Rohit, who suffered a hamstring injury and missed the game against CSK, will be available on Sunday for MI.

But Rohit's absence was hardly felt on Friday as the young Ishan Kishan (261 runs) launched into CSK bowlers with gusto.



Trent Boult & Jasprit Bumrah pose for photo after win against CSK

So did Quinton De Kock (368 runs), continuing his sublime run. In the event of Rohit missing out on Sunday as well, the two will open again.

Mumbai's middle-order has also been among runs — be it Suryakumar Yadav (243 runs), Hardik Pandya (164 runs), swashbuckling West Indian all-rounder Kieron Pollard (88 runs) or Krunal Pandya (82 runs).

With their big-hitting ability, the Pandya brothers and Pollard are a threat to any oppo-

worry is the form of skipper Steve Smith, who has made 265 runs from 11 matches and a mis-firing top-order.

In the course of the season, Rajasthan have made constant changes at the top and that has hurt them badly.

The team does possess quality players like Ben Stokes (110 runs), Sanju Samson (272 runs) and Jos Buttler (271), but the trio has failed to deliver collectively.

With two crucial points at stake, the management would be hoping that the three click on Sunday's match.

On the bowling front, RR lack consistency. Only Jofra Archer (15 wickets) has been effective with his pace but he has failed to get support from fellow pacers Karthik Tyagi, Jaydev Unadkat and Aniket Rajpoot, who have 12 wickets combined. Stokes, as a bowler, has also been unimpressive and has failed to get a single wicket so far.

For Rajasthan, the biggest

DUGOUT MOTION PICTURE



KKR batsman Nitish Rana paid heart-warming tribute to his father-in-law Surinder Marwah, who passed away on Friday, after completing his fifty against Delhi Capitals



Pandya brothers Hardik and Krunal pose with CSK skipper MS Dhoni's jersey at the end of IPL match between Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings











Wriddhiman Saha poses for photo with his Sunrisers Hyderabad teammates Priyam Garg, Abhishek Sharma, Manish Pandey and Khaleel Ahmed after his birthday celebrations



India's first World Cup-winning captain Kapil Dev is well on road to recovery after a successful recovery coronary angioplasty, and this is evident from a photo in which the legendary all-rounder is seen flashing a double thumbs up sign from his hospital bed

GAME WAS ALMOST OVER IN POWERPLAY

CSK head coach Stephen Fleming has attributed his team's 10-wicket loss to Mumbai Indians to a "terrible" powerplay where they lost too many quick wickets. CSK were on Friday reduced to 21 for five in the powerplay and could only post a paltry 114 for nine, thanks to a 47-ball 52 by Sam Curran. "We were pretty stunned really. It was a terrible powerplay. To lose wickets so quickly, so frequently, the game was almost over in the powerplay. Obviously, we had a couple of young guys who had an opportunity which didn't work out," Fleming said at the post-match press conference on Friday.

POINTS TABLE						
		P	W	L	NRR	PTS
1	 MI	10	7	3	+1.448	14
2	 DC	11	7	4	+0.434	14
3	 RCB	10	7	3	+0.182	14
4	 KKR	11	6	5	-0.476	12
5	 SRH	10	4	6	+0.092	8
6	 KXIP	10	4	6	-0.177	8
7	 RR	11	4	7	-0.620	8
8	 CSK	11	3	8	-0.733	6

Virat most complete player across formats: Root

PTI ■ LONDON

England Test skipper Joe Root considers Virat Kohli as the "most complete player" across all formats, saying he has an all-round game and his ability to chase down totals in white-ball cricket is "extraordinary".

Root also called countryman Jos Buttler as the "most complete batsman" in the world currently.

It has been widely accepted that Kohli, New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson, Australia's Steve Smith and Root are currently the leading batsmen in world cricket.

"Virat is probably the most complete player out of the three of them across formats. His ability to chase the ball batsman" in the limited-overs format and to pace it as well as he does and often as he does and is not out at the end is extraordinary," Root was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"He's got a very good all-round game but you wouldn't say

he's weaker against spin or pace." Kohli followed up his disastrous 2014 tour of England by producing 894 runs across the three formats against the home team in 2018.

"He obviously struggled on his first tour to England, but he scored really heavily when he came back. And similarly, elsewhere in the world, he's put in massive performances. All with the weight of India on his shoulders, as well," Root said.

The 29-year-old said he tries not to measure himself against other players but likes to watch the top three go about their business.

"I try not to measure myself against Kohli, Williamson and Smith. I do watch a lot of how they go about constructing different types of innings across the three formats."

"You're looking at three of the greatest players the game has seen. They're three brilliant people to watch play and learn from. I'm not sure I'd put myself in their bracket, to be honest," he added.