

**WORLD 6**NZ PM ARDERN WINS  
2ND TERM IN LANDSLIDE**MONEY 7**INDIA IS GRADUALLY MOVING TOWARDS  
AN ECONOMY BASED ON CLEAN ENERGY**SPORT 8**RCB BEAT  
ROYALS IN IPL**Established 1864**Published From  
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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.

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

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.

Turn to Page 4

Covid-19 IN INDIA	TOTAL
CASES: 74,86,714	
DEATHS: 1,13,779	
RECOVERED: 65,87,287	
ACTIVE: 7,84,454	



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

Global Hunger Index: India  
at 94th among 107 nationsFares 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.

Turn to Page 4

French teacher beheaded for  
class on Prophet caricatures18-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.

Turn to Page 4

**CAPSULE****9 KILLED IN PILIBHIT JEEP-BUS ACCIDENT**

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

**BENGAL WOMAN LYNCHED ON 'THEFT' SUSPICION**

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

**BJP LEADER SHOT IN UP AHEAD OF BYPOLL**

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

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.

Turn to Page 4



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

Turn to Page 4

Kangana, sister booked  
for 'creating hatred'On Bollywood casting  
director Sayyed plea,  
court orders probe

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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



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

If one is to remember, the infamous scene of the show where Gopi washes off Ahem's laptop with soap and water and hang it to dry; one would remember Giaa 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



# Amit Jogi's, wife Richa's nominations rejected for Marwahi by-poll battle

**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
GAURELA-PENDRA-MARWAHI

The nomination papers of Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (JCC) chief Amit Jogi and his wife Richa Jogi for the by-election in the Marwahi (ST) Assembly seat, a Jogi family bastion, was rejected on Saturday by the Returning Officer after their caste certificates were declared invalid, triggering an angry reaction from Amit Jogi.

The decision was taken based on an order of a high-level Certification Scrutiny Committee headed by D.D. Singh, Secretary of the Tribal Welfare Department, which dismissed Jogi's claim of being a tribal and cancelled his caste certificate on Friday (October 15). The order came in public domain on Saturday.

The candidature of Richa Jogi, who had also filed nomination for the by-election, was also rejected on the same ground.



The Marwahi seat, which falls in the newly-formed Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi (GPM) district, fell vacant following the death in May of JCC (J) founder leader and Chhattisgarh's first Chief Minister Ajit Jogi.

Four candidates for the

by-election had lodged objections over Amit Aishwarya Jogi's caste status declaration and sought to cancel his candidature, the Returning Officer said in a statement.

As per the Certification Scrutiny Committee, Amit Jogi's caste certificate claiming him to be a

member of 'Kanwar' ST category has been cancelled.

As Marwahi is a ST reserved seat and Jogi did not possess a valid caste certificate, his nomination has been rejected, it said.

Similarly, the ST caste certificate issued to Richa Jogi was suspended with immediate effect on October 17 and she has been directed not to use her certificate for any profit until the final scrutiny.

As on today, Richa Jogi does not possess a valid caste certificate. So, her nomination was also rejected, it added.

A total of 19 candidates had filed their nominations in Marwahi for the November 3 battle. Of them, nomination papers of six, including the Jogis, were cancelled.

Marwahi, which was expected to see a triangular contest, may now see a straight fight between the Congress and BJP.

A furious Amit Jogi alleged that the action against him was taken at the behest of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to prevent him from contesting the election.

Last night, the Caste Scrutiny Committee suddenly cancelled my certificate. Except me, everyone was aware of it. I sought time to read it but was refused, he said.

The country functions according to law and constitution, not by revenge. I will get justice in people's court.

The move to prevent me from contesting elections has proven that the government has finally admitted that it's not just difficult to beat Jogi, it's impossible, he added.

Rejection of my nomination is an insult to the late Ajit Jogi and people of Marwahi. This was the only tactic by which the Chief Minister could have avoided his definite defeat in the by-election, he said.

# Patwari nabbed while accepting bribe of ₹4,000

**STAFF REPORTER ■** RAIPUR

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) of Ambikapur said on Saturday that it nabbed a Patwari red handed while taking a bribe of ₹4,000 from a farmer who wanted to sell paddy under the Chhattisgarh government's paddy procurement programme.

Anup Sinha sought the bribe from a farmer of Pathakpur village in Surajpur district to enlist his agricultural land in government records, the ACB said in a press release.

For selling paddy under the state government's paddy procurement programme, registration of agricultural land is mandatory, it added.

For the registration of his land, the Patwari first wanted



to be paid ₹5,000 but later agreed to accept ₹4,000, it said.

The farmer reported the matter to ACB's Ambikapur office on September 11 and a trap was laid.

The Patwari was arrested on Saturday with ₹4,000 in village Latori, Surajpur district, by the ACB after he took the money from the farmer, the press release said.

# Elephant calf drowns in C'garh

**STAFF REPORTER ■** KORBA

An elephant calf died after drowning in a pond in the Kendai Forest Range of Korba district in Chhattisgarh, it was announced on Saturday.

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Shama Farooqui told the media that a herd of 46 wild elephants was roaming in the Lamna forests.

"Last month two calves were born in this herd. The group was in Kendai and the Forest Department employees were tracking their movements till late Friday night," she said.

Around 3 am, the group moved out of the Lamna region into the core jungle. So, the forest team retreated. However, the herd

**This year so far 13 elephants have died in different incidents like electrocution, drowning and others in Chhattisgarh**

returned to a pond located close to the village in Lamna early on Saturday to drink water, the officer said.

It seems the calf would have drowned at this point. About 5

am, when the forest staff again reached the spot, they found the body, she said.

The post-mortem of the calf will reveal the exact reason for the death, she added.

Meanwhile, Chief Conservator of Forest (CCF) of Bilaspur Anil Soni visited the spot and supported the DFO's claim.

This year so far 13 elephants have died in different incidents like electrocution, drowning and others in Chhattisgarh.

According to the Forest Department, northern Chhattisgarh is home to around 250 elephants who roam in the forests of Surguja, Dharamjaigarh, Jashpur, Balrampur and Pratappur.

# CM, Minister praise Prayas students for passing NEET 2020



**RAIPUR:** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Scheduled Caste and Tribe Minister Dr. Premasai Singh Tekam on Saturday congratulated the students of Chhattisgarh who passed the National Eligibility and Entrance Test (NEET) 2020.

All the 166 students, who have cleared the NEET 2020, are from Prayas Residential School in Raipur, Durg, Bastar, Bilaspur, Ambikapur, Kanker, Dantewada and Jashpur. The school is run by the Scheduled Caste and Tribe Department in the state.

# One more Deputy Registrar office to come up in Raipur

**STAFF REPORTER ■** RAIPUR

The Department of Registration and Stamps is going to open one more office of Deputy Registrar in Raipur, it was announced on Saturday.

The decision was taken following the heavy rush in the four registration offices in Raipur. This will be the fifth office of Deputy Registrar, an official press release said.

It added that the department's online registration portal will be upgraded soon.

Last month, a few employees of the Registration office in Raipur were infected by coronavirus, due to which the registration process slowed down and also leading to increased workload, the press release said.

According to the department,

**To streamline the working and increase the speed of transactions, Chhattisgarh's Inspector General Registration and Stamps has instructed opening of one more Deputy Registrar office in Raipur**

some people have booked multiple online appointments in advance which has increased the waiting period for people who genuinely want to get their properties registered.

So, to streamline the working and increase the speed of

transactions, Chhattisgarh's Inspector General Registration and Stamps has instructed opening of one more Deputy Registrar office in Raipur.

The Inspector General has also made some amendments in the existing system e-registration. According to the new rules, only those parties will be provided appointments who submit 5 percent of the stamp value of the property through e-stamp in advance.

The parties who submit tax less than 5 percent of the asset value earlier will be provided 24 hours to rectify and deposit the correct amount. Otherwise their appointments will be cancelled.

Those failing to appear on the appointment date will be eligible to get the next date only after 15 days.

# Man held for operating IPL betting racket in Raipur

**STAFF REPORTER ■** RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Police on Saturday arrested a 37-year-old man for operating an IPL betting racket from a house in Chhattisgarh's state capital.

Raipur Senior Superintendent of Police Ajay Kumar Yadav told The Pioneer that Chitrnanjan Negi alias Baba (37) is a resident of Raipur city.

Police seized five mobile phones, a laptop, ₹5,300 in cash and betting records detailing transactions of around ₹1 crore from him, Yadav said.

The accused had bet on the IPL match played between Mumbai Indians and Kolkata



Knight Riders on Friday night from the house in the Khamardih police station limits in Raipur, the officer added.

As of Saturday, police have arrested 27 persons for operating IPL betting rackets in the state capital.

# Migrant workers get better facilities in C'garh during lockdown

**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh is the top ranking state of the country in terms of providing facilities to the migrant labourers, claimed a survey report of Interferential Survey Statistics and Research Foundation (ISSRF).

"Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's prompt initiatives to provide various kinds of facilities to migrant labourers and many other key decisions were taken in interest of labourers," said a state government statement on Saturday.

Interferential Survey Statistics & Research Foundation conducted survey in six major states with migrant labourers including Chhattisgarh, Bihar,



Jharkhand, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, based on the livelihood, education, health and other basic

facilities provided to the migrant labourers during lockdown.

Hundred percent of the

migrant labourers were provided quarantine facility, 97.8% of the migrant labourers were provided ration free

of cost/concessional rates as per their eligibility.

Likewise, labourer families were provided LPG connection, financial aid, employment under MNREGA, agricultural loans and other facilities during lockdown. Chhattisgarh holds top rank in the country in terms of providing free LPG connection to the labourers.

This survey was conducted in 99 gram panchayats of Bilaspur, Dantewada, Jashpur, Mahasamund and Rajnandgaon between June 30 to July 28. This includes 28 gram panchayats of Bilaspur district, 15 gram panchayats of Dantewada, 20 gram panchayats of Jashpur districts, 19 gram panchayats of Mahasamund district and 17 gram panchayats of Rajnandgaon district.

More than 500 migrant labourers were included under the survey.

According to the survey, migrants of Chhattisgarh can be categorized into two categories, first being the non-agricultural labourer/helper which constitutes 52.98% skilled migrants, and second being the labourers skilled in ironwork, welding and fabrication which constitutes the 40.43%. Chhattisgarh contributed more than one-third of the labourers with these two skills.

The survey was conducted by ISSRF on migrant workers in 34 districts of Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal, with an aim to study the impact of reverse migration on their livelihood during lockdown.

# Blood group O associated with decreased risk of Covid infection

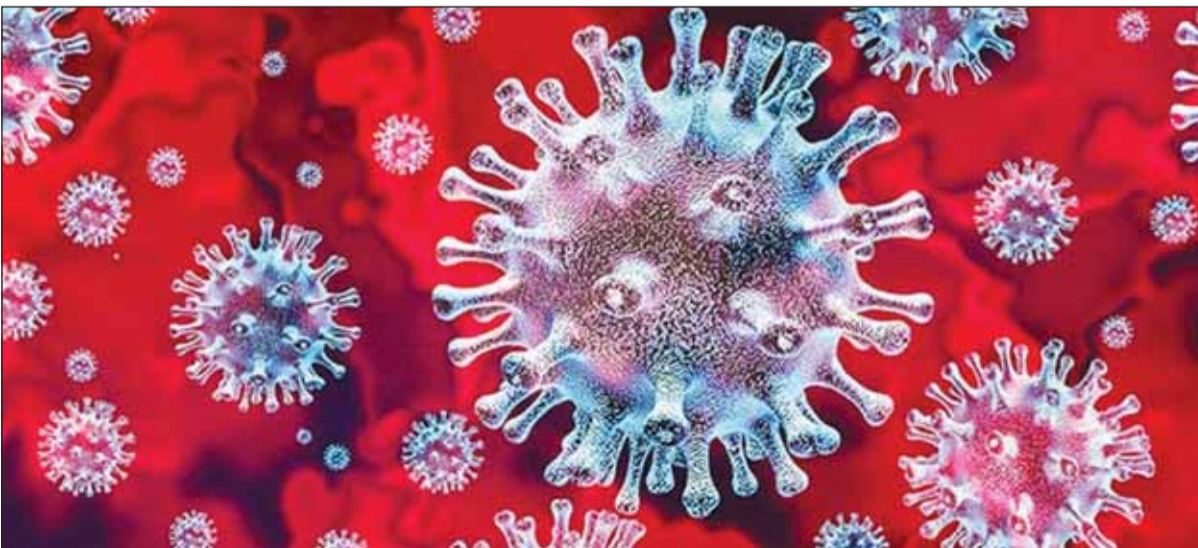
**■ IANS**

Blood group O is associated with a decreased risk for contracting SARS-CoV-2 infection, research published in Blood Advances showed.

Identification of risk factors for contracting and developing serious illness following infection with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is of paramount interest.

The study performed a retrospective cohort analysis of all Danish individuals tested for SARS-CoV-2 between 27 February 2020 and 30 July 2020, with a known ABO and RhD blood group, to determine the influence of common blood groups on virus susceptibility.

Distribution of blood groups was compared with data from non-tested individuals. Participants (29% of whom were male) included 473654 individuals tested for SARS-CoV-2 using real-time polymerase chain reaction (7422 positive and 466232 negative) and 2204742 non-



tested individuals, accounting for 38% of the total Danish population.

Hospitalisation and death from Covid-19, age, cardiovascular co-morbidities, and job status were also collected for confirmed infected cases.

Severe acute respiratory syndrome-coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) has spread

rapidly since its emergence in December 2019, causing a pandemic with 18093891 people infected globally (as of 3 August 2020).

In severe cases, individuals develop a number of symptoms, including acute respiratory illness, collectively known as coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).

Development of Covid-19 is associated with age, sex, and co-morbidities, such as cardiovascular diseases, although severe disease is not limited to these risk groups.

Recent reports have suggested that ABO blood groups might play a role in the infection, with a lower than expected prevalence of

blood group O individuals among patients.

Blood group A and B glycosyltransferases also affect glycosylation in a large number of cell types, including epithelial cells in the respiratory tract and shed viral particles.

A, B, and AB individuals are also at increased risk for thrombosis and cardiovascu-

lar diseases, which are important comorbidities among hospitalised Covid-19 patients, possibly mediated by glycosylation of proteins involved in haemostasis.

To obtain valid estimates of relative risk (RR), representativeness of the reference material is important. Although blood group frequencies and susceptibility for SARS-CoV-2 can vary substantially among ethnic groups, Denmark is a relatively ethnically homogenous society with free access to health care services.

There was a slight, but statistically significant, difference in blood group distribution between the SARS-CoV-2- individuals and the reference population.

Among the SARS-CoV-2 individuals, considerably fewer group O individuals were found, conversely, more A, B, and AB individuals were noted.

When blood group O was excluded, no significant difference was seen among A, B, and AB.

**IDBI Bank Ltd.** Harpaldas Hundrajmal, Opp Ramaport, Main Road, Vyapar Vihar, Bilaspur, Pin-495001 (C.G.)  
CIN:L65190MH2004GO1148838

**APPENDIX IV [RULE 8(1)]  
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)**

Whereas  
The undersigned being the authorised officer of IDBI Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 20.02.2020 calling upon the borrower **M/s Gujarti Rasoi (Prop.-Shri Bhavesh Kumar Vaghela S/o Shri Jayanti Lal Vaghela) and (Guarantor & Mortgagor-Smt. Manjulata Rathod W/o Shri Kishore Kumar Rathod)** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.5,99,873/- Rupees Five Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy three Only)** within 60 days from the date of the receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower 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 sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the **13th day of October of the year 2020**.

The borrower 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 IDBI Bank Limited for an amount of **Rs. 5,99,873/-** and interest + expenses thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY**  
Residential House - All that piece and parcel of land comprised in and forming part of Khasra No 703/12 (after mutation 703/23) comprising of 1000 Sqft. Situated at village Gondwara, Ward No. 4, Yatiyatan Lal Ward, PHN. 108/38, RIC Raipur-1, Tahsil & Dist. Raipur in the state of Chhattisgarh Bounded by - **East** - Smt. Seema Devi Mishra, **West** - Others Land, **North** - Others Land, **South** - Road. together with all buildings and structures thereon and all plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth.

**Authorised Officer  
IDBI Bank Limited, Bilaspur**  
Date : 18.10.2020, Place : Bilaspur

# 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 infec-

tions, 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. Currently, 23,95,270 people are in home quarantine while 23,749 people are in institutional quarantine.

## ₹7.25L fine imposed in single-day for flouting pollution norms

**Gurugram:** A penalty of over Rs 7.25 lakh was imposed on 29 violators on Saturday by the teams deployed to monitor implementation of measures to combat pollution in Gurugram through the government's Under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), which came into force on October 15. A team from the Municipal Corporation, Gurugram, visited Sector-27 and 42 and other locations on Saturday after several complaints were received from the residents of these areas. The complaints were related to flouting of environmental norms. Twenty nine violators were fined Rs 7.25 lakh during the spot inspection. The violators were warned by the civic body officials to comply with environmental regulations in construction



activities. Under this, the construction sites and construction material should be covered, otherwise an FIR will be filed

against them and legal action will also be taken against the violators. On Friday, penalties amounting to Rs 63,000 were

imposed for flouting GRAP norms. This includes six challans amounting to Rs 13,000 for garbage burning and one chal-

lan of Rs 50,000 for biomass burning imposed on residents. Apart from this, the corporation officials had also slapped a fine of Rs 75,000 on a builder whose construction material was lying on the road and had not been covered. "The construction projects that violate the environmental norms will be penalized to keep pollution under control. Also, I have given the necessary directions to the officials concerned to seriously ensure compliance with the Graded Response Action Plan by the Environmental Pollution (Control and Prevention) Authority. If there is violation of this a hefty penalty will be imposed and legal action will also be taken against the violators," said Jaspreet Kaur, Additional Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation.

## Pink Patrol in Lucknow for women's safety

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In another innovative endeavour of the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh towards safety and security of women, a crack force of women police personnel has been created to protect girls from perpetrators of crime against girls. Taking a bold step towards safety and security of women and girls in the state, a Pink Patrol, the first of its kind all-women patrolling command, was launched by the chief minister on Saturday to ensure the safety of the fairer sex under his Mission Shakti campaign. The Pink Patrol is designed to take immediate action in cases of molestation and crime

against women in Lucknow. Approximately 250 woman police personnel have been deployed in the Pink Patrol after giving them rigorous training. In the first phase of this programme, around 100 scooties and 10 SUVs have been deployed in the state. Under the Safe City plan, the Pink Patrol will operate in the state at places that have been hotspots of crime against women as identified by the Lucknow police. These will be initially stationed at places, including girls' colleges and women's gatherings where there have been incidents of molestation in the past or the locality is on alert regarding such occurrences.

Patrolling will also be done on the basis of complaints and suggestions from women. According to Lucknow police officials, Pink Patrol can also be deployed at night as per the need. Pink Patrol will also be directly connected to the nearest police station with 1090, 112 and integrated control room so that additional police force can be dispatched immediately, if needed. After the successful implementation in Lucknow, the Yogi Adityanath government plans to launch the Pink Patrol scheme in other districts of Uttar Pradesh, namely Kanpur Nagar, Agra, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Meerut and Noida

## 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 tweets - had allegedly tried to lower the image of chief minister Uddhav

Thackeray and the state government agencies but also create disaffection among the common people against the Maharashtra government. He alleged that Kangana had falsely portrayed a picture that the Maharashtra government was responsible for the demolition of some portions of her bungalow which were demolished 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," Sayyed 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," Sayyed said in his complaint filed before the court. Sayyed told the court that he had filed with the senior Inspector of Bandra police on September 16, 2020 and with Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone XI) on October 1, 2020, but no action was taken by both the officers. Sayyed told the court that police investigation was necessary to "ascertain the real motive behind such hate tweets and who are the people behind such hatred to create communal sentiments against the government". Through his lawyer Ravish F. Zamindar, Sayyed had moved the metropolitan magistrate's court on Thursday and prayed for appropriate directions under Cr.Pc Sec. 156(3) to the Bandra Police to register a first information report against the two sisters invoking the relevant IPC sections.

## Covid cases, daily count drop sharply

**From Page 1** Echoing the Prime Minister's sentiments on letting the guard down, Dr RK Dhamija, public health expert and HoD of the Neurosurgery department at Delhi-based Dr Lady Hardinge Hospital, said in Kerala after Onam there was a 126 per cent increase in active Covid cases. "People need to be cautious, maintain social distance, wear mask and implement hygiene. Gatherings and crowded places must be avoided. The Government should also be prepared and make arrangements for patients' admission with moderate and severe disease," Dr Dhamija said while welcoming the Government decision to 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.

## AIMPLB to challenge Spl CBI court verdict 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 — under-nourishment; 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 under-nutrition. Stunting is children under the age of five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic under-nutrition. 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 leaders offered messages of sadness but also of hope after the killing. "We'll pick ourselves up together, thanks to our spirit of solidarity," said Laurent Bousse, mayor of Conflans-Sainte-Honorine. "We are all affected, all touched by this vile assassination," said Education Minister Jean-Michel Blanquer in a video message. Mourners marched near the school in solidarity, holding signs that read "I am a teacher."

A police official said the suspect was shot dead about 600 meters (yards) from where 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. 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

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.

ISIS CONSPIRACY

# 15 convicted for bid to set base in Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

On Friday, 15 accused were convicted and sentenced with

rigorous imprisonment (RI) and fine.

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

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

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

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

# Cong launches Smart Village Campaign

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Rahul said the Congress

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

according to the United Nations.

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

The resolution of SCBA said

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

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

The DHCBA 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.

# 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.

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

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

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

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

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

and the nation’s monarchy to undergo reform.

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

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

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

**AP ■ OTTAWA**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

O’Toole added.


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

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

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

**WESTERN RAILWAY CORREIGENDUM**

Tender notice no. BCT/20-21/207 dtd. 24.09.2020 & BCT/20-21/208 dtd.: 24.09.2020 due for opening on 20.10.2020 Should be Treated as **CANCELLED** D-0363

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**SBFC**  
**SBFC FINANCE PVT.LTD.**  
(Erstwhile Small Business Finance India Pvt. Ltd.)  
Unit No. 103, First Floor C & B Square, Sangam Complex, 127, Andheri-Kurla Road, Village Chakala, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059 | Telephone: +91 22 - 67875300 | Fax: +91 22 67875334 | www.sbfsc.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 Bhulia  
Director

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Turkey has increased its mar-

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

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

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

**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.	<b>Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Inspecting and Commissioning of various types lifts along with CMC for 03-years at New Maternity Hospital, SKIMS.</b>	<b>175.00</b>

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

i.	Date and time of downloading/Sale of tender documents (Starting Date)	17.10.2020 from 11:00 Hours
ii.	Date and time of Bidding Queries/ clarification/pre-bid meet	28.10.2020 at 11:00 Hours
iii.	Last Date & Time of Bid Uploading	06.11.2020 up to 16:00 Hours
iv.	Date of submission of hard copies. (Only Original EMD/DD for Document Fee	07.11.2020 up to 14:00 Hours
v.	Date & Time of Commercial/technical Bid (Cover-I) opening	09.11.2020 11:00 Hours (or next convenient day)
vi.	Date & Time of Financial Bid (Cover-II) Opening of the qualifying Bidders	Shall be intimated separately
vii.	Cost of e-bid Document	Rs. 8700/- (Rupees Eight thousand & seven hundred only)
viii.	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (CDR/FDR)	Rs. 350000/- (Rupees Three lacs & fifty thound only)
ix.	Completion Time	Six (06) months from the date of issue of LOI or Allotment Order.
x.	Budget Head	Ongoing works for the year 2020-21

**No: SIMS 139 EX/MECH/2020-21/2485-95-5484-87**  
**Dated: 15.10.2020**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer Mechanical, SKIMS**

**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 favoring Administrative Officer, Central Institute of Psychiatry, Kanke, Ranchi-834006 or by submitting Cash Rs. 300/- (Rupees Three Hundred Only) in the Cash Section of Central Institute of Psychiatry, Kanke, Ranchi-834006 w.e.f. 19.10.2020 to 09.11.2020 between 10.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M. The tender documents can also be downloaded from the website free of cost. The last date of submission of tender is **10.11.2020 upto 3.00 P.M. (Tuesday)**

The details of the tender is available in our website i.e. **www.cipranchi.nic.in** and also in CPP Portal website i.e. at the **www.eprocure.gov.in**.

Sd/-, Director  
CIP, Ranchi, Jharkhand

**AXIS BANK** Axis Bank Limited, Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, 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, Tehsil Tigraon & District Faridabad, Haryana Alongwith Proprietary, 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.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

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

Accordingly, the fee has come into effect from Saturday.

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

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



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



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

REC also said it has sanctioned ₹ 2,790 crore to Jammu Kashmir Power Corporation Ltd (JKPCL) under the scheme. The agreement was signed between the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, JKPCL, REC and PFC.

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

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

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

In terms of utility vehicles, sales grew by 24.50 per cent to 96,633, while vans’ offtake went

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

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

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

On the second quarter FY21 performance, SIAM data showed that passenger vehicle sales rose 17.02 per cent to 726,232 units from 620,620 units sold during the corresponding month of the previous year. In contrast, commercial vehicle sales stood at 133,524 units from 167,173 units showing a de-growth of (-) 20.13 per cent. Similarly, three-wheeler off-take declined. The segment’s sales decrease by (-) 74.63 per cent to 45,902 units from 180,899 units. Two-wheeler sales segment, however, reported a marginal growth of 0.17 per cent to 4,690,565 units from 4,682,571 units.”

In quarter-2 some segments have shown signs of recovery. Passenger vehicles and two-wheelers are positive, although on a very low base of previous year,” said SIAM President Kenichi Ayukawa.

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

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Will make Ghaziabad world class city: Min



PNS ■ GHAZIABAD

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

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

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

## JDA to develop Agro-warehousing scheme near Amber

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

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

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

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

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.

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](http://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.

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 <sup>st</sup> Round	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round	Depot	Depot Officer in Charge	Contact No.	
02/11/2020	19/11/2020	SBI	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-SBI	07927500380 09724093774	
09/11/2020	24/11/2020	ADI	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-ADI	07922205888 09724093761	
03/11/2020	18/11/2020	BRC	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-BRC	02652641592 9724091750	
04/11/2020	19/11/2020	RTM	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-RTM	07412230080 09752492750	
06/11/2020	25/11/2020	BVP	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-BVP	02782444360 09724094770	
12/11/2020	27/11/2020	MMCT	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager- MMCT	022-23094142 09004499006	
11/11/2020	26/11/2020	MX	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-MX	022-24929571 09004495750	
10/11/2020	25/11/2020	DHD	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-DHD	02673241295 09724090455	
05/11/2020	19/11/2020	PRTN	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-DHD	02673241295 09724090455	
17/11/2020	27/11/2020	RJT	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager- RJT	02812476943 09724094770	

## 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](http://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.

"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."**

<b>AXIS BANK</b>		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.		
<b>SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY</b>		
<b>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 9(i) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.</b>		
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Secured Creditor will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 06-11-2020, 11:30 A.M. at Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128,Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301 for recovery of Rs. 91.51,68/- due as on 17-10-2020 along with further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred up to the date of actual payment and/or realization due to the secured creditor from Mr. Akshay Batra and Mr. Yudhvir Batra. The reserve price will be Rs. 44,96,837/- and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 4,49,683.7/-		
Account Number	Location / Details of the Immovable Property/Secured Assets possessed and put for sale	Encumbrances, if any known to the Bank.
PHR0792 00729188	Flat Number 105, First Floor, Along With The Car Parking Space No. Opp- 35, In Group Housing Tower No -1 (Gold Leaf Crescent) Located In The Valley View Estate, Situated In The Revenue Estate Of Village Gwal Pahari, Tehsil Sohna Dist- Gurgaon Haryana- 122001	
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the secured creditor's website i.e. <a href="https://www.axisbank.com/auction-notices/">https://www.axisbank.com/auction-notices/</a>		
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. <b>Name of Work</b> : Zone No. 4 (b) i.e. "Zonal Contract for Up-Keep of track and track bed of Both Up and Dn Line from Km. 12/02 to Km. 16/18 between KNBN (In.) to KMUK (In.) including Tollgyunge Yard and Carshed lines of Metro Railway, Kolkata". <b>Tender Value</b> : ₹ 2,10,82,665.43. <b>Cost of Tender Document</b> : Nil. <b>Earnest Money</b> : ₹ 2,55,500/-.	
<b>Completion Period</b> : The contract shall be in force up to 30.06.2022. <b>Date of Closing</b> : 10.11.2020 at 12.00 hrs. The tender document and other details can be obtained from the website : <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> 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.	
<b>Abridged e-tender Notice No. : Civil-2347-2020 (Open)</b>	
<b>FASTER • SAFER • SMOOTHER • CLEANER</b>	



## DUGOUT

MOTION PICTURE



Yuzvendra Chahal fiancé Dhanaashree Verma arrives at Dubai International Stadium on Saturday to watch IPL game between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Rajasthan Royals **IPL720.com**



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

**BOOM'S WILLINGNESS TO IMPROVE**

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

**DON'T BAT IN PRACTICE PANTS**

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

## POINTS TABLE

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

# Planning to start domestic cricket from Jan 1: Ganguly

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

"We also have elaborate plans for

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## ‘AB is IPL’s most impactful player’

PTI ■ DUBAI

RCB skipper Virat Kohli on Saturday called AB de Villiers the "most impactful player in IPL" after the South African blasted a 22-ball 55 to set up an incredible win against Rajasthan Royals.

"AB is always been someone who's been ready to look at the situation and adapt his game accordingly. In my eyes he's the most impactful player in the IPL," Kohli said during the post-match presentation ceremony.

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

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

The seven-wicket victory takes RCB to 12 points — same as table-toppers Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals.

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

Talking about his team, the Indian skipper said: "Our game pattern is very clear. Young Dev (Devdutt Padikkal) has batted beautifully. *Finchy* (Aaron Finch) has played some impact innings. We understand the dynamics and we're sticking to our plans. The bowling has really stepped up this season.

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

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

"I didn't hit even one of them (sixes) off the mid-



Skipper Virat Kohli reacts after RCB win

IPL720.com

dle. When Unadkat was bowling, I was looking leg side but to be honest I was nervous because I knew I had to hit it well. Luckily I got a few away," he said.

With four fifties, including a 33-ball 73 against Kolkata Knight Riders, the former South African skipper has been in rampaging form this IPL.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

tier of the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. But he also fell to Chahal, taken at long-off by Morris as RR slipped to 69 for three after a good start.

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

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



Shane Watson congratulates CSK teammate Faf du Plessis on his fifty

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of scoop shots. He pulled the short ones with ease.

Young pacer Tushar Deshpande bowled a tight line with

decent speed and was rewarded when Curran, without measuring the bowler, swung his arms but just managed a top-edge that was

## Collective batting effort takes CSK to 179/4

PTI ■ SHARJAH

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

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

Rayudu hit 45 off 25 balls while Ravindra Jadeja hit four sixes in his fiery 33-run knock as CSK collected runs in the last three overs. One of Jadeja's sixes landed on the road outside the stadium.

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

While Watson relied on safe ground-strokes considering the sluggish track Du Plessis did not hesitate to improvise, playing a lot

## KKR aim to sort out batting woes

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

A new captain in the saddle, Kolkata Knight Riders would look to sort out their batting woes and strive for consistency when they face Sunrisers Hyderabad in an intriguing mid-table clash here on Sunday.

After a string of below par performances, Dinesh Karthik handed over the reins to his deputy Eoin Morgan hours before KKR's match against Mumbai Indians on Friday. But the World Cup-winning England captain's campaign as leader was off to a disappointing start with MI handing KKR an eight-wicket mauling.

KKR are still in the top four of IPL points table behind Mumbai Indians, Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bangalore with four wins and as many defeats. But if the two-time champions want to seal a play-off spot, their batsmen need to step up, shrug off their inconsistencies and win matches for the team.

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

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

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

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

The KKR bowlers did well to fashion narrow victories against Kings XI Punjab and



great speed but Tewatia, coming off a wicket in his previous ball, balanced himself after nearly falling over the line to complete a fine catch.

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

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

Earlier, skipper Steve Smith's counterattacking 36-ball 57 guided Rajasthan to 177 for six.

Smith struck six fours and one maximum before Chris Morris bowled a brilliant final over, conceding only four runs while taking two wickets to check RR from going past 180.

Fast-medium bowler Morris finished with excellent figures of 4/26 in four overs.

Earlier batting first, Rajasthan were off to a brisk start as opener Robin Uthappa (41 off 22 ball) launched into the RCB attack with a flurry of fours and a six.

Back in his favoured position alongside Ben Stokes after another change in the combination, Uthappa saw his team play two quiet overs before smashing Washington Sundar for four boundaries in the innings' third over.

Isuru Udana was pulled and then lofted over long-on by Uthappa for the day's first maximum as RR raced to 38 for no loss in four overs.

Morris gave RCB their first

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

bowling action and he has missed two matches since then.

The Sunrisers, who occupy the fifth spot on the points table with just three wins from eight outings, are also struggling. With the injuries ruling out pace spearhead Bhuvneshwar Kumar and all-rounder Mitchell Marsh, the Orange Army is facing a conundrum of whether to strengthen their batting or their bowling unit, a fact that skipper David Warner conceded.

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



SUNDAY BLOCKBUSTER

Indians will virtually seal them a spot in the play-offs while a loss for KXIP could send them out of contention.

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

Table-toppers MI boast of top batsmen such as captain Rohit Sharma (251 runs) and his opening partner Quinton de Kock (269) and both are in good touch, while the middle-order is manned by the likes of Suryakumar Yadav (243 runs) and Ishan Kishan (186 runs).

Rohit played second fiddle to de Kock in MI's win against KKR, with the South African hitting



# 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



**A super thriller all the way**  
*Batta House* puts to rest a lot of controversies and versions on the infamous Batta House encounter

2



4

**Test of astrologer/astrology**  
The astrological chart at the moment makes one aware of the potential seeded in mind, making it possible to foresee the future



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-foot 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.



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