

WORLD 7
NZ PM ARDERN WINS
2ND TERM IN LANDSLIDE**MONEY 8**
INDIA IS GRADUALLY MOVING TOWARDS
AN ECONOMY BASED ON CLEAN ENERGY**SPORT 10**
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**USUAL SUSPECTS**

SWAPAN DASGUPTA

No need to rewrite Jinnah's history

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

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

Siddiqui's attack on Jinnah was emphatic and clear. There is a body of Muslims who are insistent that Jinnah's separatism lowered the collective clout of the Indian Muslims and handed over India to Hindu supremacy. This, they feel, would never have happened had Pakistan and Bangladesh been part of a united India.

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

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

Secondly, it is also clear that the initial support for the Pakistan movement and for Jinnah — between, say 1939 and 1946 — came from Muslims living in those areas that are today a part of India. Aligarh Muslim University was the intellectual hotbed of the Pakistan movement and the Muslim League was dominant in the Muslim reserved seats of Bihar, United Provinces, Central Provinces and the Bombay and Madras Presidencies. In Punjab, Sind, NWFP and Bengal, the Muslim League had powerful challengers. This means that at least until the awkward reality of Partition confronted them, the Muslims of Bihar and UP at least were enthusiastic supporters of Jinnah. They constituted the core of the Pakistan movement, as has been documented by historians.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Covid cases, daily count drop sharply

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

The PMO said three vac-

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

the Hyderabad-based drug major said in a statement.

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

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

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Global Hunger Index: India at 94th among 107 nations

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



egory. In the region of south, east and south-eastern Asia, the only countries which fare worse than India are Timor-Leste, Afghanistan and North Korea. Last year, India's rank was 102nd among 117 countries. China, Belarus, Ukraine, Turkey, Cuba and Kuwait, figure among the top 20 with GHI

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

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French teacher beheaded for class on Prophet caricatures

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

AP ■ PARIS

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

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



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

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

The French anti-terrorism prosecutor Jean-Francois

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

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

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CAPSULE

9 KILLED IN PILIBHIT JEEP-BUS ACCIDENT

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

BENGAL WOMAN LYNCED 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.



9.9 lakh lt liquor seized in dry Bihar ahead of election

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

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

This is the first assembly polls in dry Bihar. "The liquor mafia in the dry State has suddenly become

more active

in smuggling alcohol as it is often used

by politicians to lure voters", officials added.

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

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

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

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

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HOME THEATRE

Must watch for dog parents

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

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

If you are not a dog lover, this



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

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

academy who then wreaked havoc may have a change of heart.

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

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

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

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

— Shalini Saksena



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

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

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

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

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

The documentary introduces

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

The whole, now that we are so successful, how do we live up to the expectations of the fans is real. Where they will be when they are 42-44 — married with kids? How long will this success last? It gives a glimpse of real fears and reiterates that all that glitters is not gold.

— Shalini Saksena

Real emotions are revealed

TELLY TALE

IT'S CHAMPI TIME

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



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

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

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

ALL BECAUSE OF AAHANA'S MARZI

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



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

phenomenal performance in Voot Select's Original series *Marzi*.

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

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

DANCE WITH THE SISTERS

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

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

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

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

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

SINHA FAMILY ON KAPIL SHOW

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



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

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

Welcome your favourite bahu

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

Watching one or the other daily soap is our guilty pleasure. There is no denying that it makes for a good watch if one wants to take a break from the reality of their lives. Of late, daily soaps are so in trend and the one which tops the charts is *Saathiya*. Not because the storyline is something out of the box, but because Yashraj Mukhate decided to mix a scene from the popular show and it went viral within no time.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Plan Your Day

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

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

Price: ₹440 plus GST



Jain inspects Wastewater Treatment Plants

CM seeks shopkeepers' help in anti-dengue drive

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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 these STPs.

CM seeks shopkeepers' 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 them.

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 said.

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. #10Hafta10Baje10MinuteHarRavivaar, 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 over hospitals to city Govt, says AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

In this letter, the commissioner requested the central government to take over six hospitals and medical colleges under the North MCD which 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

Durgesh Pathak, Senior AAP leader

therefore, they want the central government to take over these hospitals, 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 invitation 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 matter yet, he added.

Chadha opens Covid awareness camp

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In order to create awareness among 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," said Chadha.



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

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

also provided in order to make a sturdy mask. Not just the residents, but even MLA Chadha could be seen making a face mask.

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 with respect to COVID-19, etcetera.

SDMC to adopt zero tolerance strategy on air pollution

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has decided to adopt strategy 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 relat-

ed institutions, the civic body said in a statement.

"The teams have been told to roam round the clock on rotation basis. All zonal Deputy Commissioners are ensuring that there 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 hotspots and adjoining areas, it added.



Sisodia visits site for sports university at Mundka village

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Thursday visited proposed site for Delhi Sports University at Mundka village that will be developed to promote world-class 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,

Sisodia said that the Delhi 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 cutting-edge and so advanced that the best of best sports talents can come to train themselves in Delhi.

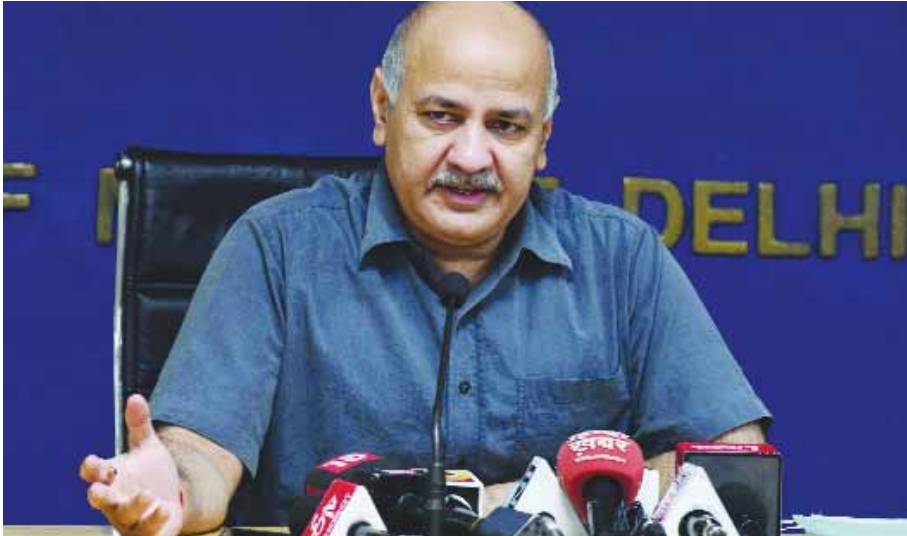
"Once this dream comes true, no world power will stop India from bringing in record-breaking gold medals in international sports competitions

and events," he said.

"It is our aim to provide multidisciplinary teaching and training in sports to ensure

sports professionals are better prepared for a wide-range of employment opportunities. This university will also pro-

mote public health through sports in academia and make it more accessible to the public," he added.



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

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested a 28-year-old man for 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 Brahmapuri 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 he was 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 DCP.

"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 to 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 DCP.

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 former 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 said.

Delhi Police Commissioner holds Crime & Covid review meet

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police Commissioner, S N Shrivastava, on Saturday held a 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, Jangpach, 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

Facing flak over a string of 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 Navratri festival dedicated to Goddess

Durga, is a tribute to the 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 administration.

"Those who cast an evil eye on 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 peo-

ple, and act before they could commit crime," the governor said.

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," he said.

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

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 scooters 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 194 crore.

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 Maharashtra 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 discharged from various hospitals after full recovery since the second week of March this year



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

Of the 250 deaths reported on Saturday, Mumbai accounted for a maximum of 47 deaths, followed by 40 deaths in Pune, 22 in Nagpur,

21 in Thane, 18 in Solapur, 13 in Sangli and 11 in Beed district.

In the lower range, there were nine deaths in Satara, 7 in Kolhapur, 6 each in Palghar and Nashik, 5 in Raigad, 4 each in Ahmednagar, Ratnagiri, 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 to 240,335.

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 Saturday.

Kangana, sister booked for ‘creating hatred

From Page 1

"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 are cognizable. Search and 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 ruled.

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.

Apart from trying to create "hatred" and "communal tensions" between Hindus and Muslims, the complainant's case is that the Kangana - through one of her tweents - 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 false-ly portrayed a picture that the Maharashtra government was responsible for the demolition of some portions of her bungalow which were demolished by 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 charged that Kangana was "creating" 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," Sayeed told the court in his complaint.

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," Sayeed said in his complaint filed before the court.

Sayeed 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.

Sayeed 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, Sayeed 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 initiate the process of importing liquid oxygen to meet any unforeseen shortage during the winters and festival times.

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

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 rigorously. "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 said.

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.

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 during checkings.

According to the EC, 91

'expenditure sensitive' constituencies 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 having a criminal record. 71 constituencies situated in 16 districts are going to polls on October 28, the first phase of the three-phase elections for the 243-member Bihar legislative 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 Russia and became the world's 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 jewelry from Bihar.

In the Assembly elections 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 illicit country-made and foreign liquor from different places in Bihar.

AIMPLB to challenge acquittal of accused in Babri Masjid case

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 uniform civil code (UCC) and 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 decided 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, including BJP veterans LK Advani, MM Joshi and Uma Bharti, of their involvement in the destruction of Babri Masjid 28 years ago, in December 1992.

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 justified".

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.

Jilani 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 against it.

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 undernutrition); 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 ranking.

According to the report, 14 per cent of India's population was undernourished.

The index showed India recorded a 37.4 per cent stunting rate among children under five and a wasting rate of 17.3 per cent while the under-five mortality rate stood at 3.7 per cent.

Wasting is children who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition. Stunting is children under the age of five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition.

Data from 1991 through 2014 for 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, India 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 under-five mortality in India, through actions such as better antenatal care, education, and nutrition as well as reductions in anaemia and oral tobacco use," it said.

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 priority across each sector," she said.

"The world is not on track to achieve the second Sustainable Development Goal - known as Zero Hunger 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 the report.

French teacher beheaded for class...

From Page 1

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 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 Palace announced Saturday 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

Paty died. Police opened fire 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.

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

image of a naked man and told students it was "the prophet of the Muslims."

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.

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-settling.

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 Republic.



कुमाऊँ विश्वविद्यालय, नैनीताल (उत्तराखण्ड)
KUMAUN UNIVERSITY, NAINITAL (UTTARAKHAND)

पत्रांक: 539 दिनांक: 17/10/2020

वॉक-इन-इन्टरव्यू

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कुलसचिव

ISIS CONSPIRACY

15 convicted for bid to set base in Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

minimised and their other associates were identified and questioned to unravel their further plans," the NIA said in a statement.

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

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

On Friday, 15 accused were convicted and sentenced with

rigorous imprisonment (RI) and fine.

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

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

The five others convicted are Najmul Huda, Mohd. Obedullah, Md. Aleem, Md. Afzal and Sohail Ahmad for five years and a fine each of ₹ 38,000.

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

Cong launches Smart Village Campaign

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Rahul said the Congress

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

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

In addition, 750 stadiums are being taken up for development in rural areas for 2020-21 in Punjab. For this purpose, a target of minimum of 5 stadiums per block has been allotted for this purpose. New designs of 4 acres, 2 acres and 1 acre playgrounds have been developed.

Govt issues SOPs for cultural functions, programmes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

field assessment.

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

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

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

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

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

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



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ladakh and the rest of the country welcomed the move to abrogate Article 370. They have seen the kind of progress in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in the past one year. But Congress is echoing the language of the soft separatists," said the BJP leader.

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

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

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

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

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

Many welfare laws were implemented in Kashmir," said the Union Minister.

Union Fisheries Minister Giriraj Singh also expressed 'outrage' at Congress' stance and questioned whether the party wanted to sever J&K from India.

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

according to the United Nations.

"Today, let us strive together for the uplift of the downtrodden & build a more equitable society. We need to address the root cause of poverty in all its dimensions, be it economic, social, legal or environmental," the Vice President Secretariat tweeted quoting Naidu.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

The resolution of SCBA said

that its executive committee, at a meeting on October 16, strongly condemned the action of the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh in releasing his letter to the Chief Justice of India (CJI) making allegations against the sitting judge in the public domain.

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

The DHCB said the October 6 letter is an abject and uncalled for

interference in the due administration of justice by the high court judges.

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

GADKARI TO MAHA GOVT

Form State Water Grid to tackle flood crisis



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

The Minister mentioned that this would also help to increase agriculture produce

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

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

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

works with a result of increase of 22500 TCM (Thousand Cubic Meter) of water storage capacity at 'No cost to State Government'. This has charged ground water table. Due to deepening and training of river, drains, etc, the floods have reduced, which otherwise spreads in nearby field due to reduced discharge capacity of rivers and drains. This convergence has been appreciated and accepted by NITI Aayog, which is in the process of forming policy based on this work done.

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

These works are done on the basis of Scientific and Complete Development of Mini-Micro Watersheds based on study of HydroGeology, Topography and Civil Engineering. Work is done essentially in the direction from Ridge to Valley. Tamaswada Pattern is most helpful to create augmented Surface rain and Ground Water storages. It creates Flood free as well as Drought free situation in treated Watershed. These type of works are resulting in Preservation and Conservation of Traditional natural water bodies.

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

Peace and tranquillity along LAC 'deeply disturbed': Jaishankar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

deployed over 50,000 troops.

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

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



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

tranquillity along the border.

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

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

"I am talking about a much more basic bar which is that there must be peace and tranquillity along the LAC in the border areas and that has been the case since the late 1980s," he added.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

“Seven of the passengers died on the spot and the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The family members staged a protest demanding justice. The slain BJP leader’s sister, who sat on the dhar-na 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 area. **PTI**

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

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

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

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

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

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

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

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



Ambassador VM Nair with wife Krishna and daughter Parvati

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

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

Mohammed Naguib and Gamal Abdel Nasser in 1952. Naguib was overthrown by 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 glimpse of it!

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

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

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

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

KOCHI/CHENNAI: As the total number of Covid-19 patients undergoing treatment in various hospitals in the State breached the 96,000 mark on Saturday, a special 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Meanwhile a senior Congress law maker P T Thomas alleged on Saturday that the CPI(M) led Kerala Government was out to

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

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 threatened them with dire consequences if 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 when the IAS official feigned sick and managed to derail the Customs. **PNS**

Aligarh is under Pan City Project, not Smart City

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Most people do not understand 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 center of the city.

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 the difference between Smart

City and Pan City.

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 speed. Soon people will begin to understand this difference on their own.

17 wards are included in the Smart City

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



Residents wade through a flooded street in Hyderabad on Saturday

PTI

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

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

mon intention) of IPC, the complainant has named Mithun’s ex-wife Yogita Bali as a co-accused in the case.

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

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

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

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

plaint 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 case.

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

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

Rebuilding temple: Security stepped up along Tripura-Mizoram border

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

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

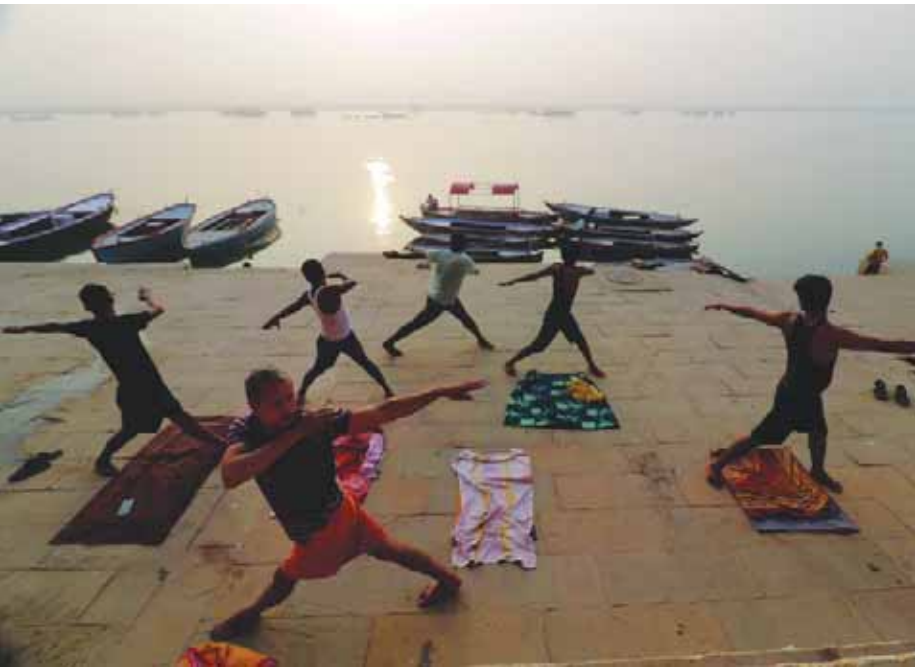
Tripura.

“Tripura Home Secretary is yet to respond to our Home Secretary Lalbiakhsangi’s letter over the inter-state border issue,” Chuauongo 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 told IANS. **IANS**



People perform yoga during sunrise in Varanasi on Saturday

PTI

AMU celebrates 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 promoted 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-

tury India.

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 pandemic.”

“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. **PNS**

610 more test coronavirus positive in J&K

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AS US ELECTION NEARS

Virus surges in key battleground States

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

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

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

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

While holding a competitive presidential election during a pandemic is “tricky business,” the governor said, “People are ready to have this election over, and I think it will be a successful election with very few hiccups.”

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

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

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

Day crowds but determined to vote, so they brought their own sanitizer to the community center Friday.

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

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

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

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

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

required deliberation and even courage.

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

County Board of Elections early voting center. He said he doesn’t trust voting by mail, so early voting was his best option for casting a ballot while trying to safeguard his health. **AP**

Biden warns Trump wants to scrap health law

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

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

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

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

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

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

Obama to campaign for Biden, Kamala

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

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

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

Armenian missile killed 13, wounded over 50: Azerbaijan

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

NZPM Ardern wins 2nd term in landslide

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

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

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

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

“This has not been an ordinary election, and it’s not an ordinary time,” she said. “It’s been full of uncertainty and anxiety, and we set out to be an antidote to that.” Ardern promised not to take her new supporters for granted and to



govern for all New Zealanders.

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

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

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



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

AP

TRANSIT SHUTDOWNS FAIL TO DETER THAI PRO-DEMOCRACY PROTESTS

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

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

The protesters are calling for Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha to leave office, the constitution to be amended to make it more democratic

and the nation’s monarchy to undergo reform.

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

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

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

Re- 01 Notice Inviting E-tenders
Gist of NIT NO. 48 OF 2020-21 Dated. 15.10.2020
For and on behalf of the **Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS, Soura, MC&H Bemina Srinagar**, invites online e-bids in **two (02) cover systems** from Original Lift Manufactures or their Authorized Dealers/authorized Representatives/ registered and reputed firms having experience in installation of lifts in Govt. Institutions/ departments, detailed in the tender document for the following works:

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

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

i.	Date and time of downloading/Sale of tender documents (Starting Date)	17.10.2020 from 11:00 Hours
ii.	Date and time of Bidding Queries/ clarification/pre-bid meet	28.10.2020 at 11:00 Hours
iii.	Last Date & Time of Bid Uploading	06.11.2020 up to 16:00 Hours
iv.	Date of submission of hard copies. (Only Original EMD/DD for Document Fee	07.11.2020 up to 14:00 Hours
v.	Date & Time of Commercial/technical Bid (Cover-I) opening	09.11.2020 11:00 Hours (or next convenient day)
vi.	Date & Time of Financial Bid (Cover-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 Order.
x.	Budget Head	Ongoing works for the year 2020-21

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

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

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

“The Chinese ambassador has decided to engage in beligerent rhetoric unbecoming of his office,” Conservative leader Erin O’Toole said in a written statement.

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

O’Toole added.

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

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA	
CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY	
KANKE, RANCHI-834006 (JHARKHAND)	
NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR OUTSOURCHING OF AGENCY FOR HOUSEKEEPING SERVICES AT CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY, RANCHI	
Sealed tenders are invited from the eligible bidders for the outsourcing of agency for 'Housekeeping Services' at Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi. Tender documents can be purchased from the Establishment Section of Central Institute of Psychiatry, Kanke, Ranchi-834006 by submitting tender fee (Rs. 300/- Rupees Three Hundred) in the form of Demand Draft 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		
Axis Bank Limited, Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128,Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301		
Controlling office: Axis House, Bombay Dyeing Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025.		
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY		
Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.		
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Secured Creditor will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 07-11-2020, 11:30 A.M. at Axis House,Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128,Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301 for recovery of Rs. 34,91,528/- due as on 17-10-2020 along with further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred up to the date of actual payment and/or realization due to the secured creditor from Ms. Honey Roy & Mrs. Bani Roy. The reserve price will be Rs. 18,80,820/- and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 1,88,082/- .		
Account Number	Location / Details of the Immovable Property/Secured Assets possessed and put for sale	Encumbrances, If any known to the Bank.
PHR0792 03241253 & HTR0792 03280067	Residential Unit Bearing No. H/09-1, Admeasuring Super Area, 1200 Square Feet Situated At 9th Floor, Tower No. 5(H), In The Residential Scheme/Complex Known As "Redwood Residency", Situated In Village Faridpur,Sector-78, Tshil Tigan & District Faridabad, Haryana Alongwith Proportiate, Undivided Imperible Share And Interest In The Said Land Underneath The Building In Which Said Unit Is Located And In The Common Areas And Facilities Provided In The Building Complex.	
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the secured creditor's website i.e. https://www.axisbank.com/auction-notices/		
Date : 18-10-2020 Place: Noida		Sd/-, Authorized Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.

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

SBFC
SBFC FINANCE PVT.LTD. (Erstwhile Small Business Fincredit Indvt Pvt. Ltd.) Unit No. 103, First Floor C & B Square, Sangam Complex, 127, Andheri-Kurla Road, Village Chakala,Andheri (East), Mumbai -400059 Telephone: +91 22 - 67875300 Fax: +91 22 67875334 www.sbfci.com Corporate Identity Number: U67130MH2008PTC178270
PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform & notify the Public about the relocation of Laxmi Nagar, Delhi Branch of SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd. effective from 15.01.2021 From: SBFC Finance Pvt Ltd, G-59, 1st Floor, Main Vikas Marg, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi - 110092 To: SBFC Finance Pvt Ltd,Property No. 1/10 & 1/12, First Floor, Lalita Park, Near Laxmi Nagar Metro Station, Delhi-110092 For more details, please contact:- SBFC FINANCE PVT.LTD. Toll Free : 1800 – 102- 8012

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lokesh Construction Private Limited CIN: U70101DL1992PTC186666
Notice: Cessation of an Employee Subject: Mr. Rajinder Singh, no longer associated with the Companies mentioned below Dear All,
This is to inform you that Mr. Rajinder Singh is no longer associated with Me or any of the following companies namely, Lokesh Constructions Private Limited, Karma Lifestyle Private Limited, Anki Wine Private Limited and Elxir Benidictine LLP with effect from September 12, 2020,
He is not authorised to represent the aforesaid companies and me in any matter whatsoever. Any person dealing with him shall do so at his own risk and responsibility Sd/- Ms. Anki Bhutia Director

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Turkey has increased its mar-

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

The spokesperson further said the company has temporarily waived the 5 per cent

charge that is levied on money transfer from wallet to bank accounts as a promotional offer for the festive season.

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

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

IndiGo introduces service fee for check-in counter usage

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

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

Accordingly, the fee has come into effect from Saturday.

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

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



₹1.08 lakh crore worth loans sanctioned under discom liquidity package



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

This package was later increased to ₹1.2 lakh crore by the Ministry of Power. "Till date, REC and PFC (Power Finance Corporation) have sanctioned ₹1.08 lakh crore and released nearly

₹30,000 crore to discoms under the scheme," REC said in a statement.

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

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

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

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

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

IANs ■ SAN FRANCISCO

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

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

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

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

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

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

Low base, attractive interest rates lift Sept domestic PV sales

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

In August, the domestic passenger vehicles' sales had risen by 14.16 per cent to 215,916 units from 1,89,129 units sold during the corresponding month of the previous year.

Besides, the data showed that car sales in the country rose by 28.92 per cent to 163,981 units in September, compared with 127,194 units during the year-ago period.

As per SIAM, the data does not include sales figures from some key players such as Tata Motors.

In terms of utility vehicles, sales grew by 24.50 per cent to 96,633, while vans' off-take went

up by 10.64 per cent to 11,413 units against the same month a year ago.

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

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

On the second quarter FY21 performance, SIAM data showed that passenger vehicle sales rose 17.02 per cent to 726,232 units from 620,620 units sold during the corresponding month of the previous year.

In contrast, commercial vehicle sales stood at 133,524 units from 167,173 units showing a de-growth of (-) 20.13 per cent. Similarly, three-wheeler off-take declined. The segment's sales decrease by (-) 74.63 per cent to 45,902 units from 180,899 units. Two-wheeler sales segment, however, reported a marginal growth of 0.17 per cent to 4,690,565 units from 4,682,571 units. "In quarter-2 some segments have shown signs of recovery. Passenger vehicles and two-wheelers are positive, although on a very low base of previous year," said SIAM President Kenichi Ayukawa.

India is gradually moving towards an economy based on clean energy

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

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

Petroleum secretary Tarun Kapoor said that a pilot project on HCNG is being undertaken in Delhi soon that will improve efficiency and reduce emissions drastically.

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

India is becoming a leader in CNG, there has been a significant transition with the need to move towards cleaner fuels like CNG, ethanol, biodiesel, and electric vehicles.

He said that we need to ensure that CNG is available and affordable ensuring that vehicles are modelled to incorporate CNG smoothly.

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

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

Gradually, we will have blended petrol all over the country and moving to a higher percentage. We have to make pure ethanol available that is happening in several countries and, some countries also have multi-fuel vehicles like Brazil. There is a pilot project

which will be implemented for pure ethanol that will take place in Pune shortly, he said.

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

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

Will make Ghaziabad world class city: Minister



PNS ■ GHAZIABAD

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

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

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

JDA to develop Agro-warehousing scheme near Amber

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

This programme is open to everyone in the entire coun-

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

This initiative is designed to empower the girl child with her own money when she turns 18 and she would then have all the right to use the same for her education, business or marriage wherever she deems fit. This is just a step to make her feel independent at the age of 18. The aim is to make girls economically strong and narrow the age gap, Genex added.

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

AXIS BANK

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

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

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Secured Creditor will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 06-11-2020, 11:30 A.M. at Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens, Wazirpur, 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/or realization due to the secured creditor from Mr. Akshay Batra and Mr. Yudhvir Batra. The reserve price will be Rs. 44,96,837/- and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 4,49,683.7/-

Account Number	Location / Details of the Immovable Property/Secured Assets possessed and put for sale	Encumbrances, if any known to the Bank.
PHR0792 00729188	Flat Number 105, First Floor, Along With The Car Parking Space No. Opp- 35, In Group Housing Tower No -1 (Gold Leaf Crescent) Located In The Valley View Estate, Situated In The Revenue Estate Of Village Gwal Pahari, Tehsil Sohna Dist- Gurgaon Haryana- 122001	

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

Date : 18-10-2020
Place: Noida

Sd/-,
Authorized Officer,
Axis Bank Ltd.

Metro Railway, Kolkata
Kolkata's Pride

ZONAL CONTRACT FOR UP-KEEP OF TRACK

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

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

FASTER • SAFER • SMOOTHER • CLEANER

New Tower, Hyatt Regency Complex, New Delhi 110 066

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

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

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 13th day of October of the year 2020.

The Borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of IndusInd Bank Ltd. for an amount of **Rs. 2,81,30,980/- (I.e. Rs. 18565184.00 & Rs. 9565796.00)** as on **31.07.2019** and further interests from **01.08.2020** plus costs, charges and expenses etc. thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

All those piece & parcel of residential property situated being & lying at residential villa no.467, present Devanahalli town Municipal Council Khata No.250/28/1/14467 with a built up area of 4055 Sq.Ft. consisting of ground, first & right to use common amenities in the project known as 'House of Hiranandani Devanahalli' & 4200 Sq.Ft. of undivided share in the converted land bearing Survey No. 22/1, 28/1, 28/2, 29/1, 29/2, 29/3, 31/1 of Prasanahalli Village measuring in all 5 Acres 18 guntas & survey no. 155/2 157 & 158 of Sanna Amankere Village Kasba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluka, Bangalore Rural District measuring in all three Acres 34 guntas and the villa is bounded as under:

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

Date: 13.10.2020 Place: Bengaluru Authorised Officer, IndusInd Bank Ltd.

WESTERN RAILWAY

STORES DEPARTMENT

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

SPECIAL ATTENTION: ALL STEEL PURCHASERS & RE-ROLLERS

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

1 st Round	2 nd Round	Depot	Depot Officer in Charge	Contact No.
02/11/2020	19/11/2020	SBI	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-SBI	07927500380 09724093774
09/11/2020	24/11/2020	ADI	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-ADI	07922205888 09724091750
03/11/2020	18/11/2020	BRC	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-BRC	02652641592 09724094550
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 09804499006
11/11/2020	26/11/2020	MX	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-MX	022-24929571 09004495750
10/11/2020	25/11/2020	DHD	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-DHD	02673241295 09724094555
05/11/2020	19/11/2020	PRTN	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-DHD	02673241295 09724094555
17/11/2020	27/11/2020	RJT	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager- RJT	02812476943 09724094770

For detailed information please contact the concerned Depot Officers. **Note:-** (1) Railway reserves the right to withdraw any lot from e-Auction. (2) e-Auction will start as per scheduled time. (3) e-Auction catalogues will be available on site www.ireps.gov.in e-Auction portal. (4) In case of any assistance required regarding e-Auction, digital signatures, Registration procedure and participation, please contact above mentioned Depot Officer. (5) All payment transactions shall be done through the online payment gateway.

D-2671

For Principal Chief Materials Manager

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

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

The birdman of Assam



ANWARUDDIN CHOUDHURY
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
ASSAM

He 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 says.

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.

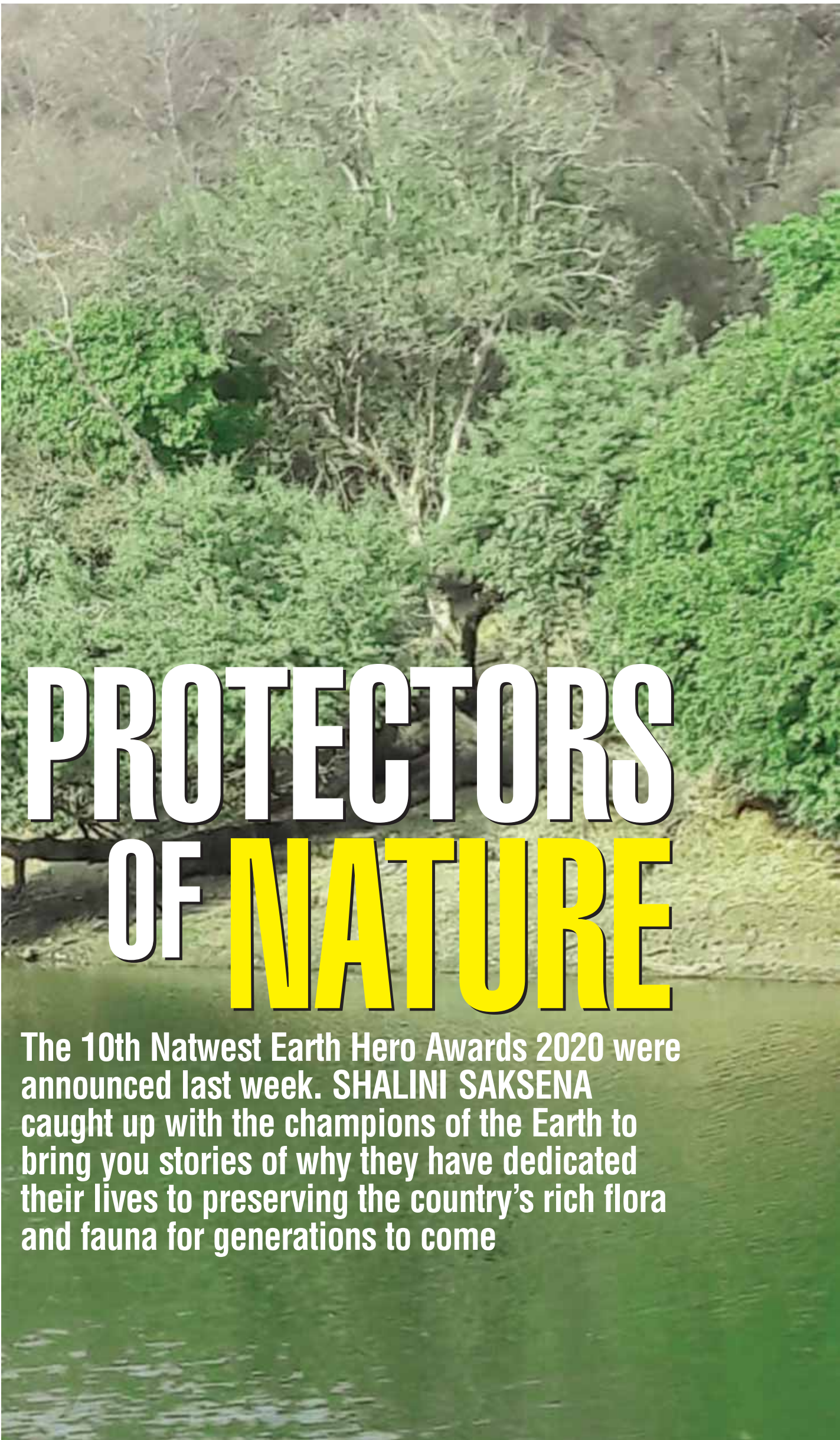
“Of course, I could sanction my own recommendations. Once I was in the Forest Department, we didn’t have to coordinate with other departments but where required, it was easy if you take personal interest. Instead of sending the file, I would take it myself to my colleagues. Once I got talking about Nature, 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



PROTECTOR OF NATURE

The 10th Natwest Earth Hero Awards 2020 were announced last week. SHALINI SAKSENA caught up with the champions of the Earth to bring you stories of why they have dedicated their lives to preserving the country’s rich flora and fauna for generations to come

WITHOUT FLOODS IN KAZIRANGA, THE ECO-SYSTEM WOULD COLLAPSE. SOME SEVEN-EIGHT DECADES BACK, DURING FLOODS ANIMALS MOVED TO KARBI ANGLONG WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS. SLOWLY, PEOPLE TOOK OVER AND HIGHWAYS WERE MADE AND 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 roosting 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.

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 enclosures 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 enclosures and creating new ones with the cooperation from surrounding villagers. Jamara has also been instrumental in providing employment to local people through 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 enclosures 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 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 has been paid off but there is much to do. I want to thank NatWest as well for the award,” Jamara says.

Eco-tourism key to conversation

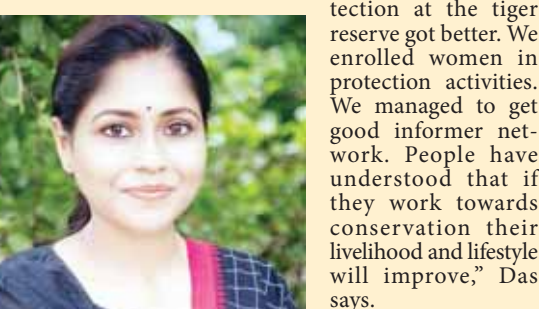
ANSHU PRAGYAN DAS
GREEN WARRIOR AWARD
ODISHA

She 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 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 international 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 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
RAJASTHAN

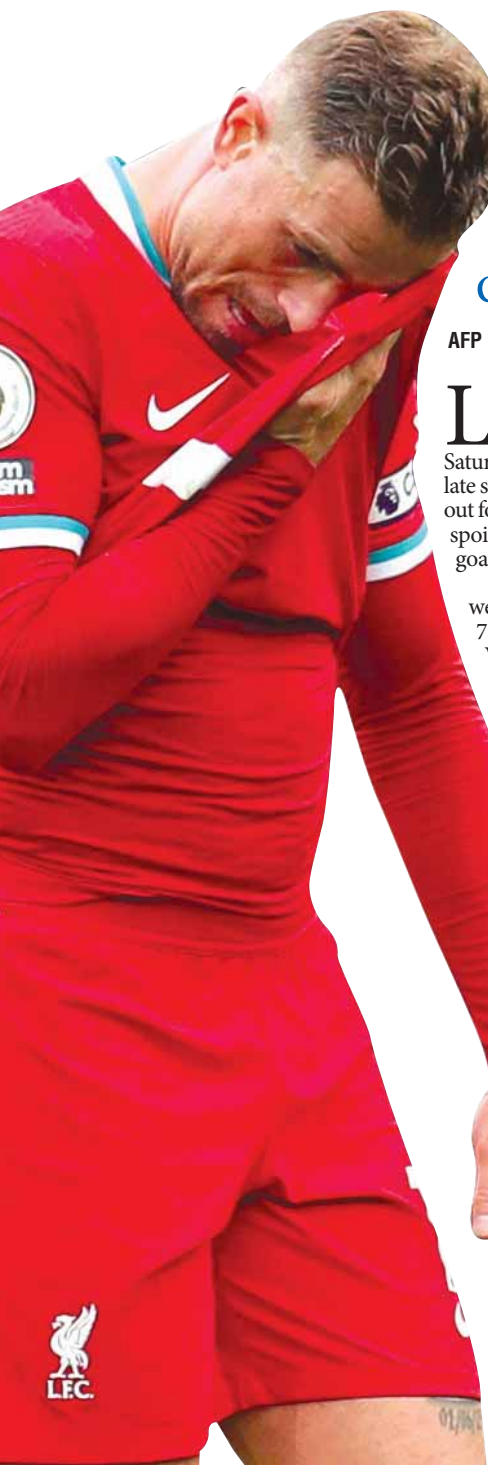
He was 18 when he enlisted in the Army. At age 35 he retired after serving the country for 17 years as *havaladar*. When he came back to his hometown in Jaiselmer, Rajasthan he was at a loose end and didn’t know what he should do next till he came to know that Great Indian Bustard (GIB) had practically 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



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

AFP ■ LONDON

Liverpool 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 six-goal thriller.

Jürgen 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 League win.

"We competed with them," he 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 Mané missed the Villa Park mauling after testing positive for coronavirus and the Senegalese showed he was badly missed, with a 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 Mané to be offside as he provided the cross for Henderson, despite television

replays proving inconclusive.

CHELSEA DRAMA

Frank Lampard demanded Chelsea cut out their costly mistakes after Jannik Vestergaard snatched a stoppage-time equaliser for Southampton in a dramatic 3-3 draw.

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 back.

"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 it."

Lampard was encouraged to



Southampton's Jannik Vestergaard, second right, celebrates after scoring his side's third goal against Chelsea

AP

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 do better."

STERLING SCORES

Manchester City eked out a hard-fought 1-0 win over Arsenal, thanks to Raheem Sterling's first-half goal.

Sterling slotted a rebound into an empty net in the 23rd minute after City midfielder Phil Foden had a shot parried away by Arsenal goalkeeper Bernd Leno at Etihad Stadium.

City was missing star midfielder Kevin De Bruyne because of injury, but did welcome back Sergio Agüero. 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 winning 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 39-year-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 won all four of its matches this season.

Milan is three points above Atalanta, who lost 4-1 at Napoli, and five above Juventus, which visits Crotona 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.



The virus had ruled out Inter players Ashley Young, Alessandro Bastoni, Milan Skriniar, Radja Nainggolan, Roberto Gagliardini and Ionut Radu.

Ibrahimovic won a penalty after a reckless 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 Çalhanoğlu sent Rafael Leão down the left flank and he crossed for Ibrahimovic to volley in.

Inter halved the deficit when Ivan Perišić crossed for Lukaku

to sidefoot home. It was the first league goal Milan had conceded this season.

Inter, which had fought back from 2-0 down to win 4-2 the last time the two sides met, almost leveled shortly after as 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 penalty in the 75th after Donnarumma brought down Lukaku but the referee changed his mind after video review showed the Inter forward was offside.



Atlético end goal drought

AFP ■ MADRID

Luis Suarez partnered Diego Costa for the first time and scored as Atletico Madrid beat struggling Celta Vigo 2-0 win in La Liga on Saturday.

But the Suarez-Costa combination 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 whistle.

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 headed in a second in injury-time.

Diego Simeone had kept Suarez and Costa apart by using one to substitute the 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 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 maintained 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 mid-week.

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 Müller's opener.

He then set up Müller for Bayern's fourth as the champions, who conceded to Ritsa 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

Bayern run riot



Robert Lewandowski celebrates after scoring Bayern's third goal

AP

came off the bench in the second half to breathe new life into a blunt performance.

Haaland, 20, surged forward on the break to set up Reus with a tap-in and snatch Dortmund's first away victory over Hoffenheim in eight years.

Haaland was initially rested after he played three times for Norway in the previous two weeks, prompting criticism of the busy international schedule.

Hoffenheim were also without three first team regulars, as Croatia's Andrej Kramaric, Ghana's Kasim Adams and Czech defender Pavel Kaderabek were all sent



into quarantine after their return from international duty. The club confirmed on late on Friday that two of three had tested positive for the coronavirus.

Mijat Gacinovic missed a gilt-edged opportunity for Hoffenheim early on, and both Giovanni Reyna and Thomas Meunier came close for Dortmund.

Yet it was Reus who landed the decisive blow, slotting 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

AFP ■ NIMES

Kylian Mbappe shrugged off any 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 Costières and netted again late on as a weary Nimes folded following the early dismissal of centre-back Loïc 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 difference 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 bottom side Dijon.



Rangers beat Celtic in Old Firm derby

AFP ■ GLASGOW

Rangers beat a coronavirus-depleted Red 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 come.

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 Celtic.

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 the semifinals.

"With a very heavy heart and after a lot of thinking, I have decided to bid farewell to all formats 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 added.

Gul could barely hold back his tears as his Balochistan teammates gave him a guard of honour.

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 wickets at an average of 34.06. He also claimed 179 wickets from 130 ODIs, besides 85 wickets from 60 T20Is.

"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.

PTI

Planning to start domestic cricket from Jan 1: Ganguly

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

"We also have elaborate plans for

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

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

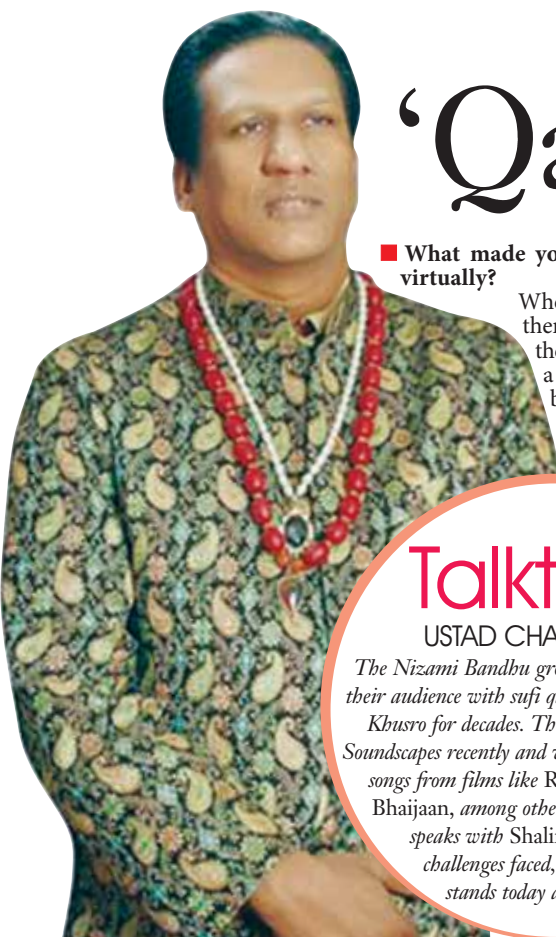
"Cricket Australia has sent us an itinerary and we discussed the modalities of that itinerary. We will be playing four Tests and that will end in third week of January," the BCCI president said.

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

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

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

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



■ What made you say yes to perform virtually?

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 a n

Talktime
USTAD CHAND NIZAMI

The Nizami Bandhu group has been entralling their audience with sufi qawwalis written by Amir Khusro for decades. They performed at HCL's Soundscapes recently and wowed their listeners with songs from films like Rockstar and Bajrangi Bhaijaan, among other sufis. Ustad Chand speaks with Shalini Saksena about challenges faced, where qawwali stands today and its future

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 qawwali has been in our family 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 Auliya?

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 bhash.* 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. But 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 India?

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.

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

Every 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 and palate.

Lucknow has grown on its first offered Chinese restaurant Jone Hing, now a weebegone 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 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.

Some tastes stay forever 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 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, you 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 consumption. Well, it is not all those 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 musical



A platter of Honey Chilli Potatoes

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.

It's, indeed, been a pleasure to grow up with Berco's as a restaurant, be it their undented fruit beers or hot and sour series of soups.

No other Chinese restaurant worth its name, and there are as many in NCR as there are mobiles zipping around on crowded streets, can claim to give you the same flavour and taste as Berco's.

Time may have changed enough for Berco's to expand into Thai and Burmese dishes to its original menu, but the originals continue to dominate, like the honey chilli potatoes for one, or

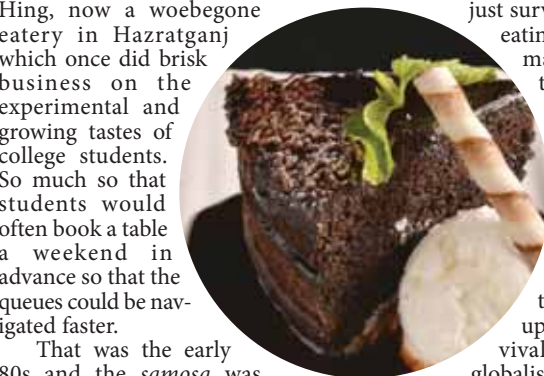
the honey chilli lotus stem. Add to that chilli fish, paneer and juicy chicken drumsticks and it becomes difficult to progress to the main course with an accommodating stomach.

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 chop suey (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 yet maintain their texture are Chinese and Italian, both of which get soggy and inedible. Two things here, maybe 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.



DARK LAVA



Juicy chicken drumsticks

Give your home a festive makeover

An inevitable responsibility marking 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-being.

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 goodbye.

Space it out

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 of 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

past. Break out that new silverware, glasses, tea light holders etc. or simply 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. Unnoticed 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

It is now time to decorate your 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 look up 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, Moh



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?

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 platform.

I have just finished a Musical Travelogue called *Kaleidoscope of North East* which I have produced, written and directed with my wife Shruti Anindita Verma. This is for Doordarshan and it has given me a chance to explore the unexplored. I recently made a short film *Bholi* which has won five international awards and is still doing rounds to various International film festivals.

'I make songs that I love listening to'

Lyricist-screenwriter-filmmaker AMITABH S VERMA, who has recently turned a singer with Awalla, tells MUSBA HASHMI about the response that the song is getting, what goes into writing songs and his upcoming projects

■ What is your song Awalla about?

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 the song.

■ Your song has been receiving lots of love and appreciation. How does that feel?

Yes. A lot of my industry friends have showered their love 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 memories that you can share.

Every song has an interesting story and every memory is 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 different 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 offered him tea to kill time while I was frantically trying to add a new *antra*. Thankfully I managed to write it in minutes.

The cult song *Alvida* from *Life in a Metro* was written about 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 music director and me to make it into a full song.

■ What does it require to come up with such good songs, Love is a waste of time and Alvida to name a few?

I try to make a song that I would love to listen. It becomes a good song for the audience too because somewhere you connect 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 becoming 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?

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 platform.

I have just finished a Musical Travelogue called *Kaleidoscope of North East* which I have produced, written and directed with my wife Shruti Anindita Verma. This is for Doordarshan and it has given me a chance to explore the unexplored. I recently made a short film *Bholi* which has won five international awards and is still doing rounds to various International film festivals.



the pioneer agenda

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



FROM THE INSIDE

A super thriller all the way

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

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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

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Photos: Ayandrali Dutta

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

THE HOMECOMING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Arup points out that earlier there was a lot personal involvement. “The entertainment was different. Everyone from the extended family pitched in ensuring that the festivities went off smoothly. On the cultural side, someone sang, another one recited. It was unparalleled *anand*,” he says.

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

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



OVER THE YEARS, FOR BENGALIS AND NON-BENGALIS, DURGA PUJA CAME TO BE CENTERED AROUND HOW MANY PANDALS THEY HAD HOPPED, WHICH ONE DISPLAYED THE BEST THEME AND WHICH PUJA COMMITTEE WAS LIKELY TO WIN AN AWARD THAT YEAR. THE LAMENT WAS THAT THE EMPHASIS WAS NOW ON AN EXTRANEANOUS JOURNEY WHILE THE FESTIVAL WAS MORE OF AN INWARD CRUISE OF DEVOTION WHICH HAD GONE COMPLETELY MISSING

new norms of social distancing that have forced many to sit back and rethink about the hijacking of this festival by Mammon.

The change had started around 25 years back when the concept of “theme *puja*” made an entry. From 1993-94 each of the *paara* (area) began to conceptualise the *pandal* around a contemporary issue. It could be questioning violence against women while celebrating a goddess or depicting the condition of refugees or creating awareness about social issue of contemporary relevance. As the *pandals* grew in scale, awards started being handed out for different categories like best idol, lighting, decoration, social work and more. To remain a contender in the competitions needed a scaling up of budgets and corporate sponsorship or by political parties entered the picture. And after that there was no looking back as each year the magnificence and size of the *pandals* grew and visitors from and around Kolkata lined up.

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

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

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

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

MEANWHILE IN THE CAPITAL...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

