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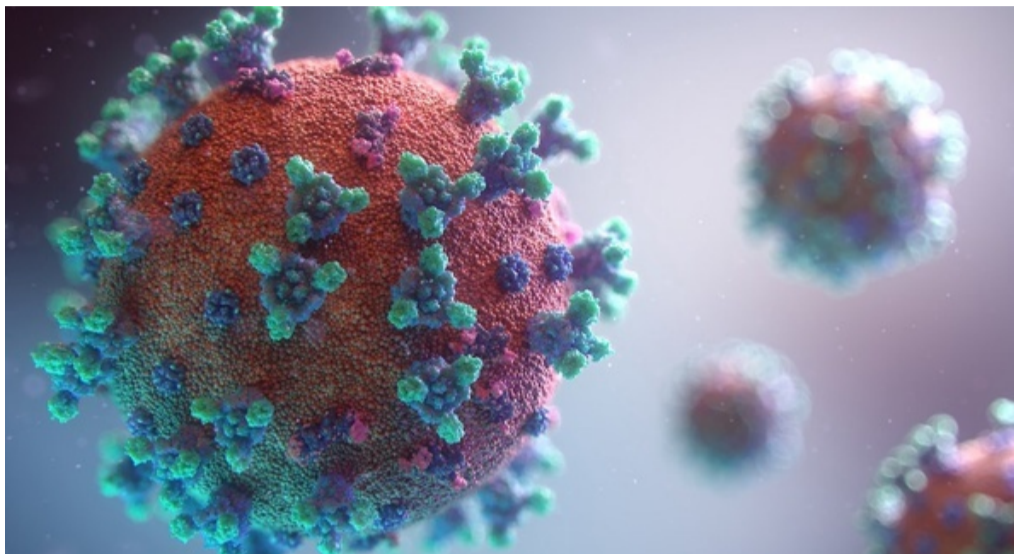
Mamata playing Covid-19 politics: BJP

Varsha Benedict

BENGALURU: BJP spokesperson Keya Ghosh on Tuesday, March 23, refused to quell speculation that Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee was suppressing the number of Covid-19 infections in the poll-bound state.

Ghosh told The Beacon, "During the first wave while the other states were cooperating in terms of lockdown, Banerjee walked in the opposite direction. In fact, she formed a committee, played dumb, continued her politics and contradicted the doctor who gave out the actual numbers of Covid-19 cases."

She added: "Despite being



Representational image

Credit : Creative Commons

the chief minister, she drew distance-marking circles on the streets, which were required to maintain public distancing, not considering that it would attract

unnecessary mob and media. Even in such a situation she didn't hesitate to play with the lives of commoners."

Ghosh also mentioned another incident where nurses

of the Howrah General Hospital protested over the need for proper PPE kits but were provided raincoats.

When a doctor from the hospital tweeted about the

incident, he was summoned to the police station and forced to remove his tweet, she said.

"This is simply fascism and violation of freedom of speech," she stated.

"[We are] Truly hoping that since election days are nearing, we will have a better future, although we have to exercise restraint and not let politics play with us," Ghosh concluded.

Sashi Chatterjee, a staff nurse at Kothari Medical Centre in Kolkata, however said the number of Covid-19 cases in the city has gone down.

"The number of cases in Kolkata is low as of now, and the number reported in the private hospitals is also really low," she said.

Railways launches anti-fire drive

Anna Mariam Ittyerah

The Indian Railways has launched a massive drive against smoking and carrying of inflammable materials to curb fire incidents caused by them in trains, which resulted in loss of life and property.

The drive was launched on March 22 and will continue till March 30, the ministry said in a statement.

All railway zones have been instructed to take various measures in mission mode, such as an intensive awareness drive of seven days to educate all stakeholders about precautions to be taken against fire incidents, it added.

After this, an intensive and sustained drive will be launched against smoking in trains, and at railway premises, with violators booked under provisions of the Railways Act or the Tobacco Act.

Regular checks are also expected to be done in trains against carrying inflammable and explosive goods, like pantry cars for carrying LPG cylinders.

Regular checks will also be undertaken in platforms, yards, washing lines, coaches to check cases of lighting fire, and using sigri for cooking food.

Employees must file ITR by March 31, says IT Dept

Nandita Narayanan

The Income Tax Department (ITD) on Tuesday, March 23, reminded employers on Twitter to ensure that their employees have filed their Income Tax Return (ITR) for the Assessment Year (AY) 2020-21.

"Employers please take note, If any of your employees have not filed an Income Tax Return for AY 2020-21 yet, this is the last chance to do so! We request you to please remind your employees [sic]," tweeted the ITD official handle.

The department also issued an alert stating that the last date to file Income Tax Return for AY 2020-21 is March 31, 2021.

The reminder further stated that in case of late filing, a penalty as per the Income Tax Act will be applicable, depending on the degree of the delay.

Usually, the filing of Income Tax Return for any year takes place by July 31 of that year unless extended.

However, owing to the pandemic, the filing for AY 2020-21 was extended to March 31, 2021.

Weatherman urges Aus evacuation

Shahul Hameed

Australian authorities on Tuesday, March 23, urged people living in Queensland to evacuate after major flood warnings.

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology announced major flood warnings for the regions of Wollombi Brook, Hawkesbury, Nepean, Colo River, Upper Macintyre River, and Bullo River regions of Queensland.

Local authorities evacuated thousands of residents from



Flooding in Queensland

Twitter/@BOM_NSW

the Colo River, Upper Colo, Lower Colo, Colo Central and Wheeny Creek regions following the flood warnings.

The bureau further warned the regions of South Coast and Snowy Mountains of New South Wales (NSW) for

flash floods as there were heavy rains.

NSW recorded damaging winds, averaging 60-70 kmph.

The bureau forecast a possibility of wind pace ranging upto 90 kmph along the coastal fringe and South of Moruya while Woolgoolga recorded the highest rainfall with 182 mm in New South Wales.

The bureau tweeted a video of a car being carried away in the floods and warned the locals not to cross the flooded roads.

Jaguar launches all electric SUV in India

Suhas S Kashyap

Jaguar India on Tuesday, March 23, launched its first all-electric SUV, named the I-PACE.

The car is the second electric SUV in the luxury space in India, and will take on the Mercedes-Benz EQC and the yet-to-be-launched Tesla Model X.

With the Central government pushing green mobility, various car-makers have launched electric vehicles in the country.

Manufacturers such as Tata Motors, MG Motors India,

Mahindra & Mahindra, and Hyundai Motors have launched compact and sub-compact SUVs.

The Central government is also aiming to increase the availability of charging stations to at least one in a grid of 3km x 3km, and at least one every 25km on both sides of highways.

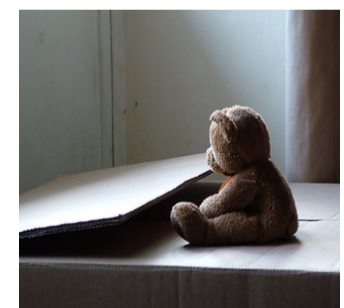
The I-PACE is an all-wheel-drive car powered by a 90kWh lithium-ion battery, producing 297kW (394bhp) power and 696 Nm of torque. Jaguar claims the car can run over 470km on a single charge.

Students fight loneliness in new city

Abhimanyu Sharma

BENGALURU: As the Covid-19 restrictions are lifting and life is seemingly returning to normal, students are moving out of their homes to new places, which is leading to a sense of instability and insecurity.

"I'm one of those people who immediately likes to build connections and bonds with people. This helps me bring a sense of homeliness," said Aman Pratap Singh, a student from JECRC, Jaipur. Aman added that for him, it's all about the company and social circle rather than the place itself.



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"Usually, if I feel lonely at my paying-guest facility, I try to distract myself by going for a walk and learning about my new locality," said Aniket Shrivastav, a student of Bennett University in Greater Noida. "If I can get my mind

off of it and familiarise myself with my surroundings, I feel better," he added.

According to psychologist Mamta Jain, "One of the most common reason for loneliness is unfamiliarity. It is really important for the person to explore their new area and get comfortable with their surroundings so that they develop a sense of security."

She added, "Usually when you move out of your home, the first few days are the hardest. It is crucial that you don't let yourself feel isolated, but always keep in touch with close ones."