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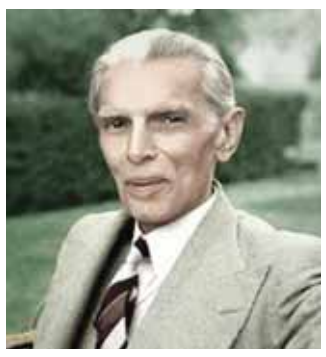
USUALSUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

No need to rewrite Jinnah's history

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Covid cases, daily count drop sharply

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Chairing the meeting to review the Covid-19 pandemic situation and the preparedness of vaccine delivery, distribution, and administration, the Prime Minister noted a steady decline in the daily cases and the growth rate but he insisted on continued social distancing and Covid-appropriate behaviour such as wearing the mask, regularly washing hands and sanitation, especially in the wake of the upcoming festival season.

"The Prime Minister directed that we should make use of experience of successful conduct of elections and disaster management in the country. In a similar manner, vaccine delivery and administration systems should be put in place. This should involve the participation of States/UTs/district-level functionaries, civil society organisations, volunteers, citizens, and experts from all necessary domains. The entire process should have a strong IT backbone and the system should be designed in such a manner so as to have a lasting value to our healthcare system," a PMO statement said.

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

The PMO said two pan-India studies on the Genome of SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19 virus) in India conducted by ICMR and Department of BioTechnology (DBT) suggest that the virus is genetically stable and there is no major mutation in the virus.

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

The PMO said three vaccines are in advanced stages of development in India, out of which two are in Phase II and one is in Phase-III and Indian scientists and research teams are collaborating and strengthening the research capacities in neighbouring countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Mauritius, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

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

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL
CASES: 74,86,714
DEATHS: 1,13,779
RECOVERED: 65,87,287
ACTIVE: 7,84,454

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

This will be a multi-centre and randomised controlled study, which will include safety and immunogenicity check, the Hyderabad-based drug major said in a statement.

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

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

JMM, Cong target State BJP MPs for 'partisan approach, silence'

CM asks: when will State get its funds?

PNS ■ RANCHI

Continuing his attack on the Central Government after the Union Power Ministry recovered Rs 1417.50 crore in the head of outstanding dues for power supplies from the State Government's account maintained with the RBI, Cief Minister Hemant Soren, his party JMM and coalition partner in the Government Congress today mocked at the BJP MPs from the State for their silence over the issue.

Notably, according to the ruling coalition the Centre owes over Rs 75,582 crore to the State and in the COVID times the economic status of Jharkhand has come to a poor state despite the fact that the State has been supplying minerals to the whole country.

"There are 12 MPs from Jharkhand in the ruling NDA, but what a shame that no one has a voice on the persistent partisanship against the people of Jharkhand. Today, the money of the rights of Jharkhandis was immediately deducted by the Central Government - but when will our money be returned to us?" tweeted the CM is on Saturday.

"Why are all the BJP members sitting silent on this. Why did their minds not stir up on this barbarism happening to Jharkhand and the common Jharkhandis? And the dues that the Center is cutting today are the result of their own silly, dictatorial five-year rule where they brought the State's treasury to near zero.

Chief Minister Hemant Soren, Agriculture Minister Badal offer prayers at Baba Baidyanath Temple during a programme in Deoghar on Saturday Pioneer photo

Since then, we have not only won the fight against Coronavirus with our limited resources, but are moving towards fulfilling our promises as soon as possible. It is the result of our last nine months of work that the BJP is forced to do such activities today," he tweeted further.

JMM General Secretary Vinod Pandey also called a press conference and said that the Centre has a partisan approach towards Jharkhand. He said that the Central assistance during Covid times to the State almost came to a standstill. And, despite repeated requests from the State for its dues the Centre did not give any money to the State. On the other hand the Centre deducted DVC's dues from the State government's account.

Meanwhile, State Congress Spokesperson, Ajay Nath Shahdeo said that the Modi government at the Center is treating Jharkhand like an enemy. Instead of helping it in a serious situation, the Central government is constantly giving Jharkhand a step-motherly treatment. He said that the State's economic situation is already very bad due to the epidemic and the Central Government is cheating the people of Jharkhand by misusing its powers.

Shahdev said that the Modi government owes Rs 74582 crore to Jharkhand. They deducted their money but not thinking of returning the State's money.

"The country's industries are run by the minerals of Jharkhand. Our coal gives electricity to the whole country and we are the only one who are facing a fund crisis. If there is a little bit of shame left, then they should give us our share of the money as soon as possible," he said.

Covid-19 tally in State draws close to 96K

CM seeks updates on Edu Min's health

PNS ■ RANCHI

The Covid-19 tally drew close to 96,000 in Jharkhand after as many as 542 people, including 242 in Ranchi alone, were found infected on Saturday, figures released by the health department stated.

The Covid tally in Ranchi, which accounted for nearly half of the cases on Saturday, shot up to 23,948. Despite achieving a recovery rate close to 90 per cent, Ranchi had around 2300 active cases of Covid-19 infection on Saturday evening.

Chief Minister Hemant Soren, Agriculture Minister Badal Patralekh alongwith others before a meeting with Chief Secretary Sukhdeo Singh, Dr Vijay Mishra (Medica Hospital) at his official residence in Ranchi on Saturday Pioneer photo

Meanwhile, eight more people died of the viral infection on Saturday, taking the Covid toll in the state up at 832, government data said.

At least four of the eight Covid victims were from East Singhbhum, the district which has seen 323 Covid casualties so far, the highest among all districts in Jharkhand. East Singhbhum, however, reported only 66 fresh cases of infection and 55 recoveries, taking the number of active cases in the district up at 1360.

Chief minister Hemant Soren on Saturday met doctors, who are treating Education Minister Jagarnath Mahto at Bhagwan Mahavir Medica Superspecialty Hospital in Ranchi, and sought updates from them on the medical condition of the minister. Soren also sought suggestions from doctors regarding alternate treatments that could help Mahto recover faster.

At least five ministers in Jharkhand have been infected by Covid-19 virus so far. Health Minister Banna Gupta, Agriculture Minister Badal Patralekh, and Drinking Water and Sanitation Minister Mithilesh Thakur have overcome Covid-19 infection. Minority Welfare Minister Haji Hussain Ansari died a day after testing negative for Covid-19, while Mahto is said to be critical and admitted in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of Medica hospital.

The Jharkhand government has so far collected swab samples of 28.42 lakh people and tested 28.27 lakh of them for Covid-19. On Saturday, health workers collected swab samples of 22,569 people and tested 20,952 of them. While 95,967 people have tested positive for Covid-19 so far in Jharkhand, 88,559 of them have recovered. As many as 6576 people were battling the infection across Jharkhand on Saturday, as per latest figures with the state health department.

As per government data, Jharkhand Covid-19 mortality rate was 0.86 per cent against the national average of 1.50 per cent. The Covid recovery rate in the state was 92.28 per cent against the national Covid recovery rate of 87.80 per cent. The doubling rate of Covid-19 infection in Jharkhand was 113.5 days against the national average of 80.78 days. The growth rate of the infection in Jharkhand during the past one week was 0.61 per cent against the national average of 0.86 per cent.

9.9 lakh lt liquor seized in dry Bihar ahead of election

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

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

While more than 2.54 lakh people having criminal background have been put on notice, there has been a seizure of ₹16.81 crore of unaccounted money, including about 90 lakh Nepalese currency. Raids and checks have also yielded a huge quantity of contraband drugs including 956.625 kg poppy, 106.825 kg hashish, 10.5 kg poppy rolls, 40 packet smacks, 150 gram brown sugar.

The revelation was made in a seizure report of the Election Commission (EC).

Global Hunger Index: India at 94th among 107 nations

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 category. 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.

CAPSULE

BENGAL WOMAN LYNCHED ON 'THEFT' SUSPICION

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

9 KILLED IN PILIBHIT JEEP-BUS ACCIDENT

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

HOME THEATRE

Must watch for dog parents

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

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

If you are not a dog lover, this series that takes off where the first one ended — a street pup — Boxer being thrown out of pup academy for bringing in other street dogs into the academy who then wreaked havoc may have a change of heart.

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

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

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

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

— Shalini Saksena

Plan Your Day

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

Price: ₹310 plus GST

Navratri Special Thali (*Malai paneer tikka* two pcs, *kuttu puri* two, *paneer makhani/shahi*, *falahari kofta*, *aloo tamatar subzi*, *samvat pulao*, salad, *raita*, *sabudana papad*, *vrat wale aloo*/banana chips & sweet)

Price: ₹440 plus GST

Real emotions are revealed

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

K-pop made its presence felt back in 2012 when Psy released his single — *Gangnam Style*. The song had gone viral and propelled Psy into instant stardom. Since then K-pop has become a must-listen for all music lovers. So it is not surprising that when the all-woman band came into the scene with their debut album *Square One* after a gap of seven years launched by YG Entertainment, the group won its first award during a musical programme for Whistle at Inkigayo, becoming the girl group that won the award the fastest. Since then the album's tracks have since surpassed 1.73 billion streams worldwide.

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

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

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

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

— Shalini Saksena

TELLY TALE

IT'S CHAMPI TIME

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

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

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

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 Rajeev for being a phenomenal co-star, Radhika Anand for penning this marvelous script, Anil Sir and of course Bodhi Tree Productions for bringing this fabulous concept to life. And last but not the least, a big thank you to Voot Select for giving me a fantastic platform to showcase my talent. I look forward to delivering more of such impactful performances and will continue to dedicate myself to each character that I bring alive on screen."

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

DANCE WITH THE SISTERS

It's official! This festive season, the dancing divas and absolute sensations — Shakti and Mukti Mohan will be seen donning a new hat. That's right! In Zee Café's all new show, *Dance With Me*, the Mohan sisters will set the floor ablaze as the celebrity dance experts. Rumor has it that the talented duo will jazz things up engaging with fans via fun hook 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 festive season.

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

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

SINHA FAMILY ON KAPIL SHOW

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

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

The episode will definitely be a joyful ride for the viewer and to add to the fun and entertainment quotient, Krushna Abhishek and Kiku 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 Manek, who was then replaced by Bhattacharjee. Ask her if it is challenging to step in to the shoes of an already established character, she says that for her the role was as new as it can be.

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

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

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

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

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Do not take Corona infection lightly: CM

Soren unveils new DMC building, lays foundation of water supply project

PNS ■ RANCHI

Chief Minister Hemant Soren today appealed to the people of State not to take Corona infection lightly and remain alert. The CM, who was in Deoghar to inaugurate the new Municipal Building and lay foundation of Urban Water Supply Project on Saturday, urged people to follow government guidelines to fight the pandemic.

The CM urged everyone, "We all need to be alert in view of the outbreak of Corona infection at present. The most important thing is to cover the face and nose with a mask or handkerchief and keep a distance of two to four meters from one person to another and avoid close gatherings. Be sure to wash your hands with soap or handwash at short intervals with special attention to hygiene."

"Today, in the midst of this adverse situation, we are all engaged in making the State normal and this is the reason why the Baba Mandir was also closed due to the health security and helplessness of the people, which is now slowly being opened. Apart from this, efforts are being made to make them strong and self-supporting by providing micro financial assistance under the Pradhan Mantri Swanidhi Yojana for the convenience of the affected people due to the outbreak and lockdown of Covid-19," said the CM.

Chief Minister Hemant Soren hands over a cheque to a beneficiary under Pradhan Mantri Svanidhi Scheme during a programme in Deoghar on Saturday Pioneer photo

Greeting people on the occasion, Soren said that after a long time he has got an opportunity to visit Deoghar. "Today is a special day for the residents of Deoghar. For the convenience of all of you, you have got a grand Municipal Corporation office, as well as the foundation stone of the Deoghar Urban Water Supply Project for Baba Nagari. Deoghar city is also the cultural Capital of the State of Jharkhand.

In this way, a comprehensive plan has been prepared for water supply scheme in 100 per cent of all the 36 wards by improving the partial water supply already running in Deoghar city. Our government has set a target to connect every village in Jharkhand with drinking water by 2022," he said. Secretary, Urban Development and Housing Department, Vinay Choubey said that on the occasion of Kalash Sthapana today, the Municipal Corporation building costing Rs 21.12 crore has been inaugurated by the CM in Baba Nagri Deoghar. Municipal corporation buildings will also be built in other municipal bodies. Apart from this, the foundation stone of Deoghar Urban Water Supply Scheme was laid to provide pure drinking water to every household, so that all the 36 wards of Deoghar Municipal Corporation area can be connected with the connection of pure drinking water.

After the launch of Chief Minister Shramik Yojana on 14th August, today the second link has been started by the CM from Deoghar district. After the program, Chief Minister Hemant Soren reached Baba temple and prayed before Baba Baidyanath and wished for prosperity of the state.

Agriculture Minister Badal, Municipal Commissioner Shailendra Kumar Lal, Deputy Development Commissioner, Sanjay Kumar Sinha, Sub-Divisional Officer Dinesh Kumar Yadav and others were present on the occasion.

JPCC holds strategic meeting for Bermo bypoll

PNS ■ RANCHI

A special strategic meeting was held in view of the Bermo Assembly by-election under the chairmanship of Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee (JPCC), Chief, Rameshwar Oraon.

The meeting was attended by party executive president Keshav Mahato Kamlesh, Manas Sinha, Sanjay Lal Paswan, organization in-charge Ravindra Singh, spokesperson Amulya Neeraj Khalkho among others.

JPCC President cum Finance Minister Rameshwar Oraon holds meeting with party senior leaders ahead of the Dumka and Bermo by-election in Ranchi on Saturday Ratan Lal I Pioneer

Oraon discussed the strategy of State congress committee level election preparation by taking feedback of the first executive presidents Keshav Mahato Kamlesh, Manas Sinha and organization in-charge Ravindra Singh visited Bermo Assembly constituency on Friday. JPCC Chief said that the Bharatiya Janata Party's workers and anti-peasants and the Central Government's step-motherly behaviour with the State should be taken to the last person of Bermo Assembly area.

As per the decision in the meeting, a special electoral preparation meeting was called on October 19, at the Jardih Election Office at 12 noon with the party's state level leaders and MLAs. In the meeting, it was decided to camp two MLAs of the party in each of the Blocks of Bermo Assembly constituency, as well as deputation of prominent leaders of the state Congress with special responsibility in campaigning.

It was also decided during the meeting to contact the last voters of the area in an intensive election campaign by coordinating with the party leaders and workers of the Bermo Assembly constituency.

The State unit party president gave the responsibility to Executive President Keshav Mahto Kamlesh, Manas Sinha and organization in-charge Ravindra Singh to appoint key leaders of the party in the election work at the panchayat level as per the need based on the political equation of the region.

Oraon said the officials should coordinate with members of the party's trade organization INTUC. At the same time, the party president said that I myself and all the ministers and MLAs of the party will campaign in favor of the alliance candidate Bansat Soren while exercising equal responsibility in Dumka assembly by-election and will ensure victory of Congress-JMM alliance in both the seats. .

Meanwhile, Oraon said that the Central Government should consider increasing the wage rate for MGNREGA labourers of Jharkhand.

He said that the construction work has not been accelerated during the Corona infection period, in the tribal-dominated states like Jharkhand, a large number of people are getting employment from the MGNREGA schemes. Inflation has increased throughout the Country; employment opportunities have come down, in view of this, it is necessary to increase the wages of MGNREGA.

Oran said that in many states of the Country, the MGNREGA wage rate is up to Rs 300, while in Jharkhand only Rs 194 is being paid.

Active Covid-19 cases drop below 100 in 7 districts

Lowest active cases in Lohardaga

PNS ■ RANCHI

The number of active cases of Covid-19 infection has dropped below 100 in at least seven of 24 districts in Jharkhand, while two of these seven districts have less than 50 active cases of infection, reveals data compiled by the National Health Mission (NHM).

A medic collects a sample from a girl for COVID-19 test, amid the ongoing Unlock 5.0, in Ranchi on Saturday Vinay Murmu I Pioneer

As per latest data with the NHM, Lohardaga, a largely rural district about 80 kilometers North West of Ranchi, had only 20 active cases of Covid-19 infection on Saturday, the least among all the districts in Jharkhand. Sahibganj in Santhal Pargana had only 49 active Covid-19 cases. Pakur had 60 active cases, while Palamu had 62 active cases of infection and Garhwa had 90 active cases, the NHM figures further highlight.

Backward districts, which are home to mostly poverty-stricken tribal families, have reported fewer active cases of Covid-19 infection than the districts that have a strong urban population, health officials said.

Doctors attribute the rapid fall in the number of active cases in backward districts to lack of pollution and healthy lifestyle of residents. "Villagers do not socialize as much as urban residents. Their immune system is also stronger than the ones living in concrete jungles, so it is not surprising that the number of active cases has dropped below 100 in the districts that are dominated by rural areas," said Dr. Ajay Singh, state coordinator of Indian Medical Association (IMA).

Most of the districts in Santhal Pargana division had fewer active cases of Covid-19 infection than the districts in other divisions of Jharkhand. Government figures highlight that at least four of the six districts in the Santhal Pargana division had less than 100 active cases of infection. The remaining two districts in the division, Dumka and Jamtara, had 131 and 106 active cases of Covid-19 infection respectively.

There were 65 patients of Covid-19 in Deoghar, a district in Santhal Pargana, on Saturday. Pakur and Sahibganj also fall in the Santhal region of Jharkhand, which is dominated by the Santhali tribes and is yet to see the horizon of development. Godda, another district in the division, had 90 active cases of Covid-19 infection.

As per government records, all the aforementioned districts have reported more than 1000 cases of Covid-19 infection, and registered a recovery rate of more than 90 per cent. However, urban districts like Ranchi and East Singhbhum still had more than 1000 active cases of Covid-19 infection. As per latest figures with the government, as many as 2,457 people were battling the mysterious virus in Ranchi and 1,374 were battling it in East Singhbhum. There were 6,543 active cases across Jharkhand, as per NHM figures updated on Saturday afternoon.

State students shine in NEET 2020

Jarubii Akansha of JVM Shyamali becomes Ranchi topper

Successful students of NEET 2020 with DPS, Ranchi Principal Ram Singh on Saturday Pioneer photo

PNS ■ RANCHI/ BERMO

The National Testing Agency (NTA) declared the results for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) on Friday evening and students from across the State have yet again proved their mettle and cleared the exam with flying colours. The NEET examination is the single entry point for MBBS and BDS courses.

Jarubii Akansha, a student of Jawahar Vidya Mandir Shyamali scored a total of 708 marks out of 720 and became the State topper with an AIR-204.

About 16 students from the school have cleared the NEET 2020 exam. Sumit Pal scored 675 marks and got AIR 943 while Saumya got an AIR 1163.

Principal Samrjeet Jana addressed the successful students as corona warriors and said that it is the sheer hard work of the students, parents and teachers which has paid off. Pratik Singh from Delhi Public School, Ranchi secured an admirable AIR 303 while Anima qualified the exam with an AIR 369. Pratyush Singh, Ashima Singh, Shirsh Jaurihar were amongst the other students from the school to clear the exam.

Principal Ram Singh congratulated the students and appreciated them for their efforts and said it is a major milestone in the record of DPS Ranchi.

As many as four students of Sarla Birla Public School, Ranchi qualified the NEET (UG) 2020- Abhinav Akash, Aditya Roy Choudhary, Soumya Sinha and Neha Adarsh brought laurels to the school.

School Head Personnel and Admin Pradin Verma appreciated the hard work put in by the parents, teachers and students. Principal Paramjit Kaur congratulated the successful candidates and said that it is sheer hard work that has borne such sweet fruit for the students.

More than 65 students of Oxford Public School, Ranchi achieved outstanding success in NEET 2020. Gangadhar Prasad Verma was the top scorer from the school with 646 marks followed by Lekhraj Saw with 610 marks. The former got AIR 4580 while the latter received AIR 14489. Bhanvi Kumari, Riya Sharma and Saloni Sharma were amongst the other successful students.

Chairman Dr SBP Mehta and Principal Suraj Sharma congratulated the students and wished for their bright future.

More than 40 students of DPS Bokaro have cracked NEET (Medical) 2020 with Adyasha Mishra taking the top honour securing 667 marks out of 720 and 1487 rank in the country.

Priyanshu Raj with a score of 647 secured AIR- 4384, Sourav Pandey with a score of 641 secured AIR-5652 followed by Pratyush Singh with a score of 635 secured AIRA.S. Gangwar, Principal of DPS Bokaro stated that even during these trying times, students have balanced their studies and have once again proved their mettle in the examination.-726.

CCL boosts efforts to provide safety to its workforce

PNS ■ RANCHI

In an attempt to ensure safety for its workforce so that accidents could not take place, a virtual brainstorming session on safety chaired by Central Coalfield Limited (CCL), Chairman cum Managing Director (CMD) PM Prasad was successfully organized at the company headquarters in the State Capital on Saturday.

CCL CMD PM Prasad alongwith senior officials during a meeting at CCL in Ranchi on Saturday Pioneer photo

The session was attended by Director Technical (Operation), VK Srivastava, Director (Finance), NK Agarwal and other General Managers and HoDs of various departments. The General Managers of various operational areas of the company joined the session via video conferencing.

Discussions on various topics pertaining to safety in mines took place in the session. Prasad said that safety of workforce is of paramount importance and every effort should be undertaken to ensure that the company becomes accident free. He reiterated that all the relevant safety parameters and Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) should be adhered. He also instructed that all the statutory personnel working in mines should regularly update their work-related registers.

Members of CCL safety board also took part in the session and expressed their opinions and gave suggestions on Mines safety.

General manager, (Safety and Rescue), SV Marathe gave a powerpoint presentation on Occupational safety, Health and working condition Code 2020 and other safety related aspects. The members present in the meeting discussed how to adopt best practices in safety and ensuring coal production in a safe environment.

All the safety protocols related to Covid pandemic were adhered. Everybody present wore masks and followed social distancing.

INBRIEF

2 PAIRS OF PASSENGER TRAINS FOR PATNA-GAYA

Two pairs of MEMU passenger trains are being started between Patna and Gaya from tomorrow October 18 till the next order. The trains include, 03211 Patna-Gaya Memu Special (It will open from Patna at 18.30 and will reach Gaya at 21.30.), 03212 Gaya-Patna Memu Special (It will open from Gaya at 08.30 and will reach Patna at 11.30.), 03353 Patna-Gaya Memu Special (It will open from Patna at 08.00 hours at 11.00 hours) and 03354 Gaya-Patna Memu Special (It will open from Gaya at 18.15 am and reach Patna at 21.15 hours.)

ECR HOLDS VIRTUAL POETS' CONFERENCE

All India Comedy Poets' Conference was organized through video conferencing by Rajbhasha Department of East Central Railway, which was inaugurated by Lalit Chandra Trivedi, General Manager, East Central Railway. On this occasion, he mentioned the recent significant achievements. He said that we are also engaged in promoting the official language Hindi along with literature and culture so that a composite culture can be built in the country. On this occasion, he also recited a poem of his own which was well appreciated. Additional General Manager Ashok Kumar while referring to various programs organized during Official Language Fortnight said that the employees have shown great enthusiasm in promoting the official language. He read the famous lion of Nida Fazli. The poets' conference organized under the chairmanship of lyricist Dr. Kunwar Bechain, poets made a shower of poems of comedy. Legendary poets recited poems one by one.

IIM RANCHI, ABVCLPG HOLD WEBINAR

A webinar on National Education Policy 2020: Impact on Higher Education was organized by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Centre for Leadership, Policy and Governance (ABVCLPG), A Centre of Excellence of IIM Ranchi. Prof. Aditya Shankar Mishra, Co-Chair of the ABVCLPG welcomed the speakers. He also provided an introduction to the speakers and activities of the ABVCLPG. Prof. Shailendra Singh, Director of IIM Ranchi highlighted that IIM Ranchi has achieved an NIRF ranking in management of 20th position. He mentioned that IIM Ranchi is further commencing an integrated program in the near future. The centre aspires to undertake research at national and international level in alignment with the objective of the state.

MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT CAMP

A mental health assessment camp was organized at Nari Niketan in Kanke block on Saturday under the aegis of Nerve and Mind and Charitable Chamas. During this, a health assessment of dependent women was done in Nari Niketan. JPPC president Aditya Vikram Jaiswal was present on the occasion. Taking care of the dependents in Nari Niketan during the camp, they were also given proper counselling. On this occasion, Jaiswal said that Nerve & Maid and Charitable Chamas have been continuously benefiting people by organizing mental health assessment camps, which is quite a great supplement. He said that whatever plans of the Central and State Government are going on for this area, Nari Niketan should get it, if the fund is stopped due to any reason, then for this, the State government will meet and talk to the government.

SYMPOSIUM ON EDUCATION POLICY ORGANISED AT CUJ

One day e-Symposium on 'New Education Policy - 2020 and Teacher Education' was organized by the Department of Education, Central University of Jharkhand (CUJ). The program was inaugurated by CUJ Acting Vice Chancellor, RK Dey with his welcome address. In his welcome address, he expressed the possibility of the implementation of the new curriculum based on the New Education Policy, 2020 in the coming session. Highlighting the program, Chairman, Department of Education Vimal Kishore said that we need to understand more and more about the changes in the field of teacher education in the new education policy, 2020.

LIVE MAHISHASUR MARDINI PERFORMANCE

Keeping the spirit of Durga Puja high amid the pandemic, Hinoo Puja Committee (Bangla Mandap) has decided to host its every activity through online mode. The first such initiative was taken on Saturday with young members performing live Mahishashur Mardini on facebook following norms of physical distancing for 20 minutes. Committe's president PS Goswami informed that the puspanjali and cultural activities will also be carried out live from Shosti onwards.

LEADERSHIP DAY AT PAS BOKARO

PAS Bokaro under the leadership of Dr. Karuna Prasad the Principal, the school continued its tradition of a grand investiture ceremony appointing a new Students' Council for the year 2020-2021. While the interviews and selection process was done online – the actual ceremony with 10 students and their parents took place in the Chapel Hall of the school on Saturday. All norms and protocols of social distancing were strictly maintained. The Students' Council members received their badge and their flags of honour by Principal Madam. The School Captain, Kaneez Fatima led the oath of allegiance which was followed by the meaningful notes of the pre-recorded school song.

SUCCESSFUL LIVER RESECTION SURGERY

A liver unit team at Big Apollo Spectra Hospital, Patna led by Dr. Manish Bhaskar- Consultant Gastroenterologist, Dr. Abhay Kumar- Senior Consultant General & Laparoscopic Surgeon, Dr. Abhilasha Anand- General Surgeon, Dr. Madhukar Dayal- Radiologists successfully performed a complex and complicated lifesaving liver resection surgery on a 65-year-old female, giving her a new lease of life.

SKECHERS INDIA LAUNCHES NEW CAMPAIGN

Skechers, the global sports and lifestyle brand based in California, is launching a new campaign featuring the first female brand ambassador for Skechers India—Bollywood sensation Ananya Panday—who will represent both lifestyle and fashion collections. The "Originals Keep Moving" campaign starring Ananya Panday begins with a television commercial exclusive to the India market with a message that aims to inspire the youth of today to come forward while emphasizing the power of never giving up. The product at the focus of the commercial is one the brand's flagship fashion lifestyle collections, Skechers D'Lites, which features a design based on the iconic 90s sneakers that Skechers originated.

Women entrepreneurs share innovative ideas at JOCC

DIVYA MODI ■ RANCHI

The open for all group of entrepreneurs and like-minded people, the Jharkhand Open Coffee Club (JOCC) conducted its online monthly meeting on Saturday afternoon on a virtual platform. Sharing their ideas, three women entrepreneurs from Ranchi spoke about their start ups hoping to bring about a change in future.

With the festive and wedding season coming up, for those unwilling to spend a bomb on a new wardrobe, 'Attirent- Rent & Gain, Borrow & Dress' is a great option. The business was launched on Thursday by Ranchi based Mansi Kanodia on popular social media platforms- Facebook and Instagram

"My basic aim is to connect people who want to give out their dresses for rent with those who do not wish to spend too much on expensive clothes and are willing to borrow it. There are many such startups in metropolitan cities and this is the first of its kind based in Jharkhand. I also wanted to own a business which will not only help me in earning but will also enable others in getting some extra pocket money. This could also one of those ways for people renting their clothes to earn from the comfort of their homes," said the budding entrepreneur.

:Participants discuss ideas at JOCC File pic

Keeping the Covid- 19 situation in mind, Kanodia further stated that the clothes will be duly laundered before being sent to the borrower and also while being returned to the owner.

'Thodasa India' a one of its kind of shop will provide a selling platform for rural artisans from 18 states across India right from Jharkhand, Bihar, to Gujarat and Maharashtra will open its doors for customers in the coming week in Doranda. Ensuring good quality products with variety and uniqueness as its USP the store will also promote women entrepreneurs- both from rural and urban areas. An online selling platform under the brand name will also be available on Amazon and Flipkart.

Talking about 'Thodasa India', Malavika Sharma- Director Butterfly Project Foundation as a mentor of the organization said, "Handcrafted products and made in India artifacts need a platform and Thodasa India will provide the same. They shall also ensure that the products are of high quality as well as are price friendly. For example, an innovative and super healthy product like ragi or maduwa atta noodles or pasta shall be made and carried out here."

Founder and Head HR Consultant of ileadHR, Kanika Malhotra, deals in areas like HR Operations, soft skill trainings, performance management and employee engagement initiatives. With the lockdown in place, Malhotra and her team have switched from offline training sessions to online mode and launched the signature 'Business Communication Workshop- Let's Talk' covering topics like public speaking, presentation skills, active listening and body language.

"ileadHR also helps freshers and professionals in preparing for job interviews and indentifying their unique selling proposition. We also launched Self Voyage-Personality Development with a twist for teenagers on October 17 which will help in making them aware of their emotions and equip them with tools to manage it better," said Malhorta.

Malhotra also launched the company's website www.ileadhr.com on Saturday in association with 366pi Technologies.

Admin asks parties not to organise public events

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

As part of the preventive measures in view of the festive season, the district administration has asked the political parties not to organise public events and help in curbing spread of coronavirus.

A meeting with representatives of political parties was convened at the Collectorate Auditorium Jamshedpur under the chairmanship of ADM Law and Order Nandkishore Lal. He appealed to the representatives not to inaugurate any kind of public program, foundation stone-keeping in view of prevention of possible spread of corona infection.

The ADM Law and Order stated that the district administration is trying to prevent corona infection in the district, so cooperation from all political parties is also required. It is important that they do not organise any mass programme and do the foundation-inauguration program. The meeting also appealed for cooperation by informing the representatives of political parties about the guidelines issued by the state government for organising Durga Puja 2020. Representatives of BJP, Congress, AJSU and CPI were present on the occasion.

Following are the guidelines issued for Durga Puja / Dussehra 2020- Durga Puja should be conducted by devotees in temples and homes. The puja can also be conducted in small pandals / mandapas, where it has been done as per tradition in the past, but it will be aimed solely at rituals without public participation. The Durga Puja pandal / mandap will be covered in such a manner so that the idols are not seen in public. No subject-specific shape / construction will be done on Durga Puja pandal / mandap (not theme based). No electrical decoration will be done in the vicinity of Durga Puja pandal / mandap. In addition to the idol installed in the puja pandal / mandap, the entire portion of the pandal will remain open. The size of the idol should be less than four feet.The process of public address will be of no use. No fair will be organized on the occasion of Durga Puja.

In addition to the provisions of Section 51-60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, legal action will be taken against the persons violating the guidelines given above under Section 188 of the IMD.

ASI posted in town police station in Giridih commits suicide

SURESH NIKHAR ■ BERMO

A 42-year-old assistant sub-inspector posted at Giridih nagar police station,identified as Vijay Tirkey, committed suicide by hanging himself at his home at Gwala tola area in the city. The police, however, said the exact reason behind the ASI's death was yet to be ascertained.

After getting the information, DySP Vinod Ravani and city station in-charge Adikant Mahato also reached at the house of the deceased ASI and started an investigation about the incident.

The deceased Vijay Tirkey was a resident of Sisai in Gumla district and was posted at town police station in Giridih district for nearly three years. The family has also been informed about the incident.While the town police are investigating the entire case.

Sources said that It is being told that the house where he lived at Gwala tola officer colony has been recently purchased by the deceased ASI, Vijay Tirkey. While the reasons for the suicide of the deceased have not been revealed.

According to the information, the deceased Vijay Tirkey returned from duty on Friday night. On Saturday morning, when the deceased was called from the city police station, he did not pick up the phone.

Meanwhile, local people,who informed the city police station that Vijay Tirkey was not opening the door of his house. After this, the police of the town police station reached the spot and the door was broken. After breaking the door, it was seen that Vijay Tirkey's body was hanging with a rope from the ceiling. While the deceased's mobile, service pistol and his magazine are kept separately.

According to the station in-charge, all the goods have been seized and ready to be sent for forensic investigation.

'Win win situation for India'

BY DR BANSHIDHAR RUKHAIYAR

The true colour of China and the cause of her frustration leading to attempted incursions into the Indian borders became amply clear when it said in a recent statement that it does not recognize the creation of the Union Territory of Laddakh and thereby not approve of the bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir.

It also laid claim on Arunachal Pradesh, which it has been doing for a long time. What is new and noticeable is the clubbing of Laddakh with Arunachal Pradesh. There is no denying that China has been objecting to development works on the border objections; nevertheless, our construction work of infrastructure has been going on at a great speed. We are desperate to catch up with China which has already created valuable strategic infrastructure in border areas. However, these objections had never been so flat, terse and tough as the recent statement.

China defeated us in 1962 and it still haunts our memory. It has left a deep scar on the Indian psyche. China has kept this narrative alive in a brilliant manner with the help of its propaganda machinery which includes some Indian intellectuals also.

We gave China a bloody nose in 1967, but failed to create a narrative and popularize it in the Indian masses which could have lifted the morale of the countrymen. We also failed to do so after our resounding victory against Pakistan in 1965 and 1971. How many of the young generation know about the scintillating stories of the exemplary courage and valour shown by our military personnel in these wars. We do not realise the value of positive narratives on young minds. We are poor storytellers right now, though we had been brilliant in this art in the past.

China was taken off the guard when Articles 370 and 35 A were abrogated. It had never imagined that India would give such a shocker, though it was apprehensive of the development of infrastructure in border areas of the Indian side.

The tag of a soft state hid the powerful muscles of the Indian govt. and it greatly helped us in solving this vexed issue. China would have penetrated deep in POK had our complacency continued for a decade or two. But history is not based on conjectures and surmises. It is based on hard reality. The Chinese have missed the bus. Gone are the days of laid back Indian attitude. It is a new India which is ready to take on the dragon and the global situation is also favourable for us. The arrogance of China has alienated her from all her immediate neighbours.

This is the high time to put our acts together and give China a bloody nose. This is our turn to defeat China and inflict humiliation. China is caught in a quagmire.

A retreat would greatly undermine the leadership of Xi Jinping at home and a possible defeat at the hands of India would blast the Chinese image internationally.

Therefore, India should not grant any opportunity of honourable retreat to the Chinese forces, rather they should be provoked for a war. If India cannot defeat China, India cannot be defeated either.

Hence, it is a win win situation for India. Nothing to lose but everything to gain. Moreover, China has no friend worth the name. It is true that India will have to take China on her own and nobody will help her directly, but it is equally true that capital of sympathy and moral support is no les valuable.

Ours is the path of self-defense and righteousness. China is the technical incursor and we have every right to defend ourselves.

Injure the dragon seriously and the global powers are waiting to have their pound of flesh on the negotiation table which would follow thereafter. It is no dream, it is writing on the wall. It is trying times for our brave and battle hardened soldiers and our political leadership.

We, as a nation, has to stand solidly behind the leadership and the armed forces.

(The writer is Registrar, Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribag and a passionate writer. The views expressed in the article are his own.)

Public Cautionary Notice

To whom so ever it may concern

This is to inform all members of public that Mr. Rohit Kumar resident of Jamshedpur, Purv Singhbhum, Jharkhand - 831004, who was an employee of Randstad India Private Limited with Employee Code 1347010 and who was assigned to work as a Unit Manager at our Jamshedpur branch does not work at our Company anymore; and our Company does not have any knowledge regarding his whereabouts or control over his actions. All members of public are requested to beware that Mr. Rohit Kumar does not have any authority to represent our Company in any capacity; and in the event Mr. Rohit Kumar claims to represent our Company directly or indirectly, you are cautioned not to deal with Mr. Rohit Kumar and to notify our Company immediately. Our Company is not responsible or liable for any acts, actions or omissions of Mr. Rohit Kumar under any circumstances.

For **HDFC Asset Management Company Limited**

Sd/-

Date: October 17, 2020 Authorised Signatory

Administration to step up corona tests during festival season

PNS ■ DHANBAD

District administration has decided to step up corona tests in view of the upcoming festival season at Dhanbad railway station and district entry points on West Bengal Jharkhand borders.

The decision has been taken in view of increasing number of trains coming toDhanbad from different state's besides people coming to Dhanbad from West Bengal.

Dhanbad deputy commissioner Uma Shankar Singh in different sets of orders has directed two shift duty arrangements at National Highways 2 at Maithon and Chirkunda checkpoint both adjoining West Bengal .

Henceforth ,the corona tests would be available from 7 am to 10 pm in two shifts at both locations. The Nirsa PHC In- charge has been asked to make arrangements for the same in association with the district level health team.

Similarly, as Railway introduces more special trains owing festival season the vigil at Dhanbad station too is to be stepped up by deploying three sets of doctors and paramedical staff for managing three shifts of eight hours each that would start from six am every day at Dhanbad station.

Dhanbad PHC In- charge has been made the In-charge of the railway Station corona test team and has been asked to ensure that doctors and paramedical staff remain on duty in all the three shifts.The main aim is to ensure that corona positive cases may be detected on time and to break the chain , said the DC.

DRM promises streamlining of parking at Tatanagar

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

In view of the festive season ahead, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of South Eastern Railway's Chakradharpur division V K Sahu on Saturday expected the Tatanagar railway station to take stock of preparations.

After reaching here this morning he went around the Tatanagar railway station accompanied by senior railway officials.

The DRM took stock of railways plans to tackle the rush of passengers during the festive season ahead. He also took stock of construction work of the new goods shed. He announced that the tender process of the parking area outside the railway station would be completed soon. This will help in streamlining parking of vehicles.

Sahu was happy over the Railway Board's decision of introducing several Puja special trains. He asked his subordinates to ensure that passengers are not inconvenienced during the festival time.

" We have inspected the facilities and are satisfied with the facilities at the Tatanagar railway station. But, a lot needs to be done. You will find more passenger amenities coming up at Tatanagar in another few months or so," said an official.

The Tatanagar station assumes importance in view because it is located on the Howrah-Mumbai main route. Several important trains travel via Tatanagar, including the high-profile Rajdhani Express and Duronto Express.

Before COVID-19, the station used to see a daily traffic of 90 mail, express and passenger trains, besides a footfall of more than 60,000 passengers.

During the inspection he focussed on the condition of platforms, station buildings, lighting arrangements, running rooms, waiting halls, booking offices, computerised reservation centre and the circulating areas.

कार्यालय, अध्यक्ष काउंसलिंग समिति
तकनीकी शिक्षा संचालनालय, मध्यप्रदेश
टैगोर छात्रवास, क्रमांक-टी 2, श्यामला हिल्स, भोपाल- 462002

लेटरल एण्ट्री के माध्यम से बी.ई./बी. फार्मेसी पाठ्यक्रमों के द्वितीय वर्ष (तृतीय सेमेस्टर) में प्रवेश हेतु
(मध्यप्रदेश में स्थित शासकीय/स्वशासी/अनुदान प्राप्त/स्ववित्तीय/निजी इंजीनियरिंग संस्थान)

काउंसलिंग कार्यक्रम : सत्र 2020-21

प्रथम चरण

अर्हकारी परीक्षा की मेरिट पर आधारित

गतिविधियां		दिनांक/समय
ऑनलाइन रजिस्ट्रेशन/ऑनलाइन रजिस्ट्रेशन निरस्त	:	20.10.2020 से 28.10.2020
रजिस्ट्रेशन में सुधार (Edit Registration)	:	29.10.2020 से 30.10.2020
इच्छित संस्थाओं के प्राथमिकताक्रम का ऑनलाइन चयन कर लॉक करना प्राथमिकताक्रम (Choice filling) में परिवर्तन की सुविधा अंतिम दो दिन उपलब्ध रहेगी	:	22.10.2020 से 01.11.2020 रात्रि 11.45 बजे तक
कॉमन मेरिट सूची की उपलब्धता	:	02.11.2020 सायं 5:00 बजे तक
आवंटन पत्रों की ऑनलाइन उपलब्धता/आवंटित संस्था में उपस्थिति, आवंटित संस्था में मूल दस्तावेजों का सत्यापन एवं प्रवेश	:	05.11.2020 से 10.11.2020 सायं 5.00 बजे तक
संस्था स्तर की काउंसलिंग (CLC)		
ऑनलाइन रजिस्ट्रेशन	:	11.11.2020 से 13.11.2020 दोपहर 3.00 बजे तक
इच्छुक संस्था में प्रवेश का अवसर प्राप्त करने के लिये उपस्थित होना	:	11.11.2020 से 13.11.2020 सायं 5:00 बजे तक

प्रवेश नियम, विस्तृत समय-सारणी, अभ्यर्थी मार्गदर्शिका/काउंसलिंग प्रक्रिया, अधिकृत सहायता केन्द्रों की सूची आदि वेबसाइट **dte.mponline.gov.in** पर उपलब्ध है। काउंसलिंग में सम्मिलित होने के पूर्व इनका सूक्ष्मता से अध्ययन कर लें।

(कोविड-19 के कारण, सहायता केन्द्रों पर किसी भी अभ्यर्थी को जाने की आवश्यकता नहीं)

संपर्क : 0755-6720205, 2660441 ई-मेल : dte.helpcenter@mp.gov.in

अध्यक्ष, काउंसलिंग समिति एवं
आयुक्त तकनीकी शिक्षा, मध्यप्रदेश

म.प्र. माध्यम/98711/2020

DC asks pvt school operators to follow Govt directions

PNS ■ BOKARO

Bokaro Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Singh today asked private school operators to follow the order issued by the Government of Jharkhand on collection of fees from students. On the complaints from parents that private schools are collecting arbitrary fees during corona period, a meeting of representatives of all the private school operators of the district was called, headed by DC Bokaro.

The copy of the said order was given to the representatives of all schools, stating there will be no increase in school fees for the academic session 2020-21. Before the commencement of the previous session of the schools, only tuition fee will be charged only on monthly basis. Under no circumstances, the enrollment of any student will be canceled due to non-payment of tuition fee and the facility of online teaching system will not be denied. It will be the responsibility of the school head to provide IDs and passwords and online learning materials to all the students enrolled in the school without any discrimination.

For the period of school closure, any type of annual fee started traffic, no other charges will be charged from parents. After the commencement of teaching work in the school related to it, charge can be taken from the parents on a proportional basis. Additional financial pressure will not be created on the parents by creating a new item for fee by the school management.

Singh said that in the event of non-compliance of the above instructions, approval will be given for cancellation of the No Objection Certificate issued by the State Government and freeze bank account of the said school and take legal action as necessary.

During the meeting, Deputy Development Commissioner Jaikishor Prasad, Additional Collector Vijay Kumar Gupta, Sub Divisional Officer Chas Shashiprakash Singh, District Education Officer Neelam Aileen Toppo, District Planning Officer Divesh Kumar Gautam and Principal and representatives of all private schools in the district were present .

AFFIDAVIT

I, OM PRAKASH GUPTA, S/o Sheo Pujan Prasad, R/o Sector-12/B, Qr. No.-3124, P.S. & P.S.- Sector-12, Dist.- Bokaro (Jharkhand) do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my wrong name has been mentioned as OM PRAKASH PRASAD GUPTA in my personal file of BSL vide Staff No.-653643, Department- CED, Designation Operative. That, I want to rectify my name as OM PRAKASH GUPTA in place of OM PRAKASH PRASAD GUPTA in my personal file. Vide affidavit no.-349, dated-23/09/2020

'Ujjawala Grih' inaugurated for rescued people from human trafficking

PNS ■ DALTONGANJ

A home for rescued women, men, girls and boys from the clutches of the human traffickers was inaugurated by the IAS on Probation here Dilip Pratap Singh Shekhawat on Thursday.

An 18 room house was inaugurated for this purpose by Shekhawat at Birsa Nagar in Chainpur.

Here in this house christened as 'Ujjawala Grih' rescued people of three districts namely Latehar, Garhwa and Latehar will be housed and a kitchen there in this house will cater to their needs of meals.

The state government is determined to contain and curb human trafficking vis a vis rehabilitation of the rescued lot. An NGO Gramin Samaj Kalyan Vikas Manch is to run this house.

Sources said State government's two departments woman & child development and social security department in collaboration with the Central government's woman & child development ministry have taken a joint endeavour to provide the rescued lot dignity and meaning of life.

DC Palamu Shashi Ranjan said, "This Ujjawala Grih has multiple purposes. First it is to house rescued people who are victims of human trafficking. Second it is to build them emotionally strong that all is not lost but a new beginning can be made afresh to lead a normal life".

Ranjan said, "It has been found that rescued children, women, girls and boys are not welcomed at their respective homes and their parents just do not bother for them the result of which is where to put up such unclaimed rescued ones. This house will be their address."

The DC said that this house will provide legal assistance to the needy as well and under one roof there will be a concerted and varied facilities for the rescued ones.

Reminded that this house will have all age men, women, girls and boys rescued and as such closeness may trigger other problems like sexual interactions to which DC said, "This aspect will be looked i nto."

ISIS CONSPIRACY

15 convicted for bid to set base in Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

"This case had a huge impact on the like-minded people who were likely to join ISIS. After the arrest of the ISIS terrorists, their activities were minimised and theirother associates were identified and questioned to unravel their further plans," the NIA said in a statement.

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

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

On Friday, 15 accused were convicted and sentenced with rigorous imprisonment (RI) and fine.

The convicted terrorists include Nafees Khan, 10 years RI with fine of ₹1,03,000, Mudabbir Mushtaq Sheikh, 7 years RI and fine of ₹65,000, Abu Anas, 7 years RI and fine ₹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 ₹ 38,000.

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

Cong launches Smart Village Campaign

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, officials and Sarpanchs, joined in from a total of 1,500 digital locations, paving the way for execution of 48,910 separate works across the state.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Govt issues SOPs for cultural functions, programmes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

The theme for the Day this year addresses the challenge of achieving social and environmental justice for all, according to the United Nations.

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

The DHCBA said the October 6 letter is an abject and uncalled for interference in the due administration of justice by the high court judges.

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

GADKARI TO MAHA GOVT

Form State Water Grid to tackle flood crisis

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

This synchronisation of N.H. construction and water conservation results not only in increasing water storage capacity but saving environment. Initially this activity was done on large scale in Buldhana district as pilot project and hence named as 'Buldhana pattern'. With this activity in Maharashtra, around 225 lakh cubic meter of material from water bodies, drains and rivers has been used in Highway works with a result of increase of 22500 TCM (Thousand Cubic Meter) of water storage capacity at `No cost to State Government'. This has charged ground water table. Due to deepening and training of river, drains, etc, the floods have reduced, which otherwise spreads in nearby field due to reduced discharge capacity of rivers and drains. This convergence has been appreciated and accepted by NITI Aayog, which is in the process of forming policy based on this work done.

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Peace and tranquillity along LAC 'deeply disturbed': Jaishankar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

Jaishankar made these comments against the backdrop of the over five-month-long border standoff between India and China in eastern Ladakh where each side has deployed over 50,000 troops.

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

The external affairs minister said the relationship between India and China, which was "very difficult", was normalised since late 1980s through a plethora of initiatives like trade, travel, tourism, and societal activities on the premise of peace and tranquillity along the border.

"It is not our position that we should solve the boundary question. We understand that it is a very complicated and difficult issue. There have been many negotiations at different levels...That is a very high bar for a relationship," Jaishankar said.

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

"Now, if peace and tranquillity is deeply disturbed, then obviously there will be an impact on the relationship and that is what we are seeing," he said referring to the border situation in eastern Ladakh.

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

When contacted, a Paytm Payments Bank spokesperson said customers have the flexibility to add money to their Paytm wallet from any of their preferred funding source, including UPI, net banking and cards.

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

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

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

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

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

IndiGo introduces service fee for check-in counter usage

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Accordingly, the fee has come into effect from Saturday.

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

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

₹1.08 lakh crore worth loans sanctioned under discom liquidity package

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IANS ■ SAN FRANCISCO

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

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

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

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

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

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

Low base, attractive interest rates lift Sept domestic PV sales

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On the second quarter FY21 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 segment, however, reported a marginal growth of 0.17 per cent to 4,690,565 units from 4,682,571 units."In quarter-2 some segments have shown signs of recovery. Passenger vehicles and two-wheelers are positive, although on a very low base of previous year," said SIAM President Kenichi Ayukawa.

India is gradually moving towards an economy based on clean energy

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HDFC Bank Q2 consolidated profit rises 16pc to ₹7,703 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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 Bank said.

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 (standalone) grew to ₹36,069.42 crore in the second quarter of FY2021 from ₹33,755 crore in the year ago quarter.

"While the previous quarter largely bore the burnt of the COVID-19 pandemic, some of the softness continued into the current quarter leading to lower retail loan origination, use of debit and credit cards by customers, efficiency in collection efforts and waivers of certain fees.

As a result, fes/other income were lower by approximately ₹800 crore.

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

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

First time since lockdown, 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 fortnight 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 world class city: Min

PNS ■ GHAZIABAD

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

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

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

JDA to develop Agro-warehousing scheme near Amber

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

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

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

Balance of the land will have facilities like Hotels, Restaurants, Petrol Pumps, Banks, Electric Sub-station, Commercial Shops and establishments, weighbridges, and automobile shops.

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

This programme is open to everyone in the entire country and it is free to avail the benefits of this initiative, it said, adding parents can register on www.Genexchild.Com.

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

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

AXIS BANK

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

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

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Secured Creditor will be sold on **"As is where is" , "As is what is" and "Whatever there is"** basis on **06-11-2020, 11:30 A.M.** at Axis House,Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128,Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301 for recovery of Rs. 91,51,138/- due as on 17-10-2020 along with further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred up to the date of actual payment and/or realization due to the secured creditor from Mr. Akshay Batra and Mr. Yudhvir Batra. The **reserve price** will be **Rs. 44,96,837/-** and the **earnest money deposit** will be **Rs. 4,49,683.7/-**

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

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

Date : 18-10-2020
Place: Noida

Sd/-,
Authorized Officer,
Axis Bank Ltd.

Metro Railway, Kolkata
Kolkata's Pride

ZONAL CONTRACT FOR UP-KEEP OF TRACK

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

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

FASTER • SAFER • SMOOTHER • CLEANER

IndusInd Bank

New Tower, Hyatt Regency Complex, New Delhi 110 066

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

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

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

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

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

All those piece & parcel of residential property situated being & lying at residential villa no.467, present Devanahalli town Municipal Council Khata No.250/28/1/14/467 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 Sqr Ft. of undivided share in the converted land bearing Survey No. 22/1, 28/1, 28/2, 29/1, 29/2, 29/3, 31/1 of Prassanahalli Village measuring in all 5 Acres 18 guntas & survey no.155/2 157 & 158 of Sanna Ammanikere village Kasba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluka, Bangalore Rural District measuring in all three Acres 34 guntas and the villa is bounded as under :

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

Date: 13.10.2020 Place: Bengaluru

Authorised Officer, IndusInd Bank Ltd.

WESTERN RAILWAY

STORES DEPARTMENT

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

SPECIAL ATTENTION: ALL STEEL PURCHASERS & RE-ROLLERS

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

1st Round	2nd Round	Depot	Depot Officer in Charge	Contact No.
02/11/2020	19/11/2020	SBI	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-SBI	07927500080 09724093774
09/11/2020	24/11/2020	ADI	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-ADI	07922205888 09724093751
03/11/2020	18/11/2020	BRC	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-BRC	02652641592 9724091750
04/11/2020	19/11/2020	RTM	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-RTM	07412230080 09752492750
06/11/2020	25/11/2020	BVP	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-BVP	02782444360 09724097750
12/11/2020	27/11/2020	MMCT	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager- MMCT	022-23094142 09004499006
11/11/2020	26/11/2020	MX	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-MX	022-24929571 09004495750
10/11/2020	25/11/2020	DHD	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-DHD	02673241295 09724090455
05/11/2020	19/11/2020	PRTN	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-DHD	02673241295 09724090455
17/11/2020	27/11/2020	RJT	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager- RJT	02812476943 09724094770

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

D-0361

For Principal Chief Materials Manager

Like us on : facebook.com/WesternRly | follows us on : twitter.com/WesternRly

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

AS US ELECTION NEARS

Virus surges in key battleground States

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Voters in several Midwest states contested by U.S. President Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger, former Vice President Joe Biden, encountered lines when they went to cast early ballots on Friday. Some described the decision to vote this year as one that required deliberation and even courage.

Robert Baccus, 52, an independent contractor from Columbus, Ohio, was among hundreds in line at the Franklin County Board of Elections early voting center. He said he doesn't trust voting by mail, so early voting was his best option for casting a ballot while trying to safeguard his health. ***AP***

Biden warns Trump wants to scrap health law

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

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

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

Biden says Trump "can only see from his penthouse" in Manhattan and doesn't see most Americans' daily struggles.

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

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

Obama to campaign for Biden, Kamala

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

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

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

Armenian missile killed 13, wounded over 50: Azerbaijan

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

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

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

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

In a televised address to the nation, Azerbaijan's president, Ilham Aliyev, denounced the missile strike as a war crime and warned the leadership of Armenia that it would face responsibility for that.

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

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

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

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 promised not to take her new supporters for granted and to govern for all New Zealanders.

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

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

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

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

TRANSIT SHUTDOWNS FAIL TO DETER THAI PRO-DEMOCRACY PROTESTS

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

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

The protesters are calling for Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha to leave office, the constitution to be amended to make it more democratic and the nation's monarchy to undergo reform.

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

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

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

AP ■ OTTAWA

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

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

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

Trudeau said Canada stands with with allies around the world and the United States, to Australia, to Great Britain, to European nations to many nations around the world who share these concerns.

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

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

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

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

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

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

NORTHERN RAILWAY
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This is to inform & notify the Public about the relocation of **Laxmi Nagar, Delhi Branch** of **SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd.**effective from **15.01.2021**
From: SBFC Finance Pvt Ltd, G-59, 1st Floor, Main Vikas Marg, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi - 110092
To: SBFC Finance Pvt Ltd,Property No. 1/10 & 1/12, First Floor, Lalita Park, Near Laxmi Nagar Metro Station, Delhi-110092
For more details, please contact: -
SBFC FINANCE PVT.LTD.
Toll Free : 1800 – 102- 8012

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

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

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

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

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

Montgomery drove from her Kansas home to Stinnett's house in Skidmore under the guise of adopting a rat terrier puppy, prosecutors said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL, SKIMS MC&H, BEMINA & SKIMS, SOURA, SRINAGAR
Tel: 0194-2402617 Ext: 2159, email: mechanicalskims@gmail.com
Re- 01 Notice Inviting E-tenders
Gist of NIT NO. 48 OF 2020-21 Dated. 15.10.2020
For and on behalf of the **Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS, Soura, MC&H Bemina Srinagar,** invites online e-bids in **two (02) cover systems** from Original Lift Manufactures or their Authorized Dealers/authorized Representatives/ registered and reputed firms having experience in installation of lifts in Govt. Institutions/ departments, detailed in the tender document for the following works:

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

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY
KANKE, RANCHI-834006 (JHARKHAND)
NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR OUTSOURCHING OF AGENCY FOR HOUSKEEPING SERVICES AT CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY, RANCHI
Sealed tenders are invited from the eligible bidders for the outsourcing of agency for **'Housekeeping Services'** at Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi. Tender documents can be purchased from the Establishment Section of Central 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

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SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Secured Creditor will be sold on **"As is where is" , "As is what is"** and **"Whatever there is"** basis on **07-11-2020, 11:30 A.M.** at Axis House,Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128,Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301 for recovery of Rs. 34,91,528/- due as on 17-10-2020 along with further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred up to the date of actual payment and/or realization due to the secured creditor from Ms. Honey Roy & Mrs. Bani Roy. The reserve price will be **Rs. 18,80,820/-** and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs. 1,88,082/-.**

Account Number	Location / Details of the Immovable Property/Secured Assets possessed and put for sale	Encumbrances, if any known to the Bank.
PHR0792 03241253 & HTR0792 03280067	Residential Unit Bearing No. H/09-1, Admeasuring Super Area, 1200 Square Feet Situated At 9th Floor, Tower No. 5(H), In The 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.	

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the secured creditor's website i.e. Https://www.axisbank.com/auction-notices/
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Place: Noida
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RANCHI | SUNDAY | OCTOBER 18, 2020

TODAY

Live from 3:30pm | Live from 7:30pm
STAR SPORTS 1

IPL 2020

KL Rahul | 448 runs

Kagiso Rabada | 19 wickets

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

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

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

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

AB deVilliers again

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

PTI ■ DUBAI

AB 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 pads.

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 a fine catch.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Morris gave RCB their first breakthrough when he had the subdued Stokes caught down the leg side.

Uthappa scored two more boundaries, off pacer Navdeep Saini, before his slow sweep went into the hands of the deep 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 the RR innings.

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.

'AB is IPL's most impactful player'

PTI ■ DUBAI

Skipper Virat Kohli reacts after RCB win IPLT20.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DUGOUT

MOTION PICTURE

Yuzvendra Chahal fiancé Dhanaashree Verma arrives at Dubai International Stadium on Saturday to watch IPL game between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Rajasthan Royals IPLT20.com

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

BOOM'S WILLINGNESS TO IMPROVE

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

DON'T BAT IN PRACTICE PANTS

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

KKR aim to sort out batting woes

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

MATCHES	18
SUNRISERS HYDERABAD	07
KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS	11

Stats: Faisel Features

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The KKR bowlers did well to fashion narrow victories against Kings XI Punjab and CSK, but leaked runs against RCB and MI. To add to their woes, star spinner Sunil Narine has been reported for suspect bowling action and he has missed two matches since then.

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

The team heavily relies on its batting unit, mainly on the top four comprising Jonny Bairstow, Warner, Manish Pandey and Kane Williamson.

A cause of concern for the Sunrisers is Rashid Khan's form. After returning impressive figures like 3/14, 0/12, 3/12, the Afghan leg- spinner remained ineffective in the team's last two losses. And skipper Warner will desperately hope that his star spinner finds his mojo back which is imperative for the team's success.

Collective batting effort takes CSK to 179/4

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Shane Watson congratulates CSK teammate Faf du Plessis on his fifty IPLT20.com

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

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

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

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

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

Young pacer Tushar Deshpande bowled a tight line with decent speed and was rewarded when Curran, without measuring the bowler, swung his arms but just managed a top-edge that was taken by Anrich Nortje (2/44).

The ball was stopping a bit on the slow Sharjah wicket but after four quiet overs, Du Plessis creamed off 14 runs from Nortje's first over, hitting his compatriot for a six and two fours.

Watson, using his experience, 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.

Du Plessis completed his fifty with a single of Nortje but Watson was castled by the South African in the next ball.

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

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.

POINTS TABLE

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

Top meets the bottom

SUNDAY BLOCKBUSTER

PTI ■ DUBAI

Rohit Sharma prepares to bat at nets @mipaltan

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 contention.

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

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

On the other hand, KXIP are languishing at the bottom of the table despite having the top-two leading run-getters of the tournament in skipper K L Rahul (387 runs at a strike rate of 134.84) and his opening partner, Mayank Agarwal (337 runs).

MATCHES	25
MUMBAI INDIANS	14
KINGS XI PUNJAB	11

Stats: Faisel Features

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

A captivating duel may be in store between Gayle on one side and Bumrah and Boult on the other.

KXIP have other in-form batsmen 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 balance despite trying out many options has also contributed to KXIP's rapid slide.

Planning to start domestic cricket from Jan 1: Ganguly

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

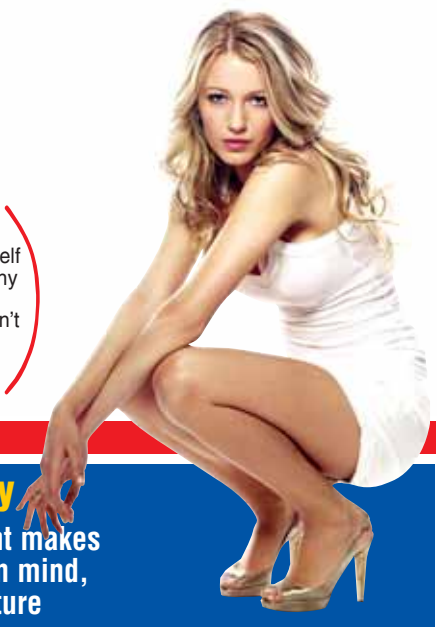
"The England series is good three and a half to four months away. We still have time. We are monitoring the situation (Covid-19) which is pretty fluid and will take a call accordingly," he said.

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

sunday magazine
October 18, 2020

the pioneer
agenda

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



FROM THE INSIDE

A super thriller all the way
Batla House puts to rest a lot of controversies and versions on the infamous Batla House encounter 2

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

Photos: Ayandrali Dutta

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

THE HOMECOMING

This year, 41-year-old Arpita Sarkar is relieved that rather than being stuck for hours in traffic in the month preceding Duga Puja, she has been able to commute smoothly to and from office. "Things had come to such a head that we had decided that even though we hate spending these days away from Kolkata, we would do so," she says. But a tiny miniscule virus had other plans. So now, for the six days of the Puja, rather than engage in *pandal*-hopping, Arpita along with her family will cook something special at home, probably go to a relative's house where children too would be able to catch up with their cousins. "That is what *Pujo* signified for us when we were growing up. Heading to *Mama baari* or *Bade* Papa's place with our parents is what we did as children. Even though, it is a community celebration, the crowds that have become synonymous with Durga Puja are not the essence of the festival," says 41-year-old Arpita who works as an HR in a multi-national company in Kolkata and counts dance and drama as her areas of interest. She often performs at the cultural programmes organised during Puja and this year she is recording the performance which is being put up jointly with other 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 likely to win an award that year. The lament, especially among the older generation, was that the emphasis was now on an extraneous journey while the festival was more of an inward cruise of devotion which had gone completely missing. But nature often has a way of setting humans on the path of course correction, sometimes in the form of a virus, only if they are willing to listen to its call.

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

At Ayandrali's, till last year, there would have been around 300-400 people visiting and eating at her house. These would be family friends, relatives, people who had heard about the *puja* through word-of-mouth. "This won't happen this year," says Ayandrali firmly. While the *aarti* would take place, the ceremonial conch would be blown but the place where the five-feet idol is placed would not be flocked with people who had queued up for a 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.

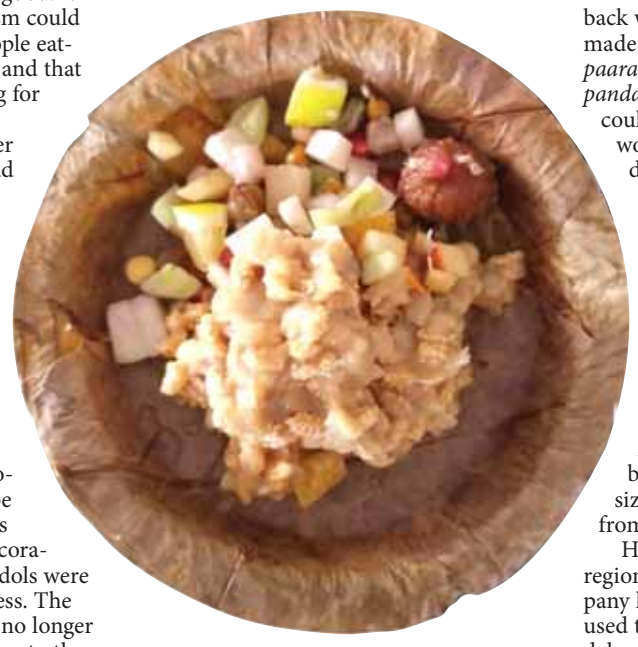
While Ayandrali is much younger, Arup Sarkar, a retired government servant can recall a time when Pujas were simpler affairs. "The budgets have become huge due to sponsorship by political parties and corporates. There is an excess of everything — lighting, theme, decoration. A lot of money is thrown 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.



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

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...

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

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

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

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

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

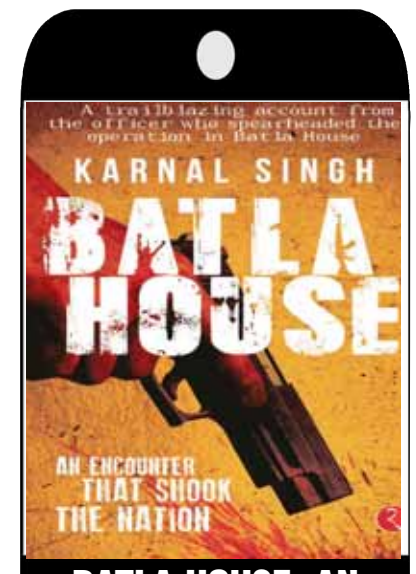
At the Milani Clubhouse, they are registering members and handing out digital tokens for visiting the place where the idol is kept. The restricted entry would be rotated after every half an hour so that everyone gets a chance to offer prayers while maintaining social distancing. Children below 12 and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

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

FAIRY TALES ARE MORE THAN TRUE: NOT BECAUSE THEY TELL US THAT DRAGONS EXIST, BUT BECAUSE THEY TELL US THAT DRAGONS CAN BE BEATEN
— NEIL GAIMAN

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



BATLA HOUSE: AN ENCOUNTER THAT SHOOK THE NATION
Karnal Singh
Rupa, ₹295

The 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 Batla House.

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 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 day itself.

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.

NEW ARRIVALS

A PLATE OF WHITE MARBLE
Bani Basu; Translated by: Nandini Guha
Niyogi Books, ₹450

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 life— abandoned 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

THE TIGERS BEHIND THE TIGERS
Sashidhar Vempala
₹4,000

The 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 alongwith hundred images.

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

Previously, the size of herd of elephant was small —15-20, and total numbers of elephant that roamed the zone was between 30 and 45. This was for the period 1970s-1980s when the forest cover was degraded to some extent. But in recent time, in the last 35 years, the zone has improved considerably in terms of green cover and the numbers of elephants have also increased to more than 100.

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

While it is understood that animals look for their own meals, there is an interesting chapter on how the wild have their dedicated cooks who besides making their own meals, also cook for small animals to mighty elephants of the jungles.

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

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

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

Farm reforms for realising its full potential

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

The productivity trap

The productivity difference 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 suicide. In 2019 alone, around

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 inputs and assured price at the 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 post-harvest 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 well-wisher 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 regard.

Farmers vs corporates

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

Create Market Regulator

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

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

(The author is a public policy analyst and a lawyer, an alumnus of National Law University, Jodhpur)

Instead of whipping up the esoteric phobia that the new farm laws will render APMCs redundant, the protesting State Governments should take this opportunity to make these sluggish bodies competitive for farmers by providing better services at lower prices

SONAL SHUKLA

PERSPECTIVE

New revolution in making in Kyrgyzstan

The sudden political unrest and conflicts in former Soviet nations are not accidental. The primary reason is that all of them have suddenly ceased to become a sphere of Russian influence after 1991. Kyrgyzstan, known as the only democracy in Central Asia, has literally turned herself into a mobocracy 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 mob-appointed 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 drug mafias aided in sparking communal violence in the southern city of Osh between Kyrgyz and Uzbek groups. It forced thousands of Uzbeks to flee the region. Most of them had fled to neighboring Uzbekistan only. As per the UN estimate nearly 4,00,000 people 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 groups.

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 the 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 what we have witnessed today in Kyrgyzstan.

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

MAKHAN SAIKIA

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, education 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."

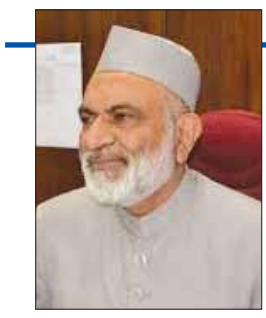
On receiving reports about cordial inter-caste programmes in Punjab, he delightfully remarked: "We are proud of those gentlemen in Punjab who have eliminated inter-caste segregation and forged a bond among all. Let our other Hindu brethren emulate this practice. This will bring about real progress and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

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 Hindus and Muslims as well

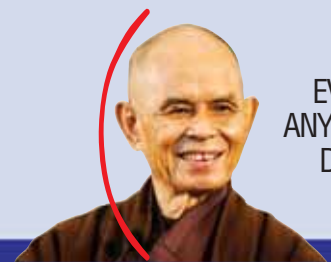


ABDUR RAHEEM KIDWAI

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)



EVERY THOUGHT YOU PRODUCE, ANYTHING YOU SAY, ANY ACTION YOU DO, IT BEARS YOUR SIGNATURE
— THICH NHAT HANH

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA

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

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 area.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Pastel colours
Lucky day Wednesday

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Grey
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

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 soon.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Tuesday

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

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

Test of astrologer/astrology

A 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 was drawn. I, then, drew the chart at the 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 particulars were not right. In the Krishnamurty system, there is a proven method to 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 what the chart drawn at the moment of consultation reflected. After having answer to her questions, she satisfactorily went home. She then called up and thanked ex-husband for leading her to a good astrologer.

My friend then called me informing that the lady was quite happy with you. He then asked me: "Please tell me the birth particulars she furnished." He was left aghast when I shared the birth particulars 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 consultation 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 was incorrect.

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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