



GLAD PEOPLE
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SHWETA TRIPATHI
10 VIVACITY

Govt delivers on PRIs in J&K

Cabinet OK's J&K Panchayati Raj Act for 3-tier grassroots democracy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/JAMMU

Paving the way for the establishment of all the three tiers of grassroots-level democracy in Jammu & Kashmir like in other parts of the country for the first time since Independence, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the adoption of the Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989.

"The three-tier system was not there in Kashmir before. They did not have the opportunity to elect their local representatives. This step redeems the promise made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Jammu, and the Home Minister in Parliament. This will help the people of J&K to elect their representatives at the village, block and district levels," Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said.

"Now there will be early elections, and the power to manage local bodies will go to the people," he said, adding that the J&K administration is working on the adaptation of other laws following the abrogation of Article 370 and division of the State into two Union Territories by giving Ladakh a separate UT status.

There is a lot of homework to be done, but the principle has been established, Javadekar asserted even as several Union Ministers took to Twitter to hail the Cabinet decision.



Terming the Union Cabinet's approval a watershed moment in the history of J&K, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said the Government of India has fully applied the 73rd Constitutional Amendment 1992 to the UT of J&K which was pending for the last 28 years. With this, all three tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions shall be formed for the first time in the history of Jammu & Kashmir, he said.

The Jammu & Kashmir administration had on Saturday amended the Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act to provide for setting up District Development Councils (DDCs). Under the new arrangement, the DDCs are set to become a new unit of governance in the UT, thereby completing the implementation of the three tier system.

The landmark decision is

expected to ensure liberal funding of Central Government schemes aimed at improving the living conditions of the masses and also strengthen the rural infrastructure in the remote and hilly areas.

Ahead of the abrogation of Article 370, the existing District Development Boards were abolished to pave way for the establishment of two tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions. The decision was necessitated because the existing guidelines of the DDBs had no provision for any transfer of funds or responsibility to Block Development Councils (BDC) or to the Halqa Panchayats as these tiers of local Government had not been in existence in the State earlier.

Govt extends MIS for J&K apples

New Delhi: Furthering its commitment to help and empower the people of J&K, PM Narendra Modi-led Union Cabinet has approved the extension of Market Intervention Scheme for procurement of 12 lakh metric tonnes apples.

"This will enhance the income of apple growers by providing an effective marketing platform," tweeted Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the situation remains tense at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is likely to visit Sikkim on the occasion of Dussehra to show solidarity with the troops deployed on the border facing China there. He may also inaugurate a number of road projects and strategic bridges to add muscle to the logistical back-up to the frontline deployments throughout the year.

The proposed visit on October 23-24 comes days after Rajnath dedicated 44 permanent bridges, mostly in border areas, to improve supply lines to the forward deployments besides local population. Four of the strategically bridges are in Sikkim.



stretching from Ladakh in the west to Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim in the east.

Inaugurating the strategically important bridges in seven States, including eight

permanent bridges in Ladakh, to the nation, Rajnath had, on October 12, said after Pakistan, China is also creating a dispute at the border with India as it was part of a "mission."

India is not only facing the situations along the frontiers resolutely, but it is also bringing in major development, including in border areas. "You are well aware of the conditions created along our northern and eastern borders. First it was Pakistan, and now also by China, as if a border dispute is being created under a mission. We have a border of about 7,000 km with these countries where the tension continues," the Minister said.

Rajnath to meet soldiers along LAC in Sikkim

₹3,737 cr bonus for 30.7 L non-gazetted Govt staff

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With a view to encourage spending, generate demand in the economy and bring cheer to more than 30 lakh non-gazetted employees during the festival season, the Centre on Wednesday decided to give them ₹3,737 crore as bonus for 2020-21.

Following the Union Cabinet's nod to the proposal, Information & Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said the bonus will be given in a single installment, through

Direct Benefit Transfer.

The bonus ahead of Vijayadasami and Diwali will encourage the middle-class to go out and spend and thus add to the demand in the economy, he said.

"Payment of bonus to non-gazetted employees for their performance in the preceding year is usually made before Durga Puja/Dussehra season. The Government is announcing the Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) and ad hoc bonus for its non-gazetted employees to be disbursed immediately,"

press release said.

The PLB for the year 2019-20, having financial implications of ₹2,791 crore, will benefit 16.97 lakh non-gazetted employees of commercial establishments like Railways, Posts, Defence, EPFO, ESIC, among others.

Non-PLB or ad hoc bonus, which is given to non-gazetted Central Government employees, will benefit 13.70 lakh staff. It will cost the exchequer ₹946 crore. A total of 30.67 lakh employees would be benefited from the bonus.

PLA soldier released as goodwill before parleys

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Chinese soldier, an armourer in the PLA, was caught by the Army in the Demchok sector of Eastern Ladakh was handed over to the People's Liberation Army (PLA) late on Tuesday. Identified as Corporal Wang Ya, the soldier was released following proper protocol after his thorough interrogation by the Indian agencies. The goodwill gesture comes ahead of the proposed eighth round of Corps Commander-level talks later this week.

Giving details of the Chinese soldier's release, sources said, Wang Ya was handed over to the Chinese military on Tuesday night at Chushul-Moldo border meeting point in eastern Ladakh.

Promises galore in Bihar manifestos

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

From a decision on enabling 10 lakh jobs in their very first Cabinet meeting if elected to power to building a grand "Sita Maiya" (Goddess Sita) temple in Sitamarhi like Ayodhya's Ram Mandir, from promoting dairy on the pattern of Denmark to ₹1,500 monthly to unemployed youth, there are promises galore by the political parties in their manifestos or vision documents to lure the voters as the campaigning for the Bihar polls gain full momentum.

Bihar Assembly elections will be held in three phases — on October 28, November 3 and November 7 — and counting of votes will be held on November 10.

Despite being a part of the grand alliance, led by the RJD, the Congress on Wednesday came out with its own manifesto and referred it as "badlav patr" (letter of change). And, having decided to go it alone, Lok Janshakti Party chief Chirag Paswan unveiled the vision document of his party seeking to invoke the Bihari pride through his slogan, "Bihar first, Bihari first".

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Har Pal Aapke Saath

Centre suppressing voices of tribals, poor, says CM

Seeks release of Stan Swamy, fears protesters may be shot at



Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Wednesday said that some forces in the country are hell bent on destroying the federal structure of the nation alongwith Constitutional institutions. He said that the NDA government at the Centre is suppressing the voices of tribals, poor and the downtrodden sections of society in the State.

"An 83-year-old man, who is suffering from various ailments, is being tortured by the security agencies. He worked in the most hostile conditions as a lighthouse for the poor and the downtrodden sections of society in the. This is a time when there is absolute anarchy and the Centre is targeting people with a vicious and vindictive approach. It is high time that the opposition parties should unite against this tyranny," said the JMM Executive president.

Notably, Father Stan Swamy was arrested by NIA from Ranchi earlier this month in connection with the 2018 Bhima-Koregaon case. The NIA, in its chargesheet, has alleged that Swamy had connections with the CPI (Maoist), a banned Left Wing Extremist group. After his arrest several social and religious groups and social activists across the country have taken to the street in protest. The CM, while urging the Opposition parties and activists to unite against Centre's alleged oppression, also expressed concern over the reaction of the NDA government if at all the protests intensified. "They will not think twice before shooting the protesters," he said.

The JMM leader also flayed the Central government over deduction of funds from the State's account with the RBI to pay DVC's dues and said the Centre was giving step-motherly treatment to the State. He said that the BJP was deliberately harassing the states ruled by UPA partners.

"It can happen with any State in near future. The Centre has deducted huge sums from our coffers in the middle of a pandemic without even consulting with us. This amounts to harassment. Jharkhand will continue its fight against the tyrannical rule of the Centre," he said.

Covid-19 tally now close to 25K in Ranchi

Nearly 2,000 still infected

PNS ■ RANCHI

The Covid-19 tally in Ranchi drew close to 25,000 on Wednesday after as many as 647 people, including 163 in Ranchi alone, tested positive for the virus in 24 hours, figures compiled by the National Health Mission (NHM) stated.

However, despite reporting the highest number of fresh cases among all districts in Jharkhand on the day, the number of active cases in Ranchi dropped to 2,023, as the district also reported 225 Covid recoveries, a daily Covid-19 bulletin released by the NHM highlighted.

As per the bulletin, as many as 24,657 people in Ranchi have been infected by the virus so far, and at least 2,023 of them were still battling the mysterious virus on Wednesday night. Ranchi also reported one Covid

casualty on the day, which took the Covid toll in the district to 163, government data revealed. Jharkhand on Wednesday reported two Covid deaths, and the second casualty occurred in East Singhbhum, a district that accounts for 326 of the 851 Covid fatalities reported across the state so far. The Covid mortality rate of Jharkhand, as on Wednesday night, was 0.86 per cent against the national average of 1.50 per cent.

The government has so far collected swab samples of around 29.88 lakh people and tested 29.75 lakh of them. Of the 29.75 lakh people tested,

98,061 were found Covid positive. At least 91,004 Covid patients have defeated the virus in the state, while 6206 people were still infected, figures compiled by the NHM highlight.

Meanwhile, the number of active cases of infection shot up in East Singhbhum after the district reported 97 fresh cases against 46 recoveries on Wednesday. As per government data, there were 1,339 active cases of Covid-19 infection in this district.

On Wednesday, health workers tested swab samples of 56,226 people and 55,579 of them tested negative for the virus. As per government data, the growth rate of Covid-19 infection in Jharkhand was 0.55 per cent in the past one week against the national average of 0.64 per cent. The doubling rate of Covid infections in Jharkhand was 126.43 days against the national average of 108.65 days.

A medic collects swab samples from a person for Covid-19 test, amid the ongoing Unlock 5.0, in Ranchi on Wednesday

Ratan Lal | Pioneer

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Oraon, Badal tour Dumka to ensure Jr Soren's victory

PNS ■ RANCHI

In an attempt to ensure victory of Mahagathbandhan candidate Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee (JPCC) Chief, Rameshwar Oraon and Agriculture Minister Badal on Wednesday visited Dumka for Assembly bye-election campaigning.

In order to go to Dumka, the State President and Agriculture Minister reached Bermo and gave necessary tips to the leaders involved in the election campaign to win the election. Oraon and Badal also participated in election campaigning during Raja Bazar,

Jaina More and other areas of Bermo Assembly constituency. Also instructed the party leaders to assign full responsibility to the committee at the booth level and train them.

On this occasion, while addressing the workers Oraon said that many impractical decisions of the Central Government have increased the difficulties of the people violating the tradition of undemocratic and federal system, Rs 1417 crore was deducted from the State Government account. "It has increased the difficulties of the State Government in the Corona crisis, but in spite of this the Government is determined to



Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee President cum Food and Civic Supply and Finance Minister Rameshwar Oraon, State Spokespersons Alok Kumar Dubey, Lal Kishore Nath Shahdev and Rajesh Gupta Chhotu during a meeting in Ranchi on Wednesday

provide ration to every poor and needy family with their resources," he added.

Reacting to the allegations by BJP leaders of not being able to spend despite having the

funds, Oraon said that the Congress-JMM coalition Government did not need their advice. "After the formation of separate Jharkhand State, what has been the situation of the people of the State during the reign of about 16 years, it can be easily understood by looking at the standard of living of the people living here, due to the inefficiency of the then Government," he added. Agriculture Minister Badal said that not only in Jharkhand, people are witnessing resentment across the Country due to the abuse of BJP leaders and the use of un-parliamentary language. He said that BJP leaders have lost their

mental balance after being ousted from power and that the people of Bermo and Dumka will respond appropriately in the upcoming by-elections. Party's State Spokesperson Alok Kumar Dubey said that JPCC Chief and the Agriculture Minister were welcomed by party leaders at other places along the way, including Dhanbad, in order to reach Dumka. He said that along with participating in various electoral programs in Dumka Assembly constituency, the two leaders will meet with leaders and workers of the party organization separately and assign them field-wise responsibilities.

DC asks officials, puja committees to ensure following Covid guidelines

PNS ■ RANCHI

Ranchi Deputy Commissioner Chhavi Ranjan today held an important meeting with senior administrative officials assessing the law and order situation in State Capital ahead of Durga Puja celebration. The DC directed the officials to strictly enforce the State government's guidelines for puja. The meeting, which was attended by SDM, ADM Law and order, police officers and others were directed by DC to comply with State government guidelines along with different puja committees.

As per the State government directives, the height of puja idols has been capped to four feet. The state government guidelines primarily focus on curbing chances of crowding. The government has banned loudspeakers, public address system, theme based pandals, light decorations, bhog distributions, dhakis, fair exhibition and hosting cultural programmes.

Moreover, as per State government's guidelines, only seven persons will be allowed entry at the pandals at the time. The pandals will be closed from three sides. Guidelines have also been issued for immersion of idols.

The DC asked the officers to ensure from puja committees that social distanc-



Ranchi Deputy Commissioner Chhavi Ranjan honours citizens, who participated in the RanchiWithMask Public Awareness Campaign in support of ICICI bank, at collectorate in Ranchi on Wednesday

Vinay Murmu | Pioneer

ing norms are followed. Use of sanitizers, wearing of masks and gloves must be mandatory. Ranjan, apart from issuing guidelines on puja pandals, also directed senior police officers to maintain law and order situation in the area.

Meanwhile in other development, HoD, P&A, RIE (III) CMPDI Suman Rastogi met DC Chaavi Ranjan and handed over 1000 pieces of masks and 100 units of oxymetre as part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The DC thanked the CMPDI officials for giving the masks and oxymetre in fight against the coronavirus.

The DC also met representatives of Ranchi with masks campaign and assured full help and support in the noble cause.

Police float helpline numbers for quick help to women in distress

PNS ■ RANCHI

DGP of Jharkhand Police MV Rao had directed SSP and SP of all 24 districts to float mobile numbers so that girls and women in distress can send messages to police to seek help. On Wednesday late evening all districts alongwith Jamshedpur and Dhanbad Railway police issued names of 26 nodal officers and their numbers.

The DGP posted this information on his Twitter handle on Wednesday and said that it is being done as part of intensive efforts to curb crime against women and to ensure safety of girl children. "All SSPs of districts across the state are required to publicize WhatsApp numbers by this evening. Women and girls in distress can send messages. The same will be promptly responded to," the DGP posted the comment.

The DGP said that all district police have been asked to release special social messaging enabled mobile helpline numbers by Wednesday evening. The DGP made this announcement a few hours after he met Governor Droupadi Murmu at the Raj Bhavan on occasion of Police Commemoration Day. The DGP also briefed Governor about law



Chief Minister Hemant Soren was presented the Police Flag by Director General of Police MV Rao and Additional Director General of Special Branch ML Meena on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day, in Ranchi on Wednesday

Pioneer photo

and order situation in Jharkhand and steps taken by police to improve policing.

Jharkhand Police has been in the line of fire in the wake of some of the heinous rape and murder case occurring across Jharkhand. The opposition criticised the government over failure of law and order in Jharkhand.

Sources said that Jharkhand Police is obviously under pressure as there is no easy way to prevent cases of rape and murder after rape. Even the DGP who addressed a press conference on Tuesday said that no such mechanism is available with Jharkhand Police to prevent such cases.

He said that Jharkhand Police are studying what else steps are being taken by other states to prevent such crime.

While applauding police, the DGP said that in 95 per cent of such cases accused have been arrested and hearing of the cases have been fast-tracked. He said that in most of the cases accused were found acquitted with victims.

The DGP said that police will start an awareness campaign to prevent the crime against girls and women. Parents too will have to remain watchful about activities and association of their children.

CMPDI to open its Earth Science Museum for students soon

PNS ■ RANCHI

At one corner of Ranchi city, there is a hidden treasure of knowledge and interest which is not known to many. Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI), now intends to open this museum for the students of various schools for their knowledge enhancement. Subsequently, it will be opened for the general public as well on a day to day basis.

It is the small but remarkably elegant display of information and items related to the creation of the universe and the many-splendored aspects, riches and resources of our mother earth. The Earth Science Museum at the ground floor of the headquarters of CMPDI is really fascinating in its content and display and is a source of great interest to all seekers of knowledge.

CMPDI was willing to establish such a museum, which would display aspects of mining but with a much broader background of overall information and knowledge for public interest. Around the year 1991, the Coal India Management blessed this endeavour.



Vinay Murmu | Pioneer

our and a basic design of the museum was prepared by CMPDI in-house Architect. Upon approval, the famous artist and museum implementer, RA Dutt, was selected through due procedure to construct and install the display items.

The beautifully laid out Earth Science Museum was inaugurated in the year July 1991 and starts with the Story of the creation of the universe 1400 Crore years ago, then the creation of the solar system and our planet earth around 450 crore years ago. These and many other models and dioramas in this museum are mechanical

ly animated and make actual movements to the interest of the visitors. Gradually, the displays tell the stories and mechanisms of volcanoes, the ocean, the advent of life on earth and its evolution.

Many rare and genuine samples like shells, fossils, dinosaur bones, geological treasures like a variety of crystals and gemstones, are also displayed here. Landforms created in limestone deposits due to water action i.e. Karst landforms, including Stalactite, stalagmite, etc. are also depicted. Samples of petrified trunks are also stored in the museum. The evolution of man

and how cavemen lived, are displayed through models. Items of geological interest like the cross-section of the earth, hot springs, petroleum extraction from seabed and its refining are also shown. An interesting model shows the landing of the lunar module on the moon.

After this general display, there is a specific gallery dedicated to displays related to coal mining. Coal samples of various types are displayed here with their technical properties and grades explained. A large model shows the entire activities of one typical underground coal mine and its allied activities.

There is a working model of mechanized open cast mine and CBM utilization and extraction which have been made by CMPDI's in-house technician and is a wonder with all machines and vehicles actually moving. AT the end, there is the historic iron capsule which was used to save the lives of the trapped miners in the Mahavir colliery mishap in 1989.

The Earth Science Museum is, thus, a mine of information, interest and education.

Ward councillors ask Mayor, officials to resolve differences

Ranchi: The board meeting of Ranchi Municipal Corporation held on Wednesday after a gap of five months remained story where Mayor Asha Lakra accused municipal commissioner Mukesh Kumar for undermining autonomy and authority of RMC in the matter related to appointment of a tax collection agency.

Lakra questioned the way the state urban development department intervened in the internal matter of RMC through its subsidiary agency State Urban Development Agency (SUDA).

She said that in June the board of RMC had extended the contract period of Sparrow Softech Pvt Ltd for a period of three years to carry on tax collection. But the urban development department through SUDA floated a tender and selected a new company Shri Publication for tax collection. Municipal commissioner signed the agreement papers. Mayor said that the municipal commissioner did not inform the RMC board about selection of a new company. She termed it an interference in RMC. While the matter is sub-judge; ward councillors present during the meeting asked the mayor and municipal commissioner to sit together and decide their respective administration powers.

The board meeting broadly discussed the requirements of special cleanliness drive and proper sanitization in the wake of festival and.

It was decided that RMC will carry sanitization of 175 puja pandals in the city capital once a day. Besides, safai workers will be deployed in three shifts to continue door to door garbage collection and cleanliness. For Chhat festival, all ponds and lakes will be cleaned right after the Diwali festival.

PNS

Padman of Jharkhand to contest Bihar polls

Files nomination from Harlakhi constituency

PNS ■ RANCHI

A 33-year-old hotel management graduate turned social activist, who won the Padman of Jharkhand title for distributing sanitary pads among impoverished rural women and spreading awareness about menstrual hygiene in suburban Ranchi, is set to contest the upcoming Bihar assembly polls from Harlakhi constituency of the neighbouring state.

Mangesh Jha, whose independent efforts have led to acceptance of sanitary pads in more than 600 rural households in the outskirts of Ranchi, has got a ticket from Plurals party in Bihar and is banking on the support of socially-aware youths and women in his maiden shot at politics.

After working with top hotels in the country, Mangesh quit his job in 2014 with the intent to serve and uplift the rural society, especially women and children.

Cut to 2020, Mangesh aims at making menstrual hygiene a priority not only for activists but also for



Mangesh Jha popularly known as Padman of Jharkhand poses for a picture with kids

only when we overcome our prejudices based on caste, community, colour and sex," added Mangesh.

The poor state of affairs in Bihar encouraged him to enter active politics. "Be it Bihar or Jharkhand, our issues are more or less similar. Challenges in health, infrastructure and education sectors continue to hold us back," Mangesh said over phone after filing nomination for the elections.

Winning and losing, he said, was a part and parcel of life, and the election results will not deter him from achieving his goals. "I obviously want to win. But even if I don't, I will continue working for my people in whatever way I can. This is the time to change. We need more participation of youths in active politics in order to bring positive changes," he added.

Originally from Bihar, Mangesh calls Ranchi his second home. He has spent more than seven years in the city, and keeps frequenting the Jharkhand capital.

RMC begins beautification work of public places

Pahari temple steps, Bada Tabal walls painted with graffiti art

PNS ■ RANCHI

B eautification work of popular public places across the City has been initiated by the Ranchi Municipal Corporation (RMC). The work has been kicked off under a programme called 'Let's make Ranchi as Ramnik Ranchi' from October 1

Workers busy in a wall painting by the Municipal Corporation of Ranchi to make the city beautiful and clean under the cleanliness survey and various other events, as an innovative experiment in this order by the Municipal Commissioner, "Let's make Ranchi a delightful Ranchi" at Bada Tabal in Ranchi on Wednesday

Ratan Lal | Pioneer

The walls surrounding Bada Tabal have been cleaned and painted with graffiti art highlighting the importance of cleanliness. "Earlier the walls had posters and advertisements regarding various products and services and would make the place look extremely shabby. This kind of work can be seen in western countries as well. The artwork will make the places more attractive and will also be promoted as selfie points," added the DMC.

INBRIEF

FREIGHT BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PORTAL LAUNCHED

Remarkable steps have been taken by Indian Railways to increase freight business and facilitate freight customers. In this direction, a new step is the formation of 'Freight Business Development Portal'. The portal has been launched by Indian Railways to motivate new customers to transport goods through railways and to provide better facilities to existing customers. The 'Freight Business Development Portal' has been specifically designed and developed on the principle of Customer First. Customers wishing to move freight can see the route of the train, the distance to where the goods have to be transported, the freight, etc. Through this portal, customers can get all important information related to freight services by logging to <https://fois.indianrail.gov.in/RailSAHAY/> in one click. This gives a complete timetable of goods trains, GIS based track and trace system for accurate locating of consignment, approximate freight information, information related to schemes such as on-a-terminal and on-a-wagon and many other information available on the same platform.

2 PAIRS OF PASSENGER TRAINS BY ECR

Two pairs of MEMU Passenger trains are being started between Patna and Buxar and Danapur and Mokama from 22.10.2020 till next order 03217 Mokama-Danapur MEMU will be opened from Mokama at 06.05 AM and reach Danapur at 09.45 AM. 03218 Danapur-Mokama MEMU Special will open from Danapur at 17.55 hrs and reach Mokama at 21.30 hrs. 03261 Patna-Buxar MEMU will open from Patna at 18.30 and will reach Buxar at 23.45. 03262 Buxar-Patna MEMU will leave Special Buxar at 04.55 hrs to reach Patna at 08.55 hrs.

CCL GIVES MASKS, SANITIZERS TO RANCHI PRESS CLUB



Masks and sanitizers were made available to Ranchi Press Club, by Central Coalfield Limited (CCL) under its CSR programme. Chief Manager, CCL, CSR SS Lal, Head of Public Relations Anupam Rana, Assistant Manager Nikita Bhadani along with Shweta Shalini Hansda, Praveen Kumar, Mayank Kashyap, Ankur Minocha and others were present in the program. The CCL representative said that during the Corona transition period, journalists are also playing the role of Corona Warriors. In this case, the use of mask and sanitizer is necessary to prevent infection. On this occasion, Ranchi Press Club, President, Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary-General Javed Akhtar, Executive Members Sunil Kumar Singh and Sunil Kumar Gupta thanked CCL representatives.

BOKARO STEEL GROUP ACCIDENT INSURANCE SCHEME



Under the competitive scheme for a sum of Rs.972 for the sum assured of Rs.25,00,000 for both the officers and personnel under the open tender process by the Bokaro Steel Group Accident Insurance Committee in association with the union representatives and Bokaro Steel Officers Association New India Assurance Company Limited has been selected for the group insurance policy for the year 2020-21 at a premium. Insurance premium of Rs 972.00 will be payable for the sum assured of Rs 25,00,000 for the insurance year 2020-21 of Bokaro Steel Group Accident Insurance Committee. A circular related to the new insurance policy will be issued soon, in which detailed information about the policy will be given. The new insurance policy is likely to be implemented by the second week of December -2020.

ELOQUENCE COMPETITION AT BSL

The team of Vigilance Department of BSL organized the Eloquence competition in online mode in Hindi and English languages on the topic "Vigilant India, Prosperous India" for the students of class VI to VIII in BISS-2C. Assistant General Manager (Contract Cell) Vinay Anand, Manager (Vigilance) Sushmita Kumari, Senior Teacher (BISS-2C) R. Sharma and other officials were present in the program. 4 students participated in Hindi and 6 in English for Eloquence competition. AGM Vinay Anand, Senior Teacher (BISS-2C) R. Sharma and SK Mishra were included in the group of jury in the program. The program was conducted by Manager (Vigilance) Sushmita Kumari and the vote of thanks was given by SK Mishra.

WEBINAR AT PAS BOKARO



With an endeavour to promote scientific attitude among young students a special webinar on 'Diversity in Skin Pigmentation, a genetic perspective' was organized by The Pentecostal Assembly School Bokaro for class 8 students. Principal Dr. Karuna Prasad took initiative to organize this webinar for the scientific development of student on this web portal. The aim of this webinar was to make students familiar with the term 'melanocytes and their functions'. Dr. Chandana Basu, a Scientist at Banaras Hindu University with an extensive research experience in England and Estonia, enlightened the students on the topic.

DPS BOKARO CONDUCTS RECITATION COMPETITION

In a bid to explore the creative talent of the students of DPS Bok

SHAURYA CHAKRA AWARDEE BALWINDER'S MURDER

Punjab Cong divided, party MP seeks probe



Comrade Balwinder Singh Bhikhawind should have been a priority of the Government of India," he stated in his letter.

"It is imperative that responsible including policemen who prepared inputs that led to his security cover being withdrawn should be investigated through a high-level probe," Bajwa in his letter, dated October 20, 2020, said.

Bajwa pointed out there were 16 attempts to kill Singh's family in 1990-91 and their family was the only one in India with four Shaurya Chakra awardees.

Party's Punjab incharge Harish Rawat said Bajwa has every right to write to the President but he should've written first to the Punjab Chief Minister as law and order is a state subject.

But Bajwa and Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh have been at loggerheads for quite some time now. Bajwa along with another Rajya Sabha MP SS Dhullo had even skipped

Rahul Gandhi's tractor rally in protest against the farm bills.

Bajwa has been constantly expressing his resentment against the CM blaming him for his autocratic style of functioning. He even alleged that the CM is shielding smugglers and drug trafficker after 121 people died after consuming spurious liquor in August this year.

Balwinder Singh Sandhu, who fought against terrorism in Punjab, was shot dead by two unknown assailants in Tarn Taran district. His wife said there are 42 registered FIRs of attacks on their family and countless other attacks have taken place which is not on record.

"Withdrawal of security was wrong. Government, administration and intelligence agencies are responsible for this. We sought security again, but to no avail. Those who treat security cover as a status symbol have been provided with it. We actually needed it but weren't provided," she rued.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Divisions within the Punjab Congress came to the fore yet again on Wednesday with party MP Pratap Singh Bajwa writing to President Ram Nath Kovind requesting him to order a high-level probe into the circumstances that led to the removal of security cover of Shaurya Chakra awardee Balwinder Singh and his subsequent killing by terrorists on October 16.

"I wish to bring your kind attention to the heinous assassination of comrade Balwinder Singh Bhikhawind

on October 16, 2020. Being national hero and awarded medals of valour by the President of India, the safety and security of the family of

Balwinder Singh should have been a priority of the Government of India," he stated in his letter.

The poll body reiterated its October 9 instructions asking political parties and candidates to maintain crowd discipline and advised them to demonstrate utmost vigil and care during electioneering. The advisory has been issued two days ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first rally in Bihar on Friday, which will attract crowds in huge numbers.

The EC also said it expected the chief electoral officers and district machinery concerned to invoke appropriate penal provisions against the candidates as well as organisers for violating Covid safety protocols. The advisory stated: "The commission has taken a serious view of laxity on part of



the parties and candidates, on the ground, in terms of maintaining crowd discipline and hereby reiterates and further advises them to demonstrate utmost vigil and care during electioneering."

"Chief Electoral Officers and the District Machinery would be expected by the Commission to invoke appropriate and relevant penal provisions against the candidates concerned as well as the organisers responsible for such violations. Separate instructions for strict compliance of guidelines are being issued to Chief Electoral Officers and State Governments of poll going states," the advisory read.

"Instances of such public meetings have come to notice of the Commission, where large numbers of crowds have assembled in utter violation of social distancing and the political leaders/campaigners are addressing the gathering without wearing masks in complete disregard of the guidelines/instructions issued by Election Commission. By doing so, the political parties and candidates are not only flouting the guidelines of the Commission with impunity, but exposing themselves as well as the public attending the rallies/meetings to the danger of infection during the pandemic," the poll panel's

The EC also said it expected the chief electoral officers and district machinery concerned to invoke appropriate penal provisions against the candidates as well as organisers for violating Covid safety protocols

advisory read.

The poll panel recalled its earlier advisory issued on October 9 in which it had stated: "As representatives of public, this onerous responsibility rests with the political parties to ensure that they not only cooperate with the district machineries in following the due norms of public health safety as prescribed, but also instill a sense of discipline for civic behaviour in their cadre while doing ground management during campaign times. It is requested that you may like to issue advisory to all your field representatives to demonstrate utmost vigil and care to abide by all the extant instructions in large interest of public health and avoid any penal action for breaching the provisions."

Army Chief calls for modernisation of armed forces



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of the Indian and Chinese armies locked in a stand-off at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, Army Chief General M M Naravane on Wednesday reviewed the current security scenario and stressed the need for faster integration and modernisation of the armed forces.

Interacting with the officers at the prestigious College of Defence Management (CDM) and Bison Division at Secunderabad, he also focused on the geo-strategic implications on capability development and force utilisation of the Indian Army in pursuit of national interests.

During his address to the student officers and faculty of the CDM, Naravane spoke on a number of issues concerning integration, theaterisation and modernisation of the armed forces in general and the Indian Army in particular, the Army said here.

On the government's decision to appoint the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and create the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), the Army chief said it was "a momentous one" and that the services needed to "demonstrate great wisdom and statesmanship in enabling the CDS, a long standing demand of the Armed Forces".

He added that the next logical step in the process of defence reforms was the "formation of Integrated Theatre Commands to synergise the capabilities and combat potential of the three services during war and peace." However, he advised that this process will be "deliberate, thoughtful and well considered" and its fruition will take a "number of years."

Naravane explained to the officers that there was a need for everyone to work in a spirit of togetherness and trust with the national security interests being paramount. He added a note of caution and said that there might be a requirement for "mid course corrections."

He was optimistic about the future of integration of the armed forces, which Naravane said was "an inevitability" as it would lead to "tri-services synergy" and optimisation of resources.

He commended the CDM for the excellent work related to grooming of tech-adapted, management savvy and strategically nimble higher leadership. At the Bison Division, the Army chief was briefed by Major General Alok Joshi, General Officer Commanding, Bison Division on security and operational preparedness of the formation.

Later, the Army chief visited the Simulator Development Division (SDD), Secunderabad and the TATA Boeing Aerospace Limited (TBAL) at Hyderabad, a joint venture facility of Boeing and Tata Advanced Systems established for co-production of Apache Helicopters-64. The COAS appreciated the "Make in India" initiatives and reinvigorated efforts towards indigenisation and being "Atmanirbhar" on niche technologies.

Modi holds talks with S Korean Prez

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday spoke to South Korean president Moon Jae-in, as the two leaders reviewed important global developments, including the progress in combating the COVID-19 pandemic.

The two leaders also reviewed the ongoing diversification of international value chains, the need to preserve a transparent, development-oriented and rules-based global trading order, and the important role of the World Trade Organisation, a Prime Minister's Office (PMO) statement said.

Shah lauds role of police during pandemic

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

ADG rank official to head newly-created Guwahati-based ITBP eastern command

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), tasked to secure the frontier with China, has appointed a high-level officer to head the newly-created Guwahati-based eastern command that oversees deployment of border battalions in that region. This marks the operationalisation of the eastern command.

The paramilitary has posted Additional Director General Amrit Mohan Prasad. Prasad will now be based in Guwahati to head the Command which oversees the battalions deployed along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China in States like Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Assam with frontiers at Itanagar (Northeast) and Lucknow (east) and sector offices at Likabali, Tezpur, Dibrugarh and Gangtok among others.

The Command also supervises the Force's battalions deployed for anti-Naxal operations in Chhattisgarh.

Some officers, sub-officers and administrative staff were earlier posted by the force to operationalise the command. However, the posting of the top officer was delayed due to administrative reasons.

The Force specialised in mountain-warfare had earlier posted an officer (in the Inspector General-rank) in

June to head its western command located in Chandigarh that has control over battalions deployed along the LAC in Ladakh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

The two ADG-rank headed commands were sanctioned by the Union Government in October last year for better operational functioning of the about 35-38 battalions of the

Force deployed at the LAC, starting from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh along the eastern front.

The new commands are expected to streamline operations, intelligence, deployment and administrative movements of the personnel to the border regions and also boost synergy with the Army that secures the LAC.

Shah also remembered the 343 personnel who were killed due to COVID-19 and said these personnel continued on duty to help people, donate blood and plasma. A ceremonial guard of honour by a joint squad of the CAPFs

was presented during the event that was attended by Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy, Union home secretary Ajay Bhalla, Director of the Intelligence Bureau Arvind Kumar and chiefs of various CAPFs.

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Calcutta HC gives some relief to puja pandals

Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday made a slight adjustment in its earlier order banning visitors' entry in Bengal's Durga Puja pandals.

Hearing a review petition the Division Bench of Justices Sanjib Banerjee and Arijit Banerjee increased the number of club members who would be allowed inside the pandals from 25 to 60 in case of bigger Pujas and 10 to 15 in smaller Pujas. Besides, the Dhakis or the drum players would be allowed to enter the pandals.

Apart from this the Court preferred to retain the older order banning popular entry inside the Puja pandals.

Delivering an order on Monday the Court said that the Puja pandals should be treated as containment zones and directed the State administration to mark 5 metre area around small pandals and the 10 metre area around bigger pandals as the limit till which the general people would be allowed to go.

Even the entry of the club members was restricted inside the pandals even as the Court said that not more than 25 members would be allowed

inside. The Court directed the administration to collect the names of 25 persons each from the respective Durga Puja committees beyond who no one would be allowed to enter the Puja premises. These names and numbers of such persons have to be fixed and cannot change every day, the court said.

The Court's decision came against a Public Interest Litigation filed by Advocate Sabyasachi Chatterjee and will be applicable to about 37,000 Durga Puja pandals, big and small all across the State. Out of these there are about 3,500 Puja pandals in Kolkata alone.

Subsequently review petitions were filed by big clubs like Chetna Agrani, Suruchi Sangha, Naktala Udayan Sangha, Hindusthan Club -- patronized by State Ministers and senior Trinamool Congress leaders like Firhad Hakim, Arup Biswas, Partha Chatterjee and Chandrima Bhattacharya.

Apart from them Forum For Durgotsav Committee an umbrella body of about 400 Puja organizers too filed a reviewed petition. **PNS**

Court allows Customs Dept to arrest Swapna, Sarith for gold smuggling

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The special court hearing the economic offences case gave its green signal to the Customs Department for arresting Swapna Suresh and Sarith, the prime accused in the gold smuggling scam being probed by the National Investigation Agency.

The Customs Department had told the court that if only they questioned Swapna and Sarith together they would be able to elicit the role of M Sivsankar, the former principal secretary to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, in the operation.

Sandeep Nair, one of the kingpins of the gold smuggling scam, has reportedly told the Enforcement Directorate that, the activities in the UAE Consulate General at Thiruvananthapuram was anything but diplomatic. Excerpts of the statement made by Nair to the ED and which has been leaked out to the media, point towards Sarith-Swapna Nair-Sivsankar axis in carrying out gold smuggling under the shield of diplomatic immunity.

It was Swapna Nair who told me about the possibilities of diplomatic route for smuggling of gold. For every one kilogram of gold smuggled through the diplomatic route, Swapna

had demanded \$1,000 as commission. The deal was made for Rs 45,000 for every kilogram of gold brought in through the route," said Nair who is likely to end up as an approver in the case.

Nair said the gold was smuggled into Thiruvananthapuram after two successful 'dry runs' to check its efficacy. He also said that Swapna Suresh had told him that the smuggling had the full approval of the Consul General.

"The Consul General needed money to invest in a business operations in Germany and also to construct a house in Dubai. She had told me that the Consul General's tenure in India was coming to an end and he would return home in December," said Nair.

He further stated that Sivsankar, knew about the smuggling mission as well as the criminal background of Swapna Suresh. "It was Sivsankar who helped Swapna Suresh to land up a job in the Kerala Government owned Space Park as a senior executive," Nair said in his statement.

Swapna is an accused in a case filed by the Crime Branch of Kerala Police for impersonation. The case deals with a fake complaint of molestation filed by her against a former Air India staff.

125 criminals killed in police encounters since March 2017: UP CM

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday said 125 criminals had been gunned down by the state police between March 20, 2017 and October 5 this year.

Addressing the Police Commemoration Day programme held at the Reserve Police Lines here, Adityanath said, "In the period from March 20, 2017 to October 5, 2020; as many as 125 criminals have been killed in encounters, while 2,607 have been injured."

"As many as 13 policemen have attained martyrdom while displaying exemplary courage," he added. The Chief Minister said during the same period, 988 policemen got injured while 9,578 criminals carrying rewards were arrested.

He said as many as 3,786 posts have been created for the formation of women battalions in Lucknow, Budan and Gorakhpur.

Adityanath also paid tributes to the policemen, who had laid down their lives in the line of duty.

"Along with martyred policemen, martyrs from the central para-military forces, from para-military forces of other states and from the Army (belonging to UP), dependents of 122 martyrs have been given financial assistance of Rs 26.95 crore," he said.

"The family members of the slain policemen of Bikru encounter have been given Rs 1 crore instead of Rs 50 lakh," he added.

Eight policemen, including DSP Devendra Mishra, were ambushed in Bikru village in Chaubeypur area of Kanpur when they were going to arrest gangster Vikas Dubey and had fallen to bullets fired from rooftops shortly after midnight on July 3.

Bimal Gurung quits NDA, rejoins Didi Govt

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Three years after parting ways with Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, "fugitive" Gorkha Janmukti Morcha leader Bimal Gurung on Wednesday suddenly resurfaced in Kolkata to announce his break-up with the NDA and remarriage with the Trinamool Congress.

Gurung's move comes as a major blow to the BJP's aspirations in North Bengal region on which it was counting heavily for the next year's Assembly elections.

Gurung who had emerged as a strong critic of the Chief Minister post September 2017 when he led his party into a bloody clash with the State administration leading to weeks-long bandh in the Hills came down heavily on the BJP leadership including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for their alleged "failure to keep their commitments."

Gurung said "in the past so many years we have experienced that be it the Prime Minister or the Home Minister, no one honours his commitments... on the contrary Mamata Banerjee has always kept her promise and never gone backed on her words."

"This is the reason why we have decided to quit the NDA from today and

join hands with the TMC... We will want to see Mamata Banerjee the Chief Minister for the third time... We will work with all our energy and might to ensure that TMC does well from all the seats in North Bengal." The founder of Gorkha Janmukti Morcha Gurung chose a militant path post 2017 challenging the Chief Minister for not giving a separate Gorkhaland state. He was engaged in a violent clash --- leading to a few deaths in the region.

Subsequently booked under several charges including sedition he was declared an absconder with the State police hot in his pursuit.

Advanced research in astrology demanded for accuracy of predictability

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI/CHENNAI

For the first time in modern times, an internationally respected cardiologist who is also a leading medical researcher has demanded that astrology, the age-old Indian system of knowledge, be accorded the status of modern science and initiate further research into it to refine the 'accuracy of the predictability'.

Writing the editorial of the October 2020 issue of the Journal of the Science of Healing Outcomes, a modern scientific journal that publishes only peer-reviewed scientific papers, Dr B M Hegde, former vice-chancellor of Manipal University, who was honoured with Padma Bhushan by the Manmohan Singh-led UPA Government in 2010, has put forward studies of more than five decades.

"The idea that stars, or a constellation of them, have some influence on human birth and life can never be scientifically refuted. There are areas where astrology needs further research to unravel some of the mysteries that plague the uncertainties of astrological predictions," Prof Hegde writes.

Dr Hegde says astrology is being criticised by outsiders because we have to assume many things in astrology. "Even

in Mathematics, the king of sciences, the numbers are only assumptions. Rahu and Ketu might not be seen through the Hubble's telescope but they are assumptions for calculations like North and South Poles which are not marked on the ground," he said.

The editorial says that predicting the future in any system is impossible as of now with the limited knowledge of this universe which follows non-linear laws.

"Weather forecast goes wrong on a daily basis in its short-term predictions. Therefore, future predictions in astrology also could go wrong. However, there are areas for further research to refine its accuracy of predictability. We have to have a scientific approach to see how we could fill the loopholes, if any, in that science."

That is scientific progress. In addition to sell any idea to the world, we must use a language that is universally understood. For the time being, that language is the language of hard western sciences. Let us try to sell astrology to the world using the language of science," Prof Hegde opined.

It may be remembered that eminent Ayurvedic physician Dr P R Krishnakumar who succumbed to Covid-19 recently, was a proponent of holistic treatment and undertook diagnosis based on the birth stars of the patients.

Senior leader Eknath Khadse quits BJP, to join NCP soon

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After months of intense speculation about Khadse's impending exit from a party where he had virtually been consigned to dog house for the past four years, its former Minister and senior leader Eknath Khadse resigned from primary membership of the BJP on Wednesday, two days of ahead of his joining the Sharad Pawar-led ruling NCP.

Announcing his resignation, Khadse - who played a key role along with late Gopinath Munde in building the Maharashtra party unit after the formation of BJP in 1980 - said: "I have nothing against the BJP or its central leadership. If I am quitting the BJP, it is because of (former chief minister and senior party leader) Devendra Fadnavis. He indulged in low-level politics against me for the past four years. He defamed me by making all kinds of allegations, including charge of molestation, against him."

Welcoming Khadse's resignation from the BJP's primary membership, senior minister and State NCP president Jayant Patil said: "Today, Khadse called me and told me that he had quit the BJP. Hence, we welcome him to the NCP. He will join our party at 2 pm on Friday".

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, who heads the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress alliance's Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in the state, welcomed

Khadse's impending entry to the MVA fold. "Khadse does not mince words. He is a fighter. I welcome him into the MVA".

Reacting to Khadse's resignation, Fadnavis said: "It is unfortunate that Nathabahu (as Khadse is known in the state political circles) has chosen to resign from the BJP. While leaving the BJP, he has made me a villain. At this stage, I do not want to talk about his comments. I will talk about it at a proper time. I did not foist any false cases against him, which you will realise when you go into the details of the cases against him".

Earlier, addressing a news conference in his home town of Muktainagar in Jalgaon district after resigning from the BJP, Khadse said: "I have no grouse against the BJP. It was Fadnavis who harassed me a lot when I was in the BJP. To that extent, at the best of Fadnavis, a molestation charge came to be foisted against me during our government. I am quitting the BJP because of the mental harassment I faced at the hands of Fadnavis for four years".

"I worked with senior leaders like late Pramod Mahajan, late Gopinath Munde and Pandurang Fundkar. I do not deny that the BJP gave several party posts and ministerial positions. I have not criticised any national BJP leader. There is not an MLA or MP with me now. Even my daughter-in-law and MP Rakshana Khadse will not quit the BJP. Hence, I am capable of taking my decision," Khadse said.

PALGHAR LYNCHING CASE

Police name 208 more accused, arrest 50 of them

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a significant development in the much-discussed Palghar lynching case, the Maharashtra Crime Investigation Department (CID) on Wednesday named 208 more as accused and arrested 50 of them in connection with the killing of two Sadhus and their driver by an irate mob near Kasa town in Maharashtra's Palghar district.

With Wednesday's development, the number of persons named in the Palghar lynching case has gone up to 366, including 11 juveniles. Of the 208 freshly named accused, the State CID arrested 50 persons on Wednesday.

In all, the bail pleas of 62 accused, including 50 of those arrested on Wednesday, will be produced before Special Sessions Judge P. P. Jadhav at Thane Sessions Court.

Of the 366 accused in the case, 28 adults and 9 juveniles were released on a default bail as the CID charge sheet did not specify their exact involvement in the crime owing to lack of evidence.

On July 16, this year the state CID filed a comprehensive charge-sheets against the accused before a Dahanu court in connection with the April 16, 2020 Palghar lynching incident.

In its charge sheet - running into 495 pages - filed before the court of Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) at

Dahanu in Palghar district, the CID sleuths named 126 accused in connection with the incident that took place on the night of April 16.

The investigation team, led by Deputy Superintendent of Police (CID) Vijay Pawar, filed the two charge-sheets after examining 808 suspects and 118 witnesses to collect strong evidence against the accused.

It may be recalled that on the night of April 16, three persons were lynched by a 200-strong mob of villagers near Kasa town in Maharashtra's Palghar district on suspicion that they were thieves.

The villagers first hurled stones at the van, prompting the driver to stop the vehicle. Later, they pulled three persons out of the vehicle and beat them to death in Gadchinchale village on Dabhadi-Khanwel road, with sticks and rods.

The deceased -- identified as Chikne Maharaj Kalpareshwar (70), Shashigiri Maharaj (35) and driver Niles Telgade (30) were travelling to Surat. Of them one was the diver, while two are residents of Kandivali in north Mumbai. The place where the incident took place is approximately 120 km from Mumbai.

In their charge-sheet, the investigators have said that the incident had taken place amid rumours that child-lifters were roaming in the area during the lockdown.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY

Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India
NIFT Campus, Karwar, Jodhpur - 342037, Rajasthan, India Ph. 0291-2659520

E-TENDER NOTICE

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1. Supply & Installation of Mechatronics & IoT Lab Machinery & Equipment

2. Manpower Services 3. EOI for Emppanelment of Outbound/Educational Tour

4. EOI for Empannelment of Event Management Agency for Fashion Show

Detailed information such as E-Tender forms, pre-bid meeting, submission of tender, opening of Technical Bids & Financial Bids, etc will be available in NIFT, Jodhpur website www.nift.ac.in/jodhpur & <https://tripuratenders.eproc.in>. In the date of issue/receipt of E-tenders etc, will be valid as per the tender uploaded on website. In future any information regarding corrigendum/addendum, extension of time etc. of above tenders would be uploaded in above mentioned website only.

Purchase Officer

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e-Tender in 2(two) bid system are invited for the following work:-										
Sl.No	Date-T no.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earrest money	Time for completion	Deadline for online bidding	Time & date of pre-Bid conference	Website for online bidding	Time & date of opening	Tender Fee
1	13/CE/P(WD)(DWS)/2020-21	Procurement of BIS certification maked Alumino Ferric (Grade-4 of IS 299:2012. Fifth Revision with latest amendment) during the year 2020-21.	₹ 5,99,97,996.00	₹ 11,99,960.00	360 (Three Hundred Sixty days)	Upto 3.00 PM, on 16/11/2020	At 11.00 A.M. on 04/11/2020	https://tripuratenders.gov.in	At 4.00 PM,	



Crowdpuller Tejashwi

RJD leader Lalu Prasad's son has committed himself to the race rather late in the day. He may dent but can't demolish Nitish



One would have expected the pandemic to dull the campaign for the Bihar elections but Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav is certainly stealing the thunder in optics. The surging crowds at his rallies, in total violation of social distancing norms, the high decibel cheers and his promise of providing 10 lakh jobs show the despondency of the State's migrant workers, who are looking for a sliver of hope, if not the promised land. They say visuals shape perception, and though Bihar's wisened voter has seldom been swayed by spectacles and transferred votes, Tejashwi's appeal is certainly giving some anxious

moments to the Janata Dal (United) supremo and incumbent Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. But with popular sentiment favouring the BJP with which JD(U) is in a combine, can Tejashwi churn the political waters if not turn the tide? Perhaps, he has immersed himself rather late in the day but will this legitimise his claim to being the torchbearer of his father, Lalu Prasad Yadav, and his social justice movement? For now, Tejashwi, who has often been criticised for running away to Delhi at the slightest challenge and being arrogant, is seriously investing himself as a chief ministerial aspirant. And over the last six months, he has been grounded in his State, worked the grassroots and built a people connect. Most importantly, he has decided to step out of Lalu's shadow and recast the political dialogue to his specifications. He knows full well that he cannot fill his father's big shoes just yet and that RJD would still get the traditional caste-based loyalty and minority votes based on Lalu's goodwill. After all, the Yadav-Muslim combined votebase still makes for 30 per cent of the State population. So he wants to carve out a broader constituency for himself that is more contextual than historic and is keen to make the most of a time when the political stock of Bihar's one-time deliverer Nitish is at an all-time low. So instead of harping on the RJD's core plank of caste, he has made unemployment of the State's youth the pivot of his campaign, as economics is the only issue that matters in pandemic-hit times. This helps him on two counts. First, it helps him reel in the youth, who form about 24 per cent of the electorate and who, like the migrant workers, are thoroughly disenchanted with the way Nitish handled their return during the lockdown. They even idolised Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for rehabilitating them in transit, a fact that the BJP is likely to encash for itself. Second, though the RJD is seen as a scammed party, a new generation hardly remembers the details and Tejashwi is hoping to contemporise the party's appeal among the young. In fact, his catchy slogans, like "Naya Soch Naya Bihar" or "Abki Bar Yuva Sarkar," are in tune with his effort to recast himself as a development-oriented leader who can fill in where Nitish failed. Besides, he has also given tickets to some upper caste leaders but has been astute enough to not upset the backward castes and Dalits, considering that Nitish has systematically chipped away at the RJD's base over the years by creating sub-categories like the Extremely Backward Castes (EBCs) and Mahadalits. Tejashwi is, therefore, trying to broaden the party's base to make up for this slide and wants to personify the Bihar that doesn't want Nitish. It is this that makes him engaging in what was thought to be a colourless election.

The question is if the relatability and people connect can work on the ground mathematically. Of course, this time both Lalu and Tejashwi have been careful about seat allocation to allies, preferring to keep the lion's share for the party. They have learnt the hard way, drawing a blank in the Lok Sabha elections last year after contesting only 19 seats on their own and apportioning the rest among allies, who couldn't ensure vote transfers to either the RJD or the Congress. So the party is contesting 144 Assembly seats, leaving 70 for the Congress and 29 for the three Left parties. On its own, its vote-catching potential goes up but right now with Nitish splitting its pie, what with Dalit leader Jitan Ram Manjhi and other splinters migrating to the JD(U), floating outfits or becoming Independents, the RJD still needs its old allies lest they, too, desert and split the anti-vote. Besides, RJD won 80 seats in the 2015 Assembly election together with Nitish and the JD(U) votebase. That's gone now. So RJD cannot risk disadvantaging itself further. Besides, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) now has a broad caste arc with the support of dominant groups like the Kurmis, Koeris/Kushwahas and Mahadalits, who account for 60 per cent of Bihar's population. Tejashwi is banking on the Left parties for transplanting "caste" with "class" and hoping to make a breakthrough among the poor and underprivileged. By and large, the Left parties have limited but committed voters and can matter in the RJD-led alliance. Besides, Tejashwi visited flood-hit refugees at their homes and toured the really backward pockets of the State. And though politically and ideologically divergent, he backed rival claimant and Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) leader Chirag Paswan for pointing out Nitish's flaws, cleverly not antagonising himself among the Paswans, a dominant section of Dalits. Nitish needed a credible challenger much earlier for people to reconsider, a space quietly picked up by the BJP with its post-Ayodhya swell and the Modi aura. A fortnight of roaring success doesn't translate to votes. Will Tejashwi remain a talking point or indeed become a turning point?

Keep Durga in our hearts

The PM is right, if India is to avoid a devastating second wave, our behaviour during the festive season will matter



In Kolkata and the rest of West Bengal, as well as in Bengali communities across the length and breadth of India, the coming of the festive season meant going to a *Puja* pandal, paying obeisance to the Mother and her children on their annual visit before indulging in food and mingling with friends and family. And not just in Bengal, where the arrival of Ma Durga meant a time of feasting and spending on new clothes and household goods, but across the country, across communities, these months meant exchanging gifts, sweets and what not. It was a time for togetherness, where children travelled back to be with their families and the

usual news stories of these times over the past few years were the exorbitant airfares across the country. However, in these Coronavirus-infected months, whether in Kolkata or in Delhi's Chittaranjan Park area, the limited and scaled down pandals have become no-go areas. But while the pandemic has dampened enthusiasm in many sensible people, who are relying on digital feeds to address their spiritual quest, others are incorrigible. Festival romantics, for whom the joys of pandal-hopping cannot be denied, have compelled the Calcutta High Court to modify its ban on entering pandals, now allowing small groups inside. How on earth will this be monitored? While this can possibly be managed in cities like Kolkata, Howrah, Asansol and Siliguri, how will the rush be controlled in the hundreds of small towns that dot the South Bengal countryside, all of which have their own *Puja* pandals and where people invariably use India's densest suburban rail system to work in the city of Kolkata? The potential for a regional healthcare disaster is tremendous and one presumes that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech was to ensure that things do not get out of hand. In Delhi, *puja* organisers have been careful and no large pandals have been set up. The few *pujas* that are happening are taking place purely for religious purposes in temples.

One hopes that the citizens of India pay heed to the PM's request and understand that God will not be angry if we do not go and pay obeisance in person. This is a horrible aspect of today's reality and there will be an economic price as well, but if we are to stay safe and healthy during the winter, we do not have a choice.

Welfarism and growth

We have to get past the obsessive compulsion to look at monthly outcomes and instead adopt a medium-to-long-term approach for a sustainable recovery

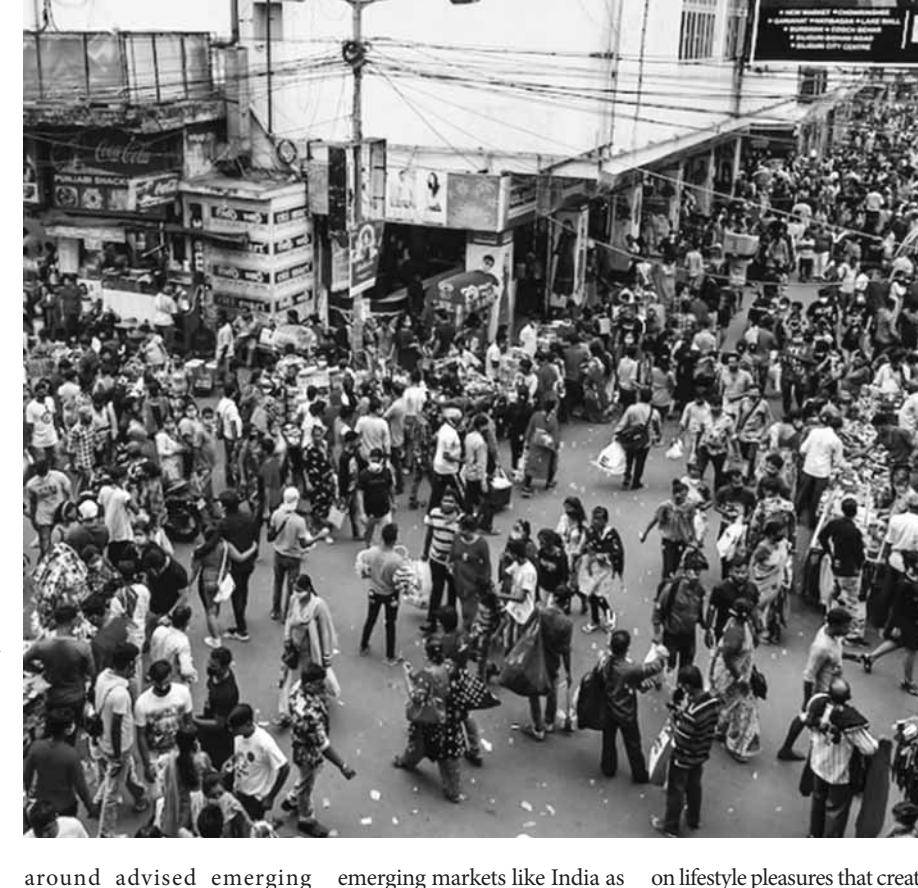


BINDU DALMIA

The Indian economy has been stress-tested many times before but never been dented as savagely as this time around. But 2020 will be remembered as the year that eroded a decade's worth of progress, the *annus horribilis* that bought humanity to its knees. Governments and businesses across the world are undergoing rapid recalibrations in order to adjust to the world of extreme volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity (VUCA). So, when the Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) states that "the world economy is not coming back to 2019 levels until 2022", it is a comforting statement of fact that economic contraction is a universal phenomenon and not a stand-alone, India-centric affliction.

So, how is the Government catalysing towards a sustainable growth momentum? The task has not been easy for a country with limited financial resources to secure lives and livelihoods of 130 crore people, who account for 18 per cent of the world's population. Given the constraints, the Narendra Modi-led Government has pursued a path of re-booting and rebuilding the economy by wresting four pillars parallelly. First, by addressing interim and short-term solutions for sustaining livelihoods. Second, by identifying and spending on post-COVID sectors of growth that will lead to sustainable and a long-term recovery. Third, by using its mandate to push ahead with powerful reform agenda, passing in quick succession long-pending reforms in labour, agriculture and education. India is poised for a stronger and more robust comeback as compared to partial or cyclical rebounds. Fourth, in order to maintain a steady growth momentum, the Government has pursued balancing social sector spending with infrastructure spending. The Centre recognises the importance of infrastructure as the foremost engine of growth and the need to scale up outlays to at least eight per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on "next-generation infrastructure," for which an allocation of ₹111 trillion investment has been set aside from 2020 to 25.

Can the Government do more by way of welfarist measures, given the anticipated shortfalls in revenue? The World Bank, usually the paragon of caution, has this time



around advised emerging nations like India to set aside fiscal prudence and take on further debt, as "you first worry about fighting the war, then you figure out how to pay for it."

Interim solutions lie in first addressing livelihood issues by further extending the timelines of direct income support for the rural poor, as also offering urban migrants a similar package. The Centre has spent around two per cent of GDP on welfarist schemes like direct cash transfers for income support, free grains for the rural poor, increased spendings on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) and so on. As

the crisis is far from over and the duration of the pandemic is uncertain, it is doubtful the Government will prematurely withdraw welfarist spending.

By lowering interest rates,

providing credit guarantees for MSMEs, allowing for loan moratoriums and one-time restructuring of loans, the Government has deployed a sizeable fiscal package of around seven per cent of GDP towards increasing liquidity. This is much required to address the supply side needs of the industry, though funding has not adequately percolated down to SMEs, who are most severely impacted by the downturn.

While globally, Central Banks

have continued with massive doses of Quantitative Easing (QE), there is room for more in

emerging markets like India as the effect of rate cuts and liquidity keeps waning due to the weak transmission. However, the policy of easing credit flows is not insulated from the downside risks of defaults that could impact the health of the already fragile banking sector. Because it is given that the impact on the financial sector isn't usually immediately visible, so the true impact of defaults on loans will reflect only in the following quarters.

The phenomenon of "revenge" or "rebound" spending during the festival months is at best a temporary surge. As we enter the festive season, there is already an average uptick by 34 per cent to 40 per cent in sector-specific surges in the major propellers of growth like retail, consumer durables, automobiles and residential housing. However, socio-economic variables have contributed to worsening VUCA levels in the services sector, which contributes 54 per cent to the GDP but has seen irrecoverable demand destruction.

Travel, tourism, shopping, hospitality, aviation, entertainment, leisure and fashion come under the discretionary-spend service sector, which is expected to see an improvement during the festive months. Viewed through the lens of behavioural science, the phenomenon of "revenge buying, or spending on indulgences" happens after a prolonged period of suppression

on lifestyle pleasures that creates the much needed "feel-good factor."

Levels of discretionary spending are a vital marker of economic health, as people only spend on lifestyle expenses once they have disposable funds left after paying for taxes, housing, savings and other essential needs.

To gauge the downward or upward trends in these sectors, predictive insights can be gained from the data of the Google Community Mobility Report that uses anonymised data provided by Google Maps. The global Google Mobility Index trends show that travel and mobility levels had fallen to 44.7 per cent in April and risen to 82 per cent by mid-September. Here again, mobility and commuting will vary with the spread or decrease in regional COVID-loads.

The aviation and hospitality industries have been among the 26 most stressed sectors and recovery is not expected before 18 to 24 months. The tourism industry contributes nine per cent to the GDP, generates substantial revenues and accounted for 87 million jobs in 2019.

The festival season is expected to give a big boost to these closely aligned sectors and will hopefully fuel the wheels of the economy till the end of 2020. Optimism thereafter rests on the advent of the vaccine by early 2021. However, with the onset of winter and the negligence of maintaining distancing proto-

cols at festive gatherings, there is a risk of further waves of viral outbreaks. This in turn will deepen the negative impact on future earnings and impact consumer spending in the following quarter of 2020 to 21.

Ultimately, the volume of consumer spending is not being dictated by need-based buying, but by what I term as the "Index of Fear-Intensity." The quantum of "Fear-Intensity" in consumers wanes and rises in response to the local COVID-load, intermittent lockdowns and the visibility of each individual's anticipated earnings over the next six months, which are now dictating behavioural patterns of consumers.

Which sectors can ride the economy towards sustainable recovery? There is empirical evidence that increased spending in infrastructure during downturns has never failed to have trickle-down effects in rebooting the economy and creating millions of jobs. As most emerging nations are constrained for resources, the Indian Government would be looking to tap into concessionary finance facilities being extended by international development finance institutions. The World Bank, Asian Development Bank and IMF are fast-tracking generous assistance to member countries facing a COVID-crunch, with global interest rates being at historic lows.

Assessing sectoral bounce backs in recovery for the July to September quarter, it has been largely driven by agriculture, while IT, healthcare, fintech, educational technology, telecom and e-commerce sectors will remain the prime engines of post-COVID growth, as they come under the category of the new "Touchless and Homebody Economy."

Stock markets, long seen as a proxy for the real economy, are now being driven by ultra-lax monetary policies in the developed world. But stock market buoyancy in no way mirrors the actual economic pain at ground levels, even as the Sensex consolidates around the 40,000 mark.

However, unlike measuring the stock market performance on a quarterly basis, corporates and the Government will have to get past the obsessive compulsion to look at monthly outcomes, and instead adopt a medium-to-long-term approach for a sustainable recovery, while remaining resilient enough to calibrate policies to the VUCA factors.

(The writer is author, columnist and Chairperson of the National Committee for Financial Inclusion at the Niti Aayog)

SOUND BITE

Is the mic ready? I wonder who did that to our mic? I don't believe it was Joe Biden. You know who it was? Crooked Hillary Clinton. It must've been.



US President
—Donald Trump

I have come back with great memories, a fabulous racing experience and valuable exposure to the sport.



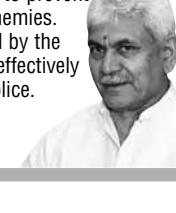
Go Karting racer
—Aashi Hanspal

Your generation can be the one that creates a new normal in America. One that's fairer, where the system treats everybody equally and gives everybody opportunity.



Former US President
—Barack Obama

Social media content must be regularly monitored to prevent its misuse by the enemies. Militancy sponsored by the neighbour is being effectively dealt with by our police.



J&K Lt Governor
—Manoj Sinha

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Malabar naval exercise

Sir — As a big strategic move, India has invited Australia to the annual Malabar naval exercises after a gap of 13 years. This proves the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) — which includes the US and Japan as the other two members — as being something more than a mere talking shop. This will be the Quad's first full military-level engagement and a step closer for the eventual formalisation of the grouping. New Delhi, overcoming its previous hesitation to invite Canberra, changed tack after China's growing belligerence and the ongoing border stand-off in eastern Ladakh. With China flexing its muscle across the region, the need for a counterbalancing strategic-security platform was sorely felt. Beijing, that had compared the grouping to sea foam in 2018, now sees this move as a serious concern.

The Quad, through regular naval coordination, can now actualise the idea of a free and open Indo-Pacific region. An effective navy with advanced operational logistics gives India the ability to exploit China's Malacca dilemma and disrupt energy supplies to the latter,

should it launch another 1962 style attack. Additionally, India and the US are expected to sign the last of four military communication foundational agreements — the Basis Exchange and Cooperation Agreement — for geospatial cooperation. This will give us more eyes to monitor and react quickly to Chinese moves.

N SADHASIVA REDDY
Bengaluru

Lack of adherence to Corona guidelines

On October 20, during his seventh address to the nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made an earnest appeal to the citizens to not be careless during the pandemic, especially as the festival season is approaching. As we continue to live with the virus, "even a small negligence" on our behalf can dampen the festive spirit. He even announced that the Government is making all possible efforts to ensure that a vaccine, whenever it is launched, reaches every Indian. However, on the other hand, COVID protocols are being brazenly violated by political parties in Bihar and other State election rallies. One such incident was when Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister, Sushil Kumar Modi, addressed an election rally at Ramgarh in Kaimur district with an estimated 20,000 people gathered to listen to him. Throwing caution to the wind, the participants clustered together, ignoring social distancing, and most did not even wear a mask.

The Election Commission's guidelines for holding a physical rally mandate social distancing of at least

Hollow promises?

Sir — Campaigning for the Assembly elections in 243 constituencies of Bihar is heating up. And at one such rally, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav promised 10 lakh Government jobs if he comes to power. In response, the Chief Minister and Janata Dal (United) leader Nitish Kumar asked Yadav

from where does he plan to get the money for the salaries? This isn't the first time. Rather the campaigning period is usually full of such tall promises that are forgotten once the polling is over. However, it is an absolute fact that the State needs comprehensive changes in numerous sectors: Employment, economy, education, healthcare, stringent measures to save flood-affected

areas and so on. The present CM, in spite of being in alliance with the BJP, which is in power at the Centre, has failed to deal with these issues and things have only changed for the worse. There needs to be a complete overhaul of the Government and people are aware of it. However, with so many players in the ring, only time will tell who comes out on the top.

N Kalam
Maharashtra

China over Taiwan

Sir — Beijing is enraged as India considers formal trade negotiations with Taiwan. China's territorial and economic imperialism has forced its neighbours to look for alternatives and a way to counter the dragon. So, even though New Delhi has been reluctant to seek trade talks with Taiwan earlier, such a step would reduce our dependence on China for supplies and further the goal of seeking greater investments in technology.

KV Seetharamaiah
Hassan

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

A sad epoch in human history

Having planned Operation Gulmarg, Pakistan unleashed its tribal militia on Jammu and Kashmir on October 22, 1947



RAGHVENDRA SINGH

Today is a black day in history and India is observing it as such, to protest against Pakistan's role in instigating violence and terror in the Valley. Having planned Operation Gulmarg, Pakistan unleashed its tribal militia on Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) on October 22, 1947. Overrunning Muzaffarabad, Dornel and Uri, the tribal *lashkars*, led by Pakistan Army personnel, reached Baramulla on October 26 and wreaked havoc. A November 10 despatch by Robert Trumbull of *The New York Times* relates vividly the death and destruction that was unleashed upon the town by the marauders. It had been stripped of its wealth and dignity before the tribesmen fled in the face of advancing Indian troops, who had rushed to the rescue of the hapless residents. Survivors of those events estimated that 3,000 of their fellow townsmen, including four Europeans and a retired British Army officer, Colonel Dykes, and his pregnant wife, were slain. When the raiders rushed into town on October 26, one party of Mahsud tribesmen scaled the walls of the Saint Joseph's Franciscan Convent compound and stormed the convent hospital and the church. Twenty-four hours later, when the Indian Army entered Baramulla, only 1,000 were left of the population of about 14,000.

Max Despott, an *Associated Press* photographer, described on November 2 that he saw more than 20 villages in flames while flying over a section of Kashmir Valley, extending within 20 miles of Srinagar. The villages had been set on fire by the invaders, who were scouring the Valley and moving in the direction of Srinagar.

Sydney Smith of *Daily Express* of London was in the Baramulla Hospital during those ten days and filed a first hand report of the attack on the convent. "The tribal *lashkars* had come shooting their way down from the hills on both sides of the town. They climbed over the hospital walls from all sides. The first group burst into a ward firing at the patients. A 20-year-old Indian nurse, Philomena, tried to protect a Muslim patient whose baby had just been born. She was shot dead first and the new mother was next. Mother Superior Aldetrude rushed into the ward, and as she knelt over Philomena, she was attacked and robbed. When the Assistant Mother, Teresalina, saw a tribesman point a rifle at Mother Aldetrude, she jumped in front of her and a bullet went through Teresalina's heart. At that moment, Colonel Dykes raced from his room to get the Mother Superior out of danger, shouting at the tribesman as he ran. But the Mother Superior was shot and Colonel Dykes collapsed beside her, with a bullet in his stomach. His wife ran from her husband's room to help the Colonel, but she too, was shot. While this went on, Gee Boretto, an Anglo-Indian, was killed in the garden in front of nine nuns. Then the nuns themselves were lined up before a firing squad. We did not find Mrs Dykes until the following day. She had been thrown down a well. Reports had come that the chief of another Evangelical Mission, Major Ronald Davis, a Welshman, and one of his two English women assistants, had been shot dead. The other assistant was said to have been taken to the hills," says Smith in his report.

Abdul Rahman of Baramulla, too, recorded his observations and said that the raiders looted the Hindus to begin with, burnt the houses of the Sikhs and killed them. "As a result of this arson and loot, the Sikhs and the Hindus fled Baramulla, leaving their houses burning, and most of their women were raped and kidnapped. The raiders did not touch the Muslims to begin with — perhaps they wanted to win their sympathy. After a few days when they found that they were about to be forced out of the Valley, they turned on everybody. They started wholesale loot, arson and rape. They killed whoever came in their way. The raiders also took all the valuable ornaments of silver and gold, shawls and so on when they left," he recalled.

According to the Wazir-i-Wazarat of Baramulla, Chaudary Faizullah, the tribal *lashkars* entered in groups of 30-40 men. Over 5,000 of them were concentrated in Baramulla at one time. They were mostly tribesmen with a few Punjabi Muslims, all well-armed and led by Pirs, Pakistan Army and Frontier Constabulary officers. The local Muslim Conference men joined the raiders and acted as guides. From the day the raiders entered the town, they started killing non-Muslims and looting and burning houses, irrespective of religion and raping women. They broke into houses in groups of 10-12, robbed them and carried away valuables, clothes and food. About 280 lorries were used to ferry this loot. The Pakistani raiders left on the night of November 7 when the Indian Army re-captured it. The *Times of London* reported on November 11 that residents seemed delighted to welcome the Indian troops. The Press despatch also bore testimony to the fact that the convent and hospital were not destroyed by the Indian aerial attacks as alleged by Pakistan wireless statements.

(The writer is Secretary, Ministry of Culture)

Trump says he could be 'king' of all fundraisers

Slams Biden for being 'servant' of lobbyists

Erie (US): Joe Biden is a "servant" of lobbyists and "Washington vultures" who got rich by bleeding America dry, US President Donald Trump has claimed while responding to his Democratic rival's unprecedented fundraising in September, asserting that he could be the "king" of all fundraisers, but does not want to do it.

Biden raised whopping \$383 million for his election effort in September, a record-breaking sum that eclipses the unprecedented fundraising from the previous month.

"He (Biden) is a servant of the globalist, lobbyist, wealthy donors and Washington vultures who got rich bleeding America dry. You know I said the other day... I never thought of it because they're raising a lot of money, (USD) 300 million. I could be the king of all fundraisers."

"I would be the greatest that ever lived the president of the

United States," Trump alleged at an election rally here on Tuesday.

Biden holds a massive cash advantage over Trump in the last leg of the campaign, The Hill newspaper reported, citing latest figures from the Federal Election Commission.

Biden has over \$177 million in the bank, compared with \$63.1 million for the president.

In September, Biden raised \$383 million, while Trump raised \$247.8 million. The month before, Biden raised a then-record of \$364.5 million, compared with \$210 million for the president, the report said.

"All I have to do - give me a list of the top 100 companies. I'll call the president of everyone. They will pay me whatever I want. I would set every record. The problem is I own them. Because when they call and have a problem for a lot more money than we're talking about you know, it's like hard

to say no. Hey, they were nice. They treated you good," he said. "I don't want to do that. We don't need the money. I don't want to do that. I don't want to do it. But when you see them raise \$300, 350 million in a month and a half you know deals are being made - just so you understand. Deals are being made. Big deals. Look at the deals that he is making for himself. Deals are being made," Trump said.

In 2016, Pennsylvania voted to fire this depraved political establishment and elect an outsider as president who is finally putting America first, he said.

"The fact is whether you like it or not, whether you want to hear it or not, Joe Biden is a corrupt politician. He is a corrupt politician. And smoking gun emails show that the Biden family sold the Vice Presidency for a very, very substantial amount of money. More money than anybody would believe. He let China plunder our jobs while his family raked in millions of dollars from China and foreign nations," he said. PTI

American Hindus deeply divided over Trump, Biden

Houston: The political divide between the Hindu supporters of US President Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger Joe Biden is getting deeper with the presidential election less than two weeks away.

In a sign of the growing political prominence of Hindus in America, the Trump and Biden campaigns are wooing this religious minority community like never before. Hinduism is the fourth largest faith in the US, representing approximately one per cent of the US population in 2016.

The Biden campaign in September launched the 'Hindu Americans for Biden', while the Trump campaign in August announced the formation of the 'Hindu Voices for Trump' as part of their efforts to attract the over two million members of the religious community in the US.

While one group alleged that Biden "panders to Muslims", the other accused Trump of being a "racist".

The webinar titled '2020 Presidential Election: A debate on the American Hindu issues' was co-sponsored by the Hindu American Foundation, the Hindu American PAC, the HinduPACT and the HinduVote.

PTI

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector - 6, Noida - 201301 (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/ downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & [https://etender.up.nic.in](http://etender.up.nic.in). Please ensure to see these website for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

(A) (1) 26/DGM(JAL)/AO/SM(JAL)-I/20-21 M/o W/s (Two year Cleaning of UGR-OHT-110 & Repairing, painting of TWs, OHT & UGR in Sector-110) Noida (PART-B-2) - Repairing, Painting of TWs, OHT & UGR in Sector-110) Cost:Rs. 34.45 Lacs

(2) 28/DGM(JAL)/AO/SM(JAL)-I/20-21 D/o Village (Relaying & Replacement Choked & P/L New Water Line in Village-Mamura) Noida. Cost:Rs. 93.43 Lacs

(3) 29/DGM(JAL)/AO/SM(JAL)-I/20-21 M/o W/s (Cleaning of Rainey Well No. 7 & 8) Noida Cost:Rs. 50.67 Lacs

The above tenders can be uploaded by date 04.11.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 05.11.2020 at 11.00 AM.

Office:-
Sector-5, Noida
SENIOR MANAGER
(JAL)-I, NOIDA

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Muskan, D/o Ugar Nath Mishra, R/o H.No. 41, Block F-19, Sec G-8, DDA Flat, Narela, Delhi, Age: 16 years, Height: 4'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Medium, ID Mark: A mole on right side nose, wearing Cream T-Shirt, Black Lower & Hawai chappal in feet,** has been missing from her house since 02.10.2020 at 08:30 AM. In this regard a FIR No. 528/2020 U/s 363 IPC, dated 04.10.2020 has been registered at P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbci.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbei.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368638, 24368641
Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/527/ON/2020 Ph. No.: 011-27787592, 27787593

राजस्थान परिवहन निगम मुख्यालय जप्पूर

जमाना- एक /मुद्रा/ जनतार्पण/ 2020 /723 दिनांक- 16.10.2020

इं-बोली सूचना

निगम द्वारा नियम कार्यों हेतु इं-बोली के माध्यम से नियाचिरा प्रत्र में अनिलाईन बोलिया आगंत्रिया की जाती है। बोली से संबंधित विस्तृत वेबसाइट www.rsrcrt.rajasthan.gov.in वा <http://eproc.rajarathan.gov.in> वरे देटेट पोर्टल (SPPP) पर देखा जा सकता है।

1 / 02 / 2020-21 नियम की लगभग 3000 लोगोंने इं-बोली के बैक बैनल (जिनमें नियम द्वारा अनुच्छेद पर ऐसी गई वर्ती भी शामिल हैं) पर विचारण हेतु इं-बोली आगंत्रिय की जाती है।

शो
P.S. Narela Industrial Area,
Delhi
DP/527/ON/2020 Ph. No.: 011-27787592, 27787593

प्रा.एन. नं. RTC2021SLOB00255 कार्यकारी निदेशक (प्रशासन)

राज. संवाद / सी. 5811 / 2020-21

Uproar in Sindh province as police protest alleged abduction of its chief

Karachi: A serious controversy has broken out in Pakistan after an Inspector General of Police (IGP) was allegedly forced into ordering the arrest of Captain (retd) Saifur Awan, the husband of Maryam Nawaz Sharif, for chanting slogans at the tomb of the country's founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah in Karachi.

Rumours are spreading like wildfire in the country that IGP Mushtaq Maher was allegedly abducted from his home by intelligence agency officials and was forced into ordering the arrest of Saifur Awan.

"Sindh Police should continue their work in an independent and impartial manner. The government is taking steps to further strengthen the professionalism of the police," the Chief Minister said.

Meanwhile, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP), has slammed the military establishment and the intelligence agencies for humiliating the police by forcing them to order the arrest of Saifur Awan.

Bilawal Bhutto had earlier demanded to have the identities of the people who surrounded Sindh IGP Maher's house at 4 a.m., shortly before the arrest of Saifur Awan.

Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa also took notice of the incident and ordered an immediate inquiry into the matter. IANS

Shah assured the provincial police's top brass that the government would not let the force be demoralised under any condition.

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Pro-democracy activists march to the Government House, Prime Minister's office during a protest march in Bangkok, Thailand, on Wednesday PTI

Thai PM urges protesters to give up confrontation

Bangkok: Thailand's Prime Minister on Wednesday pleaded with his countrymen to resolve their political differences through Parliament, as student-led protests seeking to bring his government down continued for an eighth straight day.

"The only way to a lasting

solution for all sides that is fair for those on the streets as well as for the many millions who choose not to go on the streets is to discuss and resolve these differences through the parliamentary process," Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha said, according to an English-language text released of a taped speech broadcast Wednesday night. Demonstrations have continued daily in a movement that calls for Prayuth to step down, for a more democratic constitution and for reforms to the monarchy — a revered institution traditionally treated as sacrosanct in Thailand. AP

Stampede kills 11 Afghans seeking visas to leave country



Kabul: At least 11 women were trampled to death when a stampede broke out Wednesday among thousands of Afghans waiting in a soccer stadium to Thailand's leader urges protesters to give up confrontation get visas to leave the country, officials said.

Gov. Attullah Khogyani said another 13 people, mostly women, were injured at the stadium in the eastern Nangarhar province, where they were trying to get visas to enter neighbouring Pakistan.

He said most of those who died were elderly people from across Afghanistan.

In a separate incident, at least 34 Afghan police were killed in an ambush by Taliban militants in northern Afghanistan, according to a local hospital official.

Rahim Bakhsh Danish, the

director of the main hospital in the Takhar province, confirmed receiving 34 bodies and said another eight security forces were wounded. An Afghan security official said the forces were in a convoy that was ambushed.

The official, who was not authorised to brief media on the event and so spoke on condition of anonymity, said several police Humvees were set ablaze. AP

Germany grants Hong Kong pro-democracy protester asylum

Berlin: A 22-year-old university student from Hong Kong says she has been given refugee status by Germany after demonstrating against the city's extradition law.

Germany's Federal Office for Migration and Refugees would neither confirm nor deny granting the protester asylum, citing the country's strict privacy laws.

However the woman, who identified herself only as Elaine

and declined to give other personal details to protect her family in Hong Kong, showed the Associated Press paperwork confirming her refugee status was granted Oct. 14.

She told the AP in a telephone interview late Tuesday that she fled Hong Kong in November while free on bail after being arrested on allegations of rioting and violating the semi-autonomous Chinese territory's law banning masks, introduced last year as anti-government protests became increasingly violent.

After arriving in Germany, it took more than nine months for her asylum application to be processed, the former Chinese University of Hong Kong student said. "I'm very grateful to the government for covering my basic needs, including healthcare when I had to be treated for mental health issues," she said. AP

At least two floors of the building near Maskan Chowranghi in the Gulshan-e-Iqbal area in Karachi were severely damaged, leading authorities to fear that the toll may rise.

The death toll in the incident has increased to five,

Powerful explosion rips through building in Pakistan, 5 killed

Islamabad/Karachi: A powerful explosion ripped through a four-storey building in Pakistan's Sindh province, killing at least five people and injuring 20 others, police said.

At least two floors of the building near Maskan Chowranghi in the Gulshan-e-Iqbal area in Karachi were severely damaged, leading authorities to fear that the toll may rise.

The death toll in the incident has increased to five,

Faisal Edhi of the Edhi Ambulance Service said.

Seven of the injured are said to be in critical condition.

The security forces have cordoned off the area after the explosion. Police chief Mushtaq

Mahar said the bomb disposal squad and anti-terrorism officials are yet to determine the cause of the explosion. PTI

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is Publicly notified that the Res. H.no G-255-B, Sec-22, Noida, G.B. Nagar U.P, allottee of Mr. Tarsem Lal Bhangel S/o Bakshi Ram R/o A-4/136, Paschim Vihar N Delhi, had sold on the basis of G.P.A. to the following persons. The General Power of Attorney was registered on dated 4.8.1996, in the name of Mr. S.K. Sabharwal S/o Sh. P.R. Sabharwal R/o B-901, Kesarbagh, Sec-48, Noida, G.B. Nagar U.P., and agreement to sell is not executed.

Because agreement to sell is not executed so it is Publicly notified that the transfer of the property bearing Res. H.no. G-255-B, Sec-22, Noida, G.B. Nagar U.P., is going to be transferred through G.P.A. in the name of Pushp Raj Singh Gusain G/S/o Late Sh. Diwan Singh R/o G-255-B, Sec-22, Noida, G.B. Nagar U.P. If some one has any objection he/she file his/her objection along-with the sufficient proof in the Housing Department (H) of the Noida Authority within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

S.K. Sabharwal

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE					
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No-23, Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110 005					
Whereas				The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.	

Trend Blazer

Madhuri recalls working with Saroj

Actor MADHURI DIXIT NENE walked down memory lane and recalled working with the late co-actor RISHI KAPOOR and late choreographer SAROJ KHAN in the 1995 release, *Yaaraana*.

The David Dhawan directorial was inspired by the Julia Roberts-starred *Sleeping With The Enemy* and is still remembered for Madhuri's hit dance number, *Mera piya ghar aaya*. The number was choreographed by Saroj Khan.

"Working alongside Rishi ji and learning the steps from Saroj ji are some of my fondest memories... Today as we mark #25YearsOfYaraana, remembering both of them. This is dedicated to them and the whole team," she wrote.



'Comparisons to Ayushmann (Khurrana) are quite flattering. We live in an era when competition is healthy and our peers only inspire us to be better. Ayushmann has made this entire generation of actors proud with his ability to do films that most other actors wouldn't touch before. I am glad people are appreciating the work I have done so far.'

—Shweta Tripathi

The much-hyped **AYUSHMANN KHURRANA-VAANI KAPOOR** starrer has a name. On Wednesday, it was confirmed that the film directed by Abhishek Kapoor is titled *Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui*.



Taking to Instagram, Ayushmann expressed joy at starting shooting for the film in his hometown, Chandigarh.

"Next stop: My hometown Chandigarh for the first time. Excited to be a part of Abhishek Kapoor's delightful progressive love story *Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui*," he wrote.

Robert, Mark defend Chris Pratt

Avengers stars **MARK RUFFALO** and **ROBERT DOWNEY JR** have defended co-star **CHRIS PRATT**, who was criticised by netizens for his alleged political beliefs.

Over the weekend Pratt was questioned over why he has not been more politically engaged about current events.

His critics called him "Hollywood's Worst Chris", with many commenting on his involvement in a conservative church and others assuming that he is a fan of US President Donald Trump. Netizens also attacked Pratt over an Instagram post where he urged fans to vote for his film *Onward* to win a People's Choice Award.



Surface transmission is known to be one of the biggest reasons for the increase in Coronavirus cases around the world. A start-up introduces a first-of-its-kind technology to contain the spread through touch. By AYUSHI SHARMA

It would not be wrong to say that technology has proved to be a game-changer, especially in the time of a pandemic. While COVID-19 vaccine continues to remain under development and containing the spread of the Coronavirus has become the most critical aspect in today's world, a start-up has announced the launch of 'Keep-U-Safe', a first-of-its-kind technology, which will aid in achieving significant reduction of viruses on surfaces of their products.

Surface transmission is known to be one of the biggest reasons for Coronavirus spread around the world. The organisation, SeguraMAX, aims to fight the very contagion. It believes that this could become a potential game-changer for India and the world, where the Coronavirus cases are rising at an alarming rate. The green plant-based technology has been tested by various international and accredited NABL labs with proven results to reduce more than 99 per cent viruses from various surfaces of fabrics, garments and plastics in less than one minute. It has also proven to remain effective after multiple washes.

The technology can become the first shield of hybrid protective wear to fight infectious diseases and prevent surface transmission of viruses from the infected to the uninfected, even while pharma companies continue their effort to develop and suitably deploy a vaccine in the coming months. The company has developed a diverse range of products treated with bio-organic additives that reduces the presence of viruses.

Now the question is — how is this technology better than UV tech? Gaurav Khullar, Director, Product Development, explains that first and foremost, the human body cannot be exposed to UV tech and it takes longer for UV lights to disinfect a surface. For instance, a wall or a wall-coating cannot be disinfected and takes longer time. However, this technology is perhaps the first in the world to use plant-based, natural and non-toxic technology, which doesn't have any adverse effects on the human body or the surfaces it has been applied to. "Our technology is manufactured as coatings, plastic master-batches, plastic films, fabrics and apparel. After several rigorous testing, exposing our products to several bacteria and viruses, we have been able to successfully introduce a technology, which is instant and has the same efficacy on fabrics after 60 washes. The virus reduction rate remains 99 per cent within the very first minute and interpreting this to the number of days, we estimate it could last for as long as up to two years in room con-

ditions as the tests are undergoing," shares he.

During the winter season, when people might face a challenge as far as sanitisation is concerned, how will this technology and product help? Khullar tells us that a lot of the viruses are cross transmitted. This technology helps in reducing the cross-virus transmission within one minute of exposure, making it an instant smart solution. "If the surfaces are self-sanitised with the use of this tech then the cross-transmission would be reduced by 99 per cent. For example, we are doing trials with an electrical switch manufacturer. These electrical switches are turned on and off very regularly. Since sanitiser has alcohol content in it, it cannot be sprayed on electrical switches. With this tech, the switches will keep on sanitising themselves. People might face a challenge as far as sanitisation during winter season is concerned, so we have also introduced virus reduction jackets which can act as a shield even if you're exposed to an environment with viruses," says he.

The products can be used by corporates, government employees, public dealing personnel like airport staff, policemen and most importantly health workers, who frequently come in direct contact with infected individuals and surfaces. The product range includes cling wraps for suitcases and food and other purposes; breathable 3pc PPE suit, breathable coats

for doctors, N-95 masks, bed linen, doctor seat covers, travel jackets, all-weather jackets, airline seat covers, face shields, table covers, gloves, uniforms, grocery shopping bags, wrapping papers and much more.

"The problem of anti-microbials has already been there for a very long time. So, our plant-based technology will not only limit the bacteria and viruses that are existing today but will also prohibit any other possible viral transmission or bacterial growth for which further studies are undergoing. This may very well become a way of life and our technology will be a product feature for every product to have an anti-microbial coating. With the plant-based additive, it becomes non-toxic and safe. Therefore, it can become a game changer by utilising natural plant-based resources to make the technology work in the sphere of life. The products are protective wear only and not medical devices,

they do not provide any guarantee against infections and are certainly not a cure," shares Khullar.

The company is presently in talks with Material Engineers and Product Managers of various organisations globally, who have shown keen interest entering into licens-

ing arrangements to deploy this revolutionary technology. The introduction of Keep-U-Safe products will help in allaying a lot of fear among frequent travellers and more so the public at large, who are potentially exposed to a lot of public spaces and high-risk touchpoints.

THE WAR AGAINST CONTAGION



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FOOD FOR THE SOUL

The Durga Puja has always been the greatest crowd-puller, be it in the capital or in West Bengal. However, with a pandemic at hand, the physical distancing norms have taken over, dulling the extravagant pandal-hopping affairs. Since the hot *khichari* paired with the tangy chutney, and many other delicacies on the *bhog* platter will be missed this year, here are a few recipes with a twist you can try out while doing a virtual *darshan* of Maa Durga at home



LAUKI AND KELE KI MALAIDAR KHEER

WHAT YOU NEED

- Full fat milk: 800 gm
- Bottle gourd (grated): 400 gm
- Banana (grated): 2
- Khoya: 30 gm
- Almonds (sliced): 20 gm
- Chironji: 10 gm
- Cashew (crushed): 10 gm
- Brown sugar: 90 gm
- Cardamom powder: 1 tsp
- Ghee: 25 gm
- Saffron: 8/10 strands

METHOD

- Heat ghee in a pan. Fry cashews and almonds. Also, keep some aside for garnishing.
- When they turn slightly brown, add grated *lauki* and cook it for eight to 10 minutes on slow flame.
- Add milk when it starts boiling. Simmer the heat
- and let it cook on slow heat for 25 minutes more.
- Keep stirring in between.
- Now add sugar, *khoya* and cook it for another two to three minutes.
- Put cardamom powder and saffron for enhancing the taste.
- Let the *kheer* cool at room temperature. Then add grated bananas and mix really well.
- Garnish with leftover almonds and cashews. Serve cold.

and let it cook on slow



APPLE JALEBI

WHAT YOU NEED

- Apple: 1
- Sugar: 300 gm
- Saffron: 0.5 gm
- Singhara flour: 50 gm
- Pista slice for garnishing
- Mint leaf to garnishing
- Milk ice cream
- Milk: 1 ltr
- Elaichi powder: 5 gm

METHOD

- Peel the green apple and cut in roundel.
- Now remove the core part of apple. Dust some sugar and leave it for five minutes.
- Meanwhile, make a little thick syrup of sugar-saffron and cardamom.
- After five minutes, coat the apple slice with singhara flour.
- Now fry the apple slice in ghee. Once it's golden in colour, take out and dip in saffron syrup for 10 seconds only.
- Repeat the process with all apple slices.
- Once done, plate it well with milk ice cream, pista crumb and pista flakes. Ready to serve .

Courtesy: Executive Pastry Chef Anand Panwar at Roseate Hotels & Resorts.

A 'Cursed Capital'

Delhi has been a capital for five millennia but a few of them have a story as fascinating as Tughlaqabad

Only Athens, Cairo and Rome can claim to have been capitals for as long as Delhi, from the time of *Mahabharata* when the city was known as Indraprastha to today's New Delhi. It is for good reason that Delhi is known as the city with 'seven capitals and it is the story of the most fascinating one — Tughlaqabad — the massive citadel and fort built by Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq, the founder of the Tughlaq dynasty during the Delhi Sultanate period.

The Fort which was to serve as capital for Tughlaq but according to legend, it was cursed by Sufi Mystic Nizammudin Auliya who said '*Dilli Dur Asfi*' (Delhi is still far) because Tughlaq had requisitioned every able-bodied man in the capital to work on his masterpiece. He never enjoyed his capital as he was killed on behalf of his son Mohammed bin-Tughlaq while returning from a campaign in Bengal. However, Mohammed did ensure that his father was at least buried in a mausoleum overlooking the fort. The son, worried about the saint's curse, was to attempt to move the capital from Delhi to Devagiri over 600 kilometers away and in the process of moving many thousands of people ended up dying. The antics of father and son are now part of political discourse in India where being 'Tughlaqian' means being a stubborn or obstinate ruler with no consideration for his/her citizens.

This massive fort which exists on Delhi's southern bor-



ders is clearly visible on the landing path when you approach the airport from the east. But the Fort is also easily accessible by road, and the ramparts of the Fort lie beside Mehrauli-Badarpur Road where the limestone and granite work can clearly be seen. The Fort is managed by the Archeological Survey of India and entry is open to all for a token sum of just ₹20 for Indian citizens. Inside, one of the few remaining large Forts from the pre-Mughal Islamic era in India one can witness everything from the royal quarters to even the catacombs where prisoners were housed and even tortured. However, one has to be careful of the bats and the several hundred monkeys that now call the Fort home, again one of the Sufi

Saint's various curses. At night, if you drive down the Mehrauli-Badarpur road, which is a pleasure to do on the 2020 Hyundai Venue Sport, particularly with the U2 CRDi engine that our car is equipped with. With a 100PS of power, this car has a punchy engine with a load of power but one that couples the power with phenomenal mileage, in our regular city driving in start-stop conditions we got an impressive 16 kilometers per litre. It might be fashionable to look down on diesel engines these days but the Venue reminds one of the phenomenal power and economy of modern diesel engines and this one is coupled perfectly with a lovely six-speed manual gearbox that seems to never run out of power.

LIVE HEALTHY

SRM Institute, Kattankulathur, celebrates International Chefs Day with focus on rural development

The International Chefs Day 2020 was organised and celebrated by the SRM Institute of Hotel Management (SRM IHM), Kattankulathur. The theme for this year's event is 'Healthy food for the future' with a special focus on rural women's empowerment.

"Food is the essence of healthy living," said Chief Guest and Chef Dr Damodharan, President of SICA, a Guinness World Record holder.

The event was held at the State Institute of Rural Development, Tamil Nadu, Maraimalai Nagar. Dr T Anuradha, MBBS, District Designated Officer Food Safety Department, Kanchipuram and Chengalpattu districts, and Chef Bala, consultant chef and food historian, Tamil Nadu & Kerala, Brand Ambassador of EatwithIndia were the guests of honour.

The event was held with all safety protocols and social distancing measures in place. Director of SRM IHM, Dr Antony Ashok Kumar welcomed the gathering. Apart from International Chefs Day, the institute also celebrated World Food Day 2020 and World Tourism Day 2020.

The event was held as a training, demonstration and a speech on heritage and food adulteration for the empowerment of self-help group and Rotary Inner Wheel ladies.

Chef Damodharan stressed on the importance of chefs being healthy themselves in the first place. "There is nothing like eating food cooked by a mother because it is a tradition and also a medicine for health. There are several ingredients that we use in our kitchen that help us improve our health and well-being," he said. He also demonstrated how to cook a healthy meal in the



comfort of our homes. "Eat well, exercise properly and enjoy life," he added.

Dr Anuradha said that even if there are a variety of options in the market because there we get all sorts of products, "we should be able to differentiate between pure and adulterated food. But people are increasingly moving towards unhealthy food habits which lead to an unhealthy lifestyle. Eating proper food in the right quantity is essential for a good and healthy life. Our health is in our hands."

She also demonstrated on how to find adulteration in the product/groceries that we buy.

Bala further stressed on the importance of using food as medicine. She said that she has been firm believer of this and been following it herself. She explained how parents can provide tasty food for children

at home without adding artificial colour or flavouring agent.

"Change has to begin at home and we can provide a balanced, tasty and healthy diet without using any artificial colouring or flavouring agents," said Bala, who also demonstrated making a nutritious and balanced meal using our own pulses.

SRM Institute of Science and Technology Vice Chancellor Dr Sandeep Sancheti in his address, focussed on the importance of eating healthy food and how it has come into practice in the last six months. "The COVID-19 pandemic has given us an opportunity to go back to our traditional food, which is known for its several health factors. Hence, food and hotel management can never be done online. Our aim must be to remove malnutrition through sustainable food," he said.

Empowering locals

Lieutenant Governor MANOJ SINHA has expressed gratitude to the Union Government for approving full application of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment 1992 to the UT of J&K

Terming the Union Cabinet's approval of adaptation of the J&K Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 as a watershed moment in the history of Jammu & Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has expressed his gratitude to PM Narendra Modi for paving a way for the establishment of all three tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions and strengthening the grassroots democracy. It thereby gives further fillip to the developmental agenda centered around people's welfare.

The Government of India has fully applied the 73rd Constitutional Amendment 1992 to the UT of J&K, which was pending for the last 28 years. With this, all three tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions shall be formed for the first time in Jammu & Kashmir.

Sinha has observed that a major and final legal requirement towards strengthening the grassroots democracy and the bottom-up approach towards planning and execution has been fulfilled and the historic step shall result in direct representation of people in the district level body through direct elections to 14 seats in the District Development Council. "A proper system of checks and balances through membership of directly-elected members, Block Development Council chairpersons and MLAs in the District Development Council ensure that the most genuine demands and needs of people are met," he added.

After the adaptation of the J&K Panchayati Raj Act 1989, every district will have a District Development Council practising jurisdiction over the entire district, excluding municipal areas. Every council will have 14 directly-elected members, that is 280 BDC members in the whole UT. The councils shall also comprise the chair-

persons of all BDCs and members of the Legislative Assembly from the district.

Any person whose name is included in the electoral roll of any Halqa Panchayat of the district can nominate himself as a candidate for election to District Development Council. After this development, every council will have a chairperson and a vice-chairperson who shall be elected by the directly-elected members of BDC. Further, there shall be reservations for SC/ST amongst the directly-elected members on the basis of the proportion of the population. One-third of seats under direct election will be reserved for women.

Further, five standing committees — Finance, Development, Public Works, Health and Education, and Welfare — will now be constituted in every District Development Council.

The ADDC will be the Chief Executive Officer of the District Development Council, which will be responsible for the formulation of development programmes and speedy development and economic upliftment of the area of the district under its authority. The DDC will review the progress and achievements of development plans and schemes in the district. Ensuring adequate legal backing to devolution of functions to the DDC, specific functions will be assigned to the council in schedule-III of the Act. It will also supervise the functioning of Panchayat Halqas and BDC and will receive and consolidate their plans at the district level.

Pertinently, the Government of J&K has also notified the rules for the constitution of the DDC and the process of delimitation of its constituencies has already been set in motion in all the 20 districts.

IN SHORT



National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), state owned fertilizer company distributed 95 cotton plucking machines free of cost to the farmers under its Corporate Social Responsibility in programmes held in Haryana on October 15. The machines were distributed to farmers in two separate programmes organised at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sadalpur, Hisar and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bhiwani in Haryana. Virendra Nath Dutt, Chairman and Managing Director of the company was the chief guest in these programmes. In his address, Dutt explained the use of the machine for easy understanding of the farmers. The programme was attended by Anil Motwani, Chief General Manager (Marketing) and Dilbag Singh, Zonal Manager of Chandigarh Office of the company. More than 500 such cotton plucking machines have been distributed by NFL to farmers in Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana etc.



The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has undertaken the construction work for a New Integrated Terminal Building at Pune Airport. With massive built-up area of more than 5,00,000 sq ft, the new terminal will be constructed at an estimated cost of ₹475 crore. This is to cater to the continuous surge in passenger traffic and to ease congestion at the airport. To provide a delightful experience to the passengers, 32,000 sq ft space for the provision of F&B and retail outlets has also been provisioned inside the airport. Construction of a huge canopy on the city side of the existing and the new building is part of the project, which will add a magnificent look to the airport.

NTPC Dadri strives to be cleanest coal-fired plant

NTPC Dadri is striving to become the cleanest coal fired plant in the country and is complying with all the CPCB guidelines on emissions.

All the emission parameters are being monitored online and transmitted to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on real time basis. Flue gas emissions and particulate matter are well within the CPCB norms with high efficiency ESP in service in all the four numbers 210 MW & 2 nos. 490 MW units.

For SOx reduction, Dry Sorbent Injection (DSI) system has been installed in 210 MW units with technology from UCC, USA and now all the four units are meeting emission norms. FGD system is in advanced stage of implementation in 490 MW units by BHEL with technology from Mitsubishi Power Works, Japan.



All the 210 MW units were already compliant to NOx emission norms. In 490 MW units, SOFA (Separated Overfire Air) system has been installed and all the units now comply with the norms for NOx.

The branch has also pioneered co-firing of biomass pellets along with coal in the boilers. The pellets are made of husk or agro-residue which would have been burnt other-

wise in the fields increasing the pollution in NCR region. More than 8000 tons of pellets have been fired in the boilers of the company, which is equivalent to almost 4000 acres of farm fire avoided.

It has also set new benchmarks in water consumption, going beyond compliances, by implementing zero liquid discharge system and rain water harvesting system.

BIS celebrates World Standards Day

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the national standards body, celebrated the World Standards Day on October 14.

The day is celebrated to pay tributes to the collaborative efforts of thousands of experts worldwide for developing national and international standards. Themes for celebrations for each year are decided by the international standardisation bodies namely the ISO, IEC and the ITU. This year's theme was,

Protecting the planet with standards, for which BIS organised a number of programmes throughout India.

The main programme was held at the headquarters, inaugurated by Leena Nandan, Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs. In her inaugural address, Nandan appreciated the efforts of BIS in formulation of standards relevant to the businesses. Nandan presented the Solid Waste

Management Quality awards to the representatives of Resident Welfare Associations of Noida. While presenting the awards, she complimented BIS for engaging with the community and taking the benefits of its various activities to the masses. She also felicitated the two Indian experts who were awarded the IEC 1906 awards for their technical contribution for furthering standardisation in the field of electrotechnology.

Nidhi Khare, Additional Secretary presented the keynote address and emphasised the need for adopting a sustainable living instead of exploiting the limited resources which could be detrimental to the planet. She stressed on making such standards which promote environmental friendliness.

In his welcome address, Pramod Kumar Tiwari,

Director General, BIS highlighted the recent initiatives taken by the body for strengthening the standardisation process and the importance of standards in national economy.

He informed that government departments and industry associations have created standardisation cells which would greatly enhance their effective participation in making the standards relevant to the present day and futuristic needs.

He also presented the online portal developed by BIS for the Standards Developing Organisations (SDOs) which would serve as a collaborating platform for SDOs to formulate standards and achieve the vision of "One Nation, One Standard".

During his vote of thanks, NK Kansara, Dy Director General (Policy, Research & Training) informed about the programmes being held on the occasion. They included workshops with consumer

groups, state government departments and manufacturers, competitions at schools and colleges and seminars on the topics relevant to the theme.

The inaugural session was followed by two technical sessions wherein presentation

were made by experts and eminent personalities namely,

Dr SSV Ramakumar, Director

R&D, IOCL, Vimal Mahendru,

Chairman, IEC Systems Committee & IEC Ambassador; J Roy Chaudhary, Dy Director General, BIS and Dr Debjit Palit, TERI.

Second technical session, held in collaboration with IEEE was conducted in hybrid i.e., physical & VC mode during

which presentations were

made by experts drawn from

the fields of greenhouse gases,

IT & electronics. During the

session, the two Indian awardees of ISO poster competition were also felicitated.

LIGHT UP THE ROADS

The Roshan Ghaziabad campaign aims to brighten the city. By ASHOK NIRWAN

All roads in the metropolis will be free from the pit by October 31. The construction department of Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation has been mobilised in this regard. This information was given by Municipal City Commissioner Mahendra Singh Tanwar.

He said that the government has directed us to free all roads by Diwali but the Municipal Corporation will complete this target before Diwali. He told that the tenders have also been issued by the corporation to free the land. Apart from this, Roshan Ghaziabad campaign has also been started under Mission Nari Shakti



to fix all the lights of the metropolis.

Under this campaign, lights will be fixed immediately and new lights will be installed in areas where there are no lights. The city commissioner informed that the responsibility of the lighting department of the corporation has been fixed to speed up the campaign.

Apart from this, the help of RWA working in various colonies is also being sought. He told that most of the RWAs have their own electricians and the corporation will take help from them to fix the lights. The corporation will also pay the RWA electrician in return.



LIC launches new Deferred Annuity Plan

The Life Insurance Corporation of India has introduced LIC's New Jeevan Shanti plan which is a non-linked, non-participating, individual, single premium, deferred annuity plan.

The annuity rates are guaranteed at the inception of the policy and annuities are payable post deferment period throughout the lifetime of the Annuitant(s). This plan can be purchased offline as well as online now. The following two annuity options are available under the plan:

Option 1: Deferred annuity for Single life

After the Deferment Period, the annuity payments, as per the chosen mode, shall be made in arrears for as long as the Annuitant is alive. In case of an unfortunate/untimely death, during or after Deferment period, death benefit will be payable to the nominee of the annuitant.

Option 2: Deferred annuity for Joint life

After the Deferment Period, the annuity payments, as per the chosen mode, shall be made in arrears for as long as the Primary Annuitant and/or Secondary Annuitant is alive. On death of the last survivor, during or after deferment period, the death benefit will be payable to the nominee.

The joint life annuity can be taken

between 30 to 79 years of age. The Minimum Deferment Period is one year and Maximum Deferment Period 12 years subject to Maximum Vesting Age (80 years).

The plan can also be purchased for the benefit of Divyangjan (Handicapped Dependent) with a minimum purchase price of ₹50,000.

Loan facility is also available under this plan. There is a provision for immediate liquidity in case of dire need as the policy can be surrendered at any time during the policy term.

For further details to purchase the plan online, one can log on to the website www.licindia.in.

LIC's earlier Jeevan Shanti plans have been Flagship products of LIC wherein

6,11,695 policies have been sold with a premium collection of ₹38,940.97 crore.

BRICS Forum to focus on global stability & security

The Sixth BRICS Parliamentary Forum will be held under the Russian BRICS Chairmanship on October 27 via video conferencing. This year's theme is based on 'Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth: A platform for the future.'

Chairman of the State Duma (Lower House) of the Russian Federation, Viacheslav Volodin, who will chair the forum, said, "Russia will propose to discuss with the colleagues, members of the parliaments of the BRICS countries, issues of strengthening of the key international institutions such as the UN and the World Health Organisation (WHO). Issues of building a system of international relations on the principles of

mutual respect and respect for sovereignty will be also discussed at the meeting."

The forum participants also plan to discuss issues of improving the standards and quality of life of citizens of the BRICS countries, preparing legislative initiatives to improve the health care systems, issues of social protection and economic recovery during

the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as further development of parliamentary cooperation within the BRICS. The heads of the BRICS parliamentary delegations (Russia, Brazil, India, China, South Africa) will address the forum participants.

The outcome statement is also planned to be adopted at the end of the meeting.

The joint life annuity can be taken

between any two lineal

Late drama in Paris again

Rashford nets late winner as Man United beat PSG, Messi scores in Barca stroll



AFP ■ PARIS

bly headed Neymar's corner into his own net 10 minutes after the break.

The rest of the match was an end-to-end affair with both sides opting to go for the win rather than hold on for the draw, and Rashford took the points after twice being denied by Keylor Navas earlier in the match.

"Of course it's a nice feeling. More importantly we win the game and we're in a strong position now in the group," Rashford told BT Sport.

"It's the first game, the concentration and intensity we showed today we have to take forward in the next games in the Premier League."

The win sets United up nicely for next week's home clash with RB Leipzig, who are top of the group after beating Istanbul Basaksehir 2-0 in Germany.

KOEMAN'S WINNING START

Ronald Koeman got his first Champions League campaign as Barcelona coach off to a winning start with a confident win over Ferencvaros that gives them control of Group G, top but level on three points with Juventus.

Ferencvaros, the first Hungarian team to make the group stage in 11 years, started brightly and even had the ball in the net via Tokmac Nguen only for the powerful 12th-minute strike to be ruled out for offside.

Messi won and converted the penalty to give the Catalans a 27th-minute lead and the match was as good as done when Ansu Fati clipped home Frenkie de Jong's sumptuous pass just before the break.

Philippe Coutinho lashed home the third before Ibor Kharatin pulled one back from the penalty spot after Gerard

Pique was sent off for pulling back Nguen as he charged towards goal.

Pique's red card means he will miss next week's game away at Juventus, a greater test of Barca's capabilities.

Pedri and Ousmane Dembele finished the scoring for the 10-man hosts as they prepare for the weekend's Clasico with Real Madrid.

"We go into it with the maximum motivation possible," said Fati. "It's a Clasico, a game I have always dreamed of playing in."

Barca announced contract

extensions for Gerard Pique, Frenkie de Jong, Marc-Andre ter Stegen and Clement Lenglet almost straight after the win.

Juventus looked comfortable in their 2-0 win at Dynamo Kiev in what was the Andrea Pirlo's first ever Champions League match in the dugout, with Alvaro Morata scoring twice to take the points for the Italians.

IMMOBILE DOWNS BVB

It was a good night for Italy as Ciro Immobile got revenge on his old club Borussia Dortmund by scoring in Lazio's 3-1 win over the Bundesliga club in Rome, their first Champions League match in 13 years.

Immobile managed just three goals in 24 Bundesliga games for

Dortmund in 2014/15, but last season's European Golden Shoe winner outshone Dortmund's star forward Erling Braut Haaland by netting the opening goal for the hosts after just six minutes.

Lazio went two ahead midway through the first half thanks to Marwin Hitz deflecting Luis Alberto's whipped corner into his own goal.

Haaland pulled one back with a thumping finish but Immobile laid on an easy finish for Jean-Daniel Akpaka to hand Lazio a big win.

"There was an extra flavour and we are satisfied because the match was played to perfection," continued Immobile.

Simone Inzaghi's men are

level on three points with Club Brugge in Group F following their dramatic 2-1

win at Zenit Saint Petersburg

earned thanks to Charles De Ketelaere 93rd minute winner.

Chelsea are still waiting

for a £220 million (\$284 million)

spending spree to pay off when they began their campaign with an uninspiring

0-0 Group E draw with Sevilla at Stamford Bridge.

The Blues have now won just two of

their opening six games of the season

and the only consola-

tion of a cagey encounter

for Lampard was a rare clean

sheet.

All four sides in

the group are on a single point after

Rennes drew 1-1 with Krasnodar in

their first ever Champs

League match in front of 5,000

passionate fans in Brittany.

जिला परिवहन पदाधिकारी, धनबाद

-:: आवश्यक सूचना ::-

एतद् द्वारा सभी संबंधित वाहन स्वामियों को सूचित किया जाता है कि जिनके द्वारा वाहन का निजी निबंधन कराकर व्यवसायिक में प्रयोग किया जा रहा है। वैसे वाहन स्वामियों को निदेश दिया जाता है कि दिनांक 31.10.2020 तक जिला परिवहन कार्यालय, धनबाद में संपूर्ण कागजात समर्पित कर व्यवसायिक वाहन में परिवर्तन करवाना सुनिश्चित किया जाय, अन्यथा मोटर वाहन अधिनियम की सुसंगत धाराओं के तहत कारवाई की जायेगी।

जिला परिवहन पदाधिकारी, धनबाद

PR 234679 (Transport)20-21#D

जिला मन्त्र्य पदाधिकारी, पलामू

प्रगतिशील मन्त्र्य कृषकों के लिये आग सूचना

उत्कृष्ट मन्त्र्य मिश्रो/मन्त्र्य बीज उत्पादकों/मन्त्र्य पालकों/ उत्कृष्ट हैवरी संगालकों को उत्कृष्ट कार्यों के लिए पुरस्कार

वित्तीय वर्ष 2020-21 में पलामू जिले के प्रगतिशील मन्त्र्य मिश्रो/मन्त्र्य बीज उत्पादकों/मन्त्र्य उत्पादकों/उत्कृष्ट हैवरी संगालकों को उत्कृष्ट कार्यों के लिए पुरस्कृत करने की योजना है। आवंदनकर्ता किसी एक ही क्षेत्र/ श्रेणी अंतर्गत अपना आवेदन दे सकते हैं। एक से अधिक क्षेत्र अंतर्गत एक ही व्यक्ति के प्राप्त आवेदन पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। इच्छुक आवेदक जिला मन्त्र्य कार्यालय, पलामू में निःशुल्क आवेदन प्राप्त एवं दिनांक 10 / 11 / 2020 तक अपना आवेदन जमा कर सकते हैं।

जिला मन्त्र्य पदाधिकारी—सह मुख्य कार्यालय पदाधिकारी, पलामू।

PR.NO.234690 Fish(20-21):D

जिला मन्त्र्य पदाधिकारी, पलामू

प्रगतिशील मन्त्र्य कृषकों के लिये आग सूचना

उत्कृष्ट मन्त्र्य मिश्रो/मन्त्र्य बीज उत्पादकों/मन्त्र्य पालकों/ उत्कृष्ट हैवरी संगालकों को उत्कृष्ट कार्यों के लिए पुरस्कार

वित्तीय वर्ष 2020-21 में पलामू जिले के प्रगतिशील मन्त्र्य मिश्रो/मन्त्र्य बीज उत्पादकों/उत्कृष्ट हैवरी संगालकों को उत्कृष्ट कार्यों के लिए पुरस्कृत करने की योजना है। आवंदनकर्ता किसी एक ही क्षेत्र/ श्रेणी अंतर्गत अपना आवेदन दे सकते हैं। एक से अधिक क्षेत्र अंतर्गत एक ही व्यक्ति के प्राप्त आवेदन पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। इच्छुक आवेदक जिला मन्त्र्य कार्यालय, पलामू में निःशुल्क आवेदन प्राप्त एवं दिनांक 10 / 11 / 2020 तक अपना आवेदन जमा कर सकते हैं।

जिला मन्त्र्य पदाधिकारी—सह मुख्य कार्यालय पदाधिकारी, पलामू।

PR.NO.234690 Fish(20-21):D

Government of Jharkhand

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & CO-OPERATIVE

(ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DIVISION) Jharkhand, Ranchi.

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF VETERINARY MEDICINES, and OTHERS

e-Tender No. 01/2020-21

Online e-tenders are invited from sole manufacturers/loan licensee having minimum 3 years' experience in manufacturing and marketing for supply of veterinary medicines and others for Veterinary Dispensaries, Veterinary Hospitals, Pet-Clinics, Mobile Polyclinics, Referral Veterinary Hospitals, Animal/Poultry Farms and others institutions situated at different Districts of Jharkhand under Two Bid System (Technical- 1 & Financial- 2)

- After publication of the N.I.T., the desirous bidders may download tender documents along with terms & conditions from the Website, <https://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in> and <https://www.jharkhand.gov.in> but submit only through NIC e-tender portal <https://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in> with the help of Digital Signature Certificate (DSC).
- Disclosure of rate other than financial bid will disqualify the bidder.
- Estimated Contract Value- Rs 6 Cr. or less if any due payment of previous year's rate contract exist as liability.
- Validity Period - One Year from the date of agreement.
- Each tenderer, will have to deposit Tender fee in form of DD of Rs 10,000/- (Ten Thousand and Earnest Money Rs.2,00,000/- (Rupees Two Lakhs) in form of Bank Guarantee(BG), of any nationalized Bank in favour of Director Animal Husbandry, Jharkhand payable at Ranchi. Fees are being relaxed for MSEs of Jharkhand, however proper documents regarding relaxation should be attached.
- The under mentioned schedule is fixed; however, the undersigned reserves the right to change the date of activities in case of any exigencies through a notice in the government website viz & Notice Board at official address Director, Animal Husbandry, Pashupalan Bhawan, Hesag, Hatia Ranchi Pin-834003.

Important Events

1	Floating of Tender	21.10.2020
2	Download of tender document will start from	22.10.2020
3	Online submission of bid will start from	26.10.2020
4	Last date for receiving EMD & Tender fee (in original Tender fee in form of D.D. & EMD as BG in Animal Husbandry directorate Office, by hand)	23.11.2020
5	Last date of online bid submission	24.11.2020
6	Date of Opening of Technical bid-	26.11.2020
7	Date of Opening of Financial bid-	Declared later

SD/-
Director Animal Husbandry
Jharkhand Ranchi

PR 234725 (Animal Husbandry)20-21:D

RR, SRH lock horns in must-win game

PTI ■ DUBAI

difficult for the Royals to stay alive.

While Jofra Archer continues to be the backbone of Royals' bowling attack, the wrist-spinning duo of Shreyas Gopal and Rahul Tewatia were terrific in the middle overs against CSK and skipper Smith would be hoping for an encore from his bowlers on Thursday.

Whether it is Priyam Garg, Abdul Samad of Sunrisers or Kartik Tyagi, Riyam Parag of the Royals, the youngsters from both sides will be feeling the pressure of doing something out of the box in case their illustrious seniors fail in that pursuit.

The Sunrisers are currently tottering at the second last place in the eight-team table with just six points from nine games while Royals are a notch ahead with eight points after their comprehensive win over Chennai Super Kings in the previous game.

SRH can't afford to slip up even one bit since another loss would rule them out of the Play-offs race. The Royals would hope to continue with the winning momentum and hope that their foreign recruits continue to perform like they did against CSK.

The Blues have now won just two of their opening six games of the season and the only consolation of a cagey encounter for Lampard was a rare clean sheet.

All four sides in the group are on a single point after Rennes drew 1-1 with Krasnodar in their first ever Champs League match in front of 5,000 passionate fans in Brittany.

The

got their

campaign

back on

track after two

heavy defeats and

would also have the edge over SRH, which lost to KKR in the Super Over in their previous game.

Losing Super Over contests often push teams back as KXIP found out after their opening loss to Delhi Capitals. One more loss would make it extremely

opener is happy that Royals as a team has found some momentum going their way.

"We have started to play better in the last few matches. We probably should have won the last three but have only managed to win one of those, so we now have four matches remaining, all of which are must-win for us. We will need to win all our games to give us a chance of making the playoffs," Buttler said, while admitting there is a gap between top and bottom four.

"There's obviously a bit of a gap between the top 4 and us and we know the equation for us, so we move on to the next game with a hope to do well and hopefully win against the Sunrisers."