NZ PM ARDERN WINS

2ND TERM IN LANDSLIDE

**MONEY 8** 

INDIA IS GRADUALLY MOVING TOWARDS

AN ECONOMY BASED ON CLEAN ENERGY

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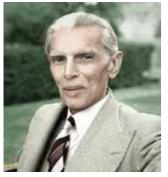
USUALSUSPECTS SWAPAN DASGUPTA

## No need to rewrite Jinnah's history

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Covid cases, daily count drop sharply

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TOTAL

CASES: 74,91,974

**DEATHS: 1,13,844** 

ACTIVE: 7,83,127

**RECOVERED:** 

65,93,809

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

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

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

Maharashtra

Karnataka

Tamil Nadu

Kerala

Delhi

Odisha

Telangana

Rajasthan

Madhya Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh

West Benga

Andhra Pradesh

TOTAL CASES

15,86,321

7,79,146

7,58,574

6,83,486

4,52,660

3,34,229

3,27,718

3,17,053

2,66,345

2,20,675

2,03,060

2,00,391

1,71,281

1,59,158

1,58,635



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

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

13,58,606

7,35,638

6,37,481

6,32,708

4,11,611

2,36,989

2,98,853

2,77,940

2,44,227

1,96,636

1,91,515

1,71,081

1,48,291

1,40,519

1,26,869

41,752

10,427

10,586

6,629

1,140

5,981

5,992

1,174

865

1,735

2,753

3,629

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

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

There are further requests from Bangladesh, Myanmar, Qatar and Bhutan for clinical trials in their countries. To help the global community, the PM directed the health authorities that India should not limit its efforts to its immediate neighbourhood but also reach out to the entire world in providing vaccines, medicines and IT platforms for vaccine delivery

Turn to Page 4

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

This will be a multi-centre and randomised controlled study, which will include safety and immunogenicity check,

the Hyderabad-based drug major said in a statement.

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

Director GV Prasad said. CEO Kirill RDIF Dmitriev said the entity was pleased to collaborate with the Îndian regulators.

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

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

PNS NEW DELHI

India has been ranked 94th among 107 nations worldwide in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020, faring poorer than all its immediate neigh-

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



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

Last year, India's rank was 102nd among 117 countries. China, Belarus, Ukraine, Turkey, Cuba and Kuwait, figure among the top 20 with GHI

scores of less than five. The Global Hunger Index is a peerreviewed annual report, jointly published by Concern Worldwide

Welthungerhilfe, designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger at the global, regional, and country levels. Turn to Page 4

on Saturday. France's anti-terrorism prosecutor's office said authorities investigating the killing of



shot dead by police is Chechen refugee

AP PARIS

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

Samuel Paty in Conflans-Sainte-Honorine on Friday also arrested nine suspects, including the teen's grandfather, parents and 17-year-old brother.

Paty had discussed carica-

9.9 lakh lt liquor seized in



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

tures of Islam's Prophet Muhammad with his class, leading to threats and a complaint from a parent, police officials said. Islam prohibits images of the prophet. The officials could not be named because they were not authorised to discuss ongoing investigations.

The French anti-terrorism

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

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

prosecutor Jean-Francois

which fires plastic pellets.

Turn to Page 4

## **Kangana**, sister booked for 'creating hatred'

On Bollywood casting director Sayyed plea, court orders probe

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI The Mumbai Police on

■ Saturday registered an FIR against Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut and her sister Rangoli Chandel following an order by metropolitan magistrate court for allegedly pro moting enmity between different communities.

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

"communal tensions" between After hearing a complaint filed against Kangana and her sister Rangoli Chandel by Bollywood casting director and fitness trainer Munawwarali

alias Sahil A Sayyed,



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

and created disaffection among the people against the Maharashtra Government.

Turn to Page 4

#### 1,139 illegal guns, drugs recovered in election-related raids and searches RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

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

While more than 2.54 lakh people having criminal background have been put on notice, there has been a seizure of ₹16.81 crore of unaccounted money, including about 90 lakh Nepalese currency. Raids and checks have also yielded a huge quantity of contraband drugs including 956.625 kg poppy,

### dry Bihar ahead of election 106.825 kg hashish, 10.5 kg poppy rolls, 40 packet smacks, 150 gram brown sugar.

The revelation was made in

a seizure report of the Election Commission (EC). Over 200 "expenditure sensitive pockets" have also been identified by the EC in the State, which shares its borders with Nepal. The flying squads, static

surveillance team and other agencies have seized 9,89,973 litres of liquors including "mahua" (Madhuca indica) made liquor from different locations, mostly rural areas. This is the first assembly

polls in dry Bihar. "The liquor mafia in the dry State has suddenly become more active

in smuggling

alcohol as it is often used

a statewide ban has been imposed on alcohol. As a result, an increase in the secretive supply and sale of narcotics like

by politicians to lure voters", officials added.

has significantly increased after

The drug consumption

brown sugar has been observed," officials said. The income tax flying

squad has recovered ₹16,81,29,023 unaccounted money, of which about 90 lakh are Nepalese currency notes. The special surveillance team and field surveillance

unit has recovered about ₹11.72 crore during checking of vehi-cles from different locations. 'More than 2,100 gun

licences have been cancelled," said an EC official. About 2,56,447 having criminal backgrounds or bad characters have been put on notice across the

State. This means if anything happens, they would be behind bars. Turn to Page 4

#### **CAPSULE**

**9 KILLED IN PILIBHIT JEEP-BUS ACCIDENT** Pilibhit: At least 9 people lost

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

BENGAL WOMAN LYNCHED ON 'THEFT' SUSPICION Canning: A group of people

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

#### BJP LEADER SHOT IN UP AHEAD OF BYPOLL Firozabad (UP): A local BJP leader

was shot dead by bike-borne assailants in Firozabad district

of Uttar Pradesh ahead of the November 3 Assembly bypoll in the area, following which three people were detained, police said on Saturday

#### **HOME THEATRE**

## Must watch for dog parents

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

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

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

If you are not a dog lover, this



one ended — a street pup — Boxer

being thrown out of pup academy for academy who then wreaked havoc bringing in other street dogs into the may have a change of heart.

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

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

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

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

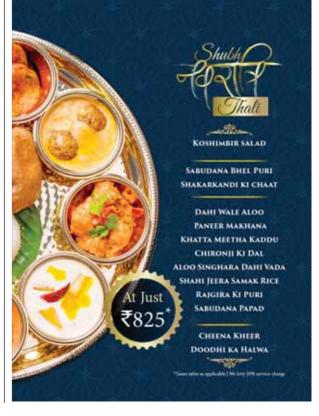
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Price: ₹440 plus GST





## Real emotions are revealed

BLACKPINK: LIGHT UP THE SKY Netflix

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

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

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

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

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

The documentary introduces

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

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

— Shalini Saksena

#### ELLYTALE

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

phenomenal performance in Voot Select's Original series Marzi.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### SINHA FAMILY ON KAPIL SHOW

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



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

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

## Welcome your favourite bahu

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



don't have any responsibility, it is just that they have a larger part of play in it," she explains.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## Jain inspects Wastewater Treatment Plants | CM seeks shopkeepers'

**STAFF REPORTER** NEW DELHI

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

Jain visited Rohini (15 MGD), Rithala (60 MGD), Coronation Pillar (30 MGD) alongwith Timarpur Oxidation Pond and Bhalaswa Lake site and directed officials to fix all defunct equipments and biogas plants on immediate basis and to utilize 80 acres of vacant



land at Rohini STP, 60 acres of Forest at Rithala and 250 acres of forest near coronation pillar STP for improving groundwa-

ter table through the application of treated effluent

The minister also said that

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

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

"The government is committed to Clean Yamuna and improve depleting ground water levels of Delhi. On the same lines DJB started using the treated water for activities

culture purposes or giving it various other agencies who can use this water to wash busses, trains, etc," he said.

Jain further said, "In the recent past the utilisation of this treated water is not being done to the fullest of its capacity. There are 20 no. of Wastewater Treatment Plants and currently around 500 MGD wastewater is being treated out of which 90-95 MGD wastewater is being used.

As DJB aims to utilize major quantum of the treated effluent for non-potable purposes, he also instructed the officials to now use 100 MGD treated water coming from

# help in anti-dengue drive

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will encourage shopkeepers in Delhi to inspect their shops and surroundings for stagnant water from this Sunday for 10 minutes and drain it to prevent the breeding of dengue mosquitoes around

Kejriwal had also said that with the collective efforts of all the Delhiites. "We have to stop the breeding of dengue mosquitoes and protect our family and the entire Delhi from Dengue. Inspecting the sur-



rounding market areas and their shops will keep the shopkeepers as well as their customers safe from dengue," he

Kejriwal had tweeted, 'Today is the sixth Sunday of the campaign against dengue, my family also joined the campaign this time. We checked the house and replaced the accumulated clean water. You must also involve your family in this campaign. We have to defeat dengue together. #10Hafte10Baje10Minute Har Ravivaar, Dengue Par Vaar."

This year, the Delhi government has also launched a Dengue helpline - 01123300012 and WhatsApp helpline -8595920530 to assist the general public with Dengue.

## BJP betraying people by not handing Chadha opens Covid awareness camp over hospitals to city Govt, says AAP

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

am Aadmi Party (AAP) on AFriday said that the North Corporation Commissioner under the direction of then mayor Adesh Gupta who is now Delhi BJP chief in a letter issued on July 28, 2018 requested the Center to take over six hospitals and medical colleges

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

Pathak said, "The North MCD commissioner had written a letter to the Central Government regarding handing over the hospitals and medical colleges under the North MCD to the Central government".

In this letter, the commissioner requested the central government to take over six hospitals and medical colleges under the North MCD which includes Hindu Rao Hospital, Kasturba Gandhi Hospital, Rajan Babu TB Hospital, Girdhari Lal Hospital, Maharishi Valmiki Hospital and Balak Ram Hospital. In this letter, the Commissioner noted that from the past 2-3 years the BJP ruled North MCD was undergoing a financial crisis,

**The North MCD** commissioner had written a letter to the Central Government

regarding handing over the hospitals and medical colleges under the **North MCD to the Central Govt** 

Senior AAP leader

therefore, they want the central government to take over these spitals, he said. Pathak said, "In this letter,

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

Pathak said that the AAP believes that this is a criminal act by the BJP to not handover



Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta

these hospitals to the Delhi government despite an open nvitation from them

"Today the BJP ruled North MCD has called the house to discuss the matter of non-payment of the salaries of their employees. You all know that the doctors of the BJP ruled North MCD are protesting against the salary delay for several months," he said.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the BJP ruled municipal corporations have not paid the salary of the Covid Warriors, he said, adding that whenever we raise the matter in front of the MCD, the BJP blames the Delhi government for this. The Aam Aadmi Party government of Delhi has written to the BJP ruled MCD to hand over their Hospitals if they cannot manage but the BJP has not responded to the

#### **STAFF REPORTER** NEW DELHI n order to create awareness Lamong residents about Covid-19, Rajinder Nagar

MLA Raghav Chadha on Saturday inaugurated an awareness camp in which residents of the areas were also given appropriate material such as cotton and polypropylene to make a sturdy mask.

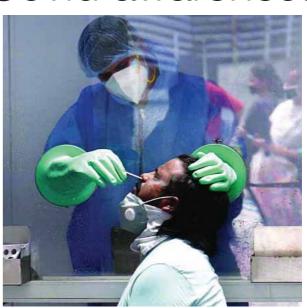
The camp was organised at Budh Mahasabha, Budh Nagar, Inderpuri in collaboration with 'Doctors for You', an NGO that provides medical care and public health services.

During the two-hour long camp, Chadha interacted with residents of the area, patiently explaining the importance of being fully aware of the extent of COVID-19.

"All of us need to understand that the monster that is COVID-19 has not gone away.



It will take some time till we get the right vaccine for all. But we can still avoid falling in a disease trap. I am glad that an institution of the repute of Doctors For You is teaching us all how to make proper masks, which as I always maintain, is an important line of defence,"



The camp had a training session, where residents learnt how to make three-layer, wash-

able, reusable Appropriate material, such as cotton and polypropylene were

a sturdy mask. Not just the residents, but even MLA Chadha could be seen making a face

Chadha said, "Only if we take care of ourselves, can we be in a position to take care of anyone else. I'm aware how a lot of people are now making masks at home, which is good, but it must be noted that only a mask made with the appropriate material can help.

The camp was interactive

in nature, and is not limited to training residents alone. Doctors for You also intends to conduct three-hour training sessions for ASHA workers and Anganwadi workers via Presentations on what happens during home isolation, how to observe such isolation, making public announcements

## SDMC to adopt zero tolerance strategy on air pollution

STAFF REPORTER ■ **NEW DELHI** 

 $S^{\rm outh\ Delhi\ Municipal\ Corporation}_{\rm (SDMC)\ has\ decided\ to\ adopt\ strat-}$ egy of zero tolerance on air pollution which may take entire Delhi into its grip resulting in respiratory and other related diseases in the city.

As per the instructions of the Commissioner patrolling teams in sufficient numbers have been constituted to take instant action against violators including erring government and related institutions, the civic body said in a

The teams have been told to roam round the clock on rotation basis.All zonal Deputy Commissioners are ensuring that there is is no leniency during this festive season," it said.

DEMS officials are closely monitoring all the five hotspots under South Delhi Municipal Corporation jurisdiction and additional men and machinery is deployed for these hopspots and adjoining areas, it added.



## Sisodia visits site for sports university at Mundka village

 $D_{\text{Manish Sisodia on}}^{\text{elhi Deputy Chief Minister}}$ Thursday visited proposed site for Delhi Sports University at Mundka village that will be developed to promote worldclass training, research and academics in the field of sports as well as health and exercise.

"It will make India proud in the world of sports as young talents will bring in more medals in international sporting events like Olympics. It is the dream and vision of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to provide world-class facilities and training to our youth for advancing in the field of sports, Sisodia said.

Mundka's AAP MLA Dharampal Lakra and Sisodia discussed the details of the area with officials. During the visit,

Government passed the Delhi the Bill last year in the Delhi Legislative Assembly.

'The work for the university had been disrupted due to the ongoing pandemic but now we want to pick up the pace of work as it is our dream to provide world-class opportunities to our children and youth in the field of education and sports," said Sisodia.

Sisodia said that it is the Delhi Government's endeavour to ensure that the level of training and facilities at Delhi Sports University will be cut-ting-edge and so advanced that the best of best sports talents can come to train themselves in

"Once this dream comes true, no world power will stop India from bringing in recordbreaking gold medals in international sports competitions

"It is our aim to provide multidisciplinary teaching and training in sports to ensure This university will also pro-

prepared for a wide-range of employment opportunities.

sports in academia and make it more accessible to the public,



## Man held for cheating his ex-colleague on pretext of getting him employment

STAFF REPORTER **NEW DELHI** 

elhi Police has arrested a Delhi Police has alleed allegedly cheating his former colleague on the pretext of getting him a job in the Ministry of Finance. The accused has been

identified as Gaurav Dutt, a resident of Brahampuri in Shahdara area.

According to Kumar Gyanesh, the Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Southeast district, on Thursday, Jaitpur police station received a complaint from a man named Mukul Aggarwal, a resident of Sarita Vihar, in this connection. "Aggarwal alleged that in

2015, while working at a call

centre of a telecommunication company, he came in contact with Dutt. After some time, he left the job and both of them got in touch again in 2019 via social media," he said.

"During one of their conversations, when Aggarwal asked Dutt what was he doing, the accused told him that he was working in the Ministry of Finance and can get him a job there as an assistant. For this, the accused asked Dutt to pay Rs 40,000," said the Additional

"Aggarwal gave his documents to the accused along with an advance of Rs 10,000 to the accused. After that, the accused started demanding more money from the victim. Aggarwal paid a total of Rs 1,54,000 to Dutt," he said.

"On Thursday, Dutt came Aggarwal's shop in Raghunath Market, Jaitpur and demanded Rs 3,000 more and told the victim that some documents were still pending. "The victim and his father then realised that they were being cheated, following which they caught him and called the police," said the Additional

During interrogation, Dutt said he had applied for a loan of Rs 1,50,000 but could not pay it. He was in dire need of money, so he cheated his for-

mer colleague, Gyanesh said. Copy of ID card, tax invoice slips, membership card and entry pass have been recovered from the possession of the accused, police

## Delhi Police Commissioner holds Crime & Covid review meet

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

 $D_{\text{Shrivastava, on Saturday held a}}^{\text{elhi Police Commissioner, S N}}$ Crime and Covid-19 review meeting in the National Capital.

The CP during the meeting discussed the law & order arrangements for forthcoming festive season and police responsibility in spreading Covid awareness.

The CP also rewarded personnel from South West, Outer and South East districts in recognition of outstanding and exemplary works done by them during the past few days.

With festive season ahead and to ensure people while visiting markets follow COVID-19 norms, the Delhi Police this year had planned to focus on security in the city's high-footfall markets. Police said they are also holding meetings with market associations and urging

them to ensure social distancing. Khan Market, Karol Bagh, Chandni Chowk, Sadar Bazaar, Connaught Place, Janpath, Lajpat Nagar market and Sarojini Nagar are among the markets in the national capital that draw high footfalls.





## Mission Shakti: Yogi vows 'zero tolerance' to crimes against women

PNS BALRAMPUR/LUCKNOW

 $F^{\text{acing flak over a string of}}_{\text{rape incidents in Uttar}}$ Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday launched 'Mission Shakti' campaign focusing on ensuring the safety and dignity of women and girls, with a stern warning that perpetrators of crimes against females will be dealt with an iron hand.

The chief minister said that 'Mission Shakti', whose start coincided with the commencement of the Navrati festival dedicated to Goddess

woman who died after being allegedly raped by two men in Balrampur and asserted that his government has "zero tolerance" towards crime against women and girls.

The 22-year-old Dalit woman died after being allegedly raped by two men, who were later arrested, in the district. The incident came close on the heels of the gangrape-murder of another Dalit woman in Hathras that had drawn intense outrage after alleged apathy of the adminison the dignity and self-respect of women will find no place in the state. Perpetrators of such crimes are a blot on the society and the government will deal with them with an iron hand," Adityanath asserted.

The campaign will continue for the next six months till Basant Navratri, the chief minister said.

"The first phase of "Mission Shakti" will focus on spreading awareness towards ensuring the safety and dignity of women and girl-child.

"In the second phase,

"Operation Shakti" will target eve-teasers and put them on the path of punishment or reform. If such elements do not mend their ways, they will have to face social-boycott and their pictures will be displayed publicly," Adityanath said.

In state capital Lucknow, Governor Anandiben Patel inaugurated the 'Safe City Project' under which the police and other departments will work towards the safety of women.

"Crime against women is increasing, and in this scenario, the responsibility of society increases. If the schemes meant for women are not properly implemented, they will lose their importance. Till such time that women are dependent on others socially or monetarily, they will be exploited. The women have to become empowered," Patel said.

She also asked the police to identify people with "criminal and perverted mindset" and take action against them

"Girls are harassed while going to schools. It is because of these people that women do not feel safe in the family. Police must identify these peocommit crime," the governor

The chief minister said that this year Ram Lila and Durga Puja pandals will also spread the message of "Mission Shakti", which will have the involvement of 24 departments.

Various events are lined up during the campaign for which 100 role models among women will be identified in each district to help spread the message of women safety, self-respect and self-reliance.

Adityanath described women as a symbol of "Shakti"

and said gender equality and protection of the girl child should start from home itself.

"Women are venerable in our eternal tradition and Navratri signifies this. In these changing times, the new generation should become the carrier of our eternal tradition, which always professes the cause of women as the prime duty of mankind. "Mission Shakti" is a reminder of our duty towards women and girls,"

Terming female foeticide as a curse, the chief minister said, "Protection of the girl child and

he said.

giving respect to women should start from home".

Adityanath also expressed his strong views against child marriage, saying such practices

should be publicly condemned. In a statement issued in Lucknow, the UP Raj Bhavan said the Governor flagged off 100 pink scooties and 10 four-

wheeler police vehicles.

Lucknow is among eight cities in the country selected for the 'Safe City Project'. The central government has approved the project for Lucknow at a total cost of Rs

## Maha deaths drop to 250, infection down to 10,259

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

In a drop in the number of deaths and infections, as many 250 people succumbed to Covid-19 and 10,259 others tested positive in various parts of Maĥarashtra on Saturday.

A day after the state logged 306 deaths and 11,447 infections, the number of deaths dropped by 56 and the infected cases came down by 1186. With 250 fresh deaths, the

total number of deaths mounted from 41,502 to 41,965. Similarly, with 10259 infections, the total number of

infected cases jumped from 15,76,062 to 15,86,321. On a day when 14,238 people were discharged from various hospitals in the state, the number of people dis-

charged from various hospitals

after full recovery since the sec-

ond week of March this year

went up to 13,58,606. The 21 in Thane, 18 in Solapur, 13 recovery rate in the state rose from 85.03 per cent to 85.65

Of the 250 deaths reported on Saturday, Mumbai accounted for a maximum of

in Sangli and 11 in Beed dis-

In the lower range, there were nine deaths in Satara, 7 in Kolhapur, 6 each in Palghar and Nashik, 5 in Raigad, 4 each 47 deaths, followed by 40 in Ahmednagar, Ratnagiri, deaths in Pune, 22 in Nagpur, Aurangabad, Osmanabad,

Amravati and Bhandara, 3 each in Yavatmal, Washim and Wardha, 2 each in Sindhudurg, Jalna and Chandrapur and one death each in Jalgaon, Hingoli, Latur, Nanded, Gondia and Gadchiroli district.

With 47 death, the Covid-19 toll in Mumbai shot up from

9,638 to 9,739 while the number of corona cases rose by 1,791 to trigger a jump in the total infections from 238,544

Meanwhile, the mortality rate in the state stood at 2.65 per cent. The authorities pegged the "active cases" in the state at 1,85,270.

Pune district, which continued to be the worst-affected city-district in Maharashtra, saw the total number of cases touch 3,22,818 while the total number of deaths in Pune increased to 6493.

Thane district remained in the third spot --after Pune and Mumbai – with 2,11,606 total cases, while the pandemic toll rose to 5197.

Out of 80,69,100 samples sent to laboratories, 15,86,321 have tested positive (19.66 per cent) for COVID-19 until

## ₹7.25L pollution fine in a day in G'gram

Rs 7.25 lakh was imposed on 29 violators on Saturday by the teams deployed to monitor implementation of measures to combat pollution in Gurugram through the government's Under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), which came into force on October 15.

A team from the Municipal Corporation, Gurugram, visited Sector-27 and 42 and other locations on Saturday after several complaints were received from the residents of these areas.

The complaints were related to flouting of environmental norms.

Twenty nine violators were fined Rs 7.25 lakh during the spot inspection.

The violators were warned by the civic body officials to comply with environmental regulations in construction

activities. Under this, the construction sites and construction material should be covered, otherwise an FIR will be filed against them and legal action burning imposed on residents. will also be taken against the

On Friday, penalties amounting to Rs 63,000 were imposed for flouting GRAP

violators

This includes six challans amounting to Rs 13,000 for garbage burning and one challan of Rs 50,000 for biomass

Apart from this, the corporation officials had also slapped a fine of Rs 75,000 on a builder whose construction material was lying on the road and had not been covered.

AIMPLB to challenge

acquittal of accused

in Babri Masjid case

## Kangana, sister booked for 'creating hatred

"Perused the complaint, heard the advocate of the complainant along with the documents filed on record. On prima facie perusal of complaint and submission I have found a cognizable offence has been committed by the accused," Magistrate Ghule noted, as he directed the Bandra police to register an FIR against Kangana and her sister Rangoli.

"All allegations are based upon comment on electronic media that is twitter and interviews. The accused used social media like twitter and thorough investigation is necessary by the expert. All offences alleged and levelled against the accused seizure is necessary in this case, in such circumstances I have found it to be proper to pass order under Section 156(3) of CrPC," the Judge

Among other things, the section 156(3) of CrPC read with section 190 empowers to Magistrate - upon receiving a complaint of facts and upon information received from any person other than a police officer, or upon his own knowledge that such an offence has been committed any magistrate empowered under 190 can order an investigation to into a complaint.

Âpart from trying to create "hatred" and "communal tensions" between Hindus and Muslims, the complainant's case is that the Kangana through one of her tweets - had allegedly tried to lower the image of chief minister Uddhav

Thackeray and the state government agencies but also create disaffection among the common people against the Maharashtra government. He alleged that Kangana had falsely portrayed a picture that the Maharashtra government was responsible for the demolition of some portions of her bungalow which were demolished the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), which is an autonomous body.

In his complaint filed before the metropolitan magistrate's court under 153-A (Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence; language etc), Sayeed ating" divisions between Hindu and Muslim artists. He also alleged that Kangana was "maliciously bringing religion in almost all her tweets and went onto give examples like lynching of Hindu Sadhus at Palghar, calling the BMC as "Babur Sena" and claiming that she was the first person to make a movie on Chhatrapati Shivaji Mahajan and Rani Laxmibai of Jhansi.

"She has gone to such an extent that she has blamed Jamaatis for spreading corona virus etc, thereby trying to create hatred and communal tensions between Hindus and Muslims. She is well aware that she is a well known actress and has a big fan base so her tweets will be seen and will reach to many people," Sayyed told the court in his com-

In the case of Kangana's sis-

ter, accused number 2, Rangoli Chandel who is her sister as well as her manager, the complainant had alleged that Rangoli had made an objectionable tweet to spread communal hatred and animosity amongst Hindus and Muslim community through her tweet Make the Mullas and secular media stand in line and shoot them down, F---k, the history may call us Naazis who cares

The said tweet was/is so much objectionable from a communal point of view that her twitter account was instantly deleted. I say that the said tweet not only hurt my religious sentiments but also the religious sentiments of Muslim community," Sayyed said in

Sayyed told the court that he had filed with the senior Inspector of Bandra police on September 16, 2020 and with Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone XI) on October 1, 2020, but no action was taken by both the officers.

Sayyed told the court that police investigation was necessary to "ascertain the real motive behind such hate tweets and who are the people behind such hatred to create communal sentiments against the government".

Through his lawyer Ravish F. Zamindar, Sayyed had moved the metropolitan magistrate's court on Thursday and prayed for appropriate directions under Cr.PC Sec. 156(3) to the Bandra Police to register a first information report against the two sisters invoking the relevant IPC sections.

### Covid cases, daily count drop sharply

From Page 1

Echoing the Prime Minister's sentiments on letting the guard down, Dr RK Dhamija, public health expert and HoD of the Neurosurgery department at Delhi-based Dr Lady Hardinge Hospital, said in Kerala after Onam there was a 126 per cent increase in active Covid cases.

"People need to be cautious, maintain social distance, wear mask and implement hygiene. Gatherings and crowded places must be avoided. The Government should also be prepared and make arrangements for patients' admission with moderate and severe disease," Dr Dhamija said while welcoming the Government decision to initiuid oxygen to meet any unforeseen shortage during the winters and festival times.

The National Expert Vaccine Administration for Covid-19 (NEGVAC) in consultation with State Governments and all relevant stakeholders have prepared and presented a detailed

9.9 lakh lt...
From Page 1

To maintain law and order,

the authorities have acted

against 2694 people under the

crime control act. The police

have registered 203 cases for

violation of model code of

conduct including 84 Illegal

gathering and luring voters.

Interestingly, a large number of

sim cards were also recovered

According to the EC, 91

during checkings.

blueprint of vaccine storage, distribution, and administration. The Expert Group, in consultation with States, is working actively on prioritisation and distribution of the vaccine, the PMO stated. Modi directed that keeping

in view the geographical span and diversity of the country, the access to the vaccine should be ensured speedily. He stressed that every step in the logistics, delivery, and administration should be put in place rigor-ously. "It must include advanced planning of cold storage chains, distribution network, monitoring mechanism, advance assessment, and preparation of ancillary equipment required, such as vials, syringes etc," the statement

According to Government data, the active caseload is now only 10.70 per cent of the tally. "This significant achievement is the outcome of Central Government-led targeted strategies leading to high number of recoveries and steadily falling number of fatalities," the Health Ministry said.

'expenditure sensitive' con-

stituencies of Bihar have been

identified based on both the

profile of the constituency and

the candidates in the fray. As

per the data, as many as 319 out

of the 1,066 contestants in fray

in the first phase of polls hav-

ing a criminal record. 71 con-

stituencies situated in 16 dis-

tricts are going to polls on

October 28, the first phase of

the three-phase elections for

the 243-member Bihar legisla-

tive assembly.

#### Dr Reddy's... From Page 1

"In addition to Indian clinical trial data, we will provide safety and immunogenicity study from the Russian phase 3 clinical trial. This data will further strengthen the clinical development of Sputnik V vaccine in India," he added.

Last month, Dr Reddy's and RDIF (Russian sovereign wealth fund) had entered into a partnership to conduct clinical trials of Sputnik V vaccine and its distribution in India. As part of the partnership, RDIF shall supply 100 million doses of the vaccine to Dr Reddy's upon regulatory approval in the country.

On August 11, the Sputnik V vaccine developed by the Gamaleya National Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology was registered by the Ministry of Health of first registered vaccine against COVID-19 based on the human adenoviral vectors platform. Sputnik V is currently undergoing phase 3 clinical trials in Russia and the proposed number of subjects is 40,000. Additionally, phase 3 clinical trial of the vaccine has commenced in the UAE last week.

During the 2019 Lok Sabha

polls, the EC had seized Rs 9.12

crore black money, 1.24 lakh

litre liquor, 717 kg drugs and 62

kg precious ornaments and

in 2015, seizures worth Rs

23.8 crores were registered by

the EC machinery with Rs 19

crore of cash found circulating

besides 5.48 lakh litres of illic-

it country- made and foreign

liquor from different places in

In the Assembly elections

jewelry from Bihar.

#### PNS LUCKNOW

All India Muslim Personal Law Board has decided to challenge the acquittal of all the accused in the Babri mosque demolition case by the special CBI court on September 30.

The decision to challenge the trial court's ruling was taken during a two-day working committee meeting of the AIMPLB that ended here on Friday night.

During the meeting, held virtually, the members also discussed the threat of the it was decided that the political parties and religious organisations would be informed about their apprehensions.

The AIMPLB also approved a proposal to set up a committee on the UCC issue.

It also decided to set up an intellectual committee to suggest ways for preventing misuse of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).

The meeting was chaired by AIMPLB president Maulana Sayeed Mohammad Rabe Hasni Nadvi and it was coordinated by general secretary Maulana Mohammad Wali Rahmani.

The members expressed their anguish on the verdict of the special CBI court to let off all the accused in the Babri demolition case. It was unanimously decid-

ed that the AIMPLB would

challenge the verdict in the higher court. AIMPLB spokesperson

Zafaryab Jilani said here on Saturday that Haji Mahboob and some others would file the petition in the court against the verdict of the special CBI court in the Babri demolition case.

Haji Mahboob had earlier objected to withdrawing the cases against former deputy prime minister Lal Krishna Advani and later the court too accepted his demand. The special CBI court

acquitted all the 32 accused, Advani, MM Joshi and Uma Bharti, of their involvement in the destruction of Babri Masjid 28 years ago, in December

Jilani said the AIMPLB would work towards building public opinion against a uniform civil code, saying in a country like India with different cultures and civilisations, such a move "will not be justi-

Jilani said that "important decisions pertaining to common civil code and the Babri mosque demolition case" were taken in the meeting held on October 11 and October 13.

Iilani said the AIMPLB would establish contacts with different sections of society that could be affected in case the common civil code was implemented, and try to build a consensus and public opinion

### Global Hunger Index: India at 94th among 107 nations

From Page 1

GHI score is calculated on four indicators — undernourishment; child wasting, the share of children under the age of five who are wasted (who have low weight for their height reflecting acute undernutri-tion); child stunting, children under the age of five who have low height for their age reflecting chronic undernutrition; and child mortality -- the mortality rate of children under the age of five.

Experts have blamed poor implementation processes, lack of effective monitoring, siloed

approach in tackling malnutrition and poor performance by large States behind the low

per cent of India's population was undernourished. recorded a 37.4 per cent stunt-

mortality rate stood at 3.7 per Wasting is children who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute under-

funder the age कुमाऊँ विश्वविद्यालय, नैनीताल (उत्तराखण्ड) of five who have low height KUMAUN UNIVERSITY, NAINITAL (UTTARAKHAND) वाक-इन-इन्टरव्यू

विश्वविद्यालय के विभिन्न विभागों मे रिक्त / अवकाश रिक्त पदों के सापेक्ष / स्ववित्तपोषित पाठ्यक्रमों मे शिक्षण हित में अतिथि व्याख्याताओं की नियुक्ति हेतु वॉक–इन–इन्टरव्यू आयोजित किये जाने हेत् विज्ञप्ति प्रकाशित की गई है विस्तृत सूचना विश्वविद्यालय की 2014 वेबसाइट www.kunainital.ac.in से प्राप्त कर सकते है।

According to the report, 14

The index showed India ing rate among children under five and a wasting rate of 17.3 per cent while the under-five

nutrition. Stunting is children

for their age, reflecting chronic under-Data from

1991 through Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan

showed that stunting was concentrated among children from households facing multiple forms of deprivation, including poor dietary diversity, low levels of maternal education, and household poverty. However, Índia has

improved in both child mortality rates, which are now at 3.7 per cent, and in terms of undernourishment, with about 14 per cent of the total population which gets an insufficient caloric intake.

"However, child mortality, caused by prematurity and low birth weight, increased particularly in poorer States and rural areas. Prevention of prematurity and low birth weight is identified as a key factor with the potential to reduce underfive mortality in India, through actions such as better antenatal care, education, and nutrition as well as reductions in anaemia and oral tobacco use,"

Shweta Khandelwal, the head of Nutrition Research

and Additional Professor at Public Health Foundation of India, said the country has one of the most impressive portfolios of programmes and policies in nutrition in the books. "However, the ground realities are quite dismal.

"Research shows that our

top-down approach, poor implementation processes, lack of effective monitoring and siloed approaches in tackling malnutrition (missing convergence) often result in poor nutrition indices. We must integrate actions to make public health and nutrition a pri-ority across each sector," she said.

"The world is not on track to achieve the second Sustainable Development Goal - known as Zero Ĥunger for short - by 2030. At the current pace, approximately 37 countries will fail even to reach low hunger, as defined by the Global Hunger Index Severity Scale, by 2030," says

#### French teacher beheaded for class... Paty died. Police opened fire image of a naked man and told

The prosecutor said a text claiming responsibility and a photograph of the victim were found on the suspect's phone. Ricard said the suspect had been seen at the school asking students about the teacher, and the headmaster had received several threatening phone calls.

French leaders offered messages of sadness but also of hope after the killing.
"We'll pick ourselves up

together, thanks to our spirit of solidarity," said Laurent Brosse, mayor of Conflans-Sainte-Honorine. "We are all affected, all

Mourners marched near

the school in solidarity, holding signs that read "I am a teacher." A police official said the suspect was shot dead about

600 meters (yards) from where

after he failed to respond to orders to put down his arms and acted in a threatening manner. The official could not be named because of the ongoing investigations. French President

Emmanuel Macron went to the school on Friday night to denounce what he called an "Islamist terrorist attack." He urged the nation to stand united against extremism. One of our compatriots

was murdered today because he taught ... the freedom of expression, the freedom to believe or not believe," Macron said. The presidential Elysee

touched by this vile assassination," said Education Minister Palace announced Saturday Jean-Michel Blanquer in a video that there will be a national ceremony at a future date in homage to Paty, about whom few details have so far emerged. In a video posted recently

on Twitter, a man describing himself as the father of a student asserted that Paty had shown an

students it was "the prophet of

Before showing the images the teacher asked Muslim children to raise their hands and leave the room because he planned to show something shocking, the man said. "What was the message he wanted to send these children? What is this hate?" the man asked. The AP has not been able to independently confirm these claims.

the Muslims."

Chechnya is a predominantly Muslim Russian republic in the North Caucasus. Two wars in the 1990s triggered a wave of emigration, with many Chechens heading for western Europe. France has offered asylum to many Chechens since the Russian military waged war against Islamist separatists in Chechnya in the 1990s and early 2000s.

France has seen occasional violence involving its Chechen community in recent months, believed linked to local criminal activity and score-This is the second time in

three weeks that terror has struck France linked to caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad. Last month, a young man from Pakistan was arrested after attacking two people with a meat cleaver outside the former offices of the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo.

The weekly was the target of a deadly newsroom attack in 2015, and it republished caricatures of the prophet this month to underscore the right to freedom of information as a trial opened linked to that attack Friday's terror attack came

as Macron's government works on a bill to address Islamic radicals, who authorities claim are creating a parallel society outside the values of the French

# to set base in Delhi

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Supreme Court lawyers'

Abody has condemned

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister

YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's action

of writing a letter to Chief Justice

of India S A Bobde in which alle-

gations have been levelled against

a sitting judge of the top court.

Association (SCBA) said in its

resolution that "such action by

constitutional functionaries is

opposed to conventions causing

serious inroads impacting the

independence of the judiciary as

enshrined in the Constitution of

passed days after another

lawyers' body, Supreme Court

Advocates-on-Record

Association (SCAORA), had

condemned the "unwarranted"

release of the letter written by

Reddy saying "it tends to scan-

dalise and breach the indepen-

The resolution of SCBA said

The SCBA resolution was

The Supreme Court Bar

Vice President M Venkaiah

for building a more equitable society on International Day

for the Eradication of Poverty.

this year addresses the chal-

lenge of achieving social and

environmental justice for all,

Naidu on Saturday called

The theme for the Day

VP Naidu calls for building

for Eradication of Poverty

equitable society on Int'l Day

SCBA condemns Andhra

sitting judge of apex court

CM's allegation against



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

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

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

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

On Friday, 15 accused were convicted and sentenced with

together for the uplift of the

downtrodden & build a more

equitable society. We need to address the root cause of

poverty in all its dimensions,

be it economic, social, legal or

President Secretariat tweeted

that its executive committee, at

a meeting on October 16, strong-

ly condemned the action of the

chief minister of Andhra Pradesh

in releasing his letter to the

Chief Justice of India (CJI) mak-

ing allegations against the sitting

also passed earlier this week by

the Delhi High Court Bar

Association (DHCBA) stating that the "ill-founded" letter

"unfairly and without reason

casts aspersions" on the conduct

of the apex court judge and

judges of the Andhra Pradesh

October 6 letter is an abject and

administration of justice by the

the chief minister wrote the let-

ter to the CJI, alleging that the

Andhra Pradesh High Court was

being used to "destabilise and

topple my democratically elected Government.

The DHCBA said the

interference in the due

In an unprecedented move,

High Court.

uncalled for

high court judges.

A similar resolution was

judge in the public domain.

quoting Naidu.

environmental," the Vice

rigorous imprisonment (RI)

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

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

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

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

# 15 convicted for bid Cong launches Smart Village Campaign

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Rahul said the Congress

believed in working at the grassroots and Congress governments start programmes only after taking the views of the Panchayats into accounts. Since the schemes under SVC have been envisaged after deliberations at the ground level, they will deliver the desired results, he said.

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

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

**Gadkari informed** that his Ministry is

doing water

conservation by

using the

soil/murum from

water bodies,

drains and rivers

for construction of

**Highways** 

works with a result of increase

of 22500 TCM (Thousand

Cubic Meter) of water storage

Government'. This has charged

ground water table. Due to

deepening and training of river,

drains, etc, the floods have

reduced, which otherwise

spreads in nearby field due to

reduced discharge capacity of

rivers and drains. This con-

vergence has been appreciated

and accepted by NITI Aayog,

which is in the process of

forming policy based on this

informed that the Tamaswada

Pattern adopted in Wardha

and Nagpur districts is anoth-

er effort towards Rain Water

Harvesting, Conservation and

the basis of Scientific and

Complete Development of

Mini-Micro Watersheds based

on study of HydroGeology,

Topography and Civil Engineering. Work is done

essentially in the direction

from Ridge to Valley.

Tamaswada Pattern is most

helpful to create augmented

Surface rain and Ground Water

storages. It creates Flood free as

well as Drought free situation

in treated Watershed. These

type of works are resulting in

Preservation and Conservation

of Traditional natural water

These works are done on

Ground Water Recharge.

The Minister further

## Govt issues SOPs for cultural functions, programmes

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

field assessment.

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

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

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

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

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

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



PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Chidambaram had welcomed the formation of the 'People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration' and called for the people of J&K to be given back their rights that existed before August 5, 2019. Terming the Centre's decisions as "unconstitutional", he said that mainstream parties, as well as people of J&K, should not be perceived as "anti-national".

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

"Congress leaders P Chidambaram and Digvijaya Singh are saying that the decision to abrogate Article 370 was wrong and so, Congress will take it back. Can the Congress include this in the Bihar poll manifesto? They know very well that the people of Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh and the rest of the country welcomed the move to abrogate Article 370. They have seen the kind of progress in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in the past one year. But Congress is echoing the language of the soft sepa-

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

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

the last one year. "Congress is continuously adopting positions that go against the sentiments of the people of this country. Rahul Gandhi also praises Pakistan. They like to praise Pakistan

and China on any issue. The Constitution also stated that Article 370 is for a limited period, after which it will

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

reservation. Many welfare laws were implemented in Kashmir," said

the Union Minister. Union Fisheries Minister Giriraj Singh also expressed 'outrage' at Congress' stance and questioned whether the

party wanted to severe J&K rom India. All original Gupkar Declaration signatories barring for J&K Congress chief

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

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

## **GADKARI TO MAHA GOVT**

## Form State Water Grid to tackle flood crisis



**PTI** ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

The Union Minister has

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

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

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

tion of Highways.

Gadkari has informed that

This synchronisation of

N.H. construction and water conservation results not only in increasing water storage capacity but saving environment. Initially this activity was done on large scale in Buldhana district as pilot project and hence named as 'Buldhana pattern'. With this activity in Maharashtra, around 225 lakh cubic meter of material from water bodies, drains and rivers has been used in Highway

tiations at different levels...That is a very high bar for

"I am talking about a much more basic bar which is that there must be peace and tranquillity along the LAC in the border areas and that has been the case since the late

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

dence of judiciary".

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

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

deployed over 50,000 troops. The Sino-India boundary question a very "complicated" and difficult issue, he said at a webinar on his book 'The India Way', giving a historical perspective to development of the relationship between the two neighbouring countries in the last three decades

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

initiatives like trade, travel, tourism, and societal activities on the premise of peace and not our position should solve the boundary

ty along

the bor-

"It is

question. We understand that it is a very complicated and difficult issue. There have been many nego-

a relationship," Jaishankar

1980s," he added.

Jaishankar said both

That is the basic case I

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

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



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

The accident occurred in Puranpur Police Station area of the district, a senior police

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

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

Police officials said that the accident site is approximately "Seven of the passengers died on the spot and the district headquarters. Agencies

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

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

Four persons were arrested in connection with the incident which happened at

Chinepukur village under the jurisdiction of Kashipur police station on Friday.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The police said three people have been detained for questioning based on a complaint filed by Gupta"s family. The area falls under the Tundla

assembly constituency, where a by-election is scheduled for November 3. Among those detained is a person

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

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

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

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

The cremation was then carried out in police presence.

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

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

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

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

night.

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

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

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

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

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

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



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

He was in Alexandria as India's Charge' d' affaires when the then monarch King Farouk was

Mohammed Naguib and Gamal Abdel Nasser in 1952. Naguib was overthrown by Naasser himself and put under house arrest for

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

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

To some of the questions put

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

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

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

KOCHI/CHENNAI: As the total num- Chennai in Tamil Nadu where 1,132 new ber of Covid-19 patients undergoing treatment in various hospitals in the State breached the 96,000 mark on Saturday, a special Cetral medical team flew down to Thiruvananthapuram to take stock of the critical situation in Kerala.

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

cases were detected on Saturday.

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

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

## Kerala CM's ex-Secy admitted | Aligarh is under Pan City in hospital amid customs heat Project, not Smart City

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

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

Meanwhile a senior Congress law maker CPI(M) led Kerala Government was out to

subvert the probe by the central agencies into the Gold Smuggling Scam and LIFE Mission bribery charges. The NIA is yet to furnish documents linking the accused to terrorism related activities though they were arrested

Customs officials said that Sivsankar played a major role in smuggling \$1.9 million from the country to West Asia. Quoting from the submission made by Bank officials, the Customs officials said Sivsankaran had they failed to obey his instructions. The Customs officials said the ill gotten money was transferred out of India with the connivance of a UAE Consulate staff.

The Customs officials were hoping to take Sivsankar into custody for questioning T Thomas alleged on Saturday that the when the IAS official feigned sick and man-

Most people do not under-stand the difference between Smart City and Pan City Project even after almost three years and that is why, administrative officials can taunt the smart city, but, the smart city scheme is applicable up to five square km on both sides of the railway line in the

The rest of the city is developing under a Pan City project. The pan city covers the entire 63 square km area of the city, which also includes a smart city with an area of ??five square km in between. Let's understand **PNS** | the difference between Smart

Satya Prakash Patel, Municipal Commissioner, CEO Smart City Project said from the complaint of most of the people it is cleared that they did not understand the difference between Smart City and Pan City Project. So, their complaints are more, but we want to solve the grievances of all, hence accelerate the working to understand this difference on

17 wards are included in the Smart City

Area-based development (ABD) covers about 17 wards in the fixed five square km area of



Residents wade through a flooded street in Hyderabad on Saturday

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

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

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

In a complaint lodged against Mithun's son Mimoh under sections 376 (rape), 376 (2) (n) (repeated rape), 328 (causing hurt by means of poison), 417 (cheating), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 34 (com-

complainant has named Mithun's ex-wife Yogita Bali as a co-accused in the case.

In her complaint, the 38year-0ld woman stated that she was in a relationship with Mimoh from 2015 to 2018 and during this period he had promised to marry her.

She alleged that during their relationship, she had gone to see Mimoh's flat at Adarsh Nagar in Andheri West, which he had purchased in 2015. "At that time, he offered me a spiked soft drink that had been

spiked and forced her to have physical relations with him," he added. The complainant went on to allege that when she became pregnant, Mimoh asked her to abort the baby and gave her pills.

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

According to the complainant, she subsequently shifted to Delhi with her brother to stay with their family friend. "In Delhi, she lodged a complaint against Mimoh and his mother Yogita Bali at Begumpur police station in June 2018," the

police officer said.

The Delhi police had registered an offence under section 376 (rape), 313 (causing miscarriage without woman's consent) and others, and the probe was transferred to the crime branch there. A Delhi court later

granted anticipatory bail to Mimoh and his mother in the

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

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

### Rebuilding temple: Security stepped up along Tripura-Mizoram border

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

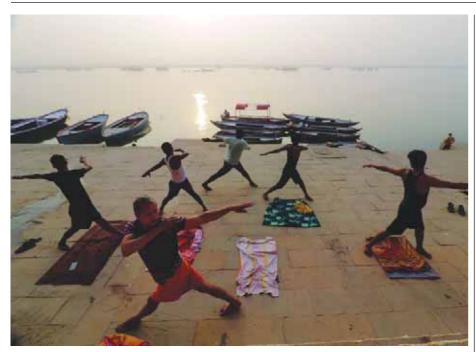
Mizoram Chief Secretary Lalnunmawia Chuaungo on Saturday said that in view of the public resentment, the state government has taken precautionary measures along the inter-state borders with

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

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

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

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



#### Sir Syed Day **Aligarh:** "Sir Syed's vision of a nation, one of the earliest expressions of an idea of India includes all its inhabitants without distinctions on the basis of religion, caste or race. He pro-

AMU celebrates

moted religious affinity, tolerance and mutual understanding among the people of India," said Governor of Meghalaya and former Union Minister, Mr Satya Pal Malik who also served as the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar and Goa.

Governor Malik emphasised that Sir Syed is truly placed among the architects of modern India by the intellectuals and scholars alike for promoting modern and scientific education in the 19th cen-

Speaking on AMU's centenary year, the Chief Guest said: "The centenary year of this historic university could have been full of festivities throughout the year and the world of education would have witnessed a grand celebration, had our world not been in the grip of the Covid 19 pandem-"AMU has still managed

the celebrations through academic discourse with safer means and precautions to prevent the virus spread. The eventful centenary year has come up with AMU being listed in the best Indian universities in various rankings," said Governor Malik.

#### 610 more test coronavirus positive in J&K

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ing tickets to Mashkoor, it is

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

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

him again.

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

People perfom yoga during sunrise in Varanasi on Saturday

#### **AS US ELECTION NEARS**

## Virus surges in key battleground States

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tim Tompkins, a welding engineer in Iowa, took the day off work to cast an early ballot at the Bettendorf Community Center. Tompkins, 62, said he and his wife, Pat, were afraid of coronavirus exposure in Election

vote, so they brought their own sanitizer to the community center Friday.

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

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

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

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

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

Friday. Some described the deci-

sion to vote this year as one that

Biden warns Trump

Americans with preexisting conditions.

wants to scrap health law

Democratic nominee said Trump promises to

protect the insurance eligibility of all Americans

but in reality wants to scrap the 2010 Affordable

standard that requires insurers to offer health

insurance to customers regardless of their health

penthouse" in Manĥattan and doesn't see

Health and Human Services found that as many

as 133 million Americans could be defined as

having a "preexisting" condition by the stan-

dards insurers used before the 2010 law.

most Americans' daily struggles.

the wake of the pandemic.

That law for the first time set a federal

Biden says Trump "can only see from his

A 2017 study from the Department of

Biden noted that the number could rise in

Robert Baccus, 52, an inde-

pendent contractor from Columbus, Ohio, was among hundreds in line at the Franklin

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

### Obama to campaign for Biden, Kamala

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

the 1960s and carry a big load of explosives but are known for their lack of precision.

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



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

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

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

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

## NZ PM Ardern wins 2nd term in landslide

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

and the nation's monarchy to undergo reform.

All stations of Bangkok's elevated Skytrain transit system were closed Saturday afternoon to try to keep protesters from gathering. The underground MRT system was also shut, and police blocked off several roads.

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

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

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Friday his government will not stop standing up for human rights in On Thursday, the Chinese

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

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

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

**Estimated Cost (in lacs)** 

175.00

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### WESTERN RAILWAY

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

For more details, please contact: SBFC FINANCE PVT.LTD.

#### Toll Free : 1800 - 102- 8012

PUBLIC NOTICE Lokesh Construction Private Limited CIN: U70101DL1992PTC186666

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

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

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

Ms. Anki Bhutia

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

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

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

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

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

Skidmore under the guise of adopting

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

Prosecutors said Montgomery removed the baby from Stinnett's body, took the child with her, and attempt-

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

## Turkey's Black Sea gas find reaches 405bn cubic meters

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

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

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

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

Turkey has increased its mar-

itime search for hydrocarbon resources, with several drill ships in waters near the country. Its vessels in the Eastern Mediterranean have been at the heart of a dispute with neighboring Greece over the delimitation of continental shelves. "We will continue our search for

hydrocarbon resources in the Black Sea and the Mediterranean," Erdogan said.

This week, Turkey redeployed its survey ship Oruc Reis to disputed waters in an area among Greek islands, Cyprus and Turkey's southern coast. Turkey pulled the vessel to shore last month for maintenance and resupply, saying the move would give diplomacy a chance, but the military and diplomatic spat continues. Erdogan warned that Turkey would use diplomacy and "all its might" to defend the energy rights for Turkey and Turkish Cypriots.

#### **GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR** SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL **SCIENCES, SOURA**

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL, SKIMS** MC&H, BEMINA & SKIMS, SOURA, SRINAGAR Tel: 0194-2402617 Ext: 2159, email: mechanicalskims@gmail.com

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

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

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Budget Head

Dated: 15.10.2020

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

Name of the work

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

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

lOrder.

2020-21

Ongoing works for the year

Sd/- Executive Engineer Mechanical, SKIMS

Trudeau also said China

#### E-TENDER NOTICE

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

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33201029A	Rate contract for inj. Cetuximab 500 mg			13.11.2020		
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	SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2264/20					

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

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

Sealed tenders are invited from the eligible bidders for the outsourching of agency for 'Housekeeping Services' at Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi. Tender documents can be purchased from the Establishment Section of Central Institute of Psychiatry, Kanke, Ranchi-834006 by submitting tender fee (Rs. 300/- Rupees Three Hundred) in the form of Demand Draft fovoring Administrative Officer, Central Institute of Psychiatry, Kanke, Ranchi-834006 or by submitting Cash Rs. 300/- (Rupees Three Hundred Only) in the Cash Section of Central Institute of Psychiatry, Kanke, Ranchi-834006 w.e.f. 19.10.2020 to 09.11.2020 between 10.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M. The tender documents can also be downloaded from the website free of cost. The last date of submission of tender is 10.11.2020 upto 3.00 P.M. (Tuesday)

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

CIP, Ranchi, Jharkhand

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

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s

that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Secured Creditor will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 07-11-2020, 11:30
A.M. at Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301 for recovery of Rs. 34,91,528/- due as on 17-10-2020 along wit further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred up to the date of actual payment and/or realization due to the secured creditor from Ms. Honey Roy & Mrs. Bani Roy The reserve price will be Rs. 18,80,820/- and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 1,88,082/-. Location / Details of the Immovable Property/Secured Assets Encumbrances,

Number	possessed and put for sale	if any known to the Bank.
PHR0792 03241253 & HTR0792 03280067	Residential Unit Bearing No. H/09-1, Admeasuring Super Area, 1200 Square Feet Situated At 9th Floor, Tower No. 5(H), In The Residencial Scheme/Complex Known As "Redwood Residency", Situated In Village Faridpur, Sector-78, Tehsil Tigaon & District Faridabad, Haryana Alongwith Proportiate, Undivided Impartible Share And Interest In The Said Land Underneath The Building In Which Said Unit Is Located And In The Common Areas And Facilities Provided In The Building Complex.	
or detailed to	erms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the	e secured creditor's

Date: 18-10-2020 Authorized Officer.

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

nday pioneer

 $P_{a\ 2\ per\ cent\ fee} \ on\ the amount\ added\ to\ their\ e-wal$ let using a credit card.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IANS NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

tioned ₹ 2,790 crore to Jammu Kashmir Power Corporation Ltd (JKPCL) under the scheme The agreement was signed

between the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, JKPCL, REC and PFC. Under the liquidity infu-

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

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

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

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

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

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

the iPhone 12, iPhone 12 mini, iPhone 12 Pro and iPhone 12 Pro Max, will at least top 70 million units by the end 2020, with the possibility of hitting 80 million barring a further escalation of the US-China trade conflicts, it reported. According to Munster and Stokman from Loup

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

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

IANS NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

sales grew by 24.50 per cent to 96,633, while vans' offtake went

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

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

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the physica

possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Secured Creditor will be sold on "As

is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 6-11-2020, 11:30 A.M. at Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301 for recovery of Rs. 91,51,138/- due as on 17-10-2020 along with further interest as

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

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

Assets possessed and put for sale

Gurgaon Haryana- 122007

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

PHR0792

Date: 18-10-2020

Location / Details of the Immovable Property/Secured

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

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

Kolkata's Pride

Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway, Metro Rail

Bhavan, 33/1, J.L. Nehru Road, Kolkata-700071 for and

on behalf of the President of India invites Tender Notice

Zone No. 4 (b) i.e. "Zonal Contract for Up-Keep of track

and track bed of Both Up and Dn Line from Km. 12/02 to

Km. 16/18 between KNBN (In.) to KMUK (In.) including

Tollygunge Yard and Carshed lines of Metro Railway Kolkata". Tender Value: ₹ 2,10,82,665.43. Cost of

Tender Document : Nil. Earnest Money : ₹ 2,55,500/-

Completion Period: The contract shall be in force up to

30.06.2022. Date of Closing: 10.11.2020 at 12.00 hrs.

The tender document and other details can be obtained from the website: www.ireps.gov.in The bidding for the

tender is to be submitted only through e-tendering on

above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this

tender and any manual offer, if received shall not be

Abridged e-tender Notice No.: Civil-2347-2020 (Open)

FASTER • SAFER • SMOOTHER • CLEANER

accepted and will be summarily rejected.

for e-tendering for the following work. Name of Work

up by 10.64 per cent to 11,413 units against the same month

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

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

On the second quarter FY21 performace, SIAM data showed that passenger vehicle sales rose 17.02 per cent to 726,232 units from 620,620 units sold during the corresponding month of the previous year. In contrast, commercial vehicle sales stood at 133,524 units from 167,173 units showing a de-growth of (-) 20.13 per cent.Similarly, three-wheeler off-take declined. The segment's sales decrease by (-) 74.63 per cent to 45,902 units from 180,899 units.Two-wheeler sales segginal growth of 0.17 per cent to 4,690,565 units from 4,682,571 units."In quarter-2 some segments have shown signs of recovery. Passenger vehicles and two-wheelers are positive, although on a very low base of previous year," said SIAM President Kenichi Ayukawa.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

along with CNG.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

income were lower by approximately ₹800 crore.

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

IANS NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

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

# scheme near Amber

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

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

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

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

Jaipur: In order to fillip the Banks, Electric Sub-station, Commercial Shops and establishments, weighbridges, and automobile shops.

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

to everyone in the entire coun-

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

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

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

The aim is to make girls eco-

nomically strong and narrow

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

M/s AXL Lighting Ltd, Mr Bantwal Laxminaraynan Mallya, Mr Subramanian Barathan, Ms Vidya Mallya, Mr Sadanand Madhusudan Sahasrabudhe to repay the cumulative amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 1,85,65,184/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty Five Lacs Sixty Five Thousand One Hundred & Eighty Four Only) as on 31.07.2019 in the Account Number 650014065843 in the name of M/s AXL Lighting Limited and another demand noticed dated 29-8-2019 to Mr. Bantwal Laxminaraynan Mallya, Mr. Sadanand Madhusudan sahasrabudhe, Mr. Subramanian Barthan, Ms Vidya Mallya, to repay the cumulative amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 95,65,796/- (Rupees Ninety Five Lacs Sixty Five Thousand Seven Hundred & ninety six Only) as on 31.07.2019 in the Account Number 510003469624 in the name of Mr. Lakshmi Narayan Bantwal Mallya, together with further interests from 01.08.2019 plus costs, charges and expenses, etc. thereon within 60 days from the date of the The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the

of the said Rules on this 13th day of October of the year 2020.

The Borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of IndusInd Bank Ltd. for

property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of industing Bank Ltd. for an amount of Rs. 2,81,30,880/- (Le. Rs. 18565184.00 & Rs. 9,565796.00) as on 31.07.2019 and further interests from 01.08.2020 plus costs, charges and expenses etc. thereon. DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

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

STORES DEPARTMENT

e- AUCTION SALE PROGRAM DURING NOVEMBER, 2020 FOR P-WAY & OTHER VARIOUS SCRAP SPECIAL ATTENTION: ALL STEEL PURCHASERS & RE-ROLLERS

**WESTERN RAILWAY** 

Public e-auction for disposal of P. way scrap, rail scrap & other various scrap mate will be held in November, 2020 as per program given below:

1st Round	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round	Depot	Depot Officer in Charge	Contact No.	
02/11/2020	19/11/2020	SBI	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-SBI	07927500080 09724093774	
09/11/2020	24/11/2020	ADI	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-ADI	07922205888 09724093751	
03/11/2020	18/11/2020	BRC	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-BRC	02652641592 9724091750	
04/11/2020	19/11/2020	RTM	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-RTM	07412230080 09752492750	
06/11/2020	25/11/2020	BVP	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-BVP	02782444360 09724097750	
12/11/2020	27/11/2020	MMCT	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager- MMCT	022-23094142 09004499006	
11/11/2020	26/11/2020	MX	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-MX	022-249295 <b>71</b> 09004495750	
10/11/2020	25/11/2020	DHD	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-DHD	02673241295 09724090455	
05/11/2020	19/11/2020	PRTN	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-DHD	02673241295 09724090455	
17/11/2020	27/11/2020	RJT	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager- RJT	02812476943 09724094770	
detailed information of the second of the se					

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

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

"I am surrendering / cancelling / my

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

if any known t

Authorized Office

deconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated 29.08.2019 calling upon the Borrowers

public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8

All those piece & parcel of residential property situated being & lying at residential villa no.467 present Devanahalli town Municipal Council Khata No.250/28/1/14/467 with a built up area o

On or towards the North: drive Way Date: 13.10.2020 Place: Bengaluru

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

## The birdman of Assam



ANWARUDDIN CHOUDHURY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

e is an ornithologist, mammalogist, an artist, avid photographer and an author. He is also the honorary Chief Executive of the Rhino Foundation for Nature in North-east India and was Deputy Commissioner of Baksa and Lakhimpur districts in Assam. He retired as Divisional Commissioner of Barak valley, Development Commissioner for Hill Areas and Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Assam last year.

If this was not enough to add to his list of accomplishments, Choudhury is a member of as many as nine IUCN/SSC/BLI specialist groups. Due to his work, at least 12 wildlife sanctuaries and two elephant reserves have been established. He was also instrumental in upgrading Dibru-Saikhowa into a national park, inclusion of Laokhowa and Burhachapori Sanctuaries in Kaziranga Tiger Reserve.

Known as the Birdman of Assam, he was the first to produce books on the birds of different Northeastern State. His studies have contributed enormously to the conservation and awareness in the region.

"I was born and brought up in Nagaland. Back then it was a part of Assam. But later, I ended up finishing my schooling and college from Guwahati. I was always interested in Nature and the diverse wildlife this region has to offer. I used to draw birds from the region which later turned into a scientific study. But I also wanted to to be a Civil Servant and hence took the UPSC exam and got selected. As a Government official one can do so much good and that is what I did," Choudhury

He tells you how as an officer in the region he was able to do so much for the conservation of wildlife and get the files moving at a fast pace. Though he agrees that it is not always easy to get things done but since he was an officer, doors that were difficult to open, were wide open for him.

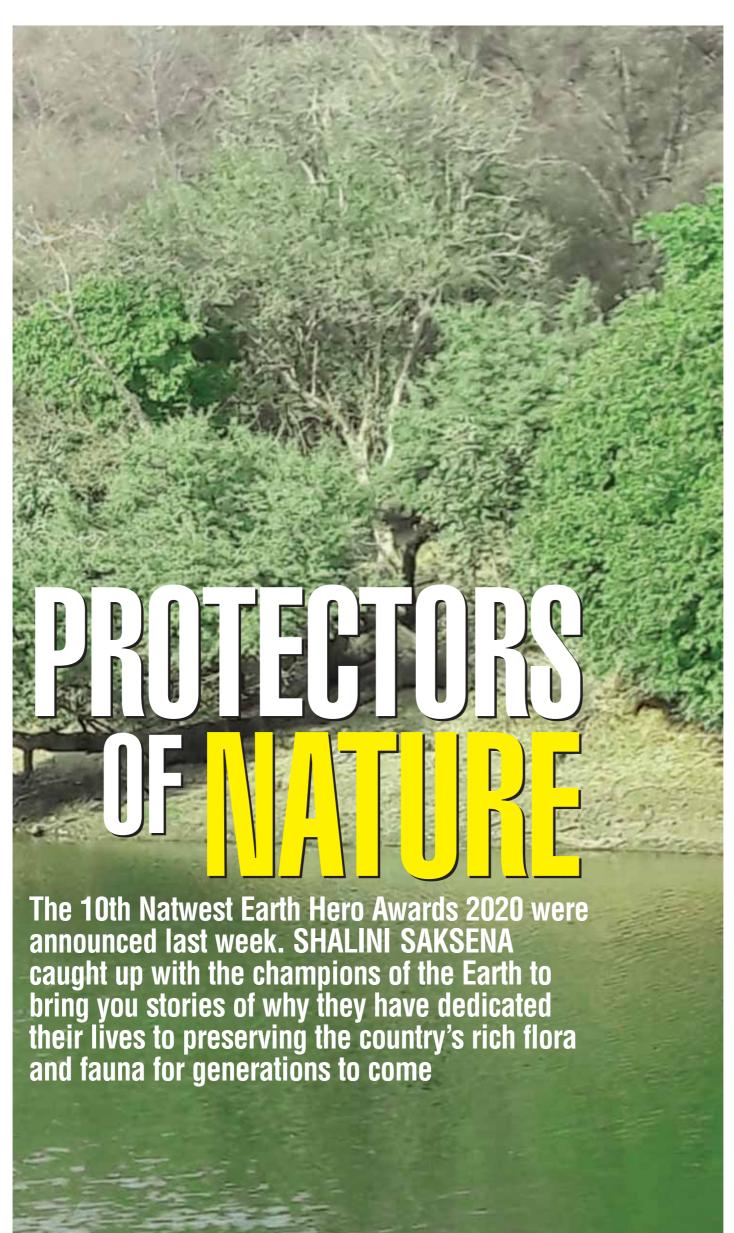
"Of course, I could sanction my own recommendations. Once I was in the Forest Department, we didn't have to coordinate with other departments but where required, it was easy if you take personal interest. Instead of sending the file, I would take it myself to my colleagues. Once I got talking about Nature, people got interested too. This made it possible for me to a lot when it came to conservation," Choudhury says.

He tells you that even though it was easy to get paperwork done, it was tough to involve the local communities. But in districts where he had independent charge, he would organise awareness programmes particularly at the *panchayat* level. "I would tell them the importance of conservation," Choudhury tells you.

Another challenge that the region faces is the loss of wildlife due to floods especially of the Kaziranga. But he explains why flooding in this area is extremely important for the eco-system.

"Without floods, the eco-system would collapse. Some seven-eight decades back, during floods the animals would move to higher ground — Karbi Anglong without any human interference. Slowly, people took over and highways were made and the region became busy restricting the movement of the wildlife. Unfortunately, there is no long-term solution though some higher grounds are being constructed where animals can rest during flooding," Choudhury explains.

A major part of his work was declaring the white-winged wood duck as the State bird. This bird, one is told is endangered. This was part of Choudhury's work with the birds in the North-east. In India, there are 1,300 species. Out of which around 1,000 are



WITHOUT FLOODS IN KAZIRANGA, THE
ECO-SYSTEM WOULD COLLAPSE. SOME
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THE REGION BECAME BUSY RESTRICTING THE
MOVEMENT OF WILD ANIMALS

found in this region with Assam topping the charts with 850 species — the highest in any State in the country.

Now that he has retired, he tells you he has more time to write. But during the lockdown, field work was hampered. However, things are back to normal and Choudhury is back to traveling and working towards general conservation.

A specific project that he just finished working on is Amur Falcon, a migratory bird that moves from Assam to South Africa with their breeding place in eastern Siberia. There are two roostig sites in Assam that we observe since lakhs of birds roost here. We had been working on this project for the last three years and last year saw the highest number — three lakh — with the world population standing at 10-12 lakh this was a great achievement," Choudhury says.

## Eco-tourism key to conversation

ANSHU PRAGYAN DAS GREEN WARRIOR AWARD ODISHA

he is Deputy Conservator of Forest (Ecotourism), Forest & Environment Department, Odisha. She joined the service in 2007. She has extensively worked in Satkosia Tiger Reserve (STR), Mahanadi WildLife Division to reduce the depletion of the tiger habitat. She mobilised the local community to create Odisha's first eco-village — Muduligadia inside STR. The ecotourism project — Satkosia Sands Resort and Nature Camp run by 34 community members has a capacity to accommodate 19 guests and has generated a revenue of ₹3 crore in the last four years.

She tells you that eco-tourism and conservation of wildlife are two sides of the same coin. "One very important thread to wildlife and conservation is human-related pressures. Conservation can bring good results only if there is support from the locals. Eco-tourism is one such area that can help us strengthen economic development in remote areas. It can also bring social wellbeing." Das explains.

She tells you that it was not easy to involve the locals with the conservation. There was a lot resentment from the locals. Das and her team started working in two areas — punishing the guilty for illegal activities and addressing the long-standing grievances like all-weather road, we provided them electricity and introduced different livelihood alternatives. Gradually, this reduced the reduced their dependency on the forest.

The success story of Satkosia Sands Resort and Nature

The success story of Satkosia Sands Resort and Nature Camp tells you that when one involves locals, the results can be amazing. So much so that seven-eight villages are no longer dependent on the forest. "Earlier, they were totally dependent on the forest for their firewood needs. We provided LPG. The income from the resort bettered their lives. It has also controlled migration. Locals helped the department set-up antipoaching camps. The protection at the tiger



reserve got better. We enrolled women in protection activities. We managed to get good informer network. People have understood that if they work towards conservation their livelihood and lifestyle will improve," Das says.

Due to the information provided, the department was able to nab an interna-

tional smuggler of pangolin Shamsuddin Khan in 2018. This would not have been possible without local support.

The good part about the revenue generated from the resort is that it goes back to the people who run it. About 80 per cent is distributed as salaries depending on the work they do and how to manage the resort and its upkeep. Part of the money — 10 per cent goes to their community development as eco-villages. There is no plastic, there is no litter outside and no open defecation. The houses are colourful and depict their traditions and cultures. So much so that people visit these villages just to see the houses. The rest 10 per cent goes the Government as revenue. There are 47 such eco-tourism that are under one portal. People can go the website and book wherever they want to stay," Das says.

She tells you that the duty of a Government servant it is their duty to do their work diligently and honestly wherever they are posted. "Forest and Environment is one department where one gets to do varied work — there

she tells you that the duty of a Government servant it is their duty to do their work diligently and honestly wherever they are posted. "Forest and Environment is one department where one gets to do varied work — there is general conservation work, there is eco-tourism and there is working towards saving species from extinction. One can even take up hobbies like photography and writing that I have been doing for the last seven-eight years," Das says.

Her publications Avifauna of Satkosia, Satkosia Seen and Unseen and Birds of Satkosia Landscape have garnered a lot of attention. Another feather in Das' cap is her work towards the gharial in STR.

"Back in 2015, there was only one left in the region. Illegal fishing in the area led to the extinction of this animal here. It lives in deep waters. Satkosia gorge is the only place in Odisha where we find gharial. Below Satkosia, there are no *gharials*. All the earlier release programmes didn't help because the entire gorge was under the cover of illegal fishermen.

"We apprehended 38 of them and rehabilitated them. We gave some of them jobs in the department and others were given alternatives. Gharials are extremely sensitive to the fishing nets. After the arrests were made, we artificially released a gharial and the numbers went up to eight in 2019. Of course, the success of this rehabilitation is not just mine. I need to thank all my team members for their contribution in ensuring that the gharial thrives here once again," Das says.

She opines that aim of conservation is to remove illegal activities. Hence, the area became safe for other wildlife as well. This increased tourism. Today, people are not just traveling to see the tiger or eat good food or go shopping. People today are looking for experiential travel. They want to explore new places. Photography is a passion for the young. Then there is biking, hiking and bird watching. One of our projects offer canopy walk. These activities go well with eco-tourism and hence we have seen such large number of travellers. Seeing wildlife is not the aim," Das says.

### 'SAVING GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD IS MY CALLING NOW



MALSINGH JAMARA SAVE THE SPECIES AWARD

e was 18 when he enlisted in the Army. At age 35 he retired after serving the country for 17 years as havaldar. When he came back to his hometown in Jaiselmer, Rajasthan he was at a loose end and didn't know what he should do next till he came to know that Great Indian Bustard (GIB) had practically disappeared from this region. That is when he knew what his calling would be henceforth.

"When I came back to Jaiselmer in 2010, I came to know how this large bird found in our State had almost disappeared thanks to extensive poaching. I was always interested in photography. My home is inside the park. Whenever I was home on a holiday, I would roam the area and take photos. But once I was back for good, I reported

poaching from Sudhasar area to the Forest Department in 2012 because I released one thing — if we save GIB, we would save Nature. Since then I have made it my mission to save this species from extinction.

But the task was not an easy one. People living in the area depended on the money that came to them when people would come to hunt GIB and illegal farming and grazing. To change their thinking and get them to take an alternative method to eke out a living was not easy.

"It is very easy to say that people who depend on the forest need to look for an alternative way to earn a living. One has to understand that to change one's dependency on Nature and to change one's thinking is not easy. People have families to feed. You just can't tell them to not enter a certain area because it is now under State protection. Also, a large portions of forest area in Rajasthan is not owned by the Forest

Department. Then there is the desert. People have been living off it for generations. To ask them to stay off the land where the GIB lives was next to impossible. But I never gave up. I would go from village to village that surround the grassland enclosers where the GIB lives. I told them the importance of grasslands. The habitat of GIB is the tall grass found here. This grass is special. A bit of rain is enough for it to sprout," Jamara says who is also the founder secretary of Godawan Conservation Society.

He has also served as the honorary Wildlife Warden, Jaisalmer and eco-development, Sudasari, Forest Department. Since he reported the first poaching, he has played a huge role in the renovation of old grassland enclosers and creating new ones with the cooperation from surrounding villagers. Jamara has also been instrumental in providing employment to local people though eco-development committee —

guarding the area and labouring for renovation. In the last eight years, he has engaged in advocacy for the GIB and grassland conservation with State and Centre.

"Even though we gave them an alternative means to earn a living. To convince them to take them up was tough. People were used to illegal farming and grazing their cattle here endangering not just GIB but the entire habitat of the region. They didn't see how what they were doing was wrong; they had been doing this for years. I told them if we increased the grasslands, it would good for them as well — they can take their cattle to graze there legally leaving a large portion for GIB and other wildlife to thrive here. But to give alternative employment to so many people is difficult. But the villagers tell me that if they are given a job, they would stop traditional practices,' Jamara explains.

He started working on making the area a tourist attraction — Sam being a prime example. "With eco-tourism, it opened doors to alternate job opportunities. The grassland enclosers can be saved as well as GIB's habitat. But more needs to be done. The money that is earned from eco-tourism should go to the local communities and ensure that the money is spent for their betterment," Jamara tells you. He tells you that back in the 80s, the

He tells you that back in the 80s, the number of this beautiful bird stood at 1,500, unfortunately, the number has dwindled to less than 100 according to 2011 census. However, Jamara's work has paid off. The Wildlife of India picked up 10 GIB eggs to be artificially hatched in Desert National Park in Rajasthan. All the eggs were picked up from where Jamara has been working tirelessly.

"It is good to see my work been has paid off but there is much to do. I want to thank NatWest as well for the award," Jamara says.



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



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



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



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

Kagiso Rabada | 19 wickets

MOTION PICTURE



Yuzvendra Chahal fiancé Dhanaashree Verma arrives at Dubai International Stadium on Saturday to watch IPL game between



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

#### **BOOM'S WILLINGNESS TO IMPROVE** Mumbai Indians' bowling coach Shane Bond heaped

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

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

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

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## DC on Shikhar AB DELIVERS

### Dhawan peaks with maiden ton, Axar makes a clean sweep for Delhi to top the table

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Spared by the fielders a number of times, opener Shikhar Shikhar Dhawan (101) hit his maiden IPL hundred while Axar Patel pulled off three sixes in the final over as Delhi Capitals moved to the top of the table with a tense five-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings, here on Saturday.

Dropped on 25 and 79 apart from surviving a half chance and a run-out opportunity, Dhawan made full use of the lives given to him to raise his best IPL knock as the Capitals overhauled a stiff 180-run tar-

get with one ball to spare.
On 99, Dhawan also
got a caught-behind decision reversed, using DRS. Despite a well-set Dhawan at the crease, Sam Curran bowled an exceptional 19th over, giving away just four runs to keep CSK in hunt. Capitals needed 17

runs off the final over and it looked Dhawan's effort could go in vain but Axar Patel played a blinder of a knock, hitting three sixes off Ravindra Jadeja to finish off the game in style.

DC now have 14 points from nine games, one more second-placed Mumbai Indians (12). Dhawan took 58 balls

for his unbeaten knock that was studded with 14 shots to the fence and one over it.



IPLT20.com Delhi Capitals opener Shikhar Dhawan celebrates after 100

He shifted the gears with ease as he not only worked the ball around but found boundaries consistently to keep the asking rate under control. His straight six off Curran stood out.

After CSK pacer Deepak Chahar, who was as usual very impressive, sent back Prithvi Shaw (0) Ajinkya Rahane (8), Dhawan kept one end safe.

CSK, but leaked runs

against RCB and MI.

To add to their woes,

Narine has been

reported for suspect

bowling action and he has

missed two matches since then.

the fifth spot on the points table

with just three wins from eight

outings, are also struggling.

With the injuries ruling out

pace spearhead Bhuvneshwar

Kumar and all-rounder

Mitchell Marsh, the Orange

Army is facing a conundrum of

whether to strengthen their

batting or their bowling unit, a

fact that skipper David Warner

its batting unit, mainly on the

top four comprising Jonny Bairstow, Warner, Manish

Pandey and Kane Williamson.

Sunrisers is Rashid Khan's form.

After returning impressive fig-

ures like 3/14, 0/12, 3/12, the

Afghan leg-spinner remained

ineffective in the team's last two

losses. And skipper Warner

will desperately

hope that his star

spinner finds his

mojo back which

the

is imperative

A cause of concern for the

The team heavily relies on

conceded.

The Sunrisers, who occupy

Skipper Shreyas Iyer (23), who hurt his shoulder in the previous game was not his usual aggressive self. The fluency with which he times the ball was

His 68-run stand with Dhawan ended when he holed one out to Du Plessis off Bravo. It was a slower ball but Iyer could have dispatched that easily into the competitive total.

empty stands on any other

Marcus Stoinis added 24 quick runs before being dismissed.

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

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

Rayudu hit 45 off 25 balls while Ravindra Jadeja hit four sixes in his fiery 33run knock. One of Jadeja's sixes landed on the road outside the stadium. They added 50 runs in

3.3 overs during their unbeaten fifth wicket partnership.
While Watson relied

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

The Capitals batsmen did not let off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin take advantage of the slow surface, taking easy runs off

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

Former SA skipper's 22-ball 55\* takes RCB past finish line

B de Villiers' swashbuckling 22-ball A 55 fashioned an increment swicket victory for Royal Challengers

Royals on 55 fashioned an incredible seven-Bangalore over Rajasthan Royals on Chasing 178, De Villiers smashed six

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

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

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

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

hundred by lofting Rahul Tewatia for a big six over long-on, but Padikkal, while trying to break the shackles after struggling his way to 35 off 37 balls, got out when his pull shot failed to clear Ben Stokes in And then came the big wick-

et of Kohli, thanks to a brilliant piece of fielding by Tewatia, who pulled off a catch inches from the line at deep midwicket on the rebound after the batsman whipped it off his pads.

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

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

Earlier, skipper Steve

Smith's counterattacking 36-ball 57 guided Rajasthan to 177 for six.

Smith struck six fours and one maximum struck six fours and one maximum strucks are six fours and one maximum strucks.

mum before Chris Morris bowled a brilliant final over, conceding only four runs while taking two wickets to check RR from going

Fast-medium bowler Morris finished with excellent figures of 4/26 in four overs. Batting first, Rajasthan were off to a brisk start as opener Robin Uthappa (41 off 22 ball) launched into the RCB attack with

a flurry of fours and a six. Back in his favoured position alongside Ben Stokes after another change in the combination, Uthappa saw his team

play two quiet overs before smashing Washington Sundar for four boundaries in the innings' third over.

Morris gave RCB their first breakthrough when he had the

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

subdued Stokes caught down

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

Sanju Samson

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

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

## KKR aim to sort out batting woes

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Δ new captain in Knight Kolkata Riders would look to sort out their batting woes and strive for consistency when

they face Sunrisers Hyderabad in an intriguing mid-table clash here on Sunday. After a string of below par performances, Dinesh Karthik handed over the reins to his deputy Eoin Morgan hours before KKR's match against

Mumbai Indians on Friday. But the World Cup-winning England captain's campaign as leader was off to a disappointing start with MI handing KKR an eight-wicket mauling. KKR are still in the top four

of IPL points table behind Mumbai Indians, Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bangalore with four wins and as many defeats. But if the twotime champions want to seal a play-off spot, their batsmen need to step up, shrug off their inconsistencies and win matches for the team. After a massive 82-run loss

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

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

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

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

The KKR bowlers did well to fashion narrow victories against Kings XI Punjab and DUBAI: RCB skipper Virat Kohli on Saturday called AB de Villiers the "most impactful player in" 'AB is IPL's most impactful player in 'AB is IPL's the "most impactful player in IPL" after the South African blasted a 22-ball 55 to set up an incredible win against Rajasthan

"AB is always been someone who's been ready to look at the situation and adapt his game most impactful player in the IPL," Kohli said during the postmatch presentation ceremony.

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

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

The seven-wicket victory

against Rajasthan Royals

Delhi Capitals.

Skipper Virat Kohli reacts after RCB win IPLT20.com

takes RCB to 12 points - same as table-toppers Mumbai Indians and

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

Talking about his team, the

tern is very clear. Young Dev (Devdutt Padikkal) has batted beautifully, Finchy (Aaron Finch) has played some impact innings. We understand the dynamics and we're erratic (in chase) and I get very

"(Chris) Morris has been brilliant, just that energy he brings (Navdeep) Saini, Washy Washington Sundar) and Isuru (Udana) as well, the bowling has come together well."

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

"I didn't hit even one of them (sixes) off the middle. When Unadkat was bowling, I was looking leg side but to be honest I was nervous because I knew I had to hit it well. Luckily I got a few away," he

With four fifties, including a 33-

Indian skipper said: "Our game pat- ball 73 against Kolkata Knight Riders, the former South African skipper has been in rampaging form this IPL. "I'm very very nervous and

sticking to our plans. The bowling stressed like any player. I want to owners I'm here for a good reason. "Last game I didn't perform my role as well as I should have, but this

time I did. It's a cat and mouse game, I always respect the bowlers. If they bowl well to me, they'll have the upper hand." RR captain Steve Smith was

crestfallen after yet another defeat, their sixth in nine games. "Sure it is a hard pill to swallow.

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

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

## Mumbai take on Kings XI

**PTI** ■ DUBAI

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

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

here on Sunday.

Chris Gayle-inspired

Kings XI Punjab side

Mumbai Indians have steamrolled opposition teams with an explosive batting line-up complemented by a lethal bowling attack and the latest side to bear their brunt were the Kolkata Knight Riders who suffered an eightwicket defeat on Friday.

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

Yadav (243 runs) and Ishan

Kishan (186 runs). Rohit played second fiddle to de Kock in MI's win against KKR, with the South African hitting



Rohit Sharma prepares to bat at nets @mipaltan 78 not out from 44 balls.

In the bowling front, pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Trent Boult have

languishing at the bottom of the table despite having the top-two

leading run-getters of the tournament in skipper K L Rahul (387 runs at a strike rate of 134.84) and his opening partner, Mayank Agarwal KXIP's problem has been that

their batting and bowling have not fired in unison on most occasions even though their confidence has been boosted by

Stats: Faisel Features

the return of Gayle. The self-proclaimed Universe

Boss made his first appearance this IPL with a bang, hitting a 45-ball 53, a knock that was laced with five sixes and a four in KXIP's win over Virat Kohli's Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Bumrah and Boult on the other. KXIP have other in-form bats

men in Rahul and Agarwal, with both or at least one of them scoring big in almost every match. But their bowling has been the

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

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Bareilly	Gram Gopalpur Nagariya Anoop me Interlocking sadak va Nali and Aging Kary	42.635	0.860	2354.00	06 month	
Bareilly	Gram Purnapur me Interlocking sadak va Nali and Aging Kary	43.817	0.880	2354.00	06 month	
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On the other hand, KXIP are

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

KXIP's rapid slide.

A captivating duel may be in store between Gayle on one side and

balance despite trying out many

options has also contributed to

Not being able to find the right

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# All square at Merseyside

VAR cancels Henderson's winner as Everton comeback twice to hold Champions for 2-2 draw; Saints steal late point at Bridge; Sterling scores in Man City win against Arsenal

iverpool were denied a cathartic victory against Premier League leaders Everton on Saturday when Jordan Henderson's late strike was controversially ruled out for offside as Chelsea shared the spoils with Southampton in a sixgoal thriller.

Jurgen Klopp's champions were desperate to atone for their 7-2 humbling against Aston Villa before the international break but had to settle for a 2-2 draw in an incident-packed game at Goodison Park.

Everton stayed unbeaten this season to remain three points clear at the top of the table after a number of controversial calls went their way.

Klopp was mystified as to why Henderson's goal was ruled out by VAR.

"There were a number of big moments in the game," he said. "The only situation I saw back is the Henderson goal and I didn't see offside. The picture I saw is no offside, but it was offside because somebody decided it."

Everton manager Carlo Ancelotti was delighted with his side's performance, even though they were denied a fifth straight Premier

"We competed with them," he replays proving inconclusive. said. "We were 1-0 down and equalised, 2-1 down and equalised. It was a good test and I have a good

feeling.
"To know we can compete with the champions of the last season it gives us more confidence for the future.

Sadio Mane missed the Villa Park mauling after testing positive for coronavirus and the Senegalese showed he was badly missed, with smart finish from Andy Robertson's cut-back to open the scoring in the third minute.

The pivotal moment came when Virgil van Dijk was on the receiving end of a dangerous late lunge from Jordan Pickford inside the box minutes early in the game. However, no penalty was

awarded after a VAR review because Van Dijk had been marginally offside and Pickford was lucky to avoid a red card.

The Dutchman's towering presence was missed at the other end as Michael Keane equalised in the 19th minute.

Mohamed Salah put Liverpool back in front with a spectacular strike with 18 minutes to go but Dominic Calvert-Lewin headed

Everton level again. The home side were reduced to 10 men after Richarlison was shown a straight red card for a dangerous tackle on Thiago Alcantara and looked to have conceded in the dying seconds.

However, the drama did not end there as VAR deemed Mane to be offside as he provided the cross for Henderson, despite television

Frank Lampard demanded Chelsea cut out their costly mistakes after Jannik Vestergaard snatched a stoppage-time equaliser for Southampton in a dramatic 3-3

Germany forward Timo Werner scored his first Premier League goals to put Chelsea two up in the first half at Stamford Bridge.

Danny Ings got one back for Southampton before mistakes from Kurt Zouma and Kepa Arrizabalaga gifted an equaliser to Che Adams in the second half.

Kai Havertz appeared to have spared his team-mates' blushes when the Germany midfielder restored Chelsea's lead.

But Lampard's side were denied when Southampton defender Vestergaard headed home following more poor defending in the closing moments.

Chelsea have just two wins from five league games and have already conceded nine goals, leaving Lampard to plead with his team to be more efficient at the

"We need to be more solid. Making individual mistakes gives other teams chances," he said.
"We are seeing lots of goals

across the league and no manager is happy.

"There are attacking players in this league and maybe pre-season and lack of working time plays a part. But we have to get better at

Lampard was encouraged to



Southampton's Jannik Vestergaard, second right, celebrates after scoring his side's third goal against Chelsea

see Werner score for the first time in the league in his fifth appearance in the competition since his move from Leipzig.

"They are great goals. The second in terms of the team was class but it is a lot to do by Timo. Those moments will come from him and other players," Lampard said.

But, as ever with Chelsea, the miscues from Zouma and Kepa underlined problems that remain unsolved at the back and could prove fatal to their chances of mounting a title challenge.

With Senegal keeper Edouard Mendy injured, Kepa was making

his first Chelsea appearance in almost a month after being dropped following an error-strewn start to the season. Kepa's latest blunder is likely

to see him exiled again and Zouma

may be axed as well once Thiago Silva returns. "You go two goals up, you want to finish it off. Southampton

are a good side. They put pressure on us off the ball," Lampard said. "My message at half-time was

that the goal shouldn't change too much. We never got to the same levels in the second half. We can

STERLING SCORES

Manchester City eked out a hard-fought 1-0 win over Arsenal, thanks to Raheem Sterling's firsthalf goal

Sterling slotted a rebound into an empty net in the 23rd minute after Ĉity midfielder Phil Foden had a shot parried away by Arsenal goalkeeper Bernd Leno at Etihad Stadium.

City was missing star midfield-Kevin De Bruyne because of injury, but did welcome back Sergio Aguero. The team's all-time record scorer played 65 minutes in his first match since June.

## Ibra is king of Milan

AFP MILAN

Zlatan Ibrahimovic made a Zwinning return after being sidelined with the coronavirus as AC Milan beat Inter Milan 2-1 in an entertaining derby match on Saturday.

Ibrahimovic only resumed training this week after recovering from the virus but the 39year-old Swede scored twice early on. Romelu Lukaku netted for Inter in the 29th minute. It was Milan's first win in the

derby in the league since 2016 and sent the Rossoneri top of the table. Milan is the only team with a perfect record, having es this season.

Milan is three points above Atalanta, who lost 4-1 at Napoli, and five above Juventus, which visits Crotone later. Lazio lost 3-0 at Sampdoria.

It was a strange atmosphere at San Siro with only 1,000 fans allowed in the 80,000-seat stadium because of the coronavirus pandemic.

However, both teams were welcomed by hundreds of supporters as the team buses arrived at the stadium. Flags were waved, banners unfurled and fans roared their support through their masks.



Alessandro Bastoni, Milan ed this season.

Roberto Gagliardini and Ionut Radu. Ibrahimovic won a

tackle by Aleksandar Kolarov and, although his spotkick was saved by Samir Handanovic, the former Inter forward tucked home the rebound to put Milan in front in the 13th minute.

Milan doubled its lead just three minutes later with a fantastic team move as Hakan Çalhanoglu sent Rafael Leão down the left flank and he crossed for Ibrahimovic to volley in.

Inter halved the deficit when Ivan Perišic crossed for Lukaku

The virus had ruled out to sidefoot home. It was the first Inter players Ashley Young, league goal Milan had conced-

back from 2-0 down to win 4-2 the last time the two sides met, almost leveled shortly after as penalty after a reckless Lautaro Martínez's header looped over Milan goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma but Simon Kjær cleared off the line.

The Nerazzurri should have equalized on the hour when Achraf Hakimi was left unmarked but his header flew inches wide of the left post.

Inter was awarded a penalin the 75th after Donnarumma brought down Lukaku but the referee changed his mind after video review showed the Inter forward was



## Atlético end goal drought

uis Suarez partnered Diego LCosta for the first time and scored as Atletico Madrid beat struggling Celta Vigo 2-0 win in La Liga on Saturday.

Costa combination Laliga time. came to an early end as Costa was forced off injured in the second half. Sitting in the stands,

Costa was seen with his face in his hands and he was also hobbling after the final whis-

He is now likely to miss Atletico's Champions League opener away at Bayern Munich on Wednesday.

For Atletico, this was a much-needed victory after back-to-back goalless draws had dampened enthusiasm following their 6-1 opening win against Granada. Suarez made his debut that day, coming off the bench to score twice when Granada were already down and out,

but his early strike shaped this game against Celta, until Yannick Carrasco head-Diego Simeone had

other in each of Atletico's first three matches but he paired them together from the start at Balaidos, with Joao Felix on the bench. There were flickers of chemistry, with Suarez missing

kept Suarez and Costa apart

by using one to substitute the

a chance for a second from the Costa pass that caused him to feel pain in his lower leg.

But Felix also impressed when he came on and will provide a more creative, if less combative, foil for Suarez in Costa's absence.

**AFP** ■ BERLIN

Robert Lewandowski main-tained his magnificent goalscoring form as Bayern Munich eased to a 4-1 Bundesliga victory over Arminia Bielefeld on Saturday. Lewandowski scored four

times in Bayern's 4-3 win over Hertha Berlin in their last match before the international break and struck twice for Poland in a victory over Bosnia-Herzegovina in midweek.

The prolific striker took his goalscoring tally for the season to nine goals in seven matches with a first-half double at Bielefelder Alm after playing a big part in Thomas Muller's opener.

He then set up Muller for ons, who conceded to Ritsu Doan's low drive before losing Corentin Tolisso to a straight red card, made it four wins in a row in all competitions and climbed into second place.

Earlier, Substitutes Erling Braut Haaland and Marco Reus fired Borussia Dortmund into second (actually third after Bayern's win) place in the Bundesliga, linking up in the second half to seal a 1-0 win at Hoffenheim.

Dortmund, who had already lost one game this season, looked set to drop further points before youngster Haaland and veteran Reus





Robert Lewandowski celebrates after scoring Bayern's third goal into quarantine after

came off the bench in the second half to breathe new life into a

Haaland, surged forward on the break to set up Reus with a tap-in and snatch

Dortmund's first away victory over Hoffenheim in eight Haaland was initially rest-

ed after he played three times for Norway in the previous two weeks, prompting criticism of the busy international sched-

Hoffenheim were also without three first team regulars, as Croatia's Andrei Kramaric, Ghana's Kasim Adams and Czech defender Pavel Kaderabek were all sent

national duty. The club Friday that two of three had tested positive for the coronavirus. Mijat Gacinovic missed a gilt-edged opportunity for

their return from inter-

Giovanni Reyna and Thomas Meunier came close for Dortmund. Yet it was Reus who landed the decisive blow, slotting

Hoffenheim early on, and both

Haaland's square pass into the open net to score his first goal since February. Dortmund now sit one

point behind league leaders RB Leipzig, who held onto top spot with a 2-0 win against surprise high-fliers Augsburg.

## Mbappe takes PSG to top

Kylian Mbappe shrugged off any Mbappe lingering fatigue to score twice in his second game in 48 hours as Paris Saint-Germain defeated 10-man Nimes 4-0 on Friday to take over top spot in Ligue 1.

The France forward struck the opener on 32 minutes at the Stade des Costieres and netted again late on as a weary Nimes folded following the early dismissal of centre-

back Loick Landre. Alessandro Florenzi scored PSG's second on 77 minutes and Pablo Sarabia notched a fourth for the reigning champions as PSG climbed above Rennes on goal difference after a fifth successive win.

"I spoke with Kylian yesterday (Thursday), he told me that he felt good and that he absolutely wanted to play," said PSG coach Thomas Tuchel. "He's the guy who can always make a differ-

ence and he did just that." New signings Moise Kean and Rafinha made their PSG debuts with a host of players missing following the international break and just four days

ahead of the visit of Man United in the CL. Earlier, Rennes extended their unbeaten start to the Ligue 1 season despite drawing 1-1 at bot-

## Rangers beat Celtic in Old Firm derby

**AFP** ■ GLASGOW

 $R^{\hbox{angers beat a coronavirus-deplet-}}_{\hbox{ed Celtic side 2-0 at Celtic Park}}$ on Saturday to move four points clear of their bitter rivals at the top of the Scottish Premiership. Two goals from Connor Goldson

proved enough for Steven Gerrard's

men, who are desperate to stop their bitter rivals winning a record-breaking 10th consecutive title. In the first Old Firm derby without fans, Goldson headed in James Tavernier's free-kick in the ninth minute and tapped in from close

range in the second half as Rangers recorded back-to-back wins at Celtic Park for the first time since 1995. It was a first domestic defeat since the last clash between the Glasgow giants in December for Neil Lennon's men, who have a game in hand over

Rangers with a long title fight still to

Celtic were without star striker Odsonne Edouard, Nir Bitton and Hatem Elhamed due to Covid infections, while Ryan Christie missed out as he was forced to self-isolate for being a close contact of Southampton's Stuart Armstrong, who also tested positive, while on



international duty with Scotland. But Gerrard said that took nothing away from a dominant performance by his side.

"We've put in a really controlled, professional performance," Gerrard told *Sky Sports*. "I don't think we were at our fluent best but we've come here and controlled the game with and without the ball."

"We could maybe have scored more," he added. "There will be no getting carried away. We need to remain humble.'

Steven Gerrard's side looks a different proposition this season and stayed unbeaten after 11 games. The team has conceded just three goals and scored 26 — one more than

## **Umar Gul retires**

Karachi: Veteran Pakistan pacer Umar Gul on Saturday announced he will retire from all forms of cricket after the ongoing National T20 Cup, ending an international career spanning 17 years.

The 36-year-old Gul, who played his last match for Pakistan — an ODI — in 2016, featured for the Balochistan team in the National T20 Cup, which ends on Sunday.

His side lost to Southern Punjab in Rawalpindi on Friday to be out of reckoning for "With a very heavy heart and after a lot of

mats of cricket after this National T20 Cup," Gul wrote on his Twitter handle. "I have always played for Pakistan with all my heart and 100 percent of hardwork. Cricket is and will always be my love and passion but all good things have to come to an end," he

thinking, I have decided to bid farewell to all for-

Gul could barely hold back his tears as his Balochistan teammates gave him a guard of hon-

The Peshawar-born Gul made his international debut in an ODI in 2003. He played his first Test that year itself. His last Test was against South Africa in 2013. From 47 Test matches, Gul took 163 wick-

ets at an average of 34.06. He also claimed 179 wickets from 130 ODIs, besides 85 wickets from "Praying that the future will hold much more for me. Secondly, I would like to thank @TheRealPCB and all the coaches and people who have been a part of my cricketing journey.

Special thanks to media, my fans and followers

who made it all worthwhile n supported me at

all times," he said.

## Planning to start domestic cricket from Jan 1: Ganguly

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The much awaited domestic crick-**⊥** et season will start from January 1, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly said on Saturday.

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

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

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

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

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

"We also have elaborate plans for

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

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

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

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

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

and a half to four months away. We still have time. We are monitoring the situation (Covid-19) which is pretty fluid and will take a call accordingly, he said. While hosting the series in India

(Ahmedabad, Kolkata and Dharamsala being likely venues) remains priority, the UAE is a second

#### Qawwali is not about competition' ■ What made you say yes to perform When they approached us, there was no reason to turn them down. They are such a big name and have been promoting music for sometime now. It is an honour for us that they gave us The Nizami Bandhu group has been enthralling their audience with sufi gawwalis written by Amir Khusro for decades. They performed at HCL's oundscapes recently and wowed their listeners with songs from films like Rockstar and Bajrangi

opportunity to perform during these testing times. It was such a nice feeling to finally do a live performance albeit virtually. In qawwali you need a certain setting, what were the challenges?

Not really. We have been singing for decades. Sufi gawwali has been in our familv for over four hundred years. Singing is in our blood but we had to learn from my father, chacha and mamu. The good part was that the technical team provided all the

help that we needed on site. What is the reason why you choose to perform sufi qawwali written by Amir Khusro in honour of Nizamuddin

This is not always the case. But yes, it is true. We are associated with the Nizamuddin Auliya dargah. Our identity is from here. Hence, our sufi qawwalis are by Amir Khusro. But we sing Meera Bai and Kabir Das too. We sing Bulleh Shah too. Since we are associated with this dargah we start off with Amir Khusro's praise for Nizamuddin Auliya. Our main stay is classic sufi qawwali.

■ Where does qawwali stand today as opposed to what it was before?

Sufi qawwali is here to stay as long as there will be dargahs and khan khaye. There may be some changes but it will not end unless the world ends

So much has changed — zameen aasmaan ka — I would say. The kind of singing that used to take place four hundred years back was on dhap (shallow rimmed drums) and in Persian or Arabic. Over the years, things changed. The person responsible for bringing sufi qawwali to the forefront is Khwaja Garib Nawaz — Moinuddin Chishti at Ajmer. Back then, there weren't many instruments. Today, there are so many instruments — banjo, guitar table, harmonium to name a few. Do you think that people's preferences have changed, how and why?

Yes. There is change in people's thinking and understanding as well. Even artists have had to change. If we don't change ourselves, we will lose our art and listeners. Jaisa desh, waisa bhesh. It is important to have a taal-mel between the artist and the audience. We play what the audience wants but sometimes, we get requests that have no relationship with sufi qawwali. Bur we pander to their requests

■ Bollywood shows qawwali between two groups — men on one side, women on the other. Is that a true portrayal?

One has to understand that what was

being shown in films back then was not qawwali. Qawwali is not about competition. It is something that was sung at dargah or what is happening now in films and what AR Rahman introduced. Not that the qawwali shown in films like Barsaat Ki *Raat* or *Mughal-E-Azam* was not good. But it was not *qawwali*. Sufi *qawwali* came into prominence due to Sabri Brothers and Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan.

■ Have you had to change your style with the changing times? Has this been tough?

There are problems. But agar ghora ghaans se dosti karega toh khayega kya. People who call me and pay money, when they request a certain song, I sing for them but tell them and this is being done at their request and has nothing to do with sufi qawwali. It feels strange but we do. However, we always end with sufi qawwali. But I rarely get requests to sing other songs from people who know who and what we are.

■ What is the future of qawwali in

Sufi qawwali is here to stay as long as there will be dargahs and khan khaye. There may be some changes but it will not end unless the world ends

'I make songs that I

AMITABH S VERMA, who has recently

MUSBA HASHMI about the response that

writing songs and his upcoming projects

Awalla is about supreme love. The highest form of love -

the love for God. It is a sufi song where the devotee sees God as

his/her beloved. Meera bai was one of the most prominent sufi

poetess in the Bhakti movement whom we have mentioned in

■ Your song has been receiving lots of love and appreciation.

and appreciation on social media. It feels great to see so much

appreciation that the song is getting. More so because we made

this song without any commercial compulsion. We just wanted

to make a nice song with everything from music to lyrics to the

video according to our liking. This is the kind of song that I would

want to listen to and I was sure that there would be many who

would appreciate this kind of music. My brief to my arranger and programmer Nirmalya Humtoo Dey was simple: I wanted

the music to sound rich. We have used live instruments and that

has added a lot of value to this song.

You have penned down many beautiful and hit songs. Any

worth sharing. I can go on and on. Let me share the story of one

of my earlier films My Brother Nikhil. It had only one song Le Chale in three different versions sung by KK, Shaan and Sunidhi

Chauhan. The song was to be used throughout the film in dif-

ferent situations. While recording the song with Shaan, Director

Onir felt the need of another *antra* for a particular situation. Shaan

was about to finish his recording. So Sanjay Suri who was also

the producer of the film got into a conversation with Shaan and

10 years before it was finally used in a film. Pritam and I have

been friends for a long time and we were also classmates in FTII.

We made this song then and there. Anurag Basu heard this song

and loved it so much that he decided to use it in the film. Another

popular song of mine Maa Ka Phone Aaya from Khoobsurat was

not supposed to be a song. We were making a ringtone to be used

in the film. Once that was made Rhea Kapoor, the producer of

the film loved it so much that she asked Sneha khanwalkar, the

■ What does it require to come up with such good songs, Love

I try to make a song that I would love to listen. It becomes a good song for the audience too because somewhere you con-

music director and me to make it into a full song.

is a waste of time and Alvida to name a few?

The cult song Alvida from Life in a Metro was written about

a new antra. Thankfully I managed to write it in minutes.

Every song has an interesting story and every memory is

Yes. A lot of my industry friends have showered their love

love listening to'

Lyricist-screenwriter-filmmaker

turned a singer with Awalla, tells

the song is getting, what goes into

■ What is your song Awalla about?

memories that you can share.

# Berco's food is music to your tongue

Berco's is to Delhi what the moon is to Earth, a given in good taste. Years of changing taste buds have not deterred the Capital's love for this vintage eatery

very city, for decades, has had three main Chinese stops — a Chinese doctor, a Chinese shoemaker and a Chinese restaurant. All three come with an old world charm to them, igniting a strange kind of loyalty for the welfare of the tooth, foot

Lucknow has grown on its first offered Chinese restaurant Jone Hing, now a woebegone eatery in Hazratganj which once did brisk business on the experimental and growing tastes of college students. So much so that students would often book a table a weekend in advance so that the queues could be navigated faster.

That was the early 80s and the samosa was **DARK LAVA** slowly being taken over by chowmein doused as it came in tangy vinegar, oil and chilli sauce. Those were the days when vinegar meant to Indian tongues either a cleaning agent or a condiment used for subtle enhancement and preservation of

winter vegetable pickles. without any change or corruption. Zone Hing's chilly dry shredded lamb came in that category. And you can say the same for Berco's, Delhi's oldest and most visited Chinese restaurant whose Chilli Chicken Dry has such a distinct crunch and juiciness that none has been able to crack, not even the

likes of Mainland China or Yo China which are young in the journey and have, in the name of corporate eating, changed the joy of eating in the old time, family outing manner. From that solitary Connaught Place inner circle perch to now over 18 restaurants all over and growing

Bhaijaan, among other sufis. Ustad Chand

speaks with Shalini Saksena about

challenges faced, where qawwali

stands today and its future

presence in malls, not to mention home deliveries, Berco's has not just survived the changing eating mores but also maintained its distinctness of taste,

dishes and restaurant ambience which continues to give family values the place it deserves in our evolving society where value systems are being eaten up by cut throat survival in a liberalised globalised environment.

As you spoon up the chicken corn soup with some real good pieces of chicken and not just shreds that others have resorted to, vou wonder what Berco's means. It's

very distinctly not Chinese! It has no known Indian meaning either, or anything to denote any kind of food things simply because it is not even an English word in that sense. It is an acronym which stands for Bombay Electronics Radio Company, which used to sell



A platter of Honey Chilli Potatao

instruments, cassettes etc, something that you may remember as a shop next to the original Berco's before it was taken over by a suitcase company.

can claim to give you the same It's, indeed, been a pleasure to grow up with Berco's flavour and taste as Berco's. Time may have changed enough as a restaurant, be it their undented for Berco's to expand into Thai and Burmese dishes to its fruit beers or hot of which get soggy and nals continue to dominate, inedible. Two things here, maybe like the honey chilli potatoes

No other Chinese restaurant

worth its name, and there are as

many in NCR as there are mobikes zipping around on crowded streets, the honey chilli lotus stem. Add to that chilli fish, paneer and juicy chicken drumsticks and it becomes difficult to progress to the main course with an accommodating stom-

Talking about expansion, again, the Phat Thai and the Khao Suey can never be assembled with the same finesse that Berco's does, especially the latter which comes with a bevy of condiments to enhance the coconut cream adding paradise to this cloud nine dish. Have savoured this Burmese speciality at almost all tables in all leading Chinese eateries but all will fall by the wayside, with you regretting the hole in your pocket with an anti-climax dish.

The same goes for the lemon coriander fish which delights you with its GH colour clarity as it does with

its softness of being.

The staples, chilli garlic noodle, egg fried rice and the American chopsuey (kids love this sweet mess) are vintage stuff in the Chinglish section as is the Mogolian stir fry vegetables to go with egg rice or hakka noodles.

In these pandemic times, home delivery has become inevitable but the most difficult foods to deliver and vet maintain their texture are Chinese and

> order stuff that can beat this trap or eat the moment it is delivered. But like in all its fare which Berco's has nurtured with sparing loyalty and indulgence, home delivery too is being tackled well, and of course with clean no contact delivery. For a music company to excel in old age is definitely music to your tongue.

> > Juicy chicken drumsticks

nect with your audience. There are actually no rules. But there are a few things that I keep in mind while writing a song. But

to answer your question, for me it is the melody and arrangement and then the choice of words that I feel makes a good song. A situation decides the thought and the mood of the song. The director gives a brief according to which it is written. How has your experience been in the industry? So far so good. No complaints and no regrets. I have been very lucky to get a chance to work with directors like Raj Kumar Hirani, Anurag Basu, Hansal Mehta, Onir, Vikram Bhatt and many more

in various capacity. I think I am one of the few filmmakers who has actually experimented with various departments and have good work to my credit. From working as an Editor in feature films for which I was actually trained in FTII to getting to write scripts, to being a lyricist for songs that have become successful to becom-

ing a director and now a singer, God has really been kind.

A change that you would like to see in the industry for musicians, singers and lyricists? There is a lot of talent waiting to be explored. New people should be brought to limelight and new talent should be given chance. We have to make this industry

accessible to more and newer talent. Any upcoming projects?

form.

Yes quite a few. My first film as a director called Teen Do Paanch should come out soon. Though we had planned a theatrical release but going by the present situation it will now be released on an OTT plat-

> Musical Travelogue called Kaleidoscope of North East which I have produced, written and directed with my wife Shruti Anindita Vermaa. This is for Doordarshan and it has given me a chance to explore the unexplored. I

I have just finished a

recently made a short film Bholi which has won five international awards and is still doing rounds to International film festivals.

## Give your home a festive makeover

n inevitable responsibility mark-Aing the beginning of festive season in India is the clean-up drive in most homes. The cleaning spree, akin to a family tradition, gets in full swing once the festive season is near. But before moving to that stage, a crucial step that one has to go through is decluttering - it not only amplifies the aesthetics but also aids in physical and mental well-

Answering the tough questions

Has this specific product or object been used in the last 1 year? If your answer is no, then chances are you won't in the coming future either. It's time to quit the 'you never know' outlook towards the things in your house — if you don't foresee yourself using a particular object in the coming six months definitively, then it's time to bid it a nostalgic

It's never easy to admire the beauty of an over decorated home. One should remember to have distinctive high traffic and low traffic areas in your house. High traffic areas should be minimal with an easy grab-and-go flow for your everyday essentials. Low traffic areas can be as beautiful as they are useful.

Importance Compartmentalising

In order to make your home look clutter free, one should divide up corners into convenient sections everywhere around the house. This not only helps to identify things which are useful, but also make every space easy on the eyes.

Arrangement is key Get to the bottom of those galling wires which are just piling up they're probably not useful and all your electronic junk, including bat-



teries can be donated. Be fastidious about these little things — get wire organisers, label makers, baskets, acrylic storage to aesthetically organise every corner.

Transform the old into new Make use of everything in that one corner of your house which is a pandora's box of all the festive gifts from the

give them to someone who will use it. The festive, Indian clothes which have been nudging you during the months of lockdown can finally break free audit your outfits and brighten up someone's day by donating clothes, shoes, accessories and bags you no longer need. Getting rid of the unnecessary

Scan your kitchen thoroughly take stock of everything which has piled up and look up the expiry dates. nnoticed condiment packets, chipped crockery and mugs which haven't seen one useful day must be discarded from the cabinets. Your beauty and grooming essentials need to be separated with a fine tooth comb as well. So, avoid the unnecessary hoarding of those supplies and keep only those

which are still good to use. Glamming up your new space

past. Break out that new silverware, It is now time to decorate your glasses, tea light holders etc. or simply house by being picky about what you put out and choose your curio with care less is more in recent times and nobody ever has complained about less dusting. Recycle old cards, newspapers, magazines, manuals, coupons, take out menus, old paperwork, half-used notebooks etc. Or get a little creative and refurbish some items in a fun family/friends group activity. Partly used candles can still add the glow to your house collect all of them and lookup an easy DIY tutorial on how to repurpose your used candles to make a new one.

Follow these simple and effective steps to declutter your homes to give your home a vibrant and spacious look this festive season.

The writer is Pritika Singh, Founder, Mohl

New Delhi, October 18, 2020



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

A super thriller all the way

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

Test of astrologer/astrology/

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

women while celebrating a goddess or

from and around Kolkata lined up.

OVER THE YEARS, FOR **BENGALIS AND** NON-BENGALIS, DURGA **PUJA CAME TO BE CENTERED AROUND** HOW MANY PANDALS THEY HAD HOPPED, WHICH ONE DISPLAYED THE BEST THEME AND WHICH PUJA **COMMITTEE WAS LIKELY** TO WIN AN AWARD THAT YEAR. THE LAMENT WAS THAT THE EMPHASIS WAS NOW ON AN **EXTRANEOUS JOURNEY** WHILE THE FESTIVAL WAS MORE OF AN INWARD CRUISE OF **DEVOTION WHICH HAD GONE COMPLETELY** MISSING



new norms of social distancing that have forced many to sit back and rethink about the hijacking of this festival by Mammon.

The change had started around 25 years back when the concept of "theme puja" made an entry. From 1993-94 each of the paara (area) began to conceptualise the pandal around a contemporary issue. It could be questioning violence against

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

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

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

and idols but also the social work done by

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

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

## **MEANWHILE** IN THE CAPITAL

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

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

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

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

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

tural events, bhandara and stalls would be allowed. At the Milani Clubhouse, they are registering members and handing out digital tokens for visiting the place where the idol is kept. The restricted entry would be rotated after every half an hour so that everyone gets a chance to offer prayers while maintaining social distancing. Children below

12 and elderly people above 65 will not be allowed inside. For the immersion, a metal tank is being arranged by Purbanchal Bangiyo Samiti at Mayur Vihar Kali Bari Ph-1 and at Purbasha Kali Bari (IP extn) premises with each Puja committee being given a different time slot. Puja material like flowers, leaves and decorative items will not be allowed at the time of immersion.

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

# A super thriller on anti-terror ops

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



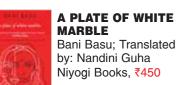
BATLA HOUSE: AN

**ENCOUNTER THAT** 

**SHOOK THE NATION** 

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

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



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

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

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

as we'll ever come to understanding them.

## A tribute to the frontline protectors

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

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

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

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

This book, published during



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

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

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

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

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

influence outside the reserve,

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

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

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



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

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

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

their own meals, also cook for small animals to mighty elephants of the jungles.

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

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

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



## Farm reforms for realising its full potential

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

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

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

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

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

#### The productivity trap The productivity differ-

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

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



10,000 farmers and farm labourers died by suicide.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

formed for fair and transparent

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

and States must work to that

Farmers vs corporates The reforms in agricul-

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

#### **Create Market Regulator**

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

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

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



SONAL SHUKLA

#### PERSPECTIVE |

## New revolution in making in Kyrgyzstan

are not accidental. The primary reason is that all of them have suddenly ceased after 1991. Kyrgyzstan, known as the only democracy in Central Asia, has litin a span of few days. The rag-tag Opposition backed groups are fast occupying Government establishments, including the most prestigious Parliament building of the country. Currently, the protesters are appointing their favourites as mayors, ministers and even Prime Minister. The only problem with these self-declared or mobappointed authorities is that all of them can be overturned by stronger and well-armed groups again. So, there would be no end to such chaos if it persists like this. The safe road ahead is to bring legitimate authorities back to the seat of power as per the law of the land.

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

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

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

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

bility that some other leaders might also

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

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

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

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

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



what we have witnessed today in Kyrgyzstan.

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

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

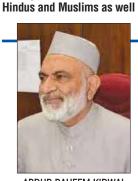
us and our country

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

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

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

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



ABDUR RAHEEM KIDWAI

reinforce their confidence."

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

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

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

























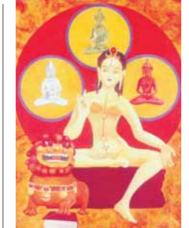




#### ARIES March 21-April 19

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

Lucky number 10 Lucky colour Golden Lucky day Sunday



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

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

Lucky number 14 Lucky colour Green Lucky day Friday



#### **SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

You are likely to change your mind about something that you think is wrong with you physically. Do not ignore what your doctor has told you. Those suffering from serious ailments need to be under the constant observation of doctors. Others also need prevention from seasonal ailments, which might aggravate if timely attention is not taken. On the work front, confusion about whether to leave the present job, start a business, or some undesirable circumstances is likely to occupy your mind. Changing your field would gets you nowhere. Find out your interest and potentials. This is the time to be firm in your decisions and keep your ears and eyes open. On the personal front, there exits hope and happiness on the emotional level, along with a sense of security.

Lucky number 11 Lucky colour Brown Lucky day Monday



#### **TAURUS** April 20-May 20

This week you need a break from normal life. There is a need to slow down from the hectic work pace and relax. Do not push yourself when you are tired, it may cause illness and injury. On the career front, you have the benefits of your communication both verbal or written and will get the good news regarding your career. Businessmen can acquire a secure position monetarily. Those in service will get the support of their seniors and boss this week, which is likely to prove a stepping stone in their career. Be cautious, stay focused on what you want to achieve. On the personal front, a new beginning and higher expectations are on the cards. This is the time when you need not put extra efforts in the relationship

Lucky number 8 Lucky colour Pastel colours Lucky day Wednesday



#### VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week work at balancing your chakras or your body, mind, and spirit. Pay adequate attention to all three. Meditation, *Pranayam* and walk in the nature would work wonderfully. The benefits are far greater than any effort you can put in. Professionally, connections with new people, especially people from other lands, will be beneficial. This is the time to make new business deals, sign new projects and assignments. Crack your potential. Stars are favouring you. Creativity, change, and development are the themes of the week. On the personal front, new ideas and plans will help you to revitalise your relations with the loved ones. Love is in the air and you are in full mood to express your feelings. This is a good time to make relations.

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Yellow Lucky day Thursday



#### **CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

This week take some time out for yourself. You are on the right track now, keep doing what you are doing. Learn more about rituals from the past. They will deepen your spiritual understanding and practice and help you to bring balance. On the career front, lots of activity, getting things accomplished is on the cards. You may make your peers look bad. You don't feel tired; being workaholic is your passion. Keep your behaviour in check, there are chances of using harsh words that create a hostile situation around you. Maintain your cool and equilibrium whatever the situation, that quality will add a feather in your career. On the relationship front, if you are currently committed, it may well rise to new and better heights

Lucky number 13 Lucky colour Peach Lucky day Tuesday



#### **GEMINI** May 21-June 20

Listen to your body with great care and attention. You are either overeating or starving yourself to lose weight. Both situations are bad for health. Bringing balance in food habits not only helps you to maintain your weight but it gives you a confident mindset. You are otherwise hale and hearty, enjoy the week. On the work front, investment done in the past is coming to fruition this week. This can be literal such as a bank account returning money to you. You will be reaping what you have sown. You are in the good books of your senior and soon there will be rewards. On the personal front, love and emotions will take back seat. You prefer isolation. Those committed must stay connected with their time to keep the spark alive.

Lucky number 17 Lucky colour Sky Blue Lucky day Wednesday



#### LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

You need to balance your health efforts with your personal and professional responsibilities. Make sure that you are taking time out for your self, for rest and healing. If you put yourself last on the list of things, your health will suffer. Make sure to take adequate rest and sleep, too. On the professional front, if you are looking for a job, you have the ability and the skill to find it. If you are already employed, you will find a better position. If there's no room for a promotion in the current job, give serious thought to finding something where there is this possibility. On the relationship front, if you are committed don't hesitate to speak your mind to your beloved. You stand with pride and express your feelings. This will only improve your relationship.

Lucky number 19 Lucky colour Black Lucky day Saturday



#### **AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you are likely to feel stressed out. You may be suppressing your emotions, and this will impact your body negatively. Be careful how, when, and where you vent your emotional reactions. Work to reduce your stress level. Think positive. Stay calm and connected. Anger is a silent killer. On the career front, tension is indicated. Be positive, this is a temporary phase. If you are trying for a job change, this is the right time. Making plans only will not help, execute them with sincerity. You have the potential to achieve the desired position. On the personal front, the time is right for soul-searching and discovery of the inner realms. It is a very positive time for you and an excellent opportunity to strengthen relationships.

Lucky number 22 Lucky colour Blue Lucky day Sunday



couple of years back, a very dear

friend sought appointment for his

estranged wife. Though they had

separated, they remained good friends.

The lady offered her birth particulars,

based on which her astrological chart

moment of consultation. The ruling

planets emerging at that that moment

did not match with those of the chart

drawn against birth particulars provided

by her. It implied that the birth particu-

lars were not right. In the Krishnamurty

check whether the birth chart is right. I

then asked the lady: "Are your birth particulars correct?" "Yes", she affirmed.

There was no fun in arguing with her. So,

I made all my observations based on

consultation reflected. After having

went home. She then called up and

good astrologer.

what the chart drawn at the moment of

answer to her questions, she satisfactorily

thanked ex-husband for leading her to a

that the lady was quite happy with you.

birth particulars she furnished." He was

left aghast when I shared the birth par-

He then asked me: "Please tell me the

My friend then called me informing

system, there is a proven method to

was drawn. I, then, drew the chart at the

#### **CANCER** June 21-July 22

Tension and depression might take toll leaving you exhausted and under-confident person. Reading, meditation, and light exercises will give you relief and good sleep will help improve your state of mind. Uncertainties and confusion in life will melt away if you have a positive and creative mind. On the work front, you need to make some quick decisions. Make sure your intelligence and logic are used for a good cause Do not waste your time in disputes. Solution for a problem is already there or will come soon. On the personal front, work with a cool mind rather than the raging heart. If you are already in a relationship, this can be a make-or-break period. This is a time to get very clear about what you want out of your relationships, and then take steps accordingly.

Lucky number 21 Lucky colour White Lucky day Monday



#### SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

On the health front, you seek to self-validate and believe in your talents. Your motto of a diseases-free, happy family will get you busy. It is time to see how totally different and wonderful things can be. Professionally, you are positive and will try to bring love and compassion in your work. You are highly intuitive too. People are amazed to see this persona of you. This is a time to focus on your goals and targets. Be firm and determined. Those in business need to be tough in the money transactions. On the personal front, mind, heart, and emotions are going in different ways. This is a highly emotional time in love relationships. Things can quickly become heated. Treat your lover like a friend. Don't be in a hurry to end or to begin a relationship.

Test of astrologer/astrology

Lucky number 15 Lucky colour Grey Lucky day Friday



#### PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week keep your stress level under control to stay in good health. Deal with any problems that come up physically, don't try to avoid them. Be sure to get enough rest. If you need healing, ask for it. Sensitive people need caring, nurturing, massage, and hugs from dear friends which will go a long way toward keeping them healthy. On the career front, other people may oppose your new ideas or proposals, but if you know that you are right to go ahead. You are enthusiastic, full of energy and want to put your best, but others are not taking it positively. Leave your simplicity behind, be smart and little articulate. On the personal front, your relationship will move into a lighter, easier, and more balanced phase when you are sure of yourself

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Red Lucky day Thursday

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#### **ASTROTURF** BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

ticulars she had furnished. "Sir, she gave you wrong birth particulars. It was the one given to me at time of marriage to hide her actual date of birth. Later, I found her true horoscope. How come, your observations were so apt, even though she did not furnish her true birth particulars?" "Well, I ignored the birth chart, and instead counted on what the astrological chart at the moment of con-

sultation reflected". I replied. "How can the chart drawn at the moment of consultation reveal her state of affairs so correctly?" He countered. "Remember, there is continuum in time. What one is faced at a particular moment is culmination of doing and undoing in the past. Seeded in the present moment is how future is expected to unfold. The chart at the moment of consultation, reveals what prevails in your mind, and the way it is going to progress in the emerging times. If you know that you are planting a mango seed, being aware of its chemistry, you may be able to figure out the timeline of its progressive growth. The astrological chart at the moment makes aware of the potential seeded in mind, which makes it possible to foresee the impending future events."



#### We are often faced with such challenging encounters in our professional life, particularly in marriage matching. It has been observed that many parents of girls in marriageable age, fudge their birth particulars so that it matches with the groom's chart, to seal the marriage. They though hasten their girl's marriage, but with what end? In their rush to shed their responsibility, they don't care for their own daughter's marital happiness. When problems arise, the groom side comes with the question: "Sir, we had done matching before the marriage. Yet, why is it not working?" When cross

checked, it comes out that the girl's chart

Recently, I came across such a situation when hassled parents of a newly married son came the other day with their charts. They asked me to suggest some puja that may help restore his marital happiness. Well, marital discord is always because of attitudinal differences of the partners. So, problem is seeded in their minds. How can any pundit invade their mind space through *puja* to make necessary attitudinal correction? They have to self-correct themselves to ensure

marital happiness. A look into the boy's chart revealed

that he had an inflated ego — bound by his own self-defined do's and don'ts coming as it may with Mars conjunct Uranus, opposite Jupiter. He can't digest anything happening at variance with his own beliefs and perceptions. Being tactless and undiplomatic, his ill-timed and ill-framed reactions often unnerves others. When I looked at the girl's chart, it was found fudged. After making necessary correction, the chart revealed her true nature.

She was born in Gemini lagna. The sign lord Mercury conjunct Sun and Jupiter were in the *lagna*, opposite erratic Uranus, mischievous Neptune and Saturn in the marriage signifying 7th house. Debilitated Moon was opposite Venus. It implied that the girl lived in her own delusionary perceptions, distanced from ground realities. She wished to live exclusively on her own terms, least bothered about other's sensibilities and concerns. Her sense of reasoning and judgment would be impaired. If things don't move her way, she may go wild. The result is there to see.

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