

Nature's masterpiece: Pangong Tso's majestic allure



Absentee Voting Facility started



The Earth News

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inshorts

Three killed, 59 hurt in Mumbai billboard collapse

MUMBAI: At least three persons were killed and 59 others injured on Monday when a 100-foot tall illegal billboard fell on a petrol pump in Ghatkopar area of Mumbai as unseasonal rains accompanied by dust storms lashed the city.

In another rain-related incident, an under-construction metal parking tower collapsed on a road amid gusty winds in Wadala area, injuring three persons and damaging vehicles.

Flight operations at Mumbai airport were suspended for an hour in the evening due to low visibility while local trains were delayed.

As many as 15 flights were diverted to different airports and the runways operation resumed at 5.03 pm, the airport operator said.

"Due to the ►P11

CBSE results for class 10, 12 declared

NEW DELHI: Girls continued to outshine boys in the CBSE exams for Classes 10 and 12 while the pass percentage and number of students scoring above 90 and 95 per cent witnessed marginal increases from last year.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) exam results for Classes 10 and 12 were announced on Monday.

The pass percentage in Class 10 stood at 93.6, a rise of 0.48 percentage points from last year. The pass percentage in the Class-12 exam saw a marginal increase of 0.65 percentage points from last year to 87.98.

In the Class-10 exams, girls have done better than boys by 2.04 ►P11

India extend USD 50 Mn support to Maldives

MALE: In a goodwill gesture, India has decided to extend vital budgetary support to the Maldives with the rollover of a USD 50 million Treasury Bill for another year at the Maldivian government's special request, it was announced on Monday.

The State Bank of India has subscribed for one more year to the USD 50 million Government Treasury Bill, issued by the Ministry of Finance of Maldives, upon maturity of the previous subscription, the High Commission of India said in a brief statement on Monday.

The Indian government took this decision despite the bilateral ties experiencing turbulence since Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu, a pro-China leader, assumed office six months back. ►P11

Rahul missed Ram temple event for 'Bhendi Bazaar' vote bank: HM Shah



MUMBAI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday claimed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi did not attend the consecration ceremony of the Ram temple in Ayodhya as he feared losing his "Bhendi Bazaar" vote bank.

The mention of Bhendi Bazaar is significant given it

'Our soldiers defending country in tough conditions' India countered China challenge, sent record troops to LAC: EAM

“Cong holding Modi responsible for Nehru's mistakes”

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: China violated bilateral agreements and sent a large number of troops to the border, but one should take pride in the fact that despite the COVID-19 pandemic, India counter deployed and sent a record number of troops to the Line of Actual Control to meet the Chinese challenge, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Monday.

"Our troops today are at a great height and in great cold and are defending the country in very tough conditions," Jaishankar said, and criticised Congress leader for his remarks against the Indian security forces.

The External Affairs Minister also said that the Congress holds Prime Minister



Narendra Modi accountable for the mistakes made by first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru when making comments on China while believing the party has no culpability for the past acts.

Speaking at a news conference in Mumbai, the EAM admitted there is a challenge from China on the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh.

"Yes, there is a challenge from China, they have violated agreements and have sent a large number of troops

to the border. However, India should take pride in the fact that despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we counter deployed and sent a record number of troops to the border," he said, in response to questions regarding the India-China border row.

"Those troops today are at a great height and in great cold and are defending the country in very tough conditions," Jaishankar pointed out. Attacking Rahul Gandhi, Jaishankar said it is "very

very sad" to "gun down your own forces".

"So when I hear Rahul Gandhi (say) our soldiers were beaten in Yangtze in Arunachal Pradesh (in 2022) when (in reality) we pushed back the Chinese. Gunning down your system, your forces is a very very sad thing," he added.

China and India have been witnessing an unease in ties, especially after the Galwan Valley incident of June 2020 when Chinese and Indian soldiers clashed, resulting in casualties on both sides.

Since then India-China relations have been in an "abnormal state", with both sides amassing its troops along the LAC.

On Chinese belligerence in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh, Jaishankar said Indian land was taken by China between 1958 and 1962, and some of it before 1958 as well.

"When you keep saying land taken by ►P11

Justice Rabstan for early construction of new Munsiff Court Complex Khaltse

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: Justice Tashi Rabstan, Senior Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh visited the ongoing construction site of New Munsiff Court Complex, Khaltse and instructed for expediting the completion of the construction of Court Complex.

Justice Rabstan, who is also the Chairman, Building & Infrastructure Committee took stock of construction work on Sunday, an official spokesperson said on Monday.

Justice Tashi Rabstan issued directions to the con-



cerned agency for expediting the completion of the construction of Court Complex.

Assurance was extended from the concerned agency for speeding up the construc-

tion and completing the work within time, the spokesperson said.

Principal District and Sessions Judge, Leh, Spalzes Angmo; Chief Judicial Magis-

trate, Leh Tsewang Phuntsog; Sub Judge, Leh, Phuntsog Angmo; Mobile Magistrate/Munsiff Nubra, Chemit Yurygal; Munsiff Khaltse, Wangial Tsering; Tehsildar Khaltse, Kaneez Fatima; Superintendent Engineer Dorjay Gyatso; Executive Engineer Thinles Zangpo; AEE; JE and Contractor were also present during the visit.

Later, Justice Tashi Rabstan visited to Munsiff Court, Khaltse and inaugurated the plantation drive program.

During the programme, District Judicial Officers and Officers of Sub Division Khaltse, staff from ►P11

Modi launches blistering attack on Farooq, India bloc Oppn leaders scared of Pak, we will make Pak wear bangles: PM

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday attacked the opposition INDIA bloc, calling its leaders "cowards" who were "scared of Pakistan's nuclear power" and asserted that India would make the neighbouring country wear bangles if it was not wearing any.

Addressing three back-to-back rallies in Bihar's Hajipur, Muzaffarpur and Saran Lok Sabha constituencies, Modi made an apparent reference to a recent statement of National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah that Pakistan has atom bombs and was not wearing bangles.

"The INDIA bloc has leaders who are scared of Pakistan and have nightmares of its nuclear power...They (leaders) say that Pakistan is not wearing bangles, we will make that country wear bangles. Now they (Pakistan) need 'atta' (flour). They also don't have electricity. I didn't know that they do not even have an adequate supply of bangles," the PM asserted while taking a jibe at the opposition leaders.

"We must look carefully at the opposition that seems to be full of cowards and timid people. Some give a clean chit to Pakistan on terrorism and others raise doubts on surgical strikes...Their Left allies even want our nuclear arsenal to be dismantled," he said.

Modi also claimed that the INDIA bloc had worked out a formula, which would allow five of its leaders, if the coalition came to power, to enjoy a year of premiership each.

"Just imagine what type of a mess we would get to see if the bloc's plan to have a different PM, every year, for five years, succeeds.



However, they are a motley group that is bound to fail," he said. "The current elections are for having a government that will give a further boost to the standing and clout enjoyed by the country," the PM said.

Modi also said the money recovered in raids against politicians "belonged to the country's poor".

"I will tell you why they are crying hoarse against the actions of agencies ►P11

63% turnout in 4th phase

NEW DELHI: A voter turnout of nearly 63 per cent was recorded on Monday in the fourth phase of the Lok Sabha elections covering 96 constituencies spread over 10 states and Union Territories, with scattered incidents of violence reported in West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh.

West Bengal again recorded an impressive turnout at 75.94 per cent, the highest among states/UTs in this phase.

Srinagar constituency in Jammu and Kashmir witnessed 36.58 per cent voting in the first Lok Sabha election in the ►P11

CEO Yetindra calls for continuous vigil to ensure free, fair elections in Nubra

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: Continuing his visit to Nubra Valley to review election preparation, the Chief Electoral Officer UT Ladakh, Yetindra M. Maralkar visited Naibat Turtuk village and Diskit Headquarter of the Nubra Sub-division, an official spokesperson said on Monday.

During the visit, the CEO conducted review meetings with concerned officials to assess the progress of election preparedness.

He expressed satisfaction with the level of pre-



paredness observed but underscored the need for continuous vigilance and strict adherence to protocols to ensure free, fair, and transparent elections in Nubra Valley.

The CEO also interacted with voters and urged for maximum participation in the voting process.

The CEO's visit reaffirms the Election Commission's dedication to conducting

elections with integrity and transparency, instilling confidence among voters and stakeholders in the electoral process.

Earlier, the Chief Electoral Officer had chaired a review meeting at Sumoor Tehsil and on-site inspections of several polling stations.

As part of the tour, the CEO also visited 35-Warshi Polling Station in the Nubra Valley which is the Polling Station with the lowest number of registered voters (only five voters) in the 1-Ladakh Parliamentary Constituency.



Postal voting of Absentee Voters of Essential Services (AVES) commenced in Ladakh on Monday. Detailed News inside.

Jai Mata Di

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