NZ PM ARDERN WINS

2ND TERM IN LANDSLIDE

MONEY 7

INDIA IS GRADUALLY MOVING TOWARDS

AN ECONOMY BASED ON CLEAN ENERGY

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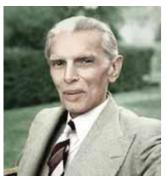
USUALSUSPECTS SWAPAN DASGUPTA

No need to rewrite Jinnah's history

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

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

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



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

that is no reason to

rewrite history

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

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

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

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

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

Pakistan movement, as has been documented by historians.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Covid cases, daily count drop sharply

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

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

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

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

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

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

upcoming festival season.
"The Prime Minister directed that we should make use of experience of successful conduct of elections and disaster management in the country. In a similar manner, vaccine delivery and 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

TOTAL

CASES: 74,86,714

DEATHS: 1,13,779

ACTIVE: 7,84,454

RECOVERED:

|65,87,287

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

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

by Union Health Minister

Harsh Vardhan, Principal

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

Maharashtra

Karnataka

Tamil Nadu

Kerala

Delhi

Odisha

Telangana

Rajasthan

Madhya Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh

West Benga

Andhra Pradesh

TOTAL CASES

15,86,321

7,79,146

7,58,574

6,83,486

4,52,660

3,34,229

3,27,718

3,17,053

2,66,345

2,20,675

2,03,060

1,99,749

1,71,281

1,59,158

1,58,635



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

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

The PMO said three vac-

13,58,606

7,35,638

6,37,481

6,32,708

4,11,611

2,36,989

2,98,853

2,77,940

2,44,227

1,96,636

1,91,515

1,70,263

1,48,291

1,40,519

1,26,869

DEATHS

41,752

10,427

10,586

6,629

1,140

5,981

5,992

1,174

853

1,735

2,753

3,629

cines are in advanced stages of development in India, out of which two are in Phase II and one is in Phase-III and Indian RECOVERED

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

scientists and research teams

are collaborating and strength-

ening the research capacities in neighbouring countries such as

Mauritius, Nepal and Sri

There are further requests from Bangladesh, Myanmar,

Qatar and Bhutan for clinical

trials in their countries. To help

the global community, the PM

directed the health authorities

Bhutan,

Maldives.

Afghanistan,

Bangladesh,

platforms for vaccine delivery

Turn to Page 4

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

the Hyderabad-based drug major said in a statement.

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

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

Turn to Page 4

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

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

PNS NEW DELHI

India has been ranked 94th among 107 nations worldwide in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020, faring poorer than all its immediate 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 peerreviewed annual report, jointly published by Concern Worldwide

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

Turn to Page 4

class on Prophet caricatures

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

AP PARIS

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

9.9 lakh lt liquor seized in



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

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

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 and was not known to intelliwith a knife and an airsoft gun, which fires plastic pellets.

Turn to Page 4

The French anti-terrorism prosecutor Jean-Francois

France as a refugee in March gence services, had been armed

CAPSULE

9 KILLED IN PILIBHIT

JEEP-BUS ACCIDENT

were injured in a collision

Pradesh roadways bus in

official said.

between a jeep and an Uttar

Pilibhit: At least 9 people lost their lives and more than 30

Kangana, sister booked for 'creating hatred'

On Bollywood casting director Sayyed plea, court orders probe

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

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

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

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



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

currency. Raids and checks have also yielded a huge quantity of contraband drugs including 956.625 kg poppy, the people against the Maharashtra Government. Turn to Page 4

dry Bihar ahead of election 1,139 illegal guns, drugs recovered in election-releated 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 gun factories.

1,139 illegal guns from across the State, known for its illegal 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

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

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 vehi-cles from different locations. 'More than 2,100 gun

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

anything happens, they would be behind bars.

Turn to Page 4

Pilibhit on Saturday, police said The accident occurred in Puranpur Police Station area of the district, a senior police

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

BJP LEADER SHOT IN UP AHEAD OF BYPOLL Firozabad (UP):

A local BJP leader

of Uttar Pradesh ahead of the November 3 Assembly bypoll in

was shot dead by bike-borne assailants in Firozabad district

said on Saturday.

the area, following which three people were detained, police said on Saturday

sunday pioneer

HOME THEATRE

Must watch for dog parents

Netflix *ing: Don lake, Christian Convery, Aria Birch, Gabrielle Dog Voice Over: Riley O'Donnell, Chance Hurstfield, Dylan

Schombing, Brian George

PUP ACADEMY 2

Rated: 6/10 here is something inherently cute and sweet when one watches movies that have animals especially dogs. Remember The Call of the Wild, Benji and Marley & Me? While not all animal movies have a happily ever after, but it doesn't take away the aww factor from them and Pup Academy that dropped its second season on the OTT platform is no different. It goes without saying that the pups are adorable, sweet and cute and if one has ever had a dog before, a need to

If you are not a dog lover, this one ended — a street pup — Boxer

have another one is going to be

tough to resist.



being thrown out of pup academy for academy who then wreaked havoc

bringing in other street dogs into the may have a change of heart.

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

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

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

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

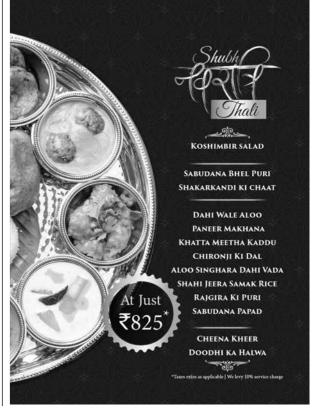
Plan Your Day

delightful Navratra Menu specially curated for your Festive 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 Navratri Special Thali (Malai paneer tikka two ncs. kuttu puri two, paneer makhani/shahi, falahari kofta, aloo tamatar subzi. samvat pulao, salad, raita. sabudana papad, vrat wale aloo/banana chips &

Price: ₹440 plus GST





Real emotions are revealed

BLACKPINK: LIGHT UP THE SKY Netflix

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

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

Whistle at Inkigayo, becoming the girl group that won the award the fastest. Since then the album's tracks have since surpassed 1.73 billion streams worldwide.

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

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

The documentary introduces

the group won its first award the girls collectively and during a musical programme for 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

- Shalini Saksena

ELLYTALE

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 Shehnaaz's absence in

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

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

ALL BECAUSE OF AAHANA'S MARZI

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



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

phenomenal performance in Voot Select's Original series Marzi.

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

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

DANCE WITH THE SISTERS

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

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

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

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

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

SINHA FAMILY ON KAPIL SHOW This weekend, The Kapil Sharma Show will be welcoming one of the legendary superstars of Bollywood

Industry; Shotgun aka Shatrughan Sinha



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

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

Welcome your favourite bahu

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

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

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. Dévoleena Bhattacharjee, who was

Even Rupal Patel, who played Kokila

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GAURELA-PENDRA-MARWAHI

The nomination papers of Janata L 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 leader founder Chhattisgarh's first Chief Minister

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 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 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

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 Jogiji 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

 $T_{\scriptscriptstyle Bureau}^{\scriptscriptstyle he}~^{\scriptscriptstyle A}$ Anti-Corruption (ACB) 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 procurement paddy 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

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

"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

returned to a pond located close to the village in Lamna early on Saturday to drink water, the offi-

Chhattisgarh

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

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

Chhattisgarh is home to around 250 elephants who roam in the forests Surguja, Dharamjaigarh, 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)

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

Department ■ 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

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 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

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

Man held for operating IPL | Migrant workers get better facilities in C'garh during lockdown betting racket in Raipur

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

Superintendent of Police Ajay Kumar Yadav told The Pioneer that Chitranjan 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, Yaday said.

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



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.

STAFF REPORTER ■

hhattisgarh is the top try 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 Saturday.

Interferential Statistics Foundation conducted survey in six major states with migrant labourers including Chhattisgarh,



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 MNRE-GA, 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 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 Rajnandgaon district.

panchayats

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 nonagricultural 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, Iharkhand, 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

 $B^{lood\,group\,O\,is\,associated}_{with\,\,a\,\,decreased\,\,risk\,\,for}$ 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 (SARŚ-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 nontested individuals, accounting for 38% of the total Danish population.

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

Severe acute respiratory syndrome-coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) has spread rapidly since its emergence in December 2019, causing a pandemic with 18093891 people infected globally (as of 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 cardiovascular 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,

(T) IDBI BANK

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

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

The undersigned being the authorised officer of IDBI Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcemen 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 Gujrati 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 o the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the 13th day of

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

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. Date: 18.10.2020, Place: Bilaspur

RAIPUR | SUNDAY | OCTOBER 18, 2020

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

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

total number of deaths mounted from 41,502 to 41,965.

Similarly, with 10259 infec-

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

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

deaths in Pune, 22 in Nagpur, 21 in Thane, 18 in Solapur, 13 in Sangli and 11 in Beed dis-

In the lower range, there were nine deaths in Satara, 7 in Kolhapur, 6 each in Palghar and Nashik, 5 in Raigad, 4 each 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



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

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 pandem-

ic 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 | Pink Patrol in Lucknow|

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 relat-

ed 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

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

On Friday, penalties amounting to Rs 63,000 were

imposed for flouting GRAP

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

for women's safety against women in Lucknow.

Tn another innovative endeav Lour 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 allwomen 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

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 sta-

tioned 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

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 imple-

mentation 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

AIMPLB to challenge

Spl CBI court verdict

Kangana, sister booked for 'creating hatred

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

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

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

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 the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), which is an autonomous body.

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

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

In the case of Kangana's sis-

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

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

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

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

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

Covid cases, daily count drop sharply

From Page 1

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

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

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

9.9 lakh lt...

From Page 1

To maintain law and order,

the authorities have acted

against 2694 people under the

crime control act. The police

have registered 203 cases for

violation of model code of

conduct including 84 Illegal

gathering and luring voters.

Interestingly, a large number of

sim cards were also recovered

According to the EC, 91

during checkings.

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

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

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

'expenditure sensitive' con-

stituencies of Bihar have been

identified based on both the

profile of the constituency and

the candidates in the fray. As

per the data, as many as 319 out

of the 1,066 contestants in fray

in the first phase of polls hav-

ing a criminal record. 71 con-

stituencies situated in 16 dis-

tricts are going to polls on

October 28, the first phase of

the three-phase elections for

the 243-member Bihar legisla-

tive assembly.

Dr Reddy's... From Page 1

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

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

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

During the 2019 Lok Sabha

polls, the EC had seized Rs 9.12

crore black money, 1.24 lakh

litre liquor, 717 kg drugs and 62

kg precious ornaments and

in 2015, seizures worth Rs

23.8 crores were registered by

the EC machinery with Rs 19

crore of cash found circulating

besides 5.48 lakh litres of illic-

it country- made and foreign

liquor from different places in

In the Assembly elections

jewelry from Bihar.

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 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 ČBI court in the Babri demolition case.

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

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

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

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

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

Global Hunger Index: India at 94th among 107 nations

GHI score is calculated on four indicators 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

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

underunder five and a wasting rate of 17.3 per cent while the under-five mortality rate stood at 3.7 per cent.

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

Data from 1991 through 2014 for Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan showed that stunting was concentrated among children from households facing multiple forms of deprivation, including poor dietary diversity, low levels of maternal educa-

tion, and household poverty. However, India has improved in both child mortality rates, which are now at

stunting rate among children 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 prematuri-

ty and low birth weight is identified as a key factor with the potential to reduce underfive mortality in India. through actions such as better antenatal care, education, and nutrition as well as reductions in anaemia and oral tobacco use," 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 tackmalnutrition (missing convergence) often result in poor nutrition We indices. 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

French teacher beheaded for class... Paty died. Police opened fire

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

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

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

tion," said Education Minister Jean-Michel Blanquer in a video Mourners marched near

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

600 meters (yards) from where

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

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

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

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-This is the second time in

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

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

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

to set base in Delhi

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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Supreme Court lawyers'

Abody has condemned

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister

YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's action

of writing a letter to Chief Justice

of India S A Bobde in which alle-

gations have been levelled against

a sitting judge of the top court.

Association (SCBA) said in its

resolution that "such action by

constitutional functionaries is

opposed to conventions causing

serious inroads impacting the

independence of the judiciary as

enshrined in the Constitution of

passed days after another

lawyers' body, Supreme Court

Advocates-on-Record

Association (SCAORA), had

condemned the "unwarranted"

release of the letter written by

Reddy saying "it tends to scan-

dalise and breach the indepen-

The resolution of SCBA said

The SCBA resolution was

The Supreme Court Bar

Vice President M Venkaiah

for building a more equitable society on International Day

for the Eradication of Poverty.

this year addresses the chal-

lenge of achieving social and environmental justice for all,

Naidu on Saturday called

The theme for the Day

VP Naidu calls for building

for Eradication of Poverty

equitable society on Int'l Day

SCBA condemns Andhra

sitting judge of apex court

CM's allegation against



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

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

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

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

On Friday, 15 accused were convicted and sentenced with

together for the uplift of the

downtrodden & build a more

equitable society. We need to address the root cause of

poverty in all its dimensions,

be it economic, social, legal or

President Secretariat tweeted

quoting Naidu.

environmental," the Vice

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

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

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

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

15 convicted for bid Cong launches Smart Village Campaign

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Rahul said the Congress

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

they will deliver the desired

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

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

Gadkari informed that his Ministry is

doing water

conservation by

using the

soil/murum from

water bodies.

drains and rivers

for construction of

Highways

works with a result of increase

of 22500 TCM (Thousand

Cubic Meter) of water storage

Government'. This has charged

ground water table. Due to

deepening and training of river,

drains, etc, the floods have

reduced, which otherwise

spreads in nearby field due to

reduced discharge capacity of

rivers and drains. This con-

vergence has been appreciated

and accepted by NITI Aayog,

which is in the process of

forming policy based on this

informed that the Tamaswada

Pattern adopted in Wardha

and Nagpur districts is anoth-

er effort towards Rain Water

Harvesting, Conservation and

the basis of Scientific and

Complete Development of

Mini-Micro Watersheds based

on study of HydroGeology,

Topography and Civil Engineering. Work is done

essentially in the direction

from Ridge to Valley.

Tamaswada Pattern is most

helpful to create augmented

Surface rain and Ground Water

storages. It creates Flood free as

These works are done on

Ground Water Recharge.

The Minister further

Govt issues SOPs for cultural functions, programmes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

he 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

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

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

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

field assessment.

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

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

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

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

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

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



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Many welfare laws were

implemented in Kashmir," said the Union Minister.

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

All original Gupkar

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

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

GADKARI TO MAHA GOVT

Form State Water Grid to tackle flood crisis



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

I Jnion Minister for Road that its executive committee, at a meeting on October 16, strong-Transport, Highways and ly condemned the action of the MSMEs Nitin Gadkari has chief minister of Andhra Pradesh requested the Maharashtra in releasing his letter to the Government to take initiative Chief Justice of India (CJI) makfor preparation of detailed proing allegations against the sitting ject report (DPR) for formation judge in the public domain. of the State Water Grid to A similar resolution was overcome the recurring flood also passed earlier this week by crisis in the State. This would the Delhi High Court Bar help the Government to ensure Association (DHCBA) stating that the "ill-founded" letter the availability of the water in drought prone areas and save the resources to manage the "unfairly and without reason casts aspersions" on the conduct flood crisis. In a letter dated 14th October, 2020 to Chief of the apex court judge and judges of the Andhra Pradesh Minister Udhav Thackeray, his High Court. cabinet colleagues and Sharad The DHCBA said the Pawar, MP, he has sought early October 6 letter is an abject and decision of the State uncalled for Government on this issue, fol-

interference in the due lowed by actions thereon. administration of justice by the Gadkari has drawn the high court judges. attention of the Chief Minister In an unprecedented move, in this letter towards the serithe chief minister wrote the letous issue of heavy loss of lives ter to the CJI, alleging that the and property that occur in the state of Maharashtra every year Andhra Pradesh High Court was being used to "destabilise and due to floods. He has added topple my democratically elected Government. that the floods create and trigger serious problems in different parts of the State and there is an urgent need to chalk out a plan to manage this natural disaster that becomes grave because of other man made

The Union Minister has

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

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

his Ministry is doing water soil/murum from water bodies,

tion of Highways.

Gadkari has informed that

conservation by using the drains and rivers for construc-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

well as Drought free situation in treated Watershed. These Maharashtra, around 225 lakh type of works are resulting in cubic meter of material from Preservation and Conservation water bodies, drains and rivers of Traditional natural water has been used in Highway

Peace and tranquillity along LAC 'deeply disturbed': Jaishankar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

dence of judiciary"

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

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

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

deployed over 50,000 troops. The Sino-India boundary



initiatives like trade, travel, tourism, and societal activities on the premise of peace and ty along the bor-"It is not our

tranquilli-

position boundary question. We under-

"Now, if peace and transtand 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

"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.

quillity 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

AS US ELECTION NEARS

Virus surges in key battleground States

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tim Tompkins, a welding engineer in Iowa, took the day off work to cast an early ballot at the Bettendorf Community Center. Tompkins, 62, said he and his wife, Pat, were afraid of coronavirus exposure in Election vote, so they brought their own sanitizer to the community center Friday.

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

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

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

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

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

Friday. Some described the deci-

sion to vote this year as one that

Biden warns Trump

wants to scrap health law

strip health insurance from tens of millions of

Democratic nominee said Trump promises to

protect the insurance eligibility of all Americans

but in reality wants to scrap the 2010 Affordable

standard that requires insurers to offer health

insurance to customers regardless of their health

penthouse" in Manĥattan and doesn't see

Health and Human Services found that as many

as 133 million Americans could be defined as

having a "preexisting" condition by the stan-

dards insurers used before the 2010 law.

most Americans' daily struggles.

the wake of the pandemic.

Campaigning outside Detroit on Friday, the

That law for the first time set a federal

Biden says Trump "can only see from his

A 2017 study from the Department of

Biden noted that the number could rise in

Americans with preexisting conditions.

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

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

Obama to campaign for Biden, Kamala

Washington: Joe Biden is warning Michigan voters that President Donald Trump wants to Macon: Former US president Barack Obama will 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) presdent Obama will travel to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to campaign on behalf of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris," the Biden campaign said in a statement on Friday afternoon.

Armenian missile killed 13, wounded over 50: Azerbaijan

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

NZ PM Ardern wins 2nd term in landslide

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

TRANSIT SHUTDOWNS FAIL TO DETER THAI PRO-DEMOCRACY PROTESTS

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

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

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

and the nation's monarchy to undergo reform.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Estimated Cost (in lacs)

175.00

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

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

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

in Hong Kong. And a barely veiled one at that. It was of the seeking protection money 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.

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

WESTERN RAILWAY

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

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SBFC

SBFC FINANCE PVT.LTD. (Erstwhile Small Business Fincredit India Pvt. Ltd.) Unit No. 103, First Floor C & B Square Sangam Complex, 127, Andheri-Kurl Road, Village Chakala, Andheri (East Mumbai -400059 | Telephone: +91 22 67875300 | Fax: +91 22 67875334 | www.sbfc.com| Corporate Identity

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

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

For more details, please contact: SBFC FINANCE PVT.LTD. Toll Free : 1800 - 102- 8012

PUBLIC NOTICE

Lokesh Construction Private Limited CIN: U70101DL1992PTC186666

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

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

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

Ms. Anki Bhutia

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

Turkey's Black Sea gas find

reaches 405bn cubic meters

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

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

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

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

Istanbul: Turkey's president has

announced the discovery of an addi-

tional 85 billion cubic meters of nat-

Fatih on Saturday, President Recep

Tayyip Erdogan said explorations in the

Tuna-1 well were complete after reach-

ing a depth of 4775 meters (5,222

discovery 320 billion cubic meters of

natural gas reserves off the Black Sea

coast, which energy analysts consid-

ered notable but not large enough to

turn Turkey into a regional energy hub.

use the gas by 2023, hoping to even-

tually decrease its dependence on

energy imports. Last year's imports

Turkey has increased its mar-

totaled more than \$41 billion.

Ankara says it plans to extract and

In August, Turkey announced the

yards).

Speaking aboard the drill ship

ural gas reserves in the Black Sea.

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

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 neigh-

boring Greece over the delimitation of

hydrocarbon resources in the Black Sea

and the Mediterranean," Erdogan said.

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.

"We will continue our search for

This week, Turkey redeployed its

continental shelves.

Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Inspecting and Commissioning of various types lifts along with CMC for 03-years at New Maternity Hospital, SKIMS. complete tender document is available at website

Budget Head

Dated: 15.10.2020

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

tender document for the following works:

Name of the work

<u>http://jktenders.gov.in</u>. 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

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

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

lOrder.

2020-21

Ongoing works for the year

Mechanical, SKIMS

Sd/- Executive Engineer

The law outlaws subversive, "To be clear, this was a

threat to the 300,000 Canadians kind of tone and tenor one would expect from someone 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

E-TENDER NOTICE

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

		,					
3201029A	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 HOUSKEEPING SERVICES AT CENTRAL <u>INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY, RANCHI</u>

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

10.11.2020 upto 3.00 P.M. (Tuesday)

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

CIP, Ranchi, Jharkhand

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

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of nancial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002. Financial Assets and Enf

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 o actual payment and/or realization due to the secured creditor from Ms. Honey Roy & Mrs. Bani Roy The reserve price will be Rs. 18,80,820/- and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 1,88,082/-. Location / Details of the Immovable Property/Secured Assets Encur

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

Date: 18-10-2020 Authorized Officer.

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

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.

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

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

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



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

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

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

said the company has temporarily waived the 5 per cent charge that is levied on money transfer from wallet to bank

accounts as a promotional offer

for the festive season. 'The amount added in the wallet can be used to transfer money to another wallet or bank account, to make pay ments 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

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

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

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



₹1.08 lakh crore worth loans sanctioned under discom liquidity package



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

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

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

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

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

REC also said it has 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 infu-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Low base, attractive interest rates lift Sept domestic PV sales

IANS NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

does not include sales figures from some key players such as Tata Motors.

In terms of utility vehicles, sales grew by 24.50 per cent to 96,633, while vans' offtake went up by 10.64 per cent to 11,413 units against the same month

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

along with CNG.

consolidated profit rises 16pc to ₹7,703 cr

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

income were lower by approximately ₹800 crore.

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

IANS I NEW DELHI

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

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



PNS ■ GHAZIABAD

if any known to

Authorized Office

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

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

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

scheme near Amber

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

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

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

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

Jaipur: In order to fillip the economic growth in the city, Commercial Shops and establishments, weighbridges, and automobile shops. Speaking about its loca-

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

to everyone in the entire coun-

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

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

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.

nomically strong and narrow

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

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

public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 13th day of October of the year 2020.

The Borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of IndusInd Bank Ltd. for an amount of Rs. 2,81,30,980/- (Le. Rs. 18565184.00 & Rs. 9565796.00) as on 31,07.2019 and further interests from 10.82.2020 plus costs, charges and expenses etc. hereon.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the

and further interests from 01.08.2020 plus costs, charges and expenses etc. thereo DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY All those piece & parcel of residential property situated being & lying at residential villa no.467 present Devanahalli town Municipal Council Khata No.250/28/1/14/467 with a built up area of

4055 Sqr Ft. consisting of ground, first floor & right to use common amenities in the project known as "House of Hiranandani Devanahalli" & 4200 Sgr Ft. of undivided share in the nverted land bearing Survey No. 22/1, 28/1, 28/2, 29/1, 29/2, 29/3, 31/1 of Prassanahal Village measuring in all 5 Acres 18 guntas & survey no. 155/2 157 & 158 of Sanna Ammaniker llage Kasba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluka, Bangalore Rural District measuring in all three Acre 34 guntas and the villa is bounded as under On or Towards the East: Villa No. 476 On or Towards the West: Drive Way On or towards the North: drive Way

Date: 13.10.2020 Place: Bengaluru

On or towards the South: Villa no. 468 Authorised Officer, IndusInd Bank Ltd. **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 mat will be held in November, 2020 as per program given below:

1 st Round	2 nd Round	Depot	Depot Officer in Charge	Contact No.			
02/11/2020	19/11/2020	SBI	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-SBI	07927500080 09724093774			
09/11/2020	24/11/2020	ADI	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-ADI	07922205888 09724093751			
03/11/2020	18/11/2020	BRC	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-BRC	02652641592 9724091750			
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12/11/2020	27/11/2020	MMCT	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager- MMCT	022-23094142 09004499006			
11/11/2020	26/11/2020	MX	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-MX	022-249295 71 09004495750			
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For detailed information please contact the concerned Depot Officers. Note:- (1) Railway reserves the right to withdraw any lot from e-Auction. (2) e-Auction will start a er scheduled time. (3) e-Auction catalogues will be available on site <u>www.ireps.gov.ir</u> -Auction portal. (4) In case of any assistance required regarding e-Auction, digita signatures, Registration procedure and participation, please contact above nentioned Depot Officer. (5) All payment transactions shall be done through the For Principal Chief Materials Manage

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

"I am surrendering / cancelling / my

Kolkata's Pride ZONAL CONTRACT FOR UP-KEEP OF TRACK

Metro Railway, Kolkata

AXIS BANK
Axis Bank Limited, Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)201301

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the 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 06-11-2020, 11:30 A.M. at Axi Is where is , As is what is and whatever mere is basis of ub-11-200, 11:30 A.m. at Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Nolda Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Nolda (U.P.)-201301 for recovery of Rs. 91,51,138/- due as on 17-10-2020 along with further interest as

policials in incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred up to the date of actual payment and/or applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred up to the date of actual payment and/or ealization 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/-

Assets possessed and put for sale

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

PHR0792

Date: 18-10-2020

Location / Details of the Immovable Property/Secured

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

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

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

Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway, Metro Rail Bhavan, 33/1, J.L. Nehru Road, Kolkata-700071 for and on behalf of the President of India invites Tender Notice for e-tendering for the following work. Name of Work Zone No. 4 (b) i.e. "Zonal Contract for Up-Keep of track and track bed of Both Up and Dn Line from Km. 12/02 to Km. 16/18 between KNBN (In.) to KMUK (In.) including Tollygunge Yard and Carshed lines of Metro Railway Kolkata". Tender Value: ₹ 2,10,82,665.43. Cost of Tender Document : Nil. Earnest Money : ₹ 2,55,500/-Completion Period: The contract shall be in force up to 30.06.2022. Date of Closing: 10.11.2020 at 12.00 hrs. The tender document and other details can be obtained from the website: www.ireps.gov.in The bidding for the tender is to be submitted only through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer, if received shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected. Abridged e-tender Notice No.: Civil-2347-2020 (Open)

FASTER • SAFER • SMOOTHER • CLEANER



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



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



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



Skipper Virat Kohli reacts after RCB win

for a good reason.

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

"I'm very very nervous and erratic (in chase) and I get very stressed like any player. I want to per-

form for the team and show the owners I'm here

I should have, but this time I did. It's a cat and mouse

game, I always respect the bowlers. If they bowl well

RR captain Steve Smith was crestfallen after yet

"Sure it is a hard pill to swallow. Just got AB'd

"I think it was a good score on a slow wicket.

there. That's two in a row we were in the box seat

I thought we built the pressure pretty well and it took

the RR innings.

to me, they'll have the upper hand."

another defeat, their sixth in nine games.

to win but didn't. Disappointing," he said.

a pretty special innings to take RCB home.'

Last game I didn't perform my role as well as

skipper has been in rampaging form this IPL.

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

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 IPLT20.com



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

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

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

DON'T BAT IN PRACTICE PANTS

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

		POI	NT	S 7	ΓΑ	BLE	
			Р	W	L	NRR	PTS
1	DETANT	MI	8	6	2	+1.353	12
2		DC	8	6	2	+0.990	12
3	卷	RCB	9	6	3	-0.096	12
4	•	KKR	8	4	4	-0.684	8
5	*	SRH	8	3	5	+0.009	6
6	1	CSK	8	3	5	-0.390	6
7		RR	9	3	6	-0.778	6
8	Ō	KXIP	8	2	6	-0.295	4

AB deVilliers again

Former South African skipper's 22 ball 55* takes RCB past finish line

muthoot

MPL

CSK, but leaked runs

against RCB and MI.

To add to their woes,

Narine has been

reported for suspect

bowling action and he has

missed two matches since then.

the fifth spot on the points table

with just three wins from eight

outings, are also struggling.

With the injuries ruling out

pace spearhead Bhuvneshwar

Kumar and all-rounder

Mitchell Marsh, the Orange

Army is facing a conundrum of whether to strengthen their

batting or their bowling unit, a

fact that skipper David Warner

its batting unit, mainly on the

top four comprising Jonny Bairstow, Warner, Manish

Pandey and Kane Williamson.

Sunrisers is Rashid Khan's form. After returning impressive fig-

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

Afghan leg-spinner remained

ineffective in the team's last two

losses. And skipper Warner

will desperately

hope that his star

spinner finds his

mojo back which

is imperative

A cause of concern for the

The team heavily relies on

conceded.

The Sunrisers, who occupy

PTI ■ DUBAI

B de Villiers' swashbuckling 22-ball 55 fashioned an incredible seven-wicket victory for Royal Challengers Bangalore over Rajasthan Royals on Saturday. Chasing 178, De

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

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

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

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

Kohli brought the team's hundred by lofting Rahul Tewatia for a big six over long-on, but Padikkal, while trying to break the shackles after struggling his way to 35 off 37 balls, got out when his pull shot failed to clear Ben Stokes in the deep.

And then came the big wicket of Kohli, thanks to a brilliant piece of fielding by Tewatia, who pulled off a catch inches from the line at deep midwicket on the rebound after the batsman whipped it off his

The ball travelled at a

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

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

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

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

> 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

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

Morris gave RCB their first

'AB is IPL's most impactful player'

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 presen-

"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

'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 sea-

"(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-

breakthrough when he had the subdued Stokes caught down the Uthappa scored two more

boundaries, off pacer Navdeep Saini, before his slow sweep went into the hands of the deep midwicket 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

Chahal, meanwhile, bowled two front foot no balls which were struck for boundaries by Smith, giving his team 10 runs and two additional deliveries.

After RR scored 19 runs in the long 18th over bowled by Chahal, Tewatia hit Udana for a six and four to collect 15 from the penultimate over.

The ball was stopping a bit on

the slow Sharjah wicket but after

four quiet overs, Du Plessis

creamed off 14 runs from Nortie's

first over, hitting his compatriot for

got some quick runs by placing the

ball instead of going after the bowlers. His handling of the both

pacers and spinners was sensible as he kept the scoreboard moving.

with a single of Nortje but Watson

was castled by the South African

Du Plessis completed his fifty

The Capitals batsmen did not

Watson, using his experience,

		POI	NT	S 1	ΓΑ	BLE	
			Р	W	L	NRR	PTS
1	DADIANG	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	10	CSK	8	3	5	-0.390	6
7		RR	9	3	6	-0.778	6
8	Ō	KXIP	8	2	6	-0.295	4

KKR aim to sort out batting woes

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Δ new captain in 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 twotime champions want to seal a play-off spot, their batsmen need to step up, shrug off their inconsistencies and win matches for the team.

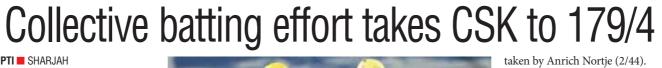
After a massive 82-run loss to RCB, the KKR batsmen failed yet again against MI bowlers as they were reduced to 42 for 4 in the eighth over. Half of KKR batsmen were gone for 61 in the 11th over. An 87-run unbroken stand for the sixth wicket between Morgan (39 not out) and pacer Pat Cummins (53 not out)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

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

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

ligate 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



af Du Plessis hit his fourth half- Γ century of the season before Ambati Rayudu produced another useful cameo as a collective bat-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



of scoop shots. He pulled the

short ones with ease. Tushar 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

let off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin take advantage of the slow surface, taking easy runs off him.

in the next ball.

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

Top meets the bottom

PTI ■ DUBAI

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

complacent against a Chris Gayle-inspired Kings XI Punjab side here on Sunday. A win for Mumbai

Indians will virtually seal them a spot in the play-offs while a loss for KXIP could send them out of con-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 eightwicket defeat on Friday. Tabble-toppers MI

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

Yadav (243 runs) and Ishan Kishan (186 runs). Rohit played second fiddle to de Kock in MI's win against KKR, with the South African hitting



78 not out from 44 balls.

formed the most successful pair this IPL with 12 wickets apiece from eight matches so far. Spinner Rahul Chahar chipped in against KKR with two wickets for 18 runs.

In the bowling front, pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Trent Boult have

On the other hand, KXIP are

balance despite trying out many languishing at the bottom of the options has also contributed to table despite having the top-two KXIP's rapid slide.

leading run-getters of the tournament in skipper K L Rahul (387 runs at a strike rate of 134.84) and his opening partner, Mayank Agarwal KXIP's problem has been that

their batting and bowling have not fired in unison on most occasions even though their confidence has been boosted by the return of



Gayle. The self-pro-

claimed Universe

Boss made his first appearance this IPL with a bang, hitting a 45-ball 53, a knock that was laced with five sixes and a four in KXIP's win over Virat Kohli's Royal Challengers Bangalore.

A captivating duel may be in store between Gayle on one side and Bumrah and Boult on the other. KXIP have other in-form bats-

men in Rahul and Agarwal, with both or at least one of them scoring big in almost every match. But their bowling has been the

weakest link. Barring Mohammad Shami and Ravi Bishnoi, none of the bowlers have inspired confidence, especially in the death overs. Not being able to find the right

March and April.

"We also have elaborate plans for

Planning to start domestic cricket from Jan 1: Ganguly our age group and women's cricket.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The much awaited domestic crick-**⊥** et season will start from January 1, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly said on Saturday.

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

sions 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 cur-

tailed 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 tourna-

ment. It will probably not be possible to hold all tournaments," Ganguly said, hinting that BCCI is eyeing the January-March window for Ranji The BCCI president also assured

that the junior cricket and women's tournaments will be held between

We will start with Ranji Trophy and then we will also have the other tournaments between March and April," he said. He also informed that the Indian

team will be allowed to train in Australia during their quarantine "Cricket Australia has sent us an itinerary and we discussed the modal-

ities of that itinerary. We will be playing four Tests and that will end in third week of January," the BCCI president said. The Indian team is expected to

play three ODIs, three T20Is and four Tests Down Under. On the home series against England, Ganguly said that the BCCI

is monitoring the situation and the final itinerary will be prepared in due The England series is good three and a half to four months away. We still have time. We are monitoring the

situation (Covid-19) which is pretty fluid and will take a call accordingly, he said. While hosting the series in India

(Ahmedabad, Kolkata and Dharamsala being likely venues) remains priority, the UAE is a second October 18, 2020



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

A super thriller all the way

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

Test of astrologer/astrology/

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Arup points out that earlier there was a lot personal involvement. "The entertainment was different. Everyone from the extended family pitched in ensuring that the festivities went off smoothly. On the cultural side, someone sang, another one

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

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

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 artistes and craftspeople a platform to display their talent. "Artistes who conceptualise the pandals are from arts college and are really talented. Depending on the theme, they get village artisans adept in crafts like mud, metal or others to make the pandals and give them an opportunity to showcase their ability. An entire economy depends on Durga Puja. These people have tremendous flair but it was never exhibited," he says and adds, "The awards are a recognition of the hard work and talent." Not just the pandals 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

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

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

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

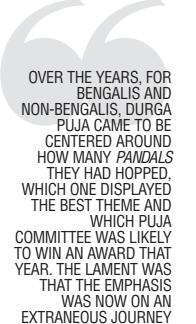
Every organising committee is supposed to videorecord the entire event and a soft copy of the unedited video recording in pen-drive and a certificate, certifying that no violation of the SOPs/Guidelines issued by Govt. of India and Govt. of NCT of Delhi has taken place, shall be submitted to Nodal officers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

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





WHILE THE FESTIVAL

WAS MORE OF AN

INWARD CRUISE OF

GONE COMPLETELY

DEVOTION WHICH HAD



October 18, 2020

Batla House enlists the details of an anti-terror operation and lives in uniform. It also puts to rest a lot of controversies and versions on the infamous Batla House encounter, writes J GOPIKRISHNAN

A super thriller on anti-terror ops

he book Batla House written by former police officer Karnal Singh is a real thriller and gold mine of information on the anti-terror operations, history and great analysis on the terror outfits targeting India. Karnal Singh (IPS) who retired as Chief of Enforcement Directorate was the Chief of Special Cell of Delhi Police which conducted the encounter with Indian Mujahideen (IM) terrorists at Batla House in Delhi in September 19, 2008. The terrorists were hiding in a flat in Batla House after unleashing a series of terror attacks in various places in Delhi six days ago on September 13 evening by placing bombs in waste depositing boxes, which killed 22 people and injured more than 130 people. There were lot of controversies and different versions and even a movie was produced on the Batla House encounter, which was the finest precision operation of the Special Cell, the counter terrorism unit of Delhi Police.

After 12 years, the writer — Karnal Singh — the man who headed the encounter is declassifying the details of country's much talked about encounter operation. Apart from thrilling moments of the encounter declassified by the very man who conducted the operation, the writer explains how his trusted deputies cracked the case within six days of the serial blast which shook the Delhi on September 13, 2008 evening. This book also details the personal life of police personnel and their sacrifices in family life for the Call of Duty for the Nation.

Singh goes in detail about the life of his team members of the Special Cell, where the life of the policemen is always 24x7. The blast day was a Saturday and the writer, who was then Joint Commissioner and head of the Special Cell of Delhi Police, was helping younger son in solving Maths problems. While rushing to the blast spot hearing the serial blasts in Delhi, he tells wife to call elder daughter, who was in the city enjoying weekend with friends, back home. In six days of hectic work, team cracked down the hiding terrorists. There are many tearful moments in the book when the writer talks about late Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma, who lost life in the encounter.

On September 18, a day before the operation, Singh recounts getting calls from wife reminding him of their elder daughter's birthday. That very day, the writer learns (from other colleagues) that the key officer Mohan Chand Sharma's



son was in intensive care unit with acute dengue and dipping platelet counts. When he asked Sharma, the officer dimissed it saying wife and parents were taking care of the child, and got back to work. ACP Sanjeev Kumar Yadav who led the back-end team in the operation was facing tussle with wife due to his late hours. On the day of the operation too, he had fought with his wife and upon getting a call from office did not think twice before leaving his wife mid way to rush to office.

The writer details the lives of all his team members giving due credits to them, which is very rare in service stories. From constables to officers, the book details their role in the operation unearthing the location of the hiding terrorists by tracing emails and mobile phones, using human intelligence, analysing the previous blasts in Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Surat etc. The writer acknowledges the role of each team mate checking the blast sites, explosive materials, forensic work and digital mapping to the person and how they undertook the recce operations before the shootout.

The writer clears all the doubts on the Batla House encounter in the minds

of many for the past 12 years. There were many questions including why Sharma was not wearing a bullet proof jacket. In their defence, it was a secret operation and the main team was disguised in plain cloth shirts. Batla House is a crowded area and densely populated by Muslims. As it was the festive season, the team decided to strike in the day, as many would be trying to catch up on sleep post night celebrations. Singh and team reached the spot upon hearing about the bullet injuries of Sharma, requisitioning more force and commandos. He details how he entered the encounter spot with a small team, weaving their way through narrow bylanes, past angry crowds.

This book exposes the dark side of Indian politics that works on appeasing minority vote bank. As all the terrorists belonged to a community and hailed from Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh and shoot out location was a densely Muslim populated location in Delhi, the entire political vultures were parading in the

This book is full of so many interesting stories. One terrorist, who left the scene in the morning, got so frightened upon hearing the news of the encounter

that he landed at a TV channel for live show in the evening. Nine bombs had been planted and explosion and diffusion took only in eight areas only. Explosion happened at five areas and bomb diffusion happened in three areas. One bomb did not work and could not be identified. The email claiming the role by Indian Mujahideen (IM) sent to media houses after the first blast claimed nine spots. Book also explains back ground of many terrorists, their role in money making by engaging in kidnapping for ransom, apart from role of radicalising agents.

The writer explains tough laws for dealing with terrorists. One such example is two days after the Delhi Blast, one terrorist Aftab Ansari (already facing death conviction jailed in Kolkata for 2002 American Centre) sent message to Singh saying he wanted to give details of the Delhi blasts. He had been caught by Singh in Delhi in 1995 and was jailed for some years. Once out of jail, he masterminded the American Centre blast and is now facing death conviction from 2005. After consulting Intelligence Bureau, Singh decided not to meet him in Kolkata jail. This episode shows how flimsy are our laws in dealing terrorists

and Ansari is still on appeal against the death conviction. The writer argues for different rules while arresting a person involved in terrorist cases. He says civilian norms on arrest can't be applied to a terrorist, explain the loopholes in it. When a person is arrested, police is mandated to inform relatives or near and dear ones. This is helpful for the other accomplices in the terror operations.

Singh explains the need for the maximum possible information to be shared with media to avoid fake and wrong stories. He explains in detail, how Delhi Police suffered bad press due to the stoppage of press conferences by Home Ministry and how he managed to handle the media by calling people to provide right things.

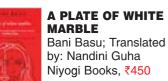
He narrates how a lady journalist and her journalist husband gave valuable inputs on tackling wrong reports being spread in media. The writer explains how he met the Jamia Milia University Vice Chancellor and appraised the exact information. Earlier the Vice Chancellor declared legal help as some students were arrested. Actually the terrorists were living in garb of students and were doing private jobs. After an explanation by

BATLA HOUSE: AN **ENCOUNTER THAT SHOOK THE NATION Karnal Singh** Rupa, ₹29 Singh and DCP Alok Kumar with all evidences, the Vice Chancellor changed the

mind. The writer also explains how he convinced then Union Minister Kapil Sibal with all details, when many ruling party leaders were questioning the Batla House encounter, as Delhi Assembly elections and Lok Sabha elections were nearing. Sibal appraised the facts to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh that

Apart from the thrilling narration of a detailed probe on the blast and identifying the hidden terrorists in six days and executing encounter in a crowded area, that too in daylight, this book explains many others aspects of policing.

This book is a classic book to be placed in Police academies and libraries for reference as it explains how to handle operations and future cases on human rights violation allegations and how to conduct trials. The book also details the history of terror outfits like SIMI, HuJi, IM and their linkages with Pakistan and its ISI funded training and how they radicalise the youth to work against India. Let us hope more declassifications will come from Singh in the future through more books.



First published in 1990 in the original Bengali, *A Plate of White Marble* tells the tale of the 'new woman' of an era that just witnessed the independence of a nation. Bandana, the protagonist, though grieves over her husband's early death, never conforms to the social connotation and ideals of 'widowhood', thanks to her uncle. She dares to begin her life afresh in every possible sense. But naturally, the road proves to be full of thorns as she gradually faces bitterness from many quarters of the society. The only thing she clings to is her son, but once that anchor too is lost, she leaves behind the safe concrete walls of what she used to consider 'home', only to work for a far greater cause — she joins a children's home to work for those who need her the most

> **UTTARA KAANDA** S.L. Bhyrappa Eka, ₹599

In Bhyrappa's Uttara Kaanda, Sita looks back on her lifeabandoned at birth and abandoned again by her husband. Her entire life has been a quest for home, a sense of belonging. When they return from their long exile, Rama is anointed king of Ayodhya, but a pregnant Sita is sent away to live in a forest. Her exile doesn't end. Uttara Kaanda is Sita's soliloquy: O Rama, I loved the pure man you were in your youth, not the man you have become not this man who is shackled by the royal throne. My love for you died sixteen years ago. A master of detail, Bhyrappa mines the ancient epic to humanise characters who have, for centuries, been looked upon as gods beyond reproach, bringing us as close as we'll ever come to understanding them.

A tribute to the frontline protectors

Sashidhar Vempala's book is about the lives and stories of the forest guards who are the real men behind the tiger conservation and the wildlife in India, writes DEEPAK KUMAR JHA

he story of India's wildlife success is incomplete, unless its frontline warriors are part of it. They are the first line of defence in protecting India's precious natural heritage and safeguarding its ecosystems. According to Sashidhar Vempala, author of first of its kind coffee table book, titled The Tigers Behind the Tigers, these men and even women are the unsung heroes of India's conservation success story. Vempala is an acclaimed wildlife photographer, documentary filmmaker, conservationist and a sustainability professional. His films on conservation topics and human wildlife conflict, have won awards at international forums.

The book talks about the lives and stories of the forest guards, who are the real men behind the conservation of tigers and the wildlife of India. The gist of six chapters of the book is that these men in khaki, patrolling the jungles are the real reason the tiger survives today.

All over India, 1,75,000 men and women serve the forests of India, 24x7, striving to protect the amazing natural habitat. Several lose their lives battling poachers of both wood and animals, many are seriously injured in animal attacks, but they go on with a courage and valour that is inspirational. They have learnt the ways of the forest, the sounds, the animals tracks, the secrets and a sense of fearlessness, always bumping into the wild and that too, dangerous ones when on foot.

This book, published during



the Covid pandemic lockdown period, is a collection of pictures and the stories captured during Vempala's work with them and hence it's a tribute to these frontline forest protectors, who are always at the frontlines of wildlife protection in our country.

In a recent conversation with Agenda, Vempala raised apprehensions about the possibility of the big cat being susceptible to Coronavirus when Jim Corbett National Park built quarantine wards. "But what about the forest guards? Are they still on duty?," asked Vempala. But then he goes on to say most guards are under permanent lockdown anyway.

Vempala in his book says each forest has a legend and even the vehicles have their stories. He refers to one such instance in the department bus at Kabini which

has many untold luck stories. Many, who cannot afford the exorbitantly high costs and monopoly of Jungle Lodges and Resorts, have to take this bus. The bus is considered extremely lucky in terms of a good sighting of the wilds when on board.

Each chapter deals with the importance of the frontline workers, who have made it possible to help tigers, lions, elephants, rhinos etc grow in numbers for decades. Saving Tigers on Land, Saving Tigers in the Mangroves, Some Fauna They Save, Human Elephant Conflict, Conflict Within and the Godspeed are the titles which deal separately on subjects and issues like economic valuation of the tiger reserve, gene pool protection services, carbon sequestration, zone of

influence outside the reserve,

anti-poaching camps, the Sunderbans mangroves, some keystone species saved by the fauna along with hundred images.

While the book has notes on

Kaziranga, a separate chapter makes for an interesting read on the human elephant conflict. Vempala talks about a case study in West Bengal where he mentions that for many centuries, elephants have roamed the forest of South West Bengal which has no natural elephant/animal corridor. Yet, the elephants have passed on their knowledge of the routes to their young ones.

Previously, the size of herd of elephant was small -15-20, and total numbers of elephant that roamed the zone was between 30 and 45. This was for the period 1970s-1980s when the forest cover was degraded to some



THE TIGERS Sashidhar Vempala

extent. But in recent time, in the last 35 years, the zone has improved considerably in terms of green cover and the numbers of elephants have also increased to more than 100.

The author narrates the stories of women officers taking care of Nature comprising the wild, the greens and the humans and their vested interests in keeping the cycle going. "No one wants to give up what they get and that's why the solution can only be collective and not conflicting," Vempala narrates, highlighting that the conflict needs immediate mitigation and the

protectors need their powers. While it is understood that animals look for their own meals, there is an interesting chapter on how the wild have their dedicated cooks who besides making

their own meals, also cook for small animals to mighty ele-

phants of the jungles. In the last chapter, Vempala rues about the paltry wages of the guards risking the lives. World over, every year, more than 100 rangers are killed in the line of duty. India loses more forest rangers each year than any other country in the world. Yet, a forest guard in India is rarely felicitated or celebrated.

The book urges us to acknowledge the work of the forest frontiers and details how they work around the clock; what is a forest guards' life like and how they ensure that the tiger and all other wildlife is protected in the forest. The book also mentions that the forest reserve runs on acute shortage of manpower and of available approved positions, they operate at 60 percent, going to as low as 30 percent in some lesser important reserves. Daily wagers form the bulk of the frontline forest force and they supplement the permanent staff of guards and foresters.

Such is Vempala's passion for the constituents of forest, that he founded a nature conservation organisation — Guardbook Conservation Foundation – which works towards forest conservation and supporting the forest guards of India in their duties. Guardbook helps the forest guards not only with boots, jackets and torches but also with powering up camps with solar energy, setting up rainwater harvesting pits and a lot more.

Farm reforms for realising its full potential

There are exigent issues in Indian agriculture. India, despite being the largest milk producer and second largest producer of food in the world, has just 2.3 per cent share in global export market, with low value addition. We process less than 10 per cent of agricultural produce and lose ₹90,000 crore rupees annually due to wastages. 44 per cent of Indian workforce is engaged in agriculture, contributing only 14 per cent to GDP - keeping these people tied in very lowincome traps.

India's agricultural productivity is drastically low even as compared to global counterparts like BRICS; at Chinese yield levels, India could nearly double its production or halve the amount of land devoted to cultivation - freeing up that land for other purposes. So far, the Government's strategy to help the farmers has been to provide subsidies, especially the MSP and input subsidies. However, only 6 per cent of the farmers have benefitted from the fruits of MSP, which mostly happen to be the big farmers; farmers from only few States like - Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana; and mainly for wheat and paddy. Another undesired offshoot of the MSP policy is the excess procurement of food grains by the Government — it has to procure 90 per cent of wheat from Punjab and Haryana — while 62,000 tonnes of food grains was damaged in FCI warehouses between 2011 and 2017.

At the time of independence, facing food deficit, we needed the targeted approach of MSP to increase the production of food grains. cide. In 2019 alone, around inputs and assured price at the

Currently, while having food surplus, we are suffering with the unsustainability of growing water intensive food crops at the lands ill-suited for them, owing also to free water and highly subsidised electricity, resulting in alarming fall of water table in certain States, especially Punjab and Haryana.

If agriculture is to be made profitable, a focus on productivity increase, crop diversifi-cation, exports and food processing is essential, while creating infrastructure for minimising losses.

The productivity trap The productivity differ-

ence between the rainfed agricultural area and irrigated lands is immense. Swaminathan Commission stated that 60 per cent of cropped area falls under rainfed agriculture contributing to only 45 per cent of total agricultural output. Thus, poverty is concentrated and food deprivation acute in this area. Agriculture is a very high-

risk enterprise, much more so for small and marginal farmers which form 86 per cent of Indian farmer community and possess land holdings of less than 2 hectares. It is difficult to make agriculture profitable for them because they are too small for the use of modern implements, suffer from high input cost due to lack of economies of scale, leading to low productivity. Only 40 per cent of them manage access to formal credit, with low penetration of crop insurance. Thus, bearing the brunt of vagaries of nature as well as market volatility of food crops, stuck in the debt trap of money-lenders; these farmers are pushed to sui-



10,000 farmers and farm labourers died by suicide.

The Ashok Dalwai Commission has also called productivity increase as the single most important factor in doubling the income of marginal farmer group.

Contract Farming and FPOs

In the recent policy initiative, the Government has adopted a two-pronged strategy: Contract farming and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO). Contact farming will help the farmers, especially small and marginal farmers to access formal credit, modern implements, technical assistance, low cost

farm gate; thus, increasing crop productivity, avoiding wastage, shielding the farmer from pre and post-production risks. Another benefit of contract farming is selection of crops based on agro-climatic and soil condition of the area, making the agriculture sustainable.

FPOs are registered groups of local farmers — especially small and marginal ones — with a company like management structure. The function of FPOs is to help farmers in pre and post production operations from access to formal credit, inputs, technical assistance to primary processing, marketing, etc. They will also be well placed to negotiate over contract farming or private purchase of food produce with private players. They will be given monetary grant and credit guarantee by the Government to promote local produce. Government has also created Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) of Rs 1 lakh crore for creating postharvest infrastructure, which will be mostly functional by providing interest subvention on such projects; and the Government intends to utilise this Fund through the FPOs.

It will have to be seen how much of this vision is actually implemented on the ground. The sustainability of the FPOs, post Government grant period, shall also be an area of concern. State rights and APMCs

Allegations of encroachment of State rights and federalism are also being made as the Central Government used the entry 33 of the Concurrent List to bring out the farm Acts. It would be interesting to note that none other than Prof MS Swaminathan, the biggest wellwisher of farmers' rights in India, had recommended shifting agriculture to the Concurrent List and creation of a single Indian agriculture market in his report in 2006. While the APMCs were

formed for fair and transparent

price discovery for farmers, they have failed and succumbed to cartelisation, while becoming highly politicised. In return to the mandi fee, the services provided to the farmers are abysmal with no cold storage facility, no facility for grading, sorting, packaging of food produce. Before the onset of e-NAM, the pan India e-trading portal by the Central Government, and push for mandis to connect most weren't providing e-trading facilities. Ashok Gulati, an agricultural expert, has placed an important question in the public domain: instead of fearing the redundancy of APMCs, why don't the State Governments take this opportunity to make them a competitive option for farmers by providing better services at lower price? In fact, we are seeing a trend to that effect -Karnataka has greatly reduced the mandi fee; Punjab and Haryana have reduced the mandi fee for basmati by 50% or more. So, the future of APMCs is to become more efficient and effective and not be wrapped up,

and States must work to that

Farmers vs corporates The reforms in agricul-

ture have also created certain areas of potential hazard to farmer's interests. As restriction for stocking up food is removed, it can lead to big retailers or corporates manipulate prices in the market, often to the disadvantage of the farmers. In contract farming also, corporates can dictate price to farmers and reject produce on the basis of quality, shape, size, colour, etc. Same fear of less negotiating power of farmers vis-à-vis big buyers, during sale of food produce even outside APMC, exists.

Create Market Regulator

While capitalism has taught the world that competition improves quality of options, we are equally aware of tendencies of monopolies forming without any active oversight of State, rendering the competition neither free nor fair. Hence, an independent market regulator and dispute redressal forum (akin to TRAI and TDSAT) must be created for agricultural sector to check unfair practices by corporates and private players and

protect the interests of farmers. Further, if the farmers are to be truly free and agriculture to be made profitable and sustainable — there's still no alternative to Government's own work on the front of setting up cold chain for farmers in villages, implementing more irrigation projects, recharging of aquifers, greater push to extension services and primary processing at farms.

(The author is a public policy analyst and a lawyer, an alumnus of National Law University, Jodhpur) Instead of whipping up the esoteric phobia that the new farm laws will render APMCs redundant, the protesting State **Governments should** take this opportunity to make these sluggish bodies competitive for farmers by providing better services at



SONAL SHUKLA

PERSPECTIVE |

New revolution in making in Kyrgyzstan

are not accidental. The primary reason is that all of them have suddenly ceased in a span of few days. The rag-tag Opposition backed groups are fast occupying Government establishments, including the most prestigious Parliament building of the country. Currently, the protesters are appointing their favourites as mayors, ministers and even Prime Minister. The only problem with these self-declared or mobappointed authorities is that all of them can be overturned by stronger and well-armed groups again. So, there would be no end to such chaos if it persists like this. The safe road ahead is to bring legitimate authorities back to the seat of power as per the law of the land.

However, Kyrgyzstan is no stranger to such calamities as its people had a good experience of Tulip Revolution of 2005 and the resurgence of violence in the year 2010. The Tulip Revolution is also known as the First Kyrgyz Revolution that led to the ouster of President Askar Akayev in early 2005. Going back to the recent history of the country, what we find is the people of Kyrgyzstan had a strong yearning for democracy. The country conducted parliamentary elections on February 27, 2005. The revolution started after the parliamentary elections when Askar's allies came out victorious. But it was alleged that the election was marred by widespread election frauds. In fact, such malpractices were also confirmed by the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) after the election. Thus, a massive protest campaign started to dislodge the corrupt and authoritarian regime of Akayev, who had been ruling the country since the 1990s. The revolution was a turning point for Kyrgyz people as it made them realise that democracy is possible in their country.

The 2010 crisis took place because President Kurmanbek Bakiyev was ousted from power in an uprising on April 7, 2010. His stronghold in the south of Kyrgyzstan witnessed massive violence. During that time, the pro-Bakiyev supporters organised resistance to the interim Government led by President Rosa Otunbayeva by seizing Government buildings and taking officials hostage. What added fuel to the fire was that the sizeable Uzbek community in the country backed the interim Government. Taking advantage of the power vacuum, criminal gangs and

The sudden political unrest and drug mafias aided in sparking communal violence in the southern city of munal violence in the southern city of Osh between Kyrgyz and Uzbek groups. It forced thousands of Uzbeks to flee the to become a sphere of Russian influence region. Most of them had fled to after 1991. Kyrgyzstan, known as the neighboring Uzbekistan only. As per the only democracy in Central Asia, has lit- UN estimate nearly 4,00,000 people erally turned herself into a mobocracy were displaced during this violence. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees regarded the crisis as ethnic clashes. But many say that there was a strong element of Bakiyev in stoking violence across. But only this factor could hardly be blamed for mass killings and indiscriminate fighting among numerous

The current political turmoil started only after the results of the parliamentary election held on October 4 was declared. Interestingly, only four political parties out of 16 have crossed the threshold to claim a seat in the country's Parliament called Supreme Council. This council was earlier known as the Supreme Soviet of the Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic until 1991. Unfortunately, out of all these four parties, three are closely connected to ruling President Sooronbai Jeenbekov. None of the established Opposition parties has even secured a single seat in Parliament. Therefore, all the 12 Opposition parties have come together after the election to reject the results. That is how the current political drama unfolded across the country, mainly in the capital city of Bishkek. The primary charges brought against the pro-Jeenbekov parties are vote-buying and voter intimidation. For now, the authorities have annulled the results of the disputed election, necessitating a re-run of he vote in the country of more than 6.5 million people. What now the protesters are demanding is the immediate impeachment of the President. A group set up by several Opposition parties called as the Peoples Coordination Council Opposition for now has assumed all state powers and dissolved the Parliament. Meanwhile Parliament agreed to nominate Opposition leader Sadyr Zhaparov for the post of Prime Minister. He also aired his view that he would propose a constitutional reform before holding presidential and parliamentary elections within two to three months from now. But he was uncertain about the backing of the coordination council about his candidature because there are strong differences of opinions among all the allies. It was absolutely unclear when Parliament could be convened to approve his appointment as Prime Minister. This all demonstrates that the current situation is too fluid. And there is every possibility that some other leaders might also

claim key political offices. As Prime Minister Kubatbek Boronov resigned, Jeenbekov called for an all-party meeting to resolve the political crisis.

Former President Almazbek Atambayev might play a key role in this crisis. It's very apparent from the series of events that have taken place in and around Bishkek. The mob led by Atambayev's son went to the State Committee for National Security and released his father from the prison. Therefore, Jeenbekov has termed this crisis as an attempt to seize power. Precisely, Zhaparov do not have a clean background and he was sentenced to prison for ten years for taking a person hostage. He is a former MP from the nationalist Ata Jurt Party. Around the same time, some other notorious leaders have also appeared in the scene just to take the advantage of the chaos. Among them the most prominent one Melis Myrzakmatov, who was a former mayor of Osh city, is now back from his self-exile and started gathering his supporters. He is well known for his ultra-nationalistic campaigns in the region wherein ethnic clashes took place in the year 2010. Incidentally, he was the mayor of the Osh when these conflicts took place there.

The problem at the heart of Kyrgyzstan is that it is the poorest nation of the former Soviet Union. There is an acute shortage of natural resources in this country. But after the sudden collapse of the USSR, the country became a gateway of trans-shipment of Chinese goods for the whole post-Soviet republics. And the problem was that since the beginning, no single group or leader could have monopoly over the country's political landscape. It is only the coalitions that have been dominating the political scene so far. But ironically, there is no broad consensus among all these coalition groups. And again, those who were not included in the coalitions have also been able to exert control over some pockets across the country.

Another issue is that in most of the Central Asian Republics, the power of the First Secretary was brought to practice. But this did not materialise in both Kyrgyzstan and in Tajikistan. As a result in Tajikistan, the absence of an efficient leadership led to bloody civil war in that country. When it comes to Kyrgystan, the power calculation was initially stable, but gradually the fissures have come to the fore. In fact, frequent changes of leadership have led to fierce political competition. Many a time, there is insufficient legitimacy of people who are occupying the corridors of power in Bishkek. These have added to

It has been a fortnight since the Kyrgyz people raised the banner of revolt against the October 4 parliamentary election results, which have been annulled for fresh polls. However, aggravating the crisis is Opposition groups' inability to arrive at a consensus on picking up a leader



what we have witnessed today in Kyrgyzstan.

At present, it's simply mob rule. Now, to be pragmatic, Bishkek needs to find a way to hold a fresh parliamentary election. But the worst-case scenario could be a fresh civil war. The chances of such a catastrophe are too high. Too many groups are claiming and re-claiming their leaders as genuine representatives of the people. Better for Kyrgyz people is to see that situation remains under control. The plain and clear message for both the vigilante and the activists is not to destroy public properties in the days to come. After all these are public assets. No one will gain anything by smashing public squares. Of course, they represent symbols of power and authority. But in reality, they are run by the politicians. Hence instead of crushing the physical structures, it is better to change the leaders. And bring back true leaders so that they would be able to safeguard common interests. Finally, it's high moment for Jeenbekov and the rest of the political folk display complete sense and sensibility to save the fragile democracy of this former Soviet republic.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)

Sir Syed Ahmad's pluralistic ethos

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan (1817-1898) is generally misunderstood as a rabid communalist or, at best, a parochial activist who promoted Western education among his co-religionists by founding in 1877 Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College which grew into Aligarh Muslim University in 1920. He was a social reformer who sought to improve morale, ducation and infuse critical thinking and scientific spirit among his country people. Several articles in his Urdu periodical, The Aligarh Institute Gazette, are illustrative of his concern for social reform and enlightenment among the Hindus of the day.

In his following piece with a telling title, "Hindus too should visit England" (Aligarh Institute Gazette, 27 April 1866), against the backdrop of their reservations about sea voyage, he advises: "We recommend all Indians, particularly the competent lawyers, to undertake a visit to England. We should make it a point to sponsor the visit of talented, sincere persons of integrity to England. They will learn there the norms of governance. Their interaction with the British public figures will be of immense benefit to India and Indians.

Equally sagacious is his following advice to Hindu brethren, published in Aligarh Institute Gazette, October 29, 1868: "Your plight is owing to your low morale while you keep blaming others. Would you like to remain in the same mess forever? We believe that if Hindus persist in their superstitions, other communities in the country will outpace them and assume honour and power. Hindus will only then regret, full of remorse. We are confident that their giving up superstitions will accrue to them very rich dividends."

Against the backdrop of the British policy of "divide and rule" by creating discord among Hindu and Muslims, he instructed them to live in harmony. "India is inhabited by the adherents of many religions. Hostility on the grounds of their religious diversity mars their relationship. They have turned more antagonistic to one another by the day. As citizens of the same country let us have cordial relations, good

conduct and treat one another well as fellow countrymen. We cannot have a single religion for the whole country. However, this should not give rise to intolerance and bigotry...We Indians are afflicted with such sectarian hostility that we have turned into foes, forgetting all of our common ties. Those guilty of it are utterly foolish. This foolishness will disgrace

us and our country

Female infanticide, remarriage of widows as a taboo, and child marriage vitiated the then Hindu society. Far from demonising Hindus and placing the blame at the door of Hinduism, Sir Syed exhorted them to reflect on these issues and act in a logical, humane way: "Our fellow countrymen oppose the remarriage of widows. So doing, they violate the laws of nature. This prohibition is against the will of the creator of this world."

On receiving reports about cordial inter-caste programmes in Punjab, he delightfully remarked: "We are proud of those gentlemen in Punjab who have eliminated intercaste segregation and forged a bond among all. Let our other Hindu brethren emulate this practice. This will bring about real progress and happiness in our country.

He spoke highly of those Bhargavas, Thakurs, Vaishyas, Chaturvedi's, Chaubeys, Jats and Brahmins who had set up educational institutions in Agra, Bareilly, and western UP: "Out Hindu brethren have excelled us, while we sit idly. They have paid special attention to promoting education."

Equally gratified he was to note Rajputs having meals together with members of other castes, as mentioned in Aligarh Institute Gazette, January 3, 1873: "In Jaipur, food was served. All of them sitting on the same table took it. Rajputs joined, without any reservation."

Being an educationist, he realised the importance of interaction and academic excellence which could take the country to greater heights. He urged: "Let all patriots note that if you have a sincere love of your country, you should encourage overseas education. This will sensitize our youths to the latest happenings in the world, boost their morale and Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was one of the most outstanding gems India produced in the 19th century. The rationalist, moralist and humanist dynamic force who devoted his life in promoting modern scientific education, particularly among Muslims, is often forgotten about his pluralistic vision. On his . 203rd birth anniversary on October 17, it is time to remember that Sir Syed was a bridge builder between



ABDUR RAHEEM KIDWAI

reinforce their confidence."

Sir Syed had cordial relations, notwithstanding occasional ideological differences, with the leading reformers of the day. He paid glowing tributes in his writings and speeches to Raja Ram Mohan Roy (1774-1823), Dadabhai Naoroji (1825-1917), Sir Surender Nath Banerji (1848-1925), Keshab Chandra Sen (1834-1884), Swami Dayanand Saraswati (1824-1883) Lala Lajpat Rai (1865-1928), Raja Shiv Prasad (1824-1985) and Bhartendu Babu Harish Chandra (1850-1885). Sir Syed brought out for

years an Urdu periodical aptly titled Tahzeebul Akhlaq (Social Reformer) which upheld the ideals of pluralism, peaceful coexistence, critical thinking civic sense and self-respect. In the words of noted historian Professor Mushirul Haque, "As a Muslim, he considered it his duty to help the Muslims; as an Indian, he made it a point to work for the good of the whole country. There was no ambiguity in his concept of nation."

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







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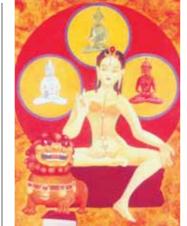




ARIES March 21-April 19

This week is a good time to enjoy your health and add extra charm to your persona. You are cheerful, hopeful, and full of life. You take good care of yourself, and the people you are concerned with. Compromising on health issues is not advisable. Balancing in your work and relations is important. On the career front, be cautious if you are in a job. Follow the discipline and set rules of the organisation you are working with, else be ready to face some displeasure of your seniors. Businessmen should be careful in their money transactions. There are conflicts and confrontations which may make you lose your calm. On the personal front, you may get involved in a great relationship. You are likely to be in a romantic mood.

Lucky number 10 Lucky colour Golden Lucky day Sunday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

You are a very positive, creative, and happy go lucky person. This is reflected in your personality. It is an excellent time to flaunt your charm and enjoy the path of personal development. The completeness, sense of vitality and peace in mind will make you very efficient this week. On the career front, you are confident and ready to face any challenges that come your way. You may win and earn accolades for your performance this week. You will be in your senior's good book. Do not let this success get into your head. On the relationship front, be careful as there are chances of counterfeit love. Investigate before you take any final decision. Existing relations should clear the doubts and confusions, if any, to avoid misunderstanding in future.

Lucky number 14 Lucky colour Green Lucky day Friday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

You are likely to change your mind about something that you think is wrong with you physically. Do not ignore what your doctor has told you. Those suffering from serious ailments need to be under the constant observation of doctors. Others also need prevention from seasonal ailments, which might aggravate if timely attention is not taken. On the work front, confusion about whether to leave the present job, start a business, or some undesirable circumstances is likely to occupy your mind. Changing your field would gets you nowhere. Find out your interest and potentials. This is the time to be firm in your decisions and keep your ears and eyes open. On the personal front, there exits hope and happiness on the emotional level, along with a sense of security.

Lucky number 11 Lucky colour Brown Lucky day Monday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week you need a break from normal life. There is a need to slow down from the hectic work pace and relax. Do not push yourself when you are tired, it may cause illness and injury. On the career front, you have the benefits of your communication both verbal or written and will get the good news regarding your career. Businessmen can acquire a secure position monetarily. Those in service will get the support of their seniors and boss this week, which is likely to prove a stepping stone in their career. Be cautious, stay focused on what you want to achieve. On the personal front, a new beginning and higher expectations are on the cards. This is the time when you need not put extra efforts in the relationship

Lucky number 8 Lucky colour Pastel colours Lucky day Wednesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week work at balancing your chakras or your body, mind, and spirit. Pay adequate attention to all three. Meditation, *Pranayam* and walk in the nature would work wonderfully. The benefits are far greater than any effort you can put in. Professionally, connections with new people, especially people from other lands, will be beneficial. This is the time to make new business deals, sign new projects and assignments. Crack your potential. Stars are favouring you. Creativity, change, and development are the themes of the week. On the personal front, new ideas and plans will help you to revitalise your relations with the loved ones. Love is in the air and you are in full mood to express your feelings. This is a good time to make relations.

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Yellow Lucky day Thursday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week take some time out for yourself. You are on the right track now, keep doing what you are doing. Learn more about rituals from the past. They will deepen your spiritual understanding and practice and help you to bring balance. On the career front, lots of activity, getting things accomplished is on the cards. You may make your peers look bad. You don't feel tired; being workaholic is your passion. Keep your behaviour in check, there are chances of using harsh words that create a hostile situation around you. Maintain your cool and equilibrium whatever the situation, that quality will add a feather in your career. On the relationship front, if you are currently committed, it may well rise to new and better heights

Lucky number 13 Lucky colour Peach Lucky day Tuesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Listen to your body with great care and attention. You are either overeating or starving yourself to lose weight. Both situations are bad for health. Bringing balance in food habits not only helps you to maintain your weight but it gives you a confident mindset. You are otherwise hale and hearty, enjoy the week. On the work front, investment done in the past is coming to fruition this week. This can be literal such as a bank account returning money to you. You will be reaping what you have sown. You are in the good books of your senior and soon there will be rewards. On the personal front, love and emotions will take back seat. You prefer isolation. Those committed must stay connected with their time to keep the spark alive.

Lucky number 17 Lucky colour Sky Blue Lucky day Wednesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

You need to balance your health efforts with your personal and professional responsibilities. Make sure that you are taking time out for your self, for rest and healing. If you put yourself last on the list of things, your health will suffer. Make sure to take adequate rest and sleep, too. On the professional front, if you are looking for a job, you have the ability and the skill to find it. If you are already employed, you will find a better position. If there's no room for a promotion in the current job, give serious thought to finding something where there is this possibility. On the relationship front, if you are committed don't hesitate to speak your mind to your beloved. You stand with pride and express your feelings. This will only improve your relationship.

Lucky number 19 Lucky colour Black Lucky day Saturday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you are likely to feel stressed out. You may be suppressing your emotions, and this will impact your body negatively. Be careful how, when, and where you vent your emotional reactions. Work to reduce your stress level. Think positive. Stay calm and connected. Anger is a silent killer. On the career front, tension is indicated. Be positive, this is a temporary phase. If you are trying for a job change, this is the right time. Making plans only will not help, execute them with sincerity. You have the potential to achieve the desired position. On the personal front, the time is right for soul-searching and discovery of the inner realms. It is a very positive time for you and an excellent opportunity to strengthen relationships.

Lucky number 22 Lucky colour Blue Lucky day Sunday



couple of years back, a very dear

friend sought appointment for his

estranged wife. Though they had

separated, they remained good friends.

The lady offered her birth particulars,

based on which her astrological chart

moment of consultation. The ruling

planets emerging at that that moment

did not match with those of the chart

drawn against birth particulars provided

by her. It implied that the birth particu-

lars were not right. In the Krishnamurty

check whether the birth chart is right. I

then asked the lady: "Are your birth particulars correct?" "Yes", she affirmed.

There was no fun in arguing with her. So,

I made all my observations based on

consultation reflected. After having

went home. She then called up and

good astrologer.

what the chart drawn at the moment of

answer to her questions, she satisfactorily

thanked ex-husband for leading her to a

that the lady was quite happy with you.

birth particulars she furnished." He was

left aghast when I shared the birth par-

He then asked me: "Please tell me the

My friend then called me informing

system, there is a proven method to

was drawn. I, then, drew the chart at the

CANCER June 21-July 22

Tension and depression might take toll leaving you exhausted and under-confident person. Reading, meditation, and light exercises will give you relief and good sleep will help improve your state of mind. Uncertainties and confusion in life will melt away if you have a positive and creative mind. On the work front, you need to make some quick decisions. Make sure your intelligence and logic are used for a good cause Do not waste your time in disputes. Solution for a problem is already there or will come soon. On the personal front, work with a cool mind rather than the raging heart. If you are already in a relationship, this can be a make-or-break period. This is a time to get very clear about what you want out of your relationships, and then take steps accordingly.

Lucky number 21 Lucky colour White Lucky day Monday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

On the health front, you seek to self-validate and believe in your talents. Your motto of a diseases-free, happy family will get you busy. It is time to see how totally different and wonderful things can be. Professionally, you are positive and will try to bring love and compassion in your work. You are highly intuitive too. People are amazed to see this persona of you. This is a time to focus on your goals and targets. Be firm and determined. Those in business need to be tough in the money transactions. On the personal front, mind, heart, and emotions are going in different ways. This is a highly emotional time in love relationships. Things can quickly become heated. Treat your lover like a friend. Don't be in a hurry to end or to begin a relationship.

Test of astrologer/astrology

Lucky number 15 Lucky colour Grey Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week keep your stress level under control to stay in good health. Deal with any problems that come up physically, don't try to avoid them. Be sure to get enough rest. If you need healing, ask for it. Sensitive people need caring, nurturing, massage, and hugs from dear friends which will go a long way toward keeping them healthy. On the career front, other people may oppose your new ideas or proposals, but if you know that you are right to go ahead. You are enthusiastic, full of energy and want to put your best, but others are not taking it positively. Leave your simplicity behind, be smart and little articulate. On the personal front, your relationship will move into a lighter, easier, and more balanced phase when you are sure of yourself

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Red Lucky day Thursday

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ASTROTURF BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

ticulars she had furnished. "Sir, she gave you wrong birth particulars. It was the one given to me at time of marriage to hide her actual date of birth. Later, I found her true horoscope. How come, your observations were so apt, even though she did not furnish her true birth particulars?" "Well, I ignored the birth chart, and instead counted on what the

astrological chart at the moment of con-

sultation reflected". I replied. "How can the chart drawn at the moment of consultation reveal her state of affairs so correctly?" He countered. "Remember, there is continuum in time. What one is faced at a particular moment is culmination of doing and undoing in the past. Seeded in the present moment is how future is expected to unfold. The chart at the moment of consultation, reveals what prevails in your mind, and the way it is going to progress in the emerging times. If you know that you are planting a mango seed, being aware of its chemistry, you may be able to figure out the timeline of its progressive growth. The astrological chart at the moment makes aware of the potential seeded in mind, which makes it possible to foresee the impending future events."



We are often faced with such challenging encounters in our professional life, particularly in marriage matching. It has been observed that many parents of girls in marriageable age, fudge their birth particulars so that it matches with the groom's chart, to seal the marriage. They though hasten their girl's marriage, but with what end? In their rush to shed their responsibility, they don't care for their own daughter's marital happiness. When problems arise, the groom side comes with the question: "Sir, we had done matching before the marriage. Yet, why is it not working?" When cross checked, it comes out that the girl's chart

Recently, I came across such a situation when hassled parents of a newly married son came the other day with their charts. They asked me to suggest some puja that may help restore his marital happiness. Well, marital discord is always because of attitudinal differences of the partners. So, problem is seeded in their minds. How can any pundit invade their mind space through *puja* to make necessary attitudinal correction? They have to self-correct themselves to ensure marital happiness.

A look into the boy's chart revealed

that he had an inflated ego — bound by his own self-defined do's and don'ts coming as it may with Mars conjunct Uranus, opposite Jupiter. He can't digest anything happening at variance with his own beliefs and perceptions. Being tactless and undiplomatic, his ill-timed and ill-framed reactions often unnerves others. When I looked at the girl's chart, it was found fudged. After making necessary correction, the chart revealed her true nature.

She was born in Gemini lagna. The sign lord Mercury conjunct Sun and Jupiter were in the *lagna*, opposite erratic Uranus, mischievous Neptune and Saturn in the marriage signifying 7th house. Debilitated Moon was opposite Venus. It implied that the girl lived in her own delusionary perceptions, distanced from ground realities. She wished to live exclusively on her own terms, least bothered about other's sensibilities and concerns. Her sense of reasoning and judgment would be impaired. If things don't move her way, she may go wild. The result is there to see.

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