

'READY TO SACRIFICE
TO PROTECT INDIA'S
SOVEREIGNTY'

P5



KOSOVO PREZ
QUITTS TO FACE WAR
CRIME CHARGES

P9



POPE TAKES ACTION
AFTER VATICAN
FINANCIAL SCANDAL

P9



WADA LIKED TO
A SPLITTER IN
SAKHO BATTLE

P12

WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. Shallow fog in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 31 and 11 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: NIL

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 95% Min: 38%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 30.7°C (O) Min: 11.2°C (4)

SUN RISES SUN SETS

06:38 hrs 17:33 hrs

MOON RISES MOON SETS

21:57 hrs 12:18 hrs

THUMBNAILS



A thick layer of smog reduces visibility at the India Gate as the air quality turns 'severe' in the Capital on Thursday.

SUBRATA DUTTA

Arnab moves HC, challenging his arrest: Republic TV Editor-in Chief Arnab Goswami has petitioned the Bombay High Court challenging his "illegal arrest" in a 2018 case of abetment of suicide of an interior designer, and sought quashing of the FIR lodged against him by Alibaug police in Maharashtra. Goswami was arrested on Wednesday from his residence at Lower Parel in Mumbai for allegedly abetting the suicide of interior designer Anvay Naik and was taken to the Alibaug police station in neighbouring Raigad district.

P5

Domestic flights' cap would be increased: The cap on the number of domestic flights that Indian airlines are permitted to operate would be increased to 70.75 per cent of their pre-Covid levels as the passenger traffic surges, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) said on Thursday. The ministry had said last week that the Indian airlines can operate maximum 60 per cent of their pre-Covid domestic passenger flights till 24 February next year due to the prevailing coronavirus situation.

India slams Pak move to transfer management of Kartarpur Sahib



India today denounced Pakistan for its decision to transfer the management of the historic Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara from a Sikh body to a separate trust, saying the action ran against the religious sentiments of the Sikh community.

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said India had received representations from the Sikh community, expressing concern over the decision to transfer the management of the gurdwara from the Pakistan Sikh Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee to the administrative control of the Evacuee Trust Property Board, a non-Sikh body.

It said, "This unilateral decision by Pakistan is highly condemnable and runs against the spirit of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor as also the religious sentiments of the Sikhs," it said.

The MEA said the Sikh community, in its representations to India, expressed grave concern over the decision by Pakistan "targeting the rights" of the minority Sikh community in the country. "Such actions only expose the reality of the Pakistani government and its leadership's tall claims of preserving and protecting the rights and welfare of the religious minorities," it said.

"Pakistan called upon to reverse its arbitrary decision to deprive the Sikh minority community its right to manage affairs of the Holy Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib," it said.

Over 50K new Covid cases in a day push tally past 83.6L; recovery rate at 92%

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 5 NOVEMBER



With a fresh spike of 50,210 coronavirus infections and 704 deaths in 24 hours, India's tally on Wednesday rose to 83,64,086, said the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Delhi recorded a single day spike of 6,842 Covid-19 cases on Wednesday, the highest so far.

Out of the total Covid-19 cases in the country, 5,27,962 are currently active, 77,11,809 have been discharged, and 1,24,315 people have succumbed to the infection.

While the recovery rate stands at 92.09 per cent, the fatality rate is 1.49 per cent, the data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare showed.

Maharashtra remains the

worst-hit state with a total of 16,98,198 cases, including 44,548 deaths; followed by Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) conducted 12,09,425 sample tests in a single day on Wednesday, taking the total number of samples tested so far to 11,42,08,384. West Bengal recorded 3,948 fresh Covid cases and 54 deaths due to the infection.

Till now, 3,93,524 people have been detected Covid positive in the state, 7,122 died and 3,50,449 recovered, of which 4,187 patients were discharged from hospitals in a single day taking the discharge rate to 89.05 per cent.

Currently, there are 35,953 active Covid cases in the state while the positivity rate

is 8.23 per cent and samples of 45,467 people were tested for the virus today. Kolkata registered 855 cases and 15 deaths and neighbouring district of North 24-Parganas recorded 836 cases and 14 deaths in the last 24 hours.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court has mooted doing away with the practice of affixing posters outside residences of Covid-19 patients, and sought the response of the Central government to a PIL seeking national guidelines in this respect.

Globally, the number of coronavirus cases was nearing the 48 million mark, while deaths have surged to more than 12,23,450, according to Johns Hopkins University. As of Thursday morning, the total caseload and death toll stood at 4,79,97,816 and 12,23,456, respectively.



In Bihar poll pitch, Nitish stuns with 'this is my last election' remark

MANOJ CHAURASIA
PATNA, 5 NOVEMBER

In a last-ditch attempt to woo voters amidst a strong anti-incumbency wave sweeping across the state, chief minister Nitish Kumar today declared that this was his "last election".

Today was the last date of poll campaigning for the third and final phase of the Bihar Assembly elections, with voting in the remaining 78 Assembly segments due to take place on 7 November.

"Today is the last day of the poll campaign and this is also my last election. All is well that ends well," the chief minister told an election rally at Dhamdaha block in Pur-

nia district today. Making emotional appeals to voters for his party, JD-U, the chief minister asked, "Bataiye vote dijiye na"

This is for the first time that the socialist warhorse, who has ruled the state for close to a decade and half has made any indication about quitting electoral politics.

Kumar's "last election" appeal is seen as a sign of desperation, particularly in view of people greeting the chief minister with angry protests at many of his election rallies.

That started back in 19 October when at his election rally in Aurangabad, an elderly villager carrying a placard began shouting slogans against him.

The same day, people hurled stones at another Kumar rally in Gaya, and then it became a routine. People greeted the chief minister with protests in Saran, Muzaffarpur, Begusarai and as recently as in Madhubani where potatoes and onions were thrown at him by the crowd who were angry at the rise in the prices of staples.

What has made things further difficult for him was the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) headed by Chirag Paswan, son of Dalit politician late Ram Vilas Paswan, fielding candidates against all the JD-U candidates in this election.

Although the LJP decided to go it alone this time, it has fielded candidates primarily against the JD-U candidates. The move, observers say, is sure to harm JD-U's poll prospects as it is likely to split the NDA votes. The LJP, moreover, has given tickets to mostly BJP rebels in 136 out of the total 243 seats it is contesting this time, and this

is also likely to split BJP votes. The JD-U leadership is also wondering at the way how Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at one of the 12 election rallies he addressed in Bihar, sought to clear the confusion from the minds of the voters about the LJP-BJP relationship. He remained mysteriously silent over it.

The Grand Alliance's chief ministerial candidate Tejashwi Yadav's promise to give 10 lakh jobs to the youths, observers believe, has further taken the winds out of JD-U's sails. While the chief minister mocked that poll promise, ironically, he remained silent when the BJP announced 19 lakh jobs to counter Tejashwi's 10 lakh job offer.

Modi: I need Nitish govt to ensure Bihar's uninterrupted development

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 5 NOVEMBER

Modi said people have full faith that only an NDA government can work for the state's development.

"I am confident about the development of Bihar. I need the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar to ensure that there is no paucity in Bihar's development and the welfare schemes continue there uninterrupted," he said.

"I have full faith that the power of 'double engine' will take Bihar to new heights of development in this decade," Modi said.





Today, for sound-mixing, people go to London... Why can't we have the same facilities in Mumbai. We will also work to set up affordable theatres and cinema houses in the state

UDDHAV THACKERAY
MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER

Delhi govt bans crackers in view of pollution, Covid

Coronavirus cases are surging in the city due to festive season & rising air pollution, says Kejriwal; Delhi govt to hold Laxmi Puja this Diwali, with CM urging Delhi'ites to join it from their homes

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 5 NOVEMBER

In view of rising air pollution and surging coronavirus cases in the national capital, the AAP government today decided to ban firecrackers in Delhi ahead of Diwali besides ramping up medical infrastructure, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said after taking stock of the Covid situation in the city.

Covid cases have surged in Delhi due to the ongoing festive season and rising air pollution, the CM said after holding the review meeting with the chief secretary, health department officials and district magistrates.

The ban will also cover green crackers, said a government official.

"In the wake of the rising pollution and coronavirus cases in Delhi due to the festival season, the Delhi government has decided to put a complete ban on the sale, purchase, and use of firecrackers in the city from November 7 to November 30," the Delhi government said in a statement.

"Reviewed corona situation in Delhi and preparedness with Chief Secy, Health officials and all DMs. Corona cases have increased due to festival season and pollution. It was decided to: 1. Ban crackers in Delhi, 2. Ramp up medical



infra, Oxygen and ICU beds are being increased in Delhi govt hospitals," Kejriwal tweeted, adding that the Delhi government will also focus on "targeted Covid testing" and take "all steps to ensure that the Covid fatality rate does not increase".

Earlier in the day, the CM said Delhi's Covid situation is worsening due to increasing air pollution as he appealed to the people of the national capital not to burst firecrackers and instead join him and his ministers in a Laxmi Puja event to be organised by his gov-

ernment this Diwali.

Addressing a virtual media briefing, Kejriwal said he along with his ministers will perform Laxmi Puja at 7.39 pm on 14 November, urging Delhi'ites to join them from their homes on television or internet and perform its rituals simultaneously.

The CM said that Delhi has currently been facing two crises - the Covid pandemic and the rising air pollution - asserting that his government was making all efforts to deal with them.

"The Covid situation is

deteriorating in Delhi due to rising air pollution," he said. "If we burst firecrackers this Diwali, we are playing with the lives of our children and families..."

Delhi has been recording a spike in Covid cases over the past several days with the number of coronavirus infections today crossing the 6,000-mark for the third consecutive day.

Last year, the Delhi government had held a laser show at Connaught Place on Diwali.

"This time too, we will celebrate Diwali together and

won't burst firecrackers in any condition. There will be wonderful atmosphere and good vibes as two crore people will perform Laxmi Puja. It will lead to well-being in each household," Kejriwal said.

Delhi has been reeling under smog and haze for the past couple of weeks, with raging farm fires in neighbouring states and a fall in wind speed and temperatures today pushing its air quality to the worst levels since December last year.

The CM pointed out that the smoke produced by stubble burning was worsening the Covid situation in Delhi.

"(This Delhi's rising air pollution) happens every year due to parali (crop stubble) burning and it's unfortunate that states concerned have not taken any concrete step to check this problem," he said.

This should be the last year of stubble burning because Delhi has provided an option of using a chemical developed by the Pusa Institute that converts crop stubble into manure in 20 days, he claimed.

"Next year there should not be any excuse by a government that there is no alternative of parali burning because Delhi has given this model," Kejriwal said, adding that each state government should help their farmers in addressing this problem.

We have to be vigilant. This is where the enforce-



ment officers need to take action. The issuing of challans must be immediate and scrupulous," he asserted.

Chadha reprimanded officers of issuing very few challans last year, emphasising that it was necessary to send a firm message to people that the Delhi Jal Board would no longer tolerate the wastage of water or illegal connections.

The entire society has to suffer because of the mistakes of one or two persons. It must be understood that the Delhi Jal Board will not let its consumers suffer because of such people.

The Vice-Chairman told the enforcement officials that the DJB will conduct a month-long vigilance campaign and asked for a plan to be prepared in this regard. "Under this campaign, DJB will send teams to different areas across the city where the rules of the DJB are being violated. The purpose of this month-long campaign will not be issuing challans alone, but also to spread the much-needed awareness among the people about the wise and appropriate use of water."

He added, "It has also been found that water meant for domestic purposes is used for non-domestic purposes. The Delhi Jal Board cannot afford to show any leniency for such inexcusable acts. Any individual or body found guilty of such an offence must be issued a challan on the spot."

DJB VC asks officials to crack down on water wastage, illegal connections

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 5 NOVEMBER

Delhi Jal Board Vice Chairman Raghav Chadha emphasised the need to prevent the waste and misuse of water in a board meeting on Thursday.

While talking about the importance of being vigilant, Chadha said, that when DJB officers themselves exercise caution then only it will trickle down to an ordinary consumer.

Chadha said he was strict about issuing of challans by respective officers. "I'd like to remind everyone here that our government's vision of the provision of 24/7 access to water does not mean the 24/7 misuse of water. It does not mean misuse of water even for one minute."

The CM pointed out that the smoke produced by stubble burning was worsening the Covid situation in Delhi.

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the last six months.

The Board employees had earlier warned to go on indefinite strike if their pending salaries were not paid till Wednesday evening. The salaries of permanent employees are pending since May while the contractual ones have not been paid since February, said a striking employee. "Not just the salaries, even there is no money for office expenses. We have been forced on the streets because our

situation has become unbearable due to months of monetary hardships," he said.

Nearly 300 staff, including around 225 Imams and Muazzins of DWB mosques have not received wages since May, said Sajid Rashidi, president of All India Imam Association. Rashidi said the problem of pending salaries was caused as the board was being run without a chairman and a full-time chief executive officer.

Waqf Board staff go on strike to protest pending salaries

PTI

NEW DELHI, 5 NOVEMBER

Delhi Waqf Board employees went on an indefinite strike on Thursday, demanding payment of their salaries pending for months.

The Imams of Delhi Waqf Board managed mosques also sat on a protest near Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence here, demanding payment of their honorarium pending for

"People are bursting crackers, it is not even Diwali yet. The city has already become a gas chamber. This happens every year. For how long will this continue?" asked Shiv Shrivastava, a resident of south Delhi.

"I can feel the pollutants in my throat despite wearing a mask. My eyes are burning. It is going to make the pandemic worse. I am scared," said Piyush Vohra, a resident of Jangpura.

Health experts said during the COVID-19 pandemic, air pollution has become a serious health concern for about two crore residents of the national capital.

Delhi's air quality plunges to worst level since December 2019

PTI

NEW DELHI, 5 NOVEMBER

Delhi's air quality on Thursday dropped to its worst level since December last year, with farm fires accounting for 42 percent of its pollution, the maximum in this season so far, according to data from central government agencies.

Experts said unfavourable meteorological conditions -- calm winds and low temperatures -- and smoke from farm fires in neighbouring states led to a dense layer of haze on Wednesday night as the air quality index entered the 'severe'



500 "severe". The haze thinned on Thursday with higher wind speed helping in dispersion of pollutants. However, the 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) was recorded at 450, the highest since December 30 last year, when it was 446.

All the 36 monitoring stations in Delhi recorded air quality in the 'severe' category. The neighbouring cities of Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Greater Noida, Gurugram and Noida also recorded severe air pollution.

The level of PM2.5 -- finer particles which can even enter the bloodstream -- were 360 g/m3 at 12 noon. PM2.5 levels up to 60 g/m3 are considered safe.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, SAFAR, said the farm fire count in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and neighbouring areas increased significantly and stood at 4,135 on Wednesday, the highest in this season so far.

On Wednesday evening, the noxious haze reduced visibility to merely 600 metres at the Safdarjung Observatory, smudging landmarks from view. It was 1,200 metres on Thursday morning. On the top of that, a large number of people across Dehi-NCR burst firecrackers to mark the Karwa Chauth festival.

Classified

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE COURT OF SH. DHEERAJ MITTAL A/C/CCJ/ARC

Room No. 03, Ground Floor Patiala House Courts, New Delhi

Petition No. SC-54/2020 Rajinder Pal Singh Versus

State & Ors. (Petitioner)

FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925

tor.

2. Kim Infrastructure & Developers Limited, Branch Office Near L.G. Showroom, Nawanshahr, Tehsil Nawanshahr, District Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar through its Branch Manager.

3. Kim Infrastructure & Developers Limited, Branch Office Hoshiarpur, Khaira Building Opp. Govt. Girls Hostel, Hoshiarpur, through its Branch Manager.

4. Respondents

Whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Forum that the Respondent has constructed a building & Development Services Ltd.

Regd. & Corp Office 1311-A, Hemkunt House-6, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008 through its Manager Director (Op. No. 1) and Kim Infrastructure & Developers Limited, Branch Office Near L.G. Showroom Nawanshahr, Tehsil Nawanshahr, District Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar through its Branch Manager (Op.2).

5. Kim Infrastructure & Developers Limited, Branch Office Hoshiarpur, Khaira Building Opp. Govt. Girls Hostel, Hoshiarpur, through its Branch Manager (Op.3).

Notice of Lodgement of Petition of Appeal to THE RESPONDENT (Rule 8 (I) & (II) of Order XIX, S.C.R. 2013)

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

Civil Appellate Jurisdiction

Civil Appeal No. 3377 of 2019

(Appeal by Special Leave granted by this Court's Order dated the 01st April, 2019 in Petition for SLP(C) No. 1062 of 2018 from the Judgment and Order dated the 24th October, 2017 of the High Court of Delhi at New Delhi, in RFA No. 339 of 2000).

Janki Devi @ Usha Kiran - Appellant

Versus

Raj Kumar Sethi (Since Deceased through his Legal Representatives) and Another.

- Respondents

To,

1. Smt. Madhu Kohli, w/o

Shri Sandeep Kohli, r/o A-30,

Sarawati Garden, New Delhi.

(Process ID: 108091/2020)

Janki Devi @ Usha Kiran - Appellant

Versus

Raj Kumar Sethi (Since Deceased through his Legal Representatives) and Another.

- Respondents

To,

2. Smt. Kamlesh Sethi, w/o

late Sh. O. P. Sethi, r/o G-3/68A,

2nd Floor, Model Town III, Delhi-110009.

(Process ID: 108093/2020)

- R. No. 2 (1)

3. Mr. Amit Sethi, s/o Late

Shri O. P. Sethi, r/o G-3/68A,

2nd Floor, Model Town III, Delhi-110009.

(Process ID: 108093/2020)

Take notice that the Appellant abovenamed has on the

06th February, 2018 filed in the Registry of the Supreme Court, Petition for SLP(C) No.

1062 of 2018 (Copy enclosed)

from the Judgment and Order

of the High Court above men-

tioned and pursuant to this

Court's order dated 1st April,

- Opposite Party

This is to inform the above-named Opp. Party that the petitioner abovenamed has filed the above numbered case for granting the probate of the last WILL of deceased Shyamal Kumar Paul Chowdhury in favour of her.

You are hereby directed to appear before the Learned Court, within 30 days of publishing this notice, personally or by an Advocate-on-Record or by engage any Learned Advocate, if you want to contest the case. In default the case will be fixed ex-parte against you.

By order S/D. Ritika Chotopadhyay Serestadar District Delegate Court Barrackpore Barrackpore, North 24-Pgs.

NOTICE OF LODGEMENT OF PETITION OF APPEAL TO THE RESPONDENT (Rule 8 (I) & (II) of Order XIX, S.C.R. 2013)

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

Civil Appellate Jurisdiction

Civil Appeal No. 3377 of 2019



If any power of the world thinks that it will capture Indian territory neither will we allow an inch of our land to be grabbed, nor will we capture an inch of any country's territory

RAJNATH SINGH
DEFENCE MINISTER

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 06 NOVEMBER 2020

03

Farmers block roads in Pb, H'yan to protest agri laws

The call for nationwide 'chakka jam' was given by All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee against the Centre's controversial farm laws, with agitating farmers demanding their rollback

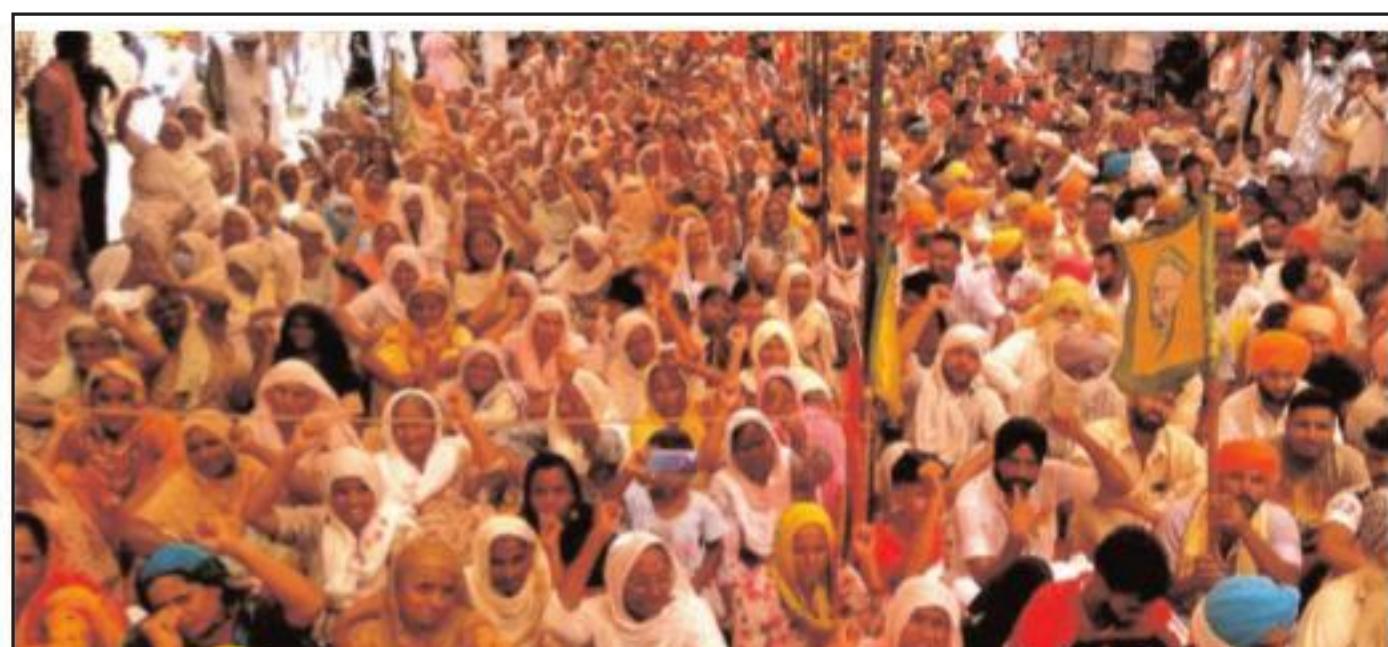
PTI
CHANDIGARH, 5 NOVEMBER

Farmers in Punjab and Haryana on Thursday put up road blockades at many places as part of a nationwide 'chakka jam' agitation in protest against three central farm laws, and demanded that these be withdrawn.

The call for the nationwide 'chakka jam' from 12 noon to 4 pm was given by the All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee.

Protesting farmers owing allegiance to over 40 outfits blocked state and national highways at several places, causing inconvenience to commuters. Though police authorities diverted traffic at many places, commuters faced traffic snarls.

Farmers slammed the BJP-led government at the Centre for bringing the "black laws" and expressed fear that these legislations would destroy the farming community and would only "benefit" big corporate houses. Punjab farmer organisations also lashed out at the



Centre for suspending goods trains in the state that has affected supply of coal, fertiliser and other essential items.

Farmers squatted on roads, including major highways and state highways, at around 200 places in Punjab and Haryana. All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee member Jagmohan Singh claimed.

Police said the road blockades passed off peacefully. Movement of ambulances and vehicles carrying essential items, including LPG and

petrol, was not disrupted.

Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan) general secretary Sukhdev Singh Kokrikalan said they have put up road blockades at 35 places, including Sangrur, Bathinda, Mansa, Barnala, Patiala, Ludhiana, in Punjab as part of the "chakka jam" protest.

Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee general secretary Sarwan Singh Pandher said their members blocked roads at 45 places in 10 districts of Punjab. Earlier in the day, BKU (Charuni) president Gurnam

Singh said they planned to hold protests at around 20 places in Haryana, including Karnal, Rohtak, Kaithal, Jind, Hisar and Fatehabad. A protesting farmer in Bathinda said the Narendra Modi government wanted to "defame and derail" farmers' protest by suspending goods trains in the state.

The Railways has suspended the operation of freight trains in the wake of blockade of some rail tracks by farmers in protest against the three central farm laws.

Protests were also held at

the Sirsa-Mansa border road and the Jind-Sangrur, the Nirokheri, the Delhi-Barnala and the Narnaul-Kaithal highways in Haryana.

The farmers' organisations are set to hold a joint meeting in Chandigarh on November 18 to chalk the course of action to move towards Delhi on November 26 and 27.

The groups protesting against the three central farm laws have expressed apprehension that the new laws would pave the way for the dismantling of the minimum support price system, leaving them at the "mercy" of big corporate entities. They demanded that these be withdrawn.

The three farm laws - the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, the Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 - were enacted recently. The Centre has asserted that these new laws will be beneficial for farmers and will increase their income.

Delhi HC extends by 30 days bail of over 3,300 undertrial prisoners

PTI
NEW DELHI, 5 NOVEMBER

The Delhi High Court on Thursday extended the interim bail of over 3,300 undertrial prisoners by 30 days to de-congest jails here in the wake of the persisting coronavirus pandemic.

The decision of the high court was based on the recommendation of the high powered committee (HPC) constituted on the direction of the Supreme Court to decongest jails to prevent spread of COVID-19 there. Abenchof Justices Siddhartha Mridul and Talwani Singh passed the order in view of the HPC's recommendation to give a final 30-day extension in interim bails granted to 3,337 undertrial prisoners on the basis of criteria laid down by the committee so that their surrender do not overwhelm prisons in the national capital, which are already filled beyond capacity.

Delhi government standing counsel (criminal) Rahul Mehra, appearing for the prison authorities, confirmed that the interim bails have been extended for 30 days. The HPC headed by Justice Hima Kohli, which was constituted on the direction of the Supreme Court to decongest jails to prevent spread of



COVID-19 there, in its meeting held on October 24 had said that taking into account the present population in Delhi jails and the high court's full bench order of October 20 directing surrender of around 2,674 prisoners between November 2 and November 13, the authorities would not be able to isolate all the new inmates for 14 days.

However, the high court's October 20 decision was subsequently issued in accordance with criteria laid down by the HPC. It was last extended on September 18 for 45 days.

In the meeting of the HPC held on October 24, the Director General (DG) Prisons had informed that the present prison population, in the jails of Tihar, Rohini and Mandoli, was 15,887 as against a capacity of 10,226 and due to the High Court's full bench order of October 20, the numbers would increase by 2,674 more.

He had said that if the undertrial prisoners (UTPs) and convicts who were granted bail and parole, respectively, based on criteria laid down by the HPC were to surrender also, the prison population was likely to reach around 22,000 which was an unprecedented situation and may even become unmanageable during the prevailing situation.

He had said that in such a situation "it would be appropriate, if interim bail/emergency parole granted to 3,337 UTPs and 1,182 convicts under HPC criteria may be extended for a further period of 30 days".

The HPC had agreed with the suggestion, saying even the additional accommodation - in a newly created temporary jail near Mandoli - for around 1,800 inmates would not be able to accommodate the prisoners who are surrendering on the directions of the full bench and those who were granted interim bail/emergency parole on the recommendations of the committee as all new and returning prisoners have to be kept in isolation for 14 days.

It had directed the Delhi State Legal Services Authority to place its recommendation to extend the interim bail of the 3,337 UTPs for one last time before the High Court for appropriate action by way of judicial orders.

Construction of 3 meditation caves at Kedarnath gets completed

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN, 5 NOVEMBER

The cave where Prime Minister Narendra Modi meditated in 2019 at Kedarnath in Rudraprayag district has become a major attraction for tourists. The "overwhelming response" among tourists to the Rudra cave prompted the BJP-led Uttarakhand government to create more such caves for

devotees. The construction work of three new caves have been completed now and they would become functional within a week. Kedarnath will thus offer now four meditation caves for visitors to spend some time in isolation and peace and practice yoga or meditation.

Located about 1 km upwards to the left-side mountain of the Kedarnath temple, the Rudra

cave, popularly called "Modi gufa", is situated at a remote location. The cave comes with an attached toilet, solar electricity, drinking water and SIP phone.

The compact Rudra cave came into limelight on 18 May 2019 when PM Modi stayed there. Three new caves are also located near the Rudra cave and offer similar facilities. The Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam,

a tourism unit of the Uttarakhand government, which manages the tourist lodges and canteen at Kedarnath, will take control of the new caves this month. The Kedarnath shrine will close for a six-month winter break on 16 November and the tourists are unlikely to use the new caves for dwelling this year. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam

has not allowed the stay of any tourist at the Rudra cave this season.

State PWD secretary R K Sudhanshu said, "The airlift of heavy machinery to Kedarnath got completed recently. The machineries will get assembled by November 17.

"The construction work of three new caves is also complete and we have constructed fifty prefabricated shops near



PM Modi meditating inside Rudra cave at Kedarnath in 2019. FILE PHOTO

Korean envoy calls on Himachal Guv

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 5 NOVEMBER

Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Shin Bong-Kil, on Thursday called on HP Governor Bandaru Dattatraya in Raj Bhavan and discussed a gamut of issues for strengthening Indo-Korean bilateral relations.

Dattatraya apprised the Ambassador of the rich and diverse history of Himachal Pradesh and its rapid development in every sector, be it human resource development, tourism, agriculture or industrialization.

He said that Himachal is a tourism state and every year millions of tourists visit the state.

Korea and Himachal could collaborate in the tourism sector, he added.

He said that the culture of both Korea and Himachal are quite advanced and both



of them can work jointly in this direction. "We can make our relationship stronger through cultural exchange programmes," said the Governor.

He said that Himachal Pradesh and the Republic of Korea could collaborate in the field of tourism development, industrial investment,

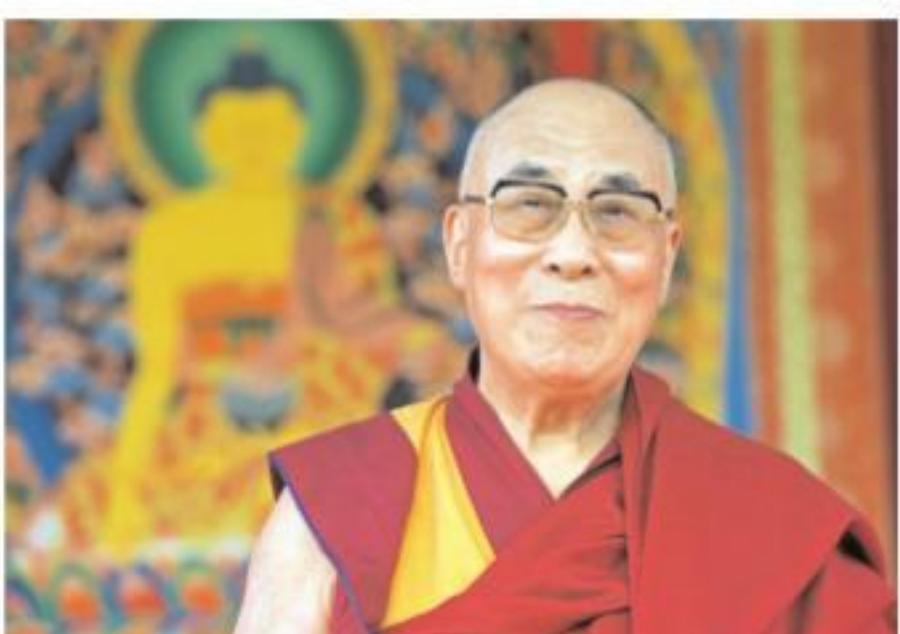
agriculture, environment, technology and skill development in particular as well as cultural exchange.

The Ambassador thanked the Governor for sparing time for the meeting. He said that both the Republic of Korea and India could work together in revamping regional connectivity and facilitat-

ing people to people contact. The Ambassador was accompanied by Minister-Counsellor Chang Ho Seung and Kang Yeon Soo, Second Secretary in the Embassy.

Later, Secretary of Governor Rakesh Kanwar also apprised the Ambassador about the heritage building of Raj Bhavan.

Central Tibetan Administration launches 'Selfie with Dalai Lama' global campaign



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 5 NOVEMBER

In a bid to highlight the plight of people residing in Tibet, a global campaign, 'Selfie with Dalai Lama', has been launched by the Central Tibetan Administration to express solidarity with Tibetans who are banned from displaying his picture by the Chinese government.

A Central Tibetan Administration official said Tibetan

spiritual leader Dalai Lama is a global icon and there are millions of his images in our homes, place of work, shrines, shops, wallets and on smartphones.

Dalai Lama's image is the focus of our offerings and prayers, our meditations and they create a visual reminder of his presence in our lives.

His image is freely displayed right across the world but not in Tibet where his image is banned by the Chi-

nese government," he added. He said to mark global solidarity for Tibet and celebrate Tibetan spiritual leader's world-wide influence, the Tibet Museum is producing a display made up of photographs created by you.

The Tibet Museum had asked all whether Tibetans or non-Tibetans to send their selfie with their picture of Dalai Lama, which one hold in hand or stand next to the photograph.

"The selves will feature in a floor to ceiling selfie wall in the section dedicated to Dalai Lama in the new Tibet Museum due to open in 2021 in the administrative heart of the Central Tibetan Administration, Gangchen Kyishong, Dharamshala, India.

All are requested to meet display requirements i.e. portrait orientation with 300 dpi and at least 3000 pixels high," he said, adding the selves can be sent with sender's name and location to tibetum2018@gmail.com or tibet.net till 31 December.

U'khand to provide drinking water to all schools, anganwadis by Dec



DEHRADUN, 5 NOVEMBER

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat on Thursday asked officials to make drinking water available through pipelines at all schools and anganwadi centres by the end of the year.

Reviewing the progress of the 'Jal Jeewan' Mission here, the chief minister said the Jal Sansthan and the Jal Nigam of Uttarakhand needed to work in coordination in order to meet the deadline.

Water pipeline connections being given in the rural areas should be strictly in accordance with norms, Rawat said and asked district magistrates to monitor the process.

राष्ट्रीय कृमि मुक्ति कार्यक्रम

कृमि से छुटकारा, सेहतमंद भविष्य हमारा

2 नवम्बर से 10 नवम्बर, 2020 तक



क्या आप जानते हैं कि कृमि संक्रमण से बच्चों में:

- कृपोषण और द्वून की कमी होती है, जिसके कारण हमेशा थकावट रहती है
- सम्पूर्ण शारीरिक और मानसिक विकास नहीं होता



कृमि मुक्ति दवा 1 से 19 वर्ष के सभी बच्चों और किशोरों / किशोरियों को ASHA द्वारा घर - घर जाकर इवलायी जाएगी।

बदलकर अपना व्यवहार, करें कोरोना और कृमि पर वार

स्वास्थ्य समंघी जानकारी के लिए हेल्पलाइन/टोल फ्री नंबर 104 पर संपर्क करें

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन

स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, हिमाचल प्रदेश





Who are these people indulging in 'faltu baat'... that people will be thrown out of the country? Everybody belongs to this country

BIHAR CHIEF MINISTER NITISH KUMAR
REFERRED TO THE CAA ISSUE DURING A RALLY

India

KOLKATA, 5 NOVEMBER: Bengal government will write to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his intervention to reduce the price of potato and onions.

Blaming the Centre for the steep hike in prices of essential commodities,

Mamata to seek Modi's intervention over soaring onion, potato prices

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today alleged that the prices were rising as the Centre has snatched away from us the potato prices are revolving around Rs 34 to 42. We will ask the Centre to

wherein steps were taken whenever prices rose but as that power has been snatched away from us the potato prices are revolving around Rs 34 to 42. We will ask the Centre to

either restore us the power to monitor the prices or control the situation itself else common people would die of hunger.

Centre's law allowing bar-

rier-free trade of the agricultural product has led to hoarding resulting in the price hike. We have already said that the law is anti-people. In the current Covid situation when

unemployment is on a rise in the country, such law has created a pandemic situation in the market," said Miss Banerjee at the administrative review meeting in Nabanna today.

She said that state would conduct a survey to take stock of the hoarding of commodities as well as monitor the interstate boarders.

Currently, Jyoti variety of potatoes cost around Rs 40 and the Chandramukhi variety is Rs 45. Onions cost around Rs

80 to 90. Earlier, potato traders in West Bengal have blamed the recent amendment to the Essential Commodities Act by the Centre for a rise in prices of the tuber in retail markets as it allows barrier-free trade of the agricultural products.

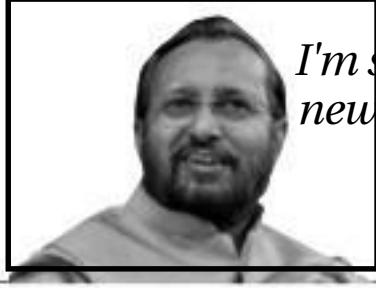
SNS

FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2020

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Deepawali and Chhath Puja Festivals, Northern Railway has planned to run the following Festival Special Trains as per schedule given below:-
Passengers are requested to note that all these Festival Special Trains will have reserved accommodation only. Passengers are therefore requested to get their accommodation (berths/seats) booked beforehand. Passengers having reserved tickets will only be allowed to enter the platform to board the train.

LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS ORIGINATING/TERMINATING IN NORTHERN RAILWAY

Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Frequency / Day	Period
04998	Bathinda	20:50	Varanasi Junction	16:30	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04997	Varanasi Junction	21:20	Bathinda	16:50	MON	Up to 30.11.20
04612	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	23:30	Varanasi Junction	23:35	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04611	Varanasi Junction	06:35	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	06:50	TUE	Up to 01.12.20
04422	Anand Vihar Terminal	20:20	Lucknow	04:20	WED, FRI, SUN	10.11.20 to 29.11.20
04421	Lucknow	21:20	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:45	MON, THU, SAT	09.11.20 to 25.11.20
04924	Chandigarh	23:15	Gorakhpur	16:00	THU	Up to 26.11.20
04923	Gorakhpur	22:10	Chandigarh	14:15	FRI	Up to 27.11.20
04090	Anand Vihar Terminal	16:55	Bhagalpur	11:00	MON, WED, FRI	Up to 30.11.20
04089	Bhagalpur	13:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:20	TUE, THU, SAT	Up to 01.12.20
04012	Anand Vihar Terminal	07:30	Jogbani	08:30	TUE, FRI	Up to 27.11.20
04011	Jogbani	20:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	21:00	WED, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
02237	Varanasi Junction	12:40	Jammu Tawi	11:05	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02238	Jammu Tawi	14:00	Varanasi Junction	12:30		Up to 01.12.20
02231	Lucknow	22:25	Chandigarh	10:05	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02232	Chandigarh	21:05	Lucknow	08:30		Up to 01.12.20
04092	New Delhi	09:20	Jaynagar	11:15	WED, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04091	Jaynagar	15:30	New Delhi	19:30	THU, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04030	Delhi Junction	13:45	Muzaffarpur Junction	08:00	WED, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04029	Muzaffarpur Junction	15:30	Delhi Junction	10:30	THU, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04624	Amritsar Junction	05:45	Saharsa Junction	10:30	WED, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04623	Saharsa Junction	14:30	Amritsar Junction	19:45	THU, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04656	Firozpur Cantt	19:00	Patna Junction	21:25	FRI	Up to 27.11.20
04655	Patna Junction	23:25	Firozpur Cantt	23:55	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04084	Delhi Junction	23:00	Katihar Junction	22:00	FRI	Up to 27.11.20
04083	Katihar Junction	23:50	Delhi Junction	22:50	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04401	New Delhi	23:50	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:35	MON, THU	09.11.20 to 30.11.20
04402	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	23:30	New Delhi	11:15	TUE, FRI	10.11.20 to 01.12.20
04418	H. Nizamuddin	21:35	Pune	21:25	TUE	Up to 24.11.20
04417	Pune	05:15	H. Nizamuddin	05:35	THU	Up to 26.11.20
02422	Jammu Tawi	18:10	Ajmer Junction	12:20	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02421	Ajmer Junction	14:05	Jammu Tawi	08:15		Up to 01.12.20
04041	Delhi Junction	22:25	Dehradun	08:25	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
04042	Dehradun	21:20	Delhi Junction	07:25		Up to 01.12.20
02448	H. Nizamuddin	20:10	Manikpur Junction	08:45	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02447	Manikpur Junction	17:05	H. Nizamuddin	05:25		Up to 01.12.20
04515	Kalka	12:10	Shimla	17:20	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
04516	Shimla	10:40	Kalka	16:10		Up to 01.12.20
04854	Jodhpur Junction	09:10	Varanasi Junction	10:30	MON, THU, SAT	Up to 30.11.20
04853	Varanasi Junction	17:15	Jodhpur Junction	18:50	MON, WED, SAT	Up to 30.11.20
04864	Jodhpur Junction	09:10	Varanasi Junction	08:45	TUE, FRI, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04863	Varanasi Junction	18:15	Jodhpur Junction	18:50	TUE, FRI, SUN	Up to 01.12.20
04866	Jodhpur Junction	09:10	Varanasi Junction	08:50	WED	Up to 25.11.20
04865	Varanasi Junction	18:15	Jodhpur Junction	18:50	THU	Up to 26.11.20
05115	Chhapra	11:15	Delhi Junction	11:20	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
05116	Delhi Junction	14:00	Chhapra	13:20	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
02581	Manduadih	22:30	New Delhi	12:15	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02582	New Delhi	22:35	Manduadih	11:10		Up to 01.12.20
06229	Mysore Junction	07:20	Varanasi Junction	12:00	TUE, THU	Up to 26.11.20
06230	Varanasi Junction	21:05	Mysore Junction	02:35	THU, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
07323	Hubballi Junction	17:50	Varanasi Junction	12:00	FRI	Up to 27.11.20
07324	Varanasi Junction	21:05	Hubballi Junction	13:00	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
02587	Gorakhpur	14:20	Jammu Tawi	13:10	MON	Up to 23.11.20
02588	Jammu Tawi	22:45	Gorakhpur	20:30	SAT	Upto 28.11.20
05097	Bhagalpur	23:50	Jammu Tawi	13:10	THU	Up to 26.11.20
05098	Jammu Tawi	22:45	Bhagalpur	10:15	TUE	Up to 24.11.20
05251	Darbhanga Junction	03:25	Jalandhar City	05:10	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
05252	Jalandhar City	09:50	Darbhanga Junction	11:35	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
02397	Gaya	14:15	New Delhi	04:30	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02398	New Delhi	12:10	Gaya	03:20		Up to 01.12.20
03255	Patliputra	20:35	Chandigarh	17:35	WED, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
03256	Chandigarh	21:30	Patliputra	18:50	MON, THU, SAT	Up to 30.11.20
02355	Patna Junction	07:25	Jammu Tawi	10:37	TUE, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
02356	Jammu Tawi	17:45	Patna Junction	20:55	WED, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
02595	Gorakhpur	20:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:50	MON, TUE, THU	Up to 30.11.20
02596	Anand Vihar Terminal	20:00	Gorakhpur	07:50	TUE, WED, FRI	Up to 01.12.20
02331	Howrah Junction	23:55	Jammu Tawi	13:10	TUE, FRI, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
02332	Jammu Tawi	22:45	Howrah Junction	11:30	MON, THU, SUN	Up to 30.11.20
02819	Bhubaneswar	15:40	Anand Vihar Terminal	20:50	WED, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
02820	Anand Vihar Terminal	07:05	Bhubaneswar	12:20	TUE, FRI	Up to 27.11.20
02549	Kamakhya	10:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	19:20	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02550	Anand Vihar Terminal	06:45	Kamakhya	16:35		Up to 02.12.20
02530	Lucknow Jn	05:00	Patliputra Junction	14:50	Except-SUN, THU	Up to 30.11.20
02529	Patliputra Junction	15:50	Lucknow Jn	02:35	Except-SUN, THU	Up to 30.11.20
02033	Kanpur Central	06:00	New Delhi	11:20	Except-SUN	Up to 30.11.20
02034	New Delhi	15:50	Kanpur Central	20:45	Except-SUN	Up to 30.11.20
08215	Durg	09:00	Jammu Tawi	21:40	WED	Up to 25.11.20
08216	Jammu Tawi	05:00	Durg	19:10	FRI	Up to 27.11.20
02458	Bikaner Junction	22:30	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	06:10	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02457	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	23:35	Bikaner Junction	07:30		Up to 30.11.20
02485	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	07:05	Jodhpur Junction	18:05	Daily	Up to 01.12.20



I'm sure factories are reducing emissions and bringing more greenery in campuses. Using new technologies to save water and (increase) energy efficiency is also a concern

UNION ENVIRONMENT MINISTER PRAKASH JAVADEKAR
WHILE ADDRESSING THE INDIA CEO FORUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 06 NOVEMBER 2020

05

THUMBNAILS



Himachal Pradesh Chief minister Jai Ram Thakur inaugurates developmental projects in Bilaspur distict on Thursday. SNS

Kangana house demolition: A Mumbai court on Thursday granted bail to a woman labourer arrested for allegedly causing disturbance and preventing a public servant from discharging his duties during the civic body-initiated demolition at actor Kangana Ranaut's bungalow here in September. PTI

Guj explosion probe: A day after 12 labourers died when a part of a godown in Ahmedabad collapsed following an explosion, the police summoned the godown owner and his tenant who had kept chemical drums there which caused the blast. PTI

Poonam Pandey detained: Actress Poonam Pandey was detained by Goa Police on Thursday for allegedly trespassing into a government property and shooting an obscene video in Goa. PTI

Weight loss surgery: Endoscopic Sleeve Gastropasty (ESG) is a latest type of weight loss surgery and it results in significant loss of weight as the surgery limit the food intake, said professor Galvao Neto, a Brazilian expert, who is a pioneer in ESG procedure in the world. "ESG surgeries are proving very effective for those who wish to lose weight," informed Manipal Hospital Dr Randeep Wadhawan through virtual conference in Delhi on Thursday. SNS

India seeks quick extradition of Mallya, Nirav Modi from UK

On the last leg of Europe tour, Shringla visited London where he held discussions with several ministers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LONDON, 5 NOVEMBER

Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla held talks with British Home Secretary Priti Patel in London during which he strongly underlined India's interest in the expeditious extradition of former Kingfisher Airlines chief Vijay Mallya, who has completed all the legal processes related to extradition from the UK, and fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi.

On the last leg of his three-nation Europe tour, Shringla visited London where he held discussions with several UK ministers and officials and during his interactions with Patel and UK Foreign Office Minister for South Asia, Lord Tariq Ahmad, on Tuesday, the issue of economic offenders being extradited to face the Indian judicial system was among the issues raised.

"We strongly underlined our interest in seeing the early, expeditious extradition of Vijay Mallya, who is an economic offender who has completed all extradition procedures in the UK. We would like him to return to India as soon as possible," said Shringla. "Also, Nirav Modi. I raised this with both Lord Ahmad and the Home Secretary, and both took very careful note of our priority and sentiments in that regard," he said.

Mallya, wanted in India over fraud and money laundering charges in relation to loans taken out by his now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines from state-owned Indian banks, has been found to have a case to answer in India by the UK courts. He is currently on bail, undergoing a "confidential" legal issue before Patel can consider signing off on his extradition order.

On the other hand, Modi, the fugitive diamond merchant accused of fraud and money laundering in relation to the state-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB), is currently lodged in Wandsworth Prison in London as he fights his extradition to India at Westminster Magistrates' Court.



Harsh Vardhan Shringla

Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla

No easy answers

Few events in Indian media have proved as contentious as the arrest of a television anchor in Mumbai on charges of abetment to suicide and his remand in judicial custody. But when the police in Maharashtra's Raigad decided to arrest Arnab Goswami, Editor-in-Chief of the Republic TV network on Wednesday, they opened themselves to the charge that they were extracting a price for what the state government considers repeated verbal assaults by the channel on its leaders and police officers. That Republic TV, in general, and Mr Goswami in particular, can be accused of displaying undue bias in their coverage of events in Maharashtra, especially the death of an actor, is not in doubt. That the state government has shown disproportionate interest in targeting the channel and its head, especially allegations of doctoring ratings and now in the matter of a 2018 suicide, is just as evident.

Some facts are not in dispute. An architect, Anvay Naik and his mother did die in 2018. He did leave a suicide note blaming non-payment of dues by Goswami and two others for the act. Before taking the extreme step, the architect did write to Goswami asking him to settle his dues and said it was a matter of life and death. The Maharashtra Police, then under a Bharatiya Janata Party dispensation, did file a closure report in the case, citing insufficient evidence.

The family of the architect did make repeated efforts to get the matter re-opened but failed. It was only after a change in government that the matter was re-opened. It is also a fact, as alleged by the daughter of the deceased architect, that Goswami had in the matter of actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death repeatedly called for his former girlfriend's arrest, even though no suicide note was found. But this is more than a matter of Goswami being hoist by his own petard; it can and must only be viewed through the prism of the law. Judgments of the apex court and various High Courts state unequivocally that the presence of a suicide note is not by itself ground for registration of a case of abetment to suicide.

A judgment of the Punjab and Haryana High Court says that an offence under Section 306 must reveal mens rea (a guilty mind). The court held that the contents of the suicide note must be read with other attending circumstances. Whether the case against Goswami meets this test is for a court to decide. Whether Goswami is guilty or not is also for the court to decide. But the first question that ought to agitate us as a society is whether journalistic excess even to the point of manifest bias is a right the media can claim. The second is whether the arrest of Goswami is an assault on Press freedom, as his well-wishers allege. Neither question offers an easy answer.

Polls and disease

Regardless of who wins the American presidential election, and the picture should be clear – legal challenges notwithstanding – by the time this comment is read, one thing is evident. States where Mr Donald Trump claims his support base, and some of which he won, are also the ones reporting the highest number of Covid positive cases as the United States set a new one-day record of 102,591 cases in a single day on Wednesday. Prominent among these states were Texas and Florida, both of which Mr Trump won, besides Illinois and California, where Mr Joe Biden was the winner.

Certainly, the bravado which the President has displayed would appear to have been infectious and many of his election rallies saw supporters violate public health guidelines on the use of masks and physical distancing. Epidemiologists had warned of a surge in cases after the sharply acrimonious campaign, which saw the handling of the epidemic by the Trump administration emerge as a major issue. Mr Trump was never defensive about the positions he took over the past few months, and sharply assailed experts like Dr Anthony Fauci for the warnings they had issued from time to time. The past few months have also seen the emergence of a legion of conspiracy theorists whose cumulative efforts have led to the suspension of basic, common-sense measures to tackle a malaise that has so far defied a cure.

Indeed, in the days leading up to the election, the American tally of fresh cases has grown steadily, reaching 100,000 for the first time on 30 October. Most of the new cases have been reported from the conservative Midwest, where Mr Trump holds sway with large swathes of the electorate. The campaign saw Mr Trump accuse doctors and medical professionals of seeking to profit from the disease, by falsely inflating numbers of Covid cases. This charge was widely condemned as a lie by many Americans, including doctors.

But the fact that the accusation was made by the President along with a claim that too much was being made of the disease to discredit him compelled committed supporters to throw caution to the winds. Add to this the increased public activity occasioned by the election, and Mr Trump's exhortation to people to vote in person, instead of opting for mail-in votes, and the spike in numbers became predictable. Infectious diseases experts had warned that Mr Trump's rallies were potential "super-spreader" events and at least one study – by Stanford University – had estimated that the events had resulted in at least 30,000 infections.

Once the election dust settles, America will have the challenging task of reining in its Covid numbers and ensuring that sick people get the medical attention they need. Public health experts have warned that hospitalisations are once again going through the roof, and resources are stretched thin.

Lessons from Migration

The solution lies with the complete transformation of economic and administrative processes, practices and policies to enable rural India to face up to the issues that the coronavirus-induced reverse migration has thrown up



The most tragic phenomenon witnessed by the nation during the early stages of Covid-19 pandemic was the harrowing and gut-wrenching images of mass exodus of informal sector workers in large parts of the country. They are the invisible drivers of the informal economy of urban India. This article is about that reverse migration. To begin with, let us understand who migrants are. Usually migrants are defined on the basis of place of birth or last place of residence and a deviation from it. However, the defining feature of who is a migrant is rather flexible, even in official records. In the last decade, migration pattern has also changed due to interstate movement to new growth centres, especially in small and medium sized towns.

What are the major streams as well as the "sources" and "destination" points of this vast mass of migrant population? Certain studies indicate that the areas where the migrant labours were working include construction sites in large cities, brick kilns located at the edge of the peri-urban areas, agricultural fields in the state of Punjab, sugar cane growing areas and the three-crop areas. Apart from these, there were small and tiny roadside business and service providers. Field realities indicate that Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Bihar are the biggest "source" states of migrants, followed closely by Madhya Pradesh (MP), Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir and West Bengal. The major "destination" states are Delhi, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. The available data indicates a widely differing reality about migrants in India. While, as per Census 2011, the total number of internal migrants would be 450 million – more than 30 per cent higher than 2001 – the actual numbers perhaps are higher than what is captured by the census.

What are the reasons for migration? Is this kind of migration due to distress or opportunity-oriented? Given natural factors as well as shared experi-

ences, one knows that the so-called "source" regions are inscribed by low social and economic developmental indices and most of the migration is for subsistence and survival and falls under the citatory of distress migration. In the "destination" regions which are mostly urban settlements, the coping strategy of the migrants constantly vacillates between inhuman work conditions of urban and peri-urban India on the one hand and the impoverished and destitute landscape of the rural on the other. The significance of the "source" village in the coping strategy of the migrants differs with the varying stages of the work cycle of migrants. Invariably, the outer limits of these individuals' or groups' adaptive strategies are determined by work opportunities and survival conditions at "source" and "destination."

Perhaps, this is why we see a reverse migration today as the "destination" is soulless and devoid of any meaning other than profiting and cheap labour.

Now let us see what would be the magnitude of the impact be for reverse migration. Definition of worker is given in the Industrial Disputes Act (IDA), 1947. According to the Labour Force Survey (2017–18), 238 million workers work as self-employed and around 112 million are employed in the casual workers segment. Only 19 million workers who are regular workers and have contract tenure of more than three years are eligible under the definition of worker in the formal sector. It further excludes 49 million workers among 92 million formal sector workers employed in the informal segment of the formal sector.

This segment of non-workers, close to 161 million workers, as construed in various judicial pronouncements is ineligible under the definitional criteria of the IDA.

According to the Sixth Economic Census 2015–16 (excludes union territories), around 24.63 million establishments employ 216 million workers. Across the employment threshold sizes, 172 million workers (79.85 per cent) work in establishments that have less than nine workers and 20.1 million are employed in establishments that have more than 10 and less than 49 workers. Only 17.60 million (8 per cent) work in establishments with more than 100 workers. Except for the large-size firms, all other firms fall under the MSME sector, which at present, contribute around 6.11 per cent of the manufacturing GDP.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment issued a circular on 20 March 2020 requiring all employers not to terminate employees and not to cut wages of workers, including contract and temporary workers.

If the MSME sector is to pay wages without lay-offs in terms of this circular, it would witness several financial hurdles. Due to the additional wage costs, many units may even go bankrupt since they may not have the capacity to endure these recurring costs. India's nationwide lockdown has thus not only inflicted incalculable damages on the working lives of the migrant workers but has induced a slump in activities of all sectors, from production to distribution to consumption.

The mass exodus of "migrant workers" from cities is one of the grimmest human tragedies of post-independence India. The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic is without a parallel in the last 100 years of human history. The closest comparison is probably the gargantuan calamity-ridden 1918 flu pandemic of which there are hardly any survivors remaining.

The process of recovery in the economy is going to be long-drawn-out process. It would be painful for those workers who

would opt for meagre options available at source and equally for those who would be looking for opportunities in urban spaces. Due to the diffused nature of India's urbanisation and the phased-out partial manner in which the lockdown is going to be lifted, the contractor-driven labour supply chains are going to take time to get regrouped.

Demographic composition of the informal labour market is likely to be changed as workers come back. The workers who return will probably be different from those who went home. Some sectors, especially construction that accounts for a large proportion of migrant workers, are not going to recover soon.

There is going to be an increased pressure on interstate migration to nearby towns and cities that may not be able to offer much.

Oversupply and cheap supply of labour would have disastrous consequences for collective bargaining, security and entitlements of the working classes. In such a context where the capability of the "source" is already severely compromised, social kinship ties with their embedded hierarchies are going to compound the crisis of human survival in these regions as they would be stretched out to their fullest limits. The pressure of this reverse migration is going to be felt in the fields of agriculture and allied activity and will put immense pressure on a system that is already broken.

But then, what is the solution? The solution lies with the complete transformation of economic and administrative processes, practices and policies to enable rural India to face up to the issues that the coronavirus-induced reverse migration has thrown up.

Besides, we need a charter of the rights of the working population across the board that ensures the right to livelihood, food, security and above all dignity of labour. Such a charter should become the guiding principle in the post-coronavirus phase of India's polity and economy. A failure to consider the above may result in a calamity.

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIAN VOICES

A broken promise

By-elections for the Seoul and Busan mayors will be held in April next year after the posts were left vacant by two ruling party members who were accused of sexual misconduct.

Under the constitution of the Democratic Party of Korea, the party cannot field candidates in the by-elections. The internal rule prohibits the party from fielding a candidate in a by-election called after a Democratic Party member loses the elected seat over "serious wrongdoing".

But the party was set to revise its constitution Tuesday afternoon to make it possible to nominate candidates in the by-elections.

As a pretext to do that, it conducted a poll of all of its members Saturday and Sunday, and said Monday that 86.64 percent of them supported the revision.

In effect, their answer was predetermined early on. Prior to the poll, the party's Chairman Lee Nak-yon had given them a sort of guideline, saying it is a duty of a responsible political party to field its candidates in elections.

Most of the party members who cast ballots are loyal to President Moon Jae-in, and they were already demanding the party nominate its candidates in the by-elections.

The party said it would decide on whether to nominate candidates based on the poll results. Voter turnout was 26.35 percent, short of the quorum (one-third of eligible voters) specified in the party's constitution.

The clause was written into the party constitution in September 2015 when President Moon Jae-in led the party.

On the campaign trail in an October 2015 by-election for a county mayoral position, Moon said: "This by-election is held because the election of the candidate of the Saenuri Party (one of the parties preceding the main opposition People Power Party) was invalidated for violating the election law. The party should take responsibility, shouldn't it? It should not field its candidate in the by-election."

As Moon asserted, the New Politics Alliance for Democracy (one of the ruling party's precedents) adopted the clause in question. And the party boasted the rule to emphasize its moral superiority to the Saenuri Party. But the party has come to eat its words as it faces a situation in which it would have to follow the clause.

Moon keeps silent as he watches his party overturn the clause made at his request. He clamors for reform, justice and fairness only when the situation is favorable, but hides behind the party or his loyalists when it becomes unfavorable.

Lee emphasized that it is a duty for a political party to be judged by citizens through the nomination of its candidate, and apologized to the people of Seoul and Busan for the by-elections to be held due to wrongdoings by members of his party.

While apologizing on one hand, he argues on the other that the party must field its candidates in the by-elections without failure. It is questionable if the apology is sincere.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR editor@thestatesman.com

Tolerance and dialogue needed

SIR, This refers to your well-analysed editorial, "In the cross hairs" (4 November). It is very shocking and unfortunate that the extremist attacks in France were followed closely by the attack in Austria. A gunman killed four people in a rampage in the heart of Vienna overnight.

The gunman, according to authorities, was a 20-year-old Islamic state sympathizer. Holding dual citizenship of Austria and North Macedonia, he had been sentenced to 22 months in jail in April last year for attempting to travel to Syria to join IS. He had been released early because of his young age, in December. He was killed by police.

The stabbing of three persons inside the Notre-Dame basilica in the French city of Nice close on the heels of the beheading of a school teacher for showing cartoons of Prophet Muhammad to his students in a class that French authorities have attributed to Muslim extremists. The manner of the killings in both Austria and

France shows that indoctrination renders people incapable of mercy. Targeting civilians is cowardice.

The terror attacks in the two countries are symptomatic of the visceral hostility that still exists between religions. The West's interference in the Islamic world as part of its desire for global domination and its tendency to equate Islam with terrorism lie at the root of such tensions. Radicalization does not occur in a vacuum. Pigeon-holing masses of people into 'us' and 'them' is

the real problem. As such, vows by the far right to eradicate "Islamofascism" from the soil of Austria and France will only deepen the division and fuel extremism. Even the global pandemic does not seem to have taught the warring people the utility of cooperation and the futility of confrontation. Killing and dying for religion is sheer folly. Respect for all religions and inter-faith dialogue are badly needed to combat the scourge of communal violence.

Yours, etc., Narayan Chandra Ghosh,

Madanpur, 5 November.

BAN CRACKERS

SIR, Rajasthan is a state where Diwali is celebrated with greater pomp and show, including the bursting of firecrackers, than in West Bengal. Even then, keeping in view the tottering health-care situation arising out of the Covid-19 epidemic, which may aggravate with the bursting of firecrackers,

GANDHIAN MODEL

SIR, The article on economic inequalities by Devendra Saksena (3 November) is thought provoking. Economic inequalities have become a painful feature of the Indian economy. Day after day GDP and per capita income is declining as compared to Bangladesh and other developing countries. There are huge differences in income. There are two kinds of schools, universities, hospitals and banks – those in the public sector and the private ones. This model does not provide any solution to economic problems. We have to turn back to the Gandhian model of economic development. Gandhiji's dream to wipe out the tears of every poor person should be realized by our policy makers.

Yours, etc., Nalin Seth, Faridabad, 4 November.

The Rajasthan government has imposed a total ban on the bursting of firecrackers this Diwali. Similar ban for a limited period has also been imposed by Odisha government.

But the government of West Bengal has left it to the "good sense" of the people. Such "good sense", however, is not visible anywhere in the public sphere. And the directive will in all likelihood be flouted with impunity.

Even the mild directive of the government is being opposed by people with vested interest. They want the government to lift the advisory on the ground of loss of jobs of workers engaged in the manufacture of firecrackers, as reported by you today.

Firecrackers are injurious to public health. Their use should be banned. In the interest of public health, more so on account of ravages of the pandemic, the government must ensure that its advisory is adhered to in letter and spirit.

Yours, etc., Sanjit Ghatak, Narendrapur, 5 November.



Delhi's environmental efforts may hold the key to clean air

EESHAN CHATURVEDI AND NANDINI SURI

The citizens of Delhi-NCR savoured a rare view of clear blue skies during the lockdown implemented by the Government of India in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic. Reduced traffic flow led to a fall in vehicular emissions. As we await the reopening of the economy, we also await the return of capital's pollution woes. Blue skies will once again be shrouded in thick, toxic smog. But the crisis may exacerbate this winter. With the Covid-19 pandemic still going strong, Delhi will have to tackle its perennial problem of pollution and smog through a multi-pronged approach.

On October 5, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced a "Yuddh Pradushan Ke Virudh" (war against pollution) campaign, under which the government has come up with customized plans of action for each of the 13 pollution hotspots in the city. Another important development has been the concentration on citizen engagement in relation to environmental pollution. The CM announced the rolling out of a Green Delhi app which can be used by citizens to upload photos of environmental pollution being caused in their vicinity and lodge complaints against people suspected of polluting.

In order to prevent tree felling due to development work, the government has come up with a tree transplantation policy, which requires at least 80 per cent of trees removed for any development project within Delhi to be transplanted to another region i.e., the trees will be uprooted and then planted again. This is aimed at addressing the issue of compensatory plantation of 10 saplings against cutting of 1 tree, which might be hundreds of years old. "The agency concerned will have to ensure that 80 per cent of the total transplanted trees survive. Payments for transplantation will be made after one year to ensure this, and if less than 80 per cent of the



transplanted trees survive, payment will be deducted" the Delhi CM said while addressing an online press conference on October 9.

Additionally, the Delhi Government announced setting up of a smog tower in Connaught Place within ten months, for which it has sanctioned Rs 20 crore. In order to address the issue of stubble burning, which has been cited as a major cause of air pollution in Delhi, the Pusa Institute has been involved to come up with a solution that could be sprayed onto the stubble, turning the mass into organic fertilizer which will possibly discourage the farmers from burning their crops.

The new electric vehicle policy of the Government of Delhi, whereby positive incentives have been made available to denizens to switch over to electric vehicles both in the short and the long term, has also been a welcome change. The policy also seeks to incen-

tivize the switch to EVs through waiving road tax and registration charges for such vehicles, and incorporating a scrapping incentive for use of old parts of vehicles – which may especially be useful to nudge the populace towards an electric vehicle-based future.

This antipollution campaign is not the capital's first step towards combatting pollution. From the odd-even rule to abandonment of vehicles older than 10 to 15 years, all have been measures to control what was once called a gas chamber like situation by the CM of Delhi.

The pollution of Delhi has become a political issue with Governments often indulging in mudslinging. The stubble burning, vehicular pollution, industrial activity, non-execution of the orders of various courts, suffocating air quality both in relation to PM 2.5 and PM 10, have been issues that the citizens of Delhi NCR face every year. Pol-

luters from firecrackers linked to festivities around this time also worsen the already dismal air of the region.

Air pollution affects our lungs insidiously. Studies have suggested that high levels of air pollution can compromise the resistance of people and make them more susceptible to the deadly coronavirus. High pollution coupled with freezing cold spell of the capital will make it more likely for people to contract respiratory diseases. Co-morbid health conditions pose a great challenge for the already stressed healthcare facilities in the capital. Thus, the policies conceived by the government, now acquire a different dimension of potency.

The Covid-19 crisis has irrevocably changed the world. It has forced us to reorient, and rethink our relationship with the environment. With its creative and strategic thinking, Delhi government's policies have

taken cognizance of the looming health crisis. While the efficacy of the actual implementation of such policies is still to be tested over the winter, the government of Delhi must be commended for taking strides in the right direction. With proper infrastructure, engagement and implementation, the air in the NCR, perhaps, could be made breathable in the time to come.

The current reduction in pollution is a result of the lockdown imposed in the country, but that has come at an enormous economic cost. As we continue to fight coronavirus from the confines of our homes, let's hope to see clearer skies without paying a steep price!

The writers are, respectively, Founder-Director of Envipol and Assistant Dean at the Jindal School of Environment and Sustainability and a journalist working as a research fellow at Envipol.

FARZANA MISHA

The Covid-19 pandemic in Bangladesh, particularly during the period of the lockdown, has seen a significant increase in the reported cases of sexual assault, harassment and abuse of women and girls. These appalling acts have been more brazen over time and consistently made headlines.

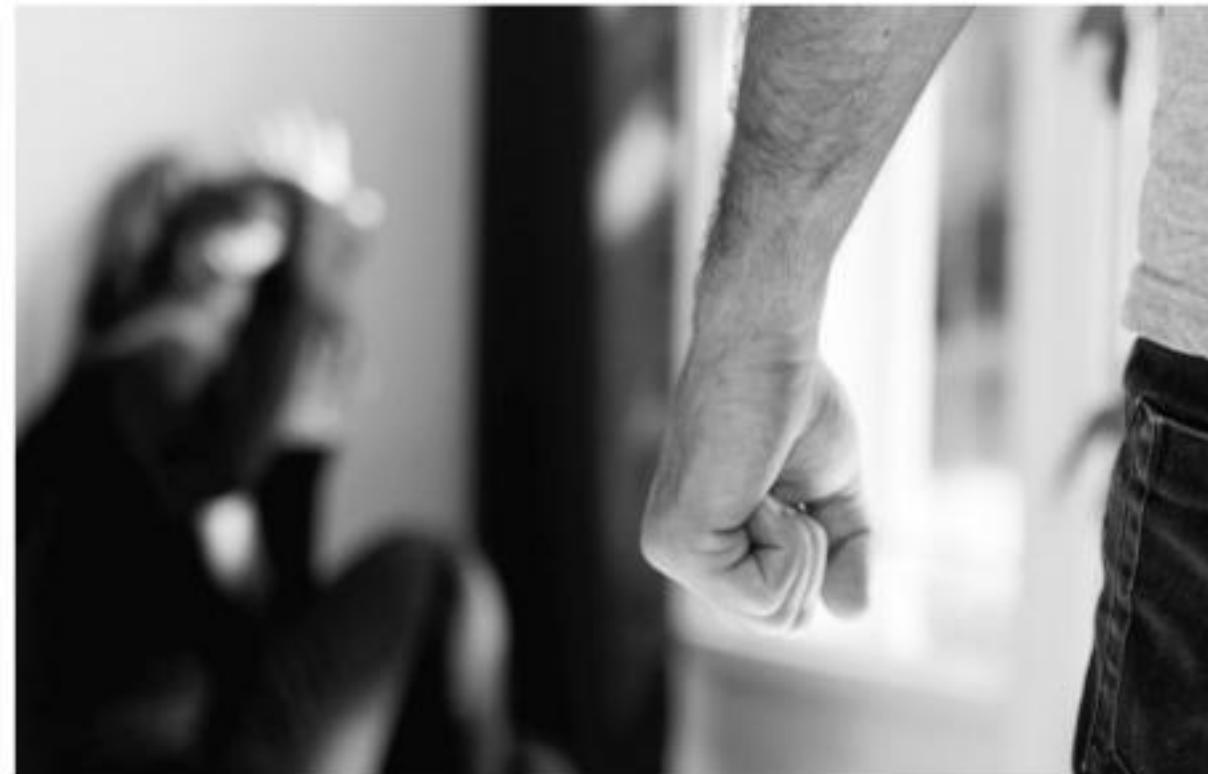
Just between January and August this year, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) recorded 892 cases of rape - tantamount to nearly four cases a day. The reader at this juncture must keep in mind that this is but a fraction of what actually may be happening, as the majority of cases stay unreported.

At the same time, we have had a marked growth in all areas of women's empowerment. For instance, we have had two female premiers in power continuously over the past three decades, while our largest foreign currency earner (RMGs) has been a driver of female labour market engagement. We have an active young population, who have taken to the streets repeatedly to protest the harrowing violence against women. In response, the government has introduced the capital punishment for rape, though not without criticism.

Now the question is, although our general response seems to be fine on paper, why is it not working? What is the missing part of the puzzle? We should ask ourselves: Are men, particularly the youth, missing from our equation of the solution? The answer, unfortunately, is a resounding yes!

To answer our first question, we should ask: how much do we really know about the sexual aspects of male youth in Bangladesh - particularly, in the area of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)? Not much. At this juncture, our understanding of male sexuality, thoughts and perceptions, source of informa-

What drives men who assault women



tion, or healthcare seeking behaviour is limited at best. But why does this matter? It does because they represent the missing part of our "solutions" equation.

Where these men and youth get their information, how these warp their perceptions, and how they deal with their frustrations directly affect how they treat women. This absence of knowledge on these topics is mostly driven by an absence of international attention to the subject. For example, despite the issue of all-inclusive SRHR being reflected across some of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the focus on the male aspects of SRHR is largely absent.

The global literature on men's SRH behaviours and practices is limited. A study by Darroch et al (2016) finds that globally, only a quarter of the countries systematically collect information on men's sexual and reproductive behaviours, contraceptive needs and use as well as fertility preferences.

Taking all these factors into consideration, the Brac James P Grant School of Public Health recently conducted a national survey on the sexual and reproductive health and rights of male youth in Bangladesh. The survey, funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, is the first of its kind in Bangladesh and is expected to generate nationally representative evidence on SRHR knowledge, practices, behaviours and needs of male youth within the age group of 15-24 years.

This quantitative part followed a two-stage random sampling: it was conducted in all eight administrative divisions of Bangladesh and included both city corporations, rural and urban areas of all sixty-four districts, interviewing a nationally representative sample. At the same time, qual-

itative information has been collected by utilising a focused ethnographic approach, where the researchers literally spent months in the selected localities to collect information from the selected respondents, to generate a deeper and comprehensive understanding of the current condition of SRHR of male youth from both supply- and demand-side perspectives.

This study generated data on an array of indicators. This includes demographic, socio-economic conditions, knowledge, perception and practice regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights, health seeking behaviour regarding SRH, exposure of technology, pornography, daily activities, religious beliefs, gender-based violence, stress and conflict related to gender roles, masculinity, risk taking behaviour and aspiration of male youth. In this article, we won't go into the details of the findings as the analysis is still ongoing, but some initial findings suggest that peer networks are one of the first sources of

information for men regarding sexual and reproductive health. This increases the likelihood of warped perceptions, practices and being misinformed as the peer groups are themselves in the dark. As a result, most of the information is derived from questionable sources including pornography, word of mouth and informal sources of providers (i.e. street sellers of medicines, kabirajis, untrained homeopaths).

Shyness and taboo around the topics were identified as among the leading barriers to seeking healthcare, despite many suffering from severe health problems such as erectile dysfunction, urethral discharge and testicular swelling. The survey further explores the role of education and age when it comes to adhering to gender equitable perceptions and respect for women. In addition, it investigates how risk-taking behaviours (drug abuse, having multiple sexual partners, etc.) are correlated with performing idealised and perceived mas-

culinity behaviours.

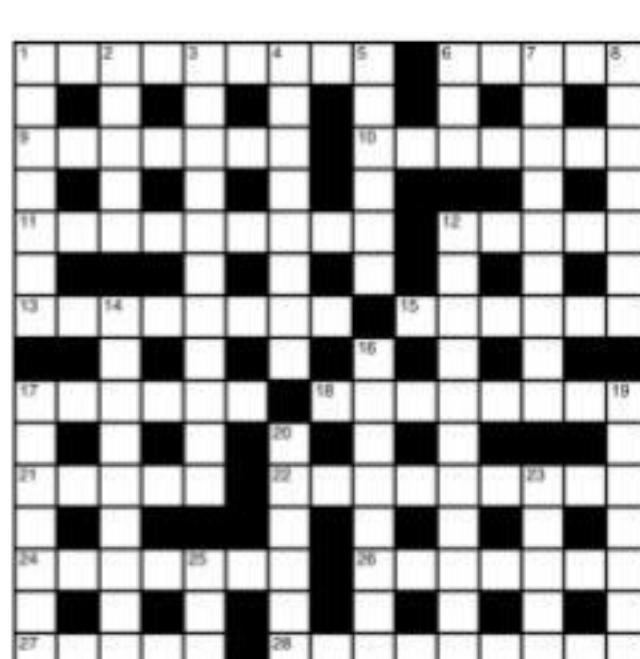
The nationwide research attempts to understand the gaps and challenges of male-inclusive sexual and reproductive health interventions and services. Challenges such as community resistance, lack of sensitivity among parents, teachers and health care providers at the field level have emerged from the initial findings. The study further reviewed how much this issue has been addressed in the existing policies, laws and acts in Bangladesh and tried to identify gaps in these areas that require immediate attention. The findings along with recommendations will be disseminated at the national level later this year.

The significance of scientifically derived evidence in addressing core social issues is immense and, in this case, the generated data will give us a clear picture of the ground realities. This will further facilitate adopting new and revising existing policies to address their shortcomings. As a society, our broader objective should be to create an environment where men can become advocates for sexual and reproductive rights, not only for themselves but also for their gender counterparts as well. Unless they are not aware of their own health and rights, they will not be able to comprehend and respect the sexual and reproductive health and rights of the opposite sex. There continues to be an urgent need to hold males accountable. To accomplish this, there needs to be widespread inclusion of men in discussions on gender equity and respect in the media and mass campaigns, providing good role models who can denounce and shame toxic masculinity traits and promote them in taking on more gender equitable roles.

The Daily Star/ANN

NO 28127

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

MILL, SAND, BOON
A, AL, RA, IN, P
GAWKING, NIGHTIE
J, STU, G, H, A
TEMPERAMENT
C, C, L, E, R, M, C
LOOSEEND, DETACH
A, A, G, T, A, H, R, E
NATURE, FLOUNDER
T, R, A, VEL, A, GENT
E, N, N, R, I, P, R
REGIMENT, GONDOLA
N, E, A, E, E, G, O, I
BRAIN, DING, IRON

NOTE: Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required. (By arrangement with The Independent, London)

ACROSS

- 1 Mongrel, angry, runs into couch (9)
- 2 Energy limited by assault further down (5)
- 3 Soccer organisation retreated, facing insult (7)
- 4 Successful students will retain edge in percussion instrument (7)
- 5 Very good month, say, to import fine item of account (9)
- 6 Frank, not entirely quiet, becoming cheeky (5)
- 7 After setback, golfer suppressing old expletive – or part of one? (8)
- 15 One lowering themselves socially has not left for the

DOWN

- 17 season (6)
- 18 It's unfortunate about Grammar School being a complete mess (6)
- 19 Encounter inferior bit of beer, nothing more (4,4)
- 20 Subsequent amusement concealing expression of disgust (5)
- 22 Everyone is deceived about small item in fisherman's catch (5,4)
- 24 Artist is chasing harmony, the strange creature (7)
- 26 Dismay complete, beginning to affect our side (7)
- 27 Man on board heading off in the dark (5)
- 28 Man on board, cunning, notes English seaport (5,4)

12 There's a few bloggers in Beds? (4-7)

- 14 Striker having a harmful effect, ignoring leader about Nationalist (9)
- 16 Pleasure to entertain learners with low light at night? (4,4)
- 17 Water-bird, lake one, tucking into nut (7)
- 19 Love English in curiously bland style associated with Wodehouse? (3,4)
- 20 Material question: cracked up over that? (6)
- 23 Surprised cry about a very strong form of Scottish beer? (5)
- 25 Eradicated origin of constituency trouble (3)

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

In the official review, published early in September, of the report on police administration in the Bengal Presidency for the year 1919 a favourable comment was passed on instances of assistance rendered to the police by the general public in the suppression of crime. In the Inspector-General's report, just issued in Blue-book form, several instances are given of the work of the volunteer patrols organised in certain districts, co-operating with the work of the police. In one case a thief with stolen articles was caught red-handed by one of the parties as he was scaling a wall. In another, a thief was chased by a member of a defence party, and, although the culprit escaped, the stolen articles, which he threw down, were restored to the owner. A burglar who had committed his sixth burglary in one night was arrested red-handed with all the stolen property. There is another instance in which a serious dacoity undoubtedly was prevented. While one of the defence parties was patrolling at about midnight three of its members noticed a lighted torch and saw about twenty or twenty-five suspicious-looking persons moving along noiselessly. Hitherto it has been a common complaint that the public are apathetic in regard to the work of the police, and signs of a better and mutually helpful state of relationships are to be welcomed.

NEWS ITEMS

B.I. LABOUR ON STRIKE

The strike at the Garden Reach Workshop of the B.I.S.N. Co., at Sulteak, Howrah, continues and work there is now entirely at a standstill, all the four thousand workers being idle. There was no disturbance of any kind either on Thursday or Friday, and the strikers are orderly. On Friday morning the workers of the Union Dock of the B.I.S.N. Co., numbering 1,300 out of 2,000 did not attend work. The 700 who did turn up included Chinamen, boatmen, khalasies and lascars. Simultaneously with the strike at the B.I.S.N. Co., the workers of the Hooghly Dock, numbering about 800, also strike. The work of the dock is reported to be entirely suspended. It is persistently rumoured in Howrah that the strike might spread to other workshops.

ZACHERIA MOSQUE

After the Jumma prayers yesterday at The Zacheria mosque, Moulana Abul Kalam Azad made a speech in Urdu referring to the Madrassah imbroglio. He reiterated that the holy books of Islam taught that Mahomedan spiritual education and the Mosque were inseparably associated, and the best place for the education of Mahomedan youths should be the Mosque. The speaker next announced that the Arabic Department School would be open from today to all students who would have their classes in one of the wings of the Mosque upstairs. Moulana Azad expects to open the Anglo-Persian Department some day next week. It remains to be seen if the students of the Anglo-Persian Department of the Calcutta Madrassah will join in defiance of the wishes of their guardians.

OPIUM IN A RAILWAY PARCEL

Mr. R.N. Roy, Deputy Magistrate of Hooghly, has just disposed of a case in which Saraju Kahar, Anath Sircar and Gobinda Ganguly were prosecuted for illicit possession and transport of opium weighing 30 seers, valued at about Rs 30,000. The prosecution story was that, a parcel consigned to a fictitious person at Hooghly Ghat station was received at Bandel station. The parcel was duly sent to Hooghly Ghat station. The Excise authorities kept a watch on this parcel as they had information that it contained opium. When Saraju went in a taxi-cab from Calcutta to take the parcel which was found opium. The Magistrate convicted all the accused and sentenced Gobinda and Anath to two and three months' imprisonment and Saraju to six months' hard labour.

EGYPT

The Times today publishes a summary of the agreement reached in London between the Milner Mission and the Egyptian Mission headed by Zaghlul Pasha, whereby Great Britain recognises the independence of Egypt and guarantees Egypt's integrity against outside aggression, and Egypt recognises Great Britain's privileged position in the valley of the Nile, and agrees in case of war to give Great Britain every facility for access to Egyptian territory. Great Britain maintains a garrison in the Canal zone, most probably based on El Kantara. Egypt regains control of her foreign relations, subject to her not making treaties at variance with British policy, and she will have the right to have her own diplomatic representatives abroad. The rights of British officials will be safeguarded. Those dispensed with or wishing to resign will be generously compensated.

THUMBNAILS

Maruti recall: The country's largest car maker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Thursday said it is recalling 40,453 units of its multi-purpose vehicle Eeco to fix an issue with the headlamp. The recalled units were manufactured between 4 November 2019 and 25 February 2020, the automaker said in a statement. "The company will inspect 40,453 units of Eeco for a possible issue of standard symbol missing on the headlamp. Any action, if required, shall be undertaken free of cost," it added. PTI

RIL to appeal in SC: Reliance Industries on Thursday said it will challenge in Supreme Court the dismissal of its plea by the Securities Appellate Tribunal against a Sebi ruling barring the firm and 12 of its promoter group entities from dealing in equity derivatives for alleged unfair trade practices. SAT, by a 2:1 majority order, has dismissed RIL's appeal against the Sebi order dated 24 March 2017, in the matter relating to the sale of Reliance Petroleum Ltd (RPL) shares by the company in November 2007, RIL said. PTI

Amazon Fresh: Amazon India on Thursday announced the launch of Amazon Fresh in Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Pune & Chennai through expansion of its specialised network that enables ultra-fast delivery services of daily essentials and grocery under the Amazon Fresh Store on Amazon.in. With this expansion, Amazon India has more than 25 such Amazon Fresh centres, said a release. SNS

Tally Solutions: Business management software provider Tally Solutions will launch TallyPrime, the next generation business management software, on 9 November 2020. TallyPrime will equip MSME owners and new-age entrepreneurs with an ultra-simple and powerful software to enhance their business productivity, according to a Press release. SNS

Quess Corp: Quess Corp, one of the largest private sector employers, launched a job search QJobs for blue collar workers. "With QJobs, we aim to offer a smooth and seamless job search experience that helps job seekers find the best suited job as per their requirements," said Quess Corp chairman & managing director Ajit Isaac. SNS

Magma awarded: Magma Fincorp Limited (Magma) has been honoured for its CSR programme M-Scholar at the 9th ACEF Asian Leaders Awards held in Mumbai recently. M-Scholar has won the coveted "Gold" award at the event. The project was declared the best education/scholarship programme and won the highest award in the social impact award category, according to a Press release. SNS

Saudi PIF picks up 2.04% in Rel Retail for ₹9,555 crore

This is second investment by the Saudi Arabian sovereign wealth fund in a Mukesh Ambani firm

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 5 NOVEMBER

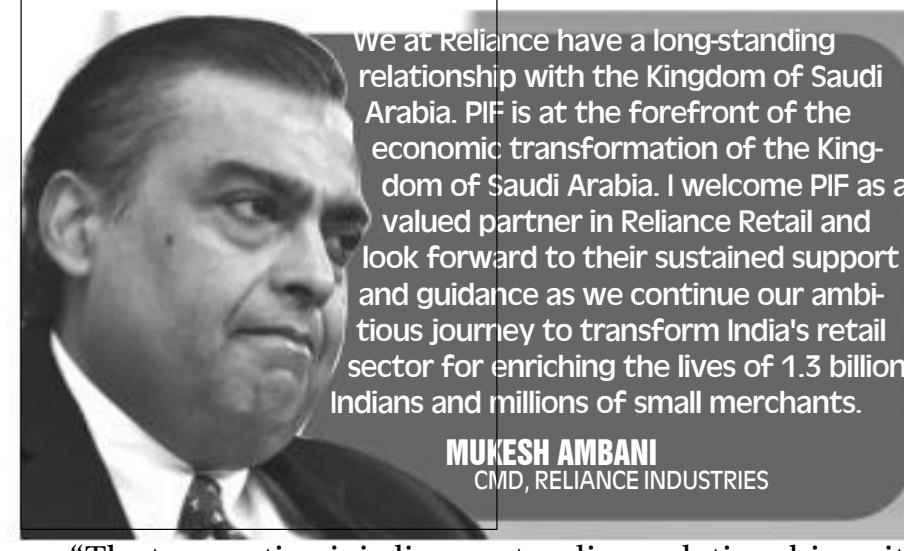
Billionaire Mukesh Ambani-run Reliance Industries Ltd's retail arm today raised Rs 9,555 crore from Public Investment Fund (PIF) of Saudi Arabia, taking total funds raised in the last two months to Rs 47,265 crore.

PIF will take a 2.04 per cent stake in Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), the Indian firm said in a statement.

The investment values RRVL, the retail arm of Reliance Industries Ltd, at a pre-money value of Rs 4.587 lakh crore.

This is second investment by the Saudi Arabian sovereign wealth fund in an Ambani firm. It had previously picked up 2.32 per cent stake in Jio Platforms, the digital and telecom arm of Reliance, for Rs 11,367 crore.

"This investment will further strengthen PIF's presence in India's dynamic economy and promising retail market segment," the statement said.



We at Reliance have a long-standing relationship with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. PIF is at the forefront of the economic transformation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I welcome PIF as a valued partner in Reliance Retail and look forward to their sustained support and guidance as we continue our ambitious journey to transform India's retail sector for enriching the lives of 1.3 billion Indians and millions of small merchants.

MUKESH AMBANI
CMD, RELIANCE INDUSTRIES

"The transaction is in line with PIF's strategy as a leading global investor with a proven track-record of investing in innovative and transformative companies globally and develop strong partnerships with leading groups in their respective markets," it added.

India's retail sector is one of the largest in the world and accounts for over 10 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP) which presents meaningful growth potential.

Mukesh Ambani, chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries, said: "We at Reliance have a long-

standing relationship with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. PIF is at the forefront of the economic transformation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. "I welcome PIF as a valued partner in Reliance Retail and look forward to their sustained support and guidance as we continue our ambitious journey to transform India's retail sector for enriching the lives of 1.3 billion Indians and millions of small merchants."

Yasir Al-Rumayyan, Governor of PIF, said: "We are pleased to be furthering our trusted partnership with Reliance Industries, the lead-

ing player in some of India's most exciting sectors. This transaction demonstrates PIF's commitment to investing and partnering for the long term with innovative businesses around the world that lead and transform their sectors."

"This investment further demonstrates PIF's commitment to generating returns for the Saudi people and driving the economic diversification of Saudi Arabia," he said.

Reliance Retail Limited, a subsidiary of RRVL, operates India's largest, fast-growing retail business serving close to 640 million footfalls at its 12,000 stores across the country. Reliance Retail's vision is to galvanise the Indian retail sector through its new commerce strategy, serving millions of customers by empowering millions of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), the Indian firm said.

RRVL had previously raised Rs 37,710 crore from leading global investors, including Silver Lake, KKR, General Atlantic, Mubadala, GIC, TPG

and Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA).

The investments equip Reliance Retail with funds to compete in both offline and online formats. The investments come as the country's retail sector prepares for the festive season and would help Reliance to launch an assault on rivals such as Walmart-owned e-commerce company Flipkart and Amazon.

Reliance Retail Ltd operates India's most profitable retail business spanning supermarkets, consumer electronics chain stores, cash and carry wholesale business, fast-fashion outlets and online grocery store JioMart.

It operates about 12,000 stores in nearly 7,000 towns, across core categories of grocery, consumer electronics and apparel.

The new funding comes weeks after Reliance acquired the retail, wholesale, logistics and warehouse business of Future Group for an enterprise value of Rs 24,173 crore to consolidate its dominant market positioning in offline retail.

Pradhan asks OPEC to address anomalies in crude oil price

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 5 NOVEMBER

said. "In my view, it is essential for India and OPEC to take a deep look at the rapidly changing global energy landscape, particularly in oil and gas sector, and revisit the ongoing exchanges so that we can jointly address the energy challenges during the ongoing and in the post-Covid scenario."

The pandemic and the resulting lockdowns evaporated demand around the globe, creating a glut that sent prices crashing.

"There is a need to assess the impact of Covid-induced disruptions to the global energy sector supply chains and calibrate our approach towards revival of energy sector," he said.

Pradhan said India expects OPEC secretariat to "increase its advocacy among its member countries to address the anomalies prevalent in the crude price differential declared by them for different geographical regions".

He did not elaborate on the anomaly.

Traditionally, OPEC nations offer bigger discounts on crude oil sold to western economies in comparison to east-bound cargoes.

NPCI allows WhatsApp to offer payment services

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 5 NOVEMBER

passed two billion transactions a month mark in October, grows further, NPCI said in a statement.

The industry has been feeling that allowing WhatsApp into payments may drive up volumes in the Indian digital payments space. In China, Wechat alone has over 1 billion active users for its payment services.

"NPCI has given approval for WhatsApp to 'Go Live' on UPI in the multi-bank model. WhatsApp can expand its UPI user base in a graded manner starting with a maximum registered user base of twenty (20) million in UPI," the statement said.

A "cap of 30 percent of total volume of transactions processed in UPI" will be applicable on all TPPAs from January 1, 2021, NPCI said in a statement.

Equity benchmarks at nine-month high

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 5 NOVEMBER

Equity benchmarks galloped to near nine-month highs today following across-the-board buying as global markets ratcheted higher despite uncertainty surrounding the US election results.

Rallying for the fourth straight session, the BSE Sensex surged 724.02 points or 1.78 per cent to close at 41,340.16 points.

The Sensex has also wiped off all losses for the 2020 calendar year. It had closed at 41,306.02 points on 1 January 2020.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty zoomed 211.80 points or 1.78 per cent to finish at 12,120.30 points.

All Sensex components closed in the green, led by banking, finance, energy, IT

and metal counters.

SBI was the top gainer, soaring 5.63 per cent following robust Q2 results.

Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, HCL Tech, Asian Paints and Titan were the other prominent winners, surging up to 5.34 per cent.

Global equities marched higher amid indications that Democratic Party candidate Joe Biden may clinch the US presidential polls, even as the Republicans look likely to retain their slim majority in the Senate.

Meanwhile, the Trump campaign has moved court over the ballot counting process in battleground states like Pennsylvania and Michigan, raising prospects of protracted legal wranglings over the tightly-contested election.

Investors are expecting less confrontational trade

SENSEX JUMPS 724 PTS

- Rallying for the fourth straight session, the BSE Sensex surged 724.02 points or 1.78 per cent to close at 41,340.16 points.
- The Sensex has also wiped off all losses for the 2020 calendar year. It had closed at 41,306.02 points on 1 January 2020.



policies with China and other countries under a possible Biden presidency, while the Republican-controlled Senate would prevent measures like higher taxes or stricter regulations, analysts said.

"Domestic market moved in tandem with the global market and marched to 8 months high, in expectation that the US presidential election is moving in favour of the Democratic Party.

"Further, investors are expecting new supportive measures from ongoing Fed policy meet while keeping rates unchanged. Positive result season and increasing inflows from foreign markets will help the market to maintain its optimism going forward," said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services.

Barring rally, all BSE sectoral indices closed higher, led by metal (4.43 per cent), oil and gas (3.19 per cent), basic materials (2.57 per cent), energy (2.39 per cent) and bankex (2.14 per cent).

The BSE mid-cap and small-cap indices jumped up to 1.74 per cent.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Seoul and Tokyo ended with significant gains.

Stock exchanges in Europe were also trading on a positive note in early deals.

RBI urges SC to lift interim order banning declaration of NPAs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 5 NOVEMBER

were not paid by the borrowers who availed of the loan moratorium scheme in view of the pandemic.

We are facing difficulty due to order banning declaring of NPAs (non-performing assets), senior advocate V Giridhar, appearing for RBI, told the Bench while requesting it to lift the interim order.

The RBI and the finance ministry have already filed separate additional affidavits in the top court, saying that the banks, financial and non-financial institutions will credit into the accounts of eligible borrowers by 5 November the difference between compound and simple interest collected on loans of up to Rs 2 crore during the moratorium scheme of the Reserve Bank of India during 1 March to 31 August.

The counsel appearing for the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) told this to a Bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan which was hearing a batch of pleas relating to charging of interest on interbank loans by banks on EMIs, which

told the Bench that they were grateful to the Centre and the RBI for hand-holding small borrowers and said that his plea be disposed of.

Senior advocate A M Singhvi, appearing for one of the applicants, said that power sector needed to be heard.

The Bench said that it would take up the matter for hearing on 18 November.

The pleas pertained to charging of interest on interbank loans by banks on EMIs which have not been paid by borrowers after availing the loan moratorium scheme of the Reserve Bank of India during 1 March to 31 August.

Earlier, the RBI had filed the affidavit saying that it has asked all banks, financial and non-financial institutions to take "necessary actions" to credit into the

accounts of eligible borrowers the difference between compound and simple interest collected on loans of up to Rs 2 crore during the moratorium scheme.

Prior to this, the Central government had told the apex court that lenders have been asked to credit into the accounts of eligible borrowers the difference between compound and simple interest collected on loans of up to Rs 2 crore during the RBI's loan moratorium scheme by 5 November.

The government had said that the ministry has issued a scheme as per which lending institutions would credit this amount in the accounts of borrowers for the six-month loan moratorium period which was announced following the Covid-19 pandemic situation.

Earlier, the RBI had filed the affidavit saying that it has asked all banks, financial and non-financial institutions to take "necessary actions" to credit into the

Apex bank unveils co-lending scheme for banks, NBFCs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 5 NOVEMBER

The Reserve Bank today came out with a co-lending model (CLM) scheme under which banks can provide loans along with NBFCs to priority sector borrowers based on a prior agreement.

The CLM, which is an improvement over the co-originating of loan scheme announced by the RBI in September 2018, seeks to provide greater flexibility to the lending institutions, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a release.

Under the CLM, banks will be permitted to co-lend with all registered NBFCs (including HFCs) based on a prior agreement, RBI said, adding that the co-lending banks will take their share of the individual loans on a

back-to-back basis in their books".

"However, NBFCs shall be required to retain a minimum of 20 per cent share of the individual loans on their books."

The primary focus of the scheme, rechristened as "co-lending model" (CLM), is to improve the flow of credit to the unserved and underserved sector of the economy and make available funds to the ultimate beneficiary at an affordable cost, considering the lower cost of funds from banks and greater reach of the NBFCs, the release added.

As per a notification by the RBI, NBFCs will be the single point of interface for the customers and shall enter into a loan agreement with the borrowers. The agreement should clearly contain

the features of the arrangement and the roles and responsibilities of NBFCs and banks.

"The ultimate borrower may be charged an all-inclusive interest rate as may be agreed upon by both the lenders conforming to the extant guidelines applicable to both," RBI said.

All transactions (disbursements/ repayments) between the banks and NBFCs relating to CLM have to be routed through an escrow account maintained with the banks, in order to avoid intermingling of funds.

With regard to grievance redressal, RBI said suitable arrangement must be put in place by the co-lenders to resolve any complaint registered by a borrower with the NBFC within 30 days.

Birla Corporation profit jumps 89% to ₹167 crore

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 5 NOVEMBER

M P Birla Group flagship company Birla Corporation Limited today reported a 88.6 per cent jump in net profit to Rs 166.62 crore for the quarter ended 30 September 2020.

The company attributed the rise in net profit to sustained cost rationalisation initiatives and a better-than-expected recovery in cement demand in key markets.

The company's net profit during the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal stood at Rs 88.34 crore, Birla Corporation said in a statement issued here.

Revenue for the second

Focus on promoting 'cultural economy'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, 5 NOVEMBER

In a pandemic-maulled world seeking innovative ways to resurrect the global economy, the term "cultural economy" will gain currency with group of 20 and more countries pledging support to revenue earned from national cultural assets.

At the inaugural meeting in Riyadh on 4 November to promote "cultural economy" worldwide, Saudi Arabia's minister of culture Prince Badr Al Saud called it an "untapped powerhouse".

The virtual conference held at the sidelines of the G20 meet was organised by the Saudi ministry of culture and G20 Saudi Secretariat, with Saudi

Arabia having the G20 presidency for 2020.

Under the theme "The rise of the cultural economy: a new paradigm," culture ministers and officials from international organisations discussed heritage preservation, sustainable development and culture as a catalyst for economic growth.



People cannot be disciplined through continuously maintaining curfew...
public should be ready to lead normal lives but with health guidelines

GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA
SRI LANKAN PRESIDENT

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 06 NOVEMBER 2020

09

Kosovo president resigns to face war crimes charges

Thaci said he was taking the step to protect integrity of the presidency of Kosovo and to preserve historical truth of who was perpetrator, who victim, in conflict

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PRISTINA (KOSOVO), 5 NOVEMBER

Kosovo's President Hashim Thaci, a guerrilla leader during Kosovo's war for independence from Serbia in the late 1990s, resigned on Thursday and will face charges for war crimes and crimes against humanity at a special court based in The Hague.

Thaci said he was taking the step "to protect the integrity of the presidency of Kosovo" and to preserve the historical truth of who was perpetrator, who victim, in the conflict.

"We are a freedom-loving people and not vengeful," the 52-year-old Thaci said at a news conference in Pristina, Kosovo's capital. "That is why no claim may rewrite history. Kosovo has been the victim. Serbia has been the aggressor."

Thaci was indicted in June

along with nine other former rebel leaders by a special Kosovo court and associated prosecutor's office based in The Hague, Netherlands, which were set up five years ago to investigate and try former ethnic Albanian rebel leaders for alleged war crimes. The charges include murder, enforced disappearances, persecution and torture.

The 1998-1999 war killed more than 10,000 people—most of them ethnic Albanians—and 1,641 people are still unaccounted for. It was brought to an end by a 78-day NATO air campaign against Serbian troops.

Among others charged with committing crimes during and after the war is Kadri Veseli, a former parliament speaker and an opposition party leader, who said he planned to travel to The

Hague on Thursday and was resigning from "all public political activities."

Both Thaci and Veseli have denied committing any crimes.

Thaci, a commander of the Kosovo Liberation Army during the war, said he was proud to have belonged to that force, calling it "the most sublime value of the Albanian nation." He called the indictment "the smallest price we have to pay for the freedom of our people."

The government said in a statement that all defendants should be considered innocent unless the court decides otherwise. "No one may judge our fight for freedom," the government said, adding that the KLA "fought for the liberation of our country, to protect the house and not in a foreign land, and as such it has the support of the international



community."

Thaci held a ceremony at his office to hand over his presidential duties to parliament speaker Vjosa Osmani. The government said the constitution and the laws in power guarantee a clear transition of powers and exercising the responsibilities without any institutional vacuum.

Thaci was elected president in February 2016. His current term ends in April, when

the national Assembly of Kosovo was expected to elect a new president. Amnesty International's Balkans researcher, Jelena Sesar said the indictment of Thaci and the nine others would give hope to "thousands of victims of the Kosovo war who have waited for more than two decades to find out the truth about the horrific crimes committed against them and their loved ones."

The European Union issued a statement welcoming Thaci's cooperation with the Hague-based legal institutions, saying it "strongly supports the work of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers and the Specialist Prosecutor's Office."

"Full cooperation with these institutions is essential as an important demonstration of Kosovo's commitment to the rule of law, which in turn

is a core element for Kosovo's progress on its European path and for EU's engagement with the Western Balkans as a whole," the EU statement said.

The prime minister of Albania, which borders Kosovo, expressed his country's support to Thaci in "this battle for Kosovo and the inviolable justice of the liberating war."

Prime Minister Edi Rama described the indictments as resulting from an "absurd process that will finally stamp the KLA clarity and the inability to rewrite its history."

Exact details of the 10-count indictment against Thaci, Veseli and the others have not been released.

Announcing the existence of the indictment earlier this year, the Specialist Prosecutor's Office alleged that the men were "criminally responsible

for nearly 100 murders."

At the time, the prosecutor's office said it made the existence of the indictment public because of what it called repeated efforts by Thaci and Veseli "to obstruct and undermine" the work of the court and said they were believed to have tried to overturn the Kosovo law that created the court.

The formation of the court and prosecutor's office followed a 2011 report by the Council of Europe, a human rights body, that included allegations that KLA fighters trafficked human organs taken from prisoners and killed Serbs and fellow ethnic Albanians.

Sesar, the Amnesty International expert, said that a "culture of impunity" had persisted in Kosovo since it has taken nearly 10 years for those sus-

pected of criminal responsibility to be brought to court.

After the war, Thaci created the Democratic Party of Kosovo and has been foreign minister, deputy prime minister and prime minister, and now president since April 2016.

Kosovo-Serbia ties are still tense 21 years after war's end, despite nine years of negotiations mediated by the European Union and supported by the United Nations.

The indictment was announced in June when Thaci was en route to a meeting at the White House with Serb counterpart Aleksandar Vucic. That meeting was held with Kosovo's prime minister instead in September.

In 2008, Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia, a move that Serbia refuses to recognize.

Russia's forces arrive in Pakistan for joint military drill

ASSOCIATED PRESS JAKARTA, 5 NOVEMBER

A contingent of Russia's Special Forces arrived in Pakistan on Thursday for a joint military exercise, the Army said here.

This will be the fifth edition of the joint military drill - DRUZHBA - between Pakistan and Russia and it would continue for two weeks, according to a statement issued by the Pakistan Army.

"The exercise is aimed at sharing both armies' experiences in counter terrorism domain. Sky diving & hostage rescue operations will be highlights of the exercise, it said.

The Army did not provide any further details about the drills.

Russia and Pakistan have been holding the exercise since 2016.

In October 2016, they held their first-ever joint military exercise in Pakistan.

In 2017, over 200 servicemen took part in the drills, hosted by Russia at Minar-e-Pakistan in the North Caucasus at an altitude of 2,300 meters above sea level. The two sides host the event alternatively.

Pakistan's defence ties with Russia have moved past the bitter Cold War hostilities in recent years and the chill in the relations between Pakistan and the US has further pushed the country towards Russia and China.

Pakistan has shown eagerness to build defence ties with Russia.

Indonesia officially in recession as GDP falls amid pandemic

ASSOCIATED PRESS JAKARTA, 5 NOVEMBER

Indonesia's economy has fallen into recession for the first time since the Asian financial crisis more than two decades ago as the country struggles to control the coronavirus pandemic.

Statistics Indonesia, the central statistics agency, said Thursday that Southeast Asia's largest economy contracted at a 3.49 per cent annual pace in July-September, the second consecutive quarterly contraction.

The economy shrank at a 5.32 per cent pace in the previous quarter and grew 2.9 per cent in January-March, its slowest rate in almost two

decades. Indonesia has reported nearly 422,000 confirmed cases of Covid-19, the largest in Southeast Asia and second in Asia only to India's 8.3 million confirmed cases. Air and train travel plunged as the pandemic prompted authorities to suspend nonessential services and close many offices to stem the spread of infections, said Suharyanto, the agency head.

Suharyanto told a news conference in the capital, Jakarta, that the logistics and hospitality sectors also fell sharply as people stayed home and dined in. A technical recession is defined as two straight quarters of contraction. Much of the region is in recession, with air travel near-

ly paralysed due to border controls and other restrictions.

Indonesia's last recession was in 1997. It helped to hasten the ouster of dictator Suharto a year later.

President Joko Widodo's administration has sought to prop up the economy by easing taxes and spending more on social support and public health. The government approved a relief package worth 677.2 trillion rupiah (USD 47.9 billion) in June to revive the virus-battered economy. That was bigger than the 411.7 trillion rupiah (USD 45.3 billion) initially allocated in late April, but slow disbursement and outbreaks of the coronavirus are hindering a recovery.

BEST FOOT FORWARD



Passengers enter Hankou Railway Station in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province on Thursday.

Pakistan National Bank's manager shot dead by security guard over blasphemy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LAHORE, 5 NOVEMBER

A senior manager of the state-run National Bank of Pakistan was killed by the bank's security guard over the allegation of blasphemy in the country's Punjab province, the police said on Thursday.

Malik Imran Hanif, manager of the multinational commercial bank's Quaidabad tehsil in Khushab, some 250 kms from here, was shot by the bank's security guard Ahmed Nawaz, a retired Army personnel, on Wednesday morning.

The deceased's family said that it was a cold-blooded murder by the accused over a personal grudge, claiming that the guard took the cover of blasphemy to save himself.

The manager was shifted to Lahore's Services Hospital in a critical condition where he succumbed to his injuries on Thursday, the police said, adding that Nawaz has been arrested.

According to senior police officer Tariq Wilayat, Nawaz claimed that he opened fire at Hanif after he committed blasphemy. This claim cannot be verified at this stage. Police are probing the matter from all the aspects including the statement of the deceased's family that Nawaz killed him to settle a personal grudge against him, the officer said. Hanif's family said that Nawaz was fired a few months ago but he was subsequently reinstated. He nursed a grudge against Hanif over his sacking and both had a

heated argument recently.

Muhammad Razzaq, another guard of the bank, told the police that after completing his nightshift, he was changing his uniform when he heard the gunshots.

I rushed towards the bank office where I found Hamif in a pool of blood and Nawaz fleeing, he said.

In a video posted on the social media, Nawaz can be heard saying he killed the bank manager because he had committed blasphemy.

Nawaz was seen being greeted by a crowd of supporters who also raised religious slogans and roamed in the city streets. Later, he surrendered himself before the police. Leaders of some religious groups addressed the mob from the rooftop of the police station where he surrendered himself. Police officials were seen standing helplessly. No case was registered immediately. Blasphemy is a hugely sensitive issue in Pakistan, with even unproven allegations often prompting mob violence. Anyone convicted or even just accused of insulting Islam risks a violent and bloody death at the hands of vigilantes.

Pakistan has extremely strict laws against defaming Islam, including the death penalty, and rights campaigners say they are often used to settle personal disputes in the Muslim-majority country. In July, an American-Pakistani, who was facing blasphemy allegations, was shot dead in a courtroom by a teenager in Peshawar.

Pope moves against secretariat of state amid finance scandal

ASSOCIATED PRESS ROME, 5 NOVEMBER

letter that Francis wrote to Parolin on Aug. 25 in which he announced he was stripping the secretariat of state of its ability to independently manage the money.

Francis cited the "reputational risks" incurred by the department's previous investments in speculative operations that have cost the Holy See tens of millions of euros, some of it money from the Peter's Pence donations from the faithful.

Francis' decision was an embarrassing blow to the secretariat of state's standing as the most powerful Holy See office, reducing it to essentially any other department that must propose a budget and have it approved and moni-

tored by others.

Its financial holdings are now to be held by the Vatican's treasury office, known as APSA and incorporated into the Holy See's consolidated budget, Francis wrote. The economy ministry will oversee spending.

The outcome is essentially that which was sought years ago by Cardinal George Pell, Francis' first economy minister who clashed with the secretariat of state over his financial reforms and efforts to wrest control of the department's off-the-books funds.

He famously boasted in 2014 that he had "discovered" hundreds of millions of euros that were "tucked away in particular sectional accounts

and did not appear on the balance sheet" - a reference to the secretariat of state's in-house asset portfolio.

Pell had to abandon those reform efforts in 2017 to face trial for sexual abuse in his native Australia, but he was acquitted and returned triumphantly last month to Rome, where he was granted a well-publicized audience with Francis.

Francis moved against his own secretariat of state amid a year-long investigation by Vatican prosecutors into the office's 350-million-euro investment into a London real estate venture.

Prosecutors have accused several officials in the department of abusing their author-

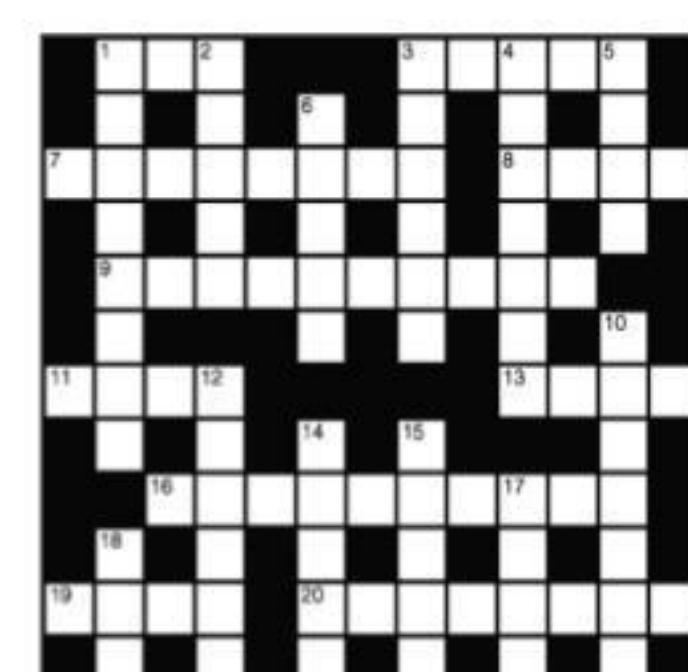
ity for their involvement in the deal, as well several Italian mid-levels of allegedly fleecing the Vatican of tens of millions of euros in fees.

The scandal has exposed the incompetence of the Vatican's cardinals in managing money, since they signed away voting shares in the deal and agreed to pay exorbitant fees needlessly to Italians who were known in business circles for their shady dealings.

In his letter to Parolin, Francis cited the London venture as well as the secretariat of state's investment in a Malta-based investment vehicle, Centurion Global Fund, headed by the Vatican's long-time external money manager.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1. Anger (3)
- 3. Stout Russian whip (5)
- 7. Compos mentis (3,5)
- 8. Golfer's cry (4)
- 9. Short-haired feline (7,3)
- 11. Frolic (4)
- 13. Clock face (4)
- 16. Reduce the intensity of (2-8)
- 19. Swindled (Informal) (4)
- 20. Cosmos (8)
- 21. Supple (5)
- 22. Failure (Informal) (3)

DOWN

- 1. Deceptive appearance (8)
- 2. Additional (5)
- 3. Custodian (6)
- 4. Impromptu (7)
- 5. Stage act (4)
- 6. At no time (5)
- 10. Gently stroked (8)
- 12. Senior pupil (7)
- 14. Suppose (6)
- 15. Elementary (5)
- 17. In the lead (5)
- 18. Fencing sword (4)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1. Turnoil, 12. Dental floss, 15. Interim, 18. Tire, 20. Suite, 21. Gorilla, 22. Left, 23. Espy.
- DOWN

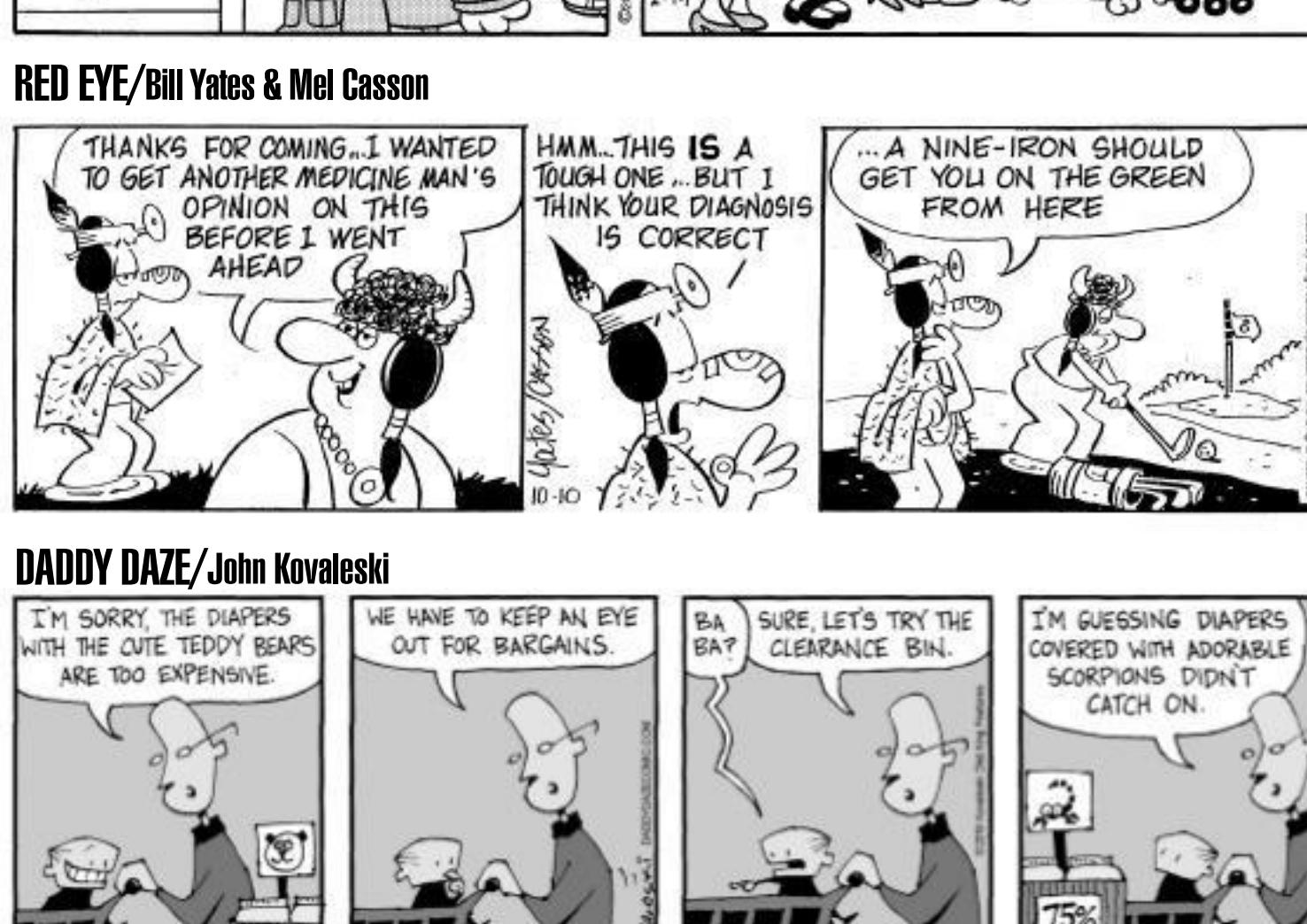
 - 9. Sol., 13. Torrent, 14. Surplus, 15. Miss, 17. Trice, 18. Tart, 19. Racy.

By arrangement with The Independent. Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

- AIIMS 26588500, 26588900
- Moolchand Medcity (formerly Hospital) 42000000 & 24-hour Chemist Shop 42000447
- VidyaSagar Institute for Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences 26924300, 26924304
- Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre 29051280, 29958747
- Deen Dayal Upadhyay 25496320, 25494403
- Guru Tegh Bahadur 23717473, 23325320

RAILWAY INQUIRY

- General Inquiry 139
- Toll Free Nos. 1800112511
- SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886, 54959, 5676747

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

- ISBT (General Inquiry): 23688336, 23865181
- INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Centre 09910383838, 18



As per China-US relationship...China and US have some differences
but we have extensive common interests and room for cooperation.

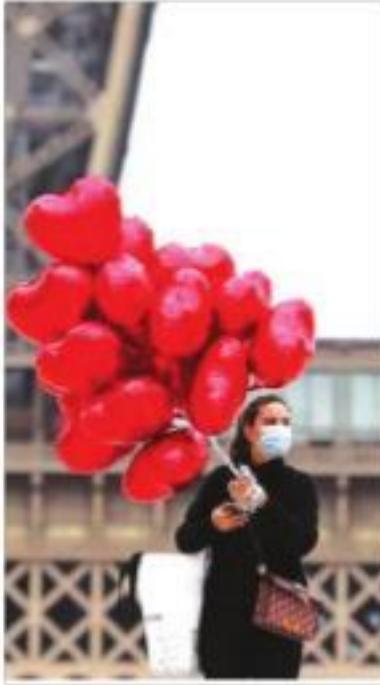
CHINA'S VICE-FOREIGN MINISTER LE YUCHENG
WHILE COMMENTING ON THE US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	31°C	26°C
HONG KONG	28°C	23°C
TOKYO	19°C	9°C
LONDON	12°C	5°C
DUBAI	33°C	21°C
SAN FRANCISCO	21°C	12°C
NEW YORK	21°C	12°C
MOSCOW	08°C	04°C

S=sunny, CL=clear,
H=hazy, R=rainy...

THUMBNAILS



A woman waits for her friends at the Trocadero Place near the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France. IANS

Belgian police arrest 2 minors: The office of Belgium's federal prosecutor says two underage people suspected of plotting what it called a terror attack have been arrested. Aged 16 and 17, they were arrested following raids in the cities of Eupen and La Calamine, located in the province of Liege. The two minors have been placed in a youth protection center. AP

Boat carrying migrants intercepted: Greece's coast guard towed a boat carrying 65 asylum-seekers to a port on the country's western coast after it was found to be in distress in the Ionian Sea, authorities said Thursday. The Migration and Asylum ministry said that 35 of those on board were from Turkey, 15 from Afghanistan and many of the others from Iraq. AP

Indonesia raises volcano threat level: Indonesian authorities raised the danger level for the volatile Mount Merapi volcano on the densely populated island of Java on Thursday and ordered a halt to tourism and mining activities. Its last major eruption in 2010 killed 347 people and caused the evacuation of 20,000 villagers. AP

Trump sues in 3 states, laying ground for contesting outcome

Trump's campaign attacks integrity of voting process where he is defeated

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 5 NOVEMBER

As Democrat Joe Biden inched closer to the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win the White House, President Donald Trump's campaign put into action the legal strategy the president had signaled for weeks: attacking the integrity of the voting process in states where the result could mean his defeat.

Democrats scoffed at the legal challenges the president's campaign filed Wednesday in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Georgia. In spite of the aggressive move, the flurry of court action did not seem obviously destined to impact the election's outcome.

The new filings, joining existing Republican legal challenges in Pennsylvania and Nevada, demand better access for campaign observers to locations where ballots are being processed and counted, and raised absentee ballot concerns, the campaign said.

The Associated Press called Michigan for Democrat Joe Biden on Wednesday. The AP has not called Nevada, Pennsylvania or Georgia.

The Trump campaign also is seeking to intervene in a Pennsylvania case at the Supreme Court that deals with whether ballots received up to three days after the



People watch live broadcast of the ballot counting during the 2020 U.S. presidential election at Times Square in New York, the United States, on Thursday. IANS

election can be counted, deputy campaign manager Justin Clark said.

Trump's campaign also announced that it would ask for a recount in Wisconsin, a state the AP called for Biden on Wednesday afternoon. Campaign manager Bill Stepien cited "irregularities in several Wisconsin counties," without providing specifics.

Biden said Wednesday the count should continue in all states, adding, "No one's going to take our democracy away from us—not now, not ever."

Campaign spokesman Andrew Bates said legal challenges were not the behavior of a winning campaign.

"What makes these challenges especially pathetic is that while Trump is demanding recounts in places he has already lost, he's simultaneously engaged in fruitless attempts to halt the counting

of votes in other states in which he's on the road to defeat," Bates said in a statement.

Vote counting, meanwhile, stretched into Thursday. Every election, results reported on election night are unofficial and ballot counting extends past Election Day. But this year, unlike in previous years, states were contending with an avalanche of mail ballots driven by fears of voting in person during a pandemic.

Mail ballots normally take more time to verify and count. This year, because of the large numbers of mail ballots and a close race, results were expected to take longer.

The lawsuits the Trump campaign filed in Michigan and Pennsylvania on Wednesday called for a temporary halt in the counting until it is given "meaningful" access in numerous locations and

allowed to review ballots that already have been opened and processed.

The AP's Michigan call for Biden came after the suit was filed. The president is ahead in Pennsylvania, but his margin is shrinking as more mailed ballots are counted. The state had 3.1 million mail-in ballots that take time to count and an order allows them to be received and counted up until Friday if they are postmarked by Nov. 3.

Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro, a Democrat, said in a CNN interview the Trump campaign's lawsuit was "more a political document than a legal document."

"There is transparency in this process. The counting has been going on. There are observers observing this counting, and the counting will continue," he said.

The Michigan lawsuit claims Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, a Democrat, was allowing absentee ballots to be counted without teams of bipartisan observers as well as challengers. Michigan Democrats said the suit was alongshot. Pollwatchers from both sides were plentiful Wednesday at one major polling place in question—the TCF Center in Detroit, the AP observed.

The Georgia lawsuit filed in Chatham County essentially asks a judge to ensure the state laws are being followed on absentee ballots. Campaign

officials said they were considering pepperizing a dozen other counties around the state with similar claims around absentee ballots.

Trump, addressing supporters at the White House early Wednesday, talked about taking the undecided race to the Supreme Court. Though it was unclear what he meant, his comments evoked a reprise of the court's intervention in the 2000 presidential election that ended with a decision effectively handing the presidency to George W. Bush.

But there are important differences from 2000 and they already were on display. In 2000, Republican-controlled Florida was the critical state and Bush clung to a small lead. Democrat Al Gore asked for a recount and the Supreme Court stopped it.

To some election law experts, calling for the Supreme Court to intervene now seemed premature, if not rash.

A case would have to come to the court from a state in which the outcome would determine the election's winner, Richard Hasen, a University of California, Irvine, law professor, wrote on the Election Law blog. The difference between the candidates' vote totals would have to be smaller than the ballots at stake in the lawsuit.

"As of this moment (though things can change) it does not appear that either condition will be met," Hasen wrote.

Trump backers converge on vote centres in Michigan, Arizona

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DETROIT, 5 NOVEMBER



Dozens of angry supporters of President Donald Trump converged on vote-counting centers in Detroit and Phoenix as the returns went against him Wednesday in the two key states, while thousands of anti-Trump protesters demanding a complete tally of the ballots in the still-undecided election took to the streets across the U.S.

"Stop the count!" the Trump supporters chanted in Detroit. "Stop the steal!" they said in Phoenix.

The protests came as the president insisted without evidence that there were major problems with the voting and the ballot counting, especially with mail-in votes, and as Republicans filed suit in various states over the election.

"Everyone should want all the votes to be counted, whether they were mailed or cast in person," said the statement signed by Clint Hickman, the GOP chair of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, and Democratic Supervisor Steve Gallardo.

Meanwhile, from New York City to Seattle, thousands of demonstrators turned out to demand that every vote be tallied. In Portland, Oregon, which has been a scene of regular protests for months, Gov. Kate Brown called out the National Guard as demonstrators engaged in what authorities said was widespread violence downtown, including smashing windows.

Protesters in Portland were demonstrating about a range of issues, including police brutality and the counting of the vote.

Indian-origin candidates lose Senate races in Maine & New Jersey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 5 NOVEMBER



Indian-origin candidates Rikin Mehta and Sara Gideon have lost their Senate race from New Jersey and Maine respectively, according to projections made by the American media.

Born to an Indian father and an Armenian mother, Gideon, the current speaker to the Maine House of Representatives, lost to Republican heavyweight senator Susan Collins.

Collins received 4,09,974 votes as against the 3,39,364 bagged by Gideon. This was the fifth consecutive victory for Collins. In her remarks, she publicly thanked Gideon for "a very gracious call", conceding the race.

Gideon's father immigrated from India and worked

as a paediatrician in Rhode Island, where Gideon, the youngest of four children, grew up. She moved to Maine after meeting her husband Ben, a personal injury trial lawyer with the lawfirm, Berman & Simons.

"While this election may be over, we have to work together to build a better future, one where everyone has access to healthcare they can afford, where we tackle our climate crisis head-on and where we restore our economy by pri-

oritising the hard-working people in our communities," Gideon said in her remarks.

"I am proud of the campaign we ran and regardless of the result, together we built a movement that will help us make progress for years to come," she said.

Republican Mehta lost the election to Democratic incumbent Cory Booker. Booker received 60.4 per cent of the votes counted as against Mehta's 38 per cent.

Kamala Harris from Cali-

fornia is the first Indian-origin senator to be elected to the US Senate. This election year, Harris (56) has scripted history by being the first-ever Indian-origin vice presidential candidate of the Democratic Party. She is also the first-ever Black and African American to be a vice presidential candidate of a major political party. Mehta, a former US Food and Drug Administration official, was the first Indian American to have won the Republican Senate primary in New Jersey.

A biotech entrepreneur, innovator, healthcare policy expert and a licensed pharmacist and attorney, Mehta got his BS in pharmacy from the Rutgers University and his Pharm.D from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

US sets record for cases amid election battle over virus

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 5 NOVEMBER



New confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the U.S. have climbed to an all-time high of more than 86,000 per day on average, in a glimpse of the worsening crisis that lies ahead for the winner of the presidential election.

Cases and hospitalizations are setting records all around the country just as the holidays and winter approach, demonstrating the challenge that either President Donald Trump or former Vice President Joe Biden will face in the coming months.

Daily new confirmed coronavirus cases in the U.S. have surged 45% over the past two weeks, to a record 7-day average of 86,352, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. Deaths are also on the rise, up 15 percent to an average of 846 deaths every day. The total U.S. death toll is already more than 232,000, and total confirmed U.S. cases have surpassed 9 million. Those are the highest totals in the world, and new infections are increasing in nearly every state.

Several states on Wednesday reported grim numbers that are fueling the national trends. Texas reported 9,048 new cases and 126 deaths, and the number of coronavirus patients in Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma hospitals set records. About a third of the new cases in Texas happened in hard-hit El Paso, where a top health officials said hos-

pitals are at a "breaking point."

The Latest: China suspends entry for residents of Britain. Virus crisis in Belgium shows more signs of abating. Virus hospitalizations surge as pandemic shadows US election. Public health experts fear potentially dire consequences, at least in the short term. Trump's current term doesn't end until Jan. 20.

In the 86 days until then, 100,000 more Americans will likely die from the virus if the nation doesn't shift course, said Dr. Robert Murphy, executive director of the Institute for Global Health at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, echoing estimates from other public health experts. "Where we are is in an extremely dire place as a country. Every metric that we have is trending in the wrong direction. This is a virus that will continue to escalate at an accelerated speed and that is not going to

stop on its own," said Dr. Leana Wen, a public health expert at George Washington University. Dr. Susan Bailey, president of the American Medical Association, said there are things Americans can do now to help change the trajectory. "Regardless of the outcome of the election, everyone in America needs to buckle down," Bailey said.

"A lot of us have gotten kind of relaxed about physically distancing, not washing our hands quite as often as we used to, maybe not wearing our masks quite as faithfully. We all need to realize that things are escalating and we've got to be more careful than ever," she said. Polls showed the public health crisis and the economy were top concerns for many Americans.

They are competing issues that Trump and Biden view through drastically different lenses.

UK minister warns of tough fines as England enters second lockdown

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON, 5 NOVEMBER

The UK government on Thursday reminded people about the tough fines in place over severe breaches as England entered its second stay-at-home lockdown in order to try and control the rapid spread of Covid-19 infections, expected to last at least until 2 December.

UK Justice Secretary Robert Buckland said that while the police forces of the country will continue to follow the principle of policing by consent, they would respond to "egregious breaches" and hand

out fines where necessary. Under the legal requirements in place, people have been told to stay at home unless leaving for work if they can't work from home or to shop for essentials or a form of daily exercise.

All non-essential shops, pubs, bars, restaurants and gyms have been ordered to close and households are also banned from mixing indoors or in private gardens, unless in a so-called "support bubble". There is a 200 pounds fine for each breach which doubles on every offence up to a maximum of 6,400 pounds and

organisers of large gatherings face a 10,000 pounds fine. "Where a more intense intervention is needed then the police will be involved and of course the fine structure is still in force," Buckland told the BBC. "I think the message has to go out very clearly that this will only work if we all play our part," he said, adding that only a "tiny minority" of people are responsible for breaches which risk public

down.

"It is vitally important that we're all sensible, use common sense and stick to the rules. By working together, we can help prevent the spread of this deadly virus which has already claimed so many lives," said Deputy Assistant Commissioner Matt Twist, the Met Police lead on coronavirus. "We are ready and prepared to take enforcement action against those who are deliberately breaching rules and putting people at risk," he said.

Martin Hewitt, chairman of the National Police Chiefs' Council, also warned that

people "recklessly" breaking rules would face stiff fines or a fixed penalty notice.

"Not following the regulations and measures put in place to limit the spread of the virus is unacceptable. We won't waste time with endless encouragement for those who knowingly or deliberately break the rules. People recklessly ignoring the regulations should expect to receive a fixed penalty notice, he said.

Johnson told MPs a second lockdown was "not something any of us wanted to do" but insisted the restrictions represented "the best and safest path for our country".

He waits on the phone to

the health center or when she wants to check if her application for a basic income program will get her the promised 1,015 euros (USD 1,188). So far, it hasn't.

They are always asking for more papers but we still haven't seen a euro. Everything seems to be closed because of the pandemic. Or you are told to go online, said Oliva.

She managed to apply online, but others in her situation don't know how to use

a computer or simply don't have one. Poor people queue. It's what we know how to do best, Oliva said.

Lower income families around the world have suffered disproportionately from the pandemic for a number of reasons: their jobs might expose them more to the virus and their savings are typically lower.

In Spain, their situation has been worse than in much of the rest of Europe due to the particularly big role of industries like tourism and relatively weak social welfare benefits.

The pandemic is extending and intensifying poverty in a country that already had serious inequality problems, said Carlos Susas, president of the European Anti-Poverty Network, which encompasses dozens of non-

profits. He says insufficient welfare spending, too much red tape, lack of access to technology and a resurgence of the pandemic are likely to widen what is already one of the developed world's biggest gaps between rich and poor.

VIVEK BINDRA

In the last few months, the world as we knew it has changed. The blanket lockdowns, social distancing requirements, restricted movement and remote working has necessitated businesses to change their operating models and strategies. The crisis has accelerated digital transformation across industries including small businesses that were traditionally resistant to this change. In fact, years of digital evolution have taken place within a span of these few months.

While the shift has been brought about by the coronavirus shock, a lot of this change is likely to stay even when the pandemic subsides. Take remote working for example, organisations have realised that allowing a part of their workforce to work remotely saves time, money while increasing productivity. Similarly, organisations are also likely to cut down the number of physical meetings with clients and online conferences becoming new normal.

Such a cultural and operational shift in working environment also necessitates reskilling of the workforce. Even before this crisis unfolded, technology and automation were disrupting jobs and creating a need for new skills for employees. Coronavirus pandemic has further accelerated this shift. Unless industries undertake immediate measures to re-skill their workforce, a huge skill gap is likely to arise over the next few years.

Acceleration of digitisation and automation

Even before the Covid-19 outbreak, need for increasing productivity and efficiency was driving automation and digitisation across sectors. However, the outbreak has furthered this need particularly in the manufacturing sector. As robotic manufacturing increases to ensure social distancing requirements and reduce the impact of this crisis on production lines in the future, the demand for experts to create automation designs, programmes and to simulate and test automated machinery and processes is already rising. Change in nature of manufacturing and increasing human-machine interaction also requires different operation and supervisory skills. Be it automotive manufacturing or food processing plants, wherever robots or machines are being installed to perform specific func-



Adapting to a cultural shift

Unless industries promote re-skilling the workforce on new technology and automation, a huge expertise gap is likely to arise over the next few years

tions, employees need to be reskilled to handle the new operations. So, even as organisations invest in automation drives, a parallel investment and focus is also needed on reskilling their workforce.

Digital marketing becomes mainstream

With the lockdown and the subsequent social distancing requirements inhibiting social mobility, the traditional marketing strategies are facing a challenge. Digital marketing that was already a rising trend even before the crisis has now become central to the marketing strategies of all organisations. This will create a further need for people with digital and social media marketing skills. As people spend more time on the internet and social media, the strategy to

grab consumer attention and draw them towards your brand has shifted dramatically to the digital medium. With the shift from outbound marketing to inbound marketing, it becomes essential to engage consumers in subjects they might find interesting. Organisations must therefore build their skills and capabilities on content marketing, blogging, social media, SEO and PPC strategies. They must also invest in training their marketing teams in these skills.

Evolution of remote working tools

Remote working tools and technology such as video conferencing, zoom calls, webinars and virtual meetings which were under-utilised till a few months back have suddenly become mainstream. Even as most organisations have been dri-

ven to adopt them because of the pandemic, they are yet to explore their full potential. Due to lack of comprehensive training, employees often end up using virtual meeting tools as mere conference call mechanisms overlooking the possibilities to share documents, images, videos, and make interaction more viable by utilising the full potential of the tools. This up-skilling of the workforce in competently using remote working tools as an essential element which cannot be overlooked. Technology training must be made a part of all employee onboarding plans while workshops must be conducted to train the existing workforce, including non-frequent users of technology, into fully utilising the inherent capabilities of these tools.

Reskilling workforce for a post Covid world must be a priority

Much like organisations are prioritising digitisation, automation, redesigning of supply chain management to suit the changing needs of the time, re-skilling the workforce must also be given equal priority. An equipped workforce ready to take on the new normal will ensure minimum disruption and seamless service to clients. In fact, organisations must clearly chart out the course of their business over the next two to three years, take a comprehensive view of the hanging strategic and technology needs and then plan a re-skilling programme accordingly.

The writer is founder and CEO, Bada Business Pvt Ltd

digital marketing courses are covering various specialisations in the field. Working as a digital marketing specialist means evolving rapidly in a fast-changing environment. An online course followed by an internship or carrying out a few projects is the best way to build a career in this domain.

Some of the preferred specialisations include the following:

E-commerce marketing

Online retail will become the new normal and aspirants will find jobs in marketing, strategy and analyst positions in this segment.

Content marketing

Digital marketing managers will emphasise more on content covering social media posts, blogs, videos, PPC advertisements and more. Creators, content managers, strategists can all find opportunities galore in the future after obtaining the right certification.

SEO

Search engine optimisation will continue to be a hot specialisation for professionals who can help companies drive traffic and rank higher on Google and other search engines. SEO professionals will find more scope of growth in future years.

Mobile marketing

Mobile marketers will become highly preferred professionals for a large variety of businesses, pushing strategies like messaging, game notifications, QR codes, push notifications and MMS to drive engagement.

Social media marketing

Undoubtedly course takers in this space will never run out of opportunities. Social media is the gateway to future networking and engagement for brands in all spheres.

Online reputation management

ORM has become synonymous with contemporary digital marketing since any online track record directly impacts advertising/selling prospects. This is one domain that should attract more learners in the near future.

These are career opportunities that are currently in demand and this has naturally spurred demand for digital marketing courses across a variety of platforms. The world is going digital and with data all set to be the next big battleground for leading companies, abundant opportunities can be expected for skilled professionals in this field.

Professionals with the right skill-sets, certification and aptitude can definitely make hay over the next decade or two as per industry estimates.

The writer is co-founder and CEO, Careerera

PLUS POINTS

Unveiling creativity



Hackathon 2020 – a 24-hour virtual competition was recently organised by e-learning platform-Fliplearn to challenge the technology prowess of students and engineers and professionals.

All admitted teams had 24 hours to build creative solutions to the problems through coding, programming, design, data etc. The goal of the event was to build the future of education using technology. Hackathon 2020 received a great response with entries from 100+ schools and 20+ engineering colleges across the country and final participation by over 320 teams with 450 plus participants. Gagan Gupta from The Millennium School, Bhatinda won the competition in the first category. In the second category, the winning team was Gunja Shekhar and Aditi Singh from IIIT Gwalior.

Pioneering step



Tata Steel is moving towards a trust and outcome based working culture and to give more flexibility to its employees, the company launched "Agile Working Models" Policy from this month.

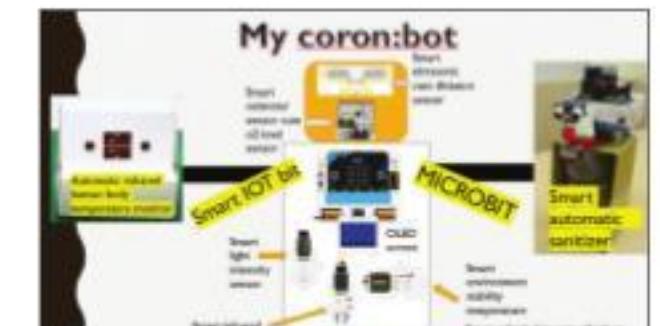
Under this, even the officers who are required to be based out of a particular location can now work from home for unlimited days in a year. Once the pandemic situation normalises, the policy will enable officers to move to a location of choice, giving the employee the flexibility to operate out of any location in the country. It will be piloted for a year and based on adaptability and feedback, the policy will be reviewed after one year.

Call for justice



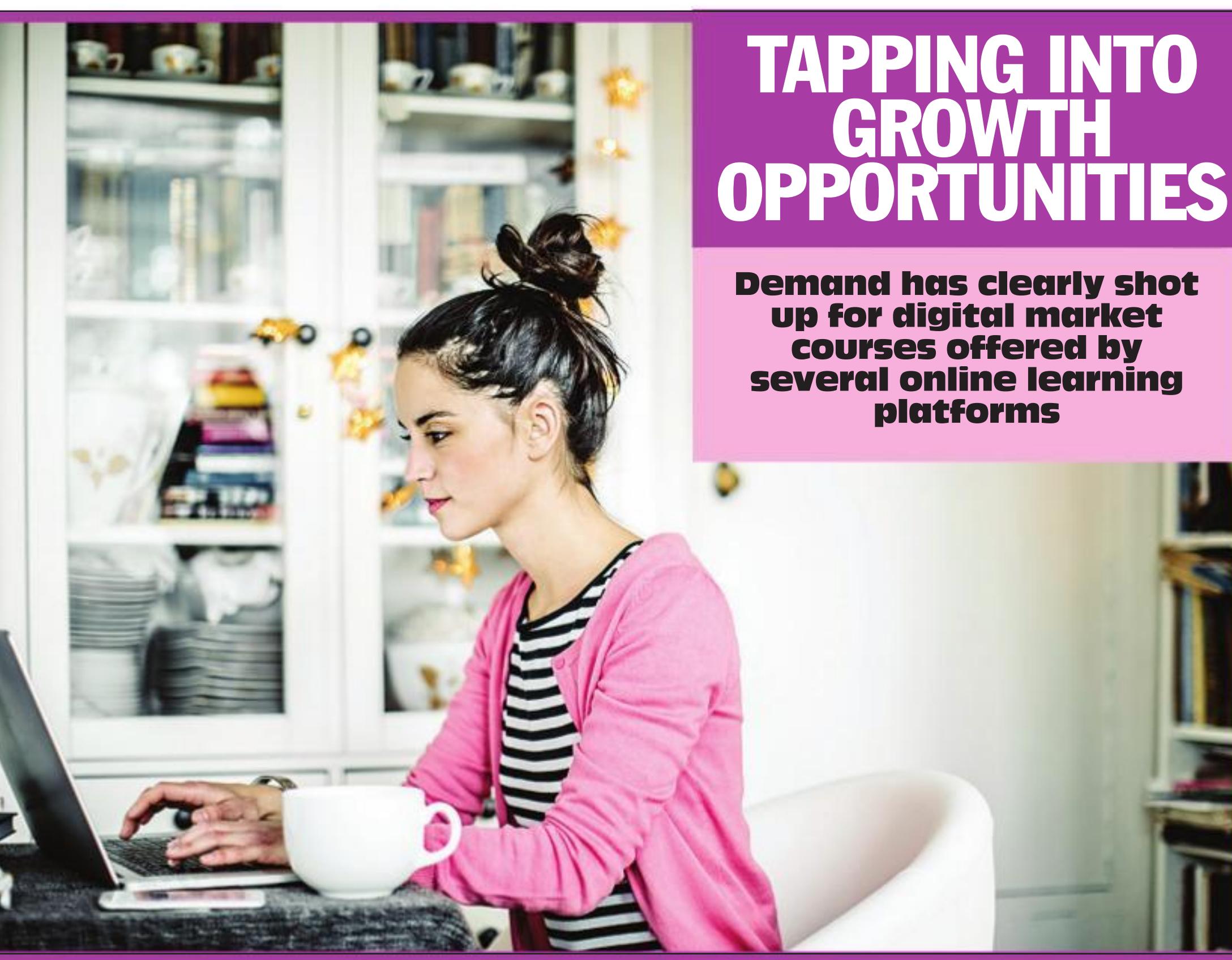
To support child survivors of sex trafficking to voice their demand for justice, celebrities and influential voices worldwide have joined hands with Free a Girl—an international not-for-profit organisation that rescues girls from sexual exploitation—to launch #VoiceForJustice campaign recently. Padma Shri Anuradha Koirala (Nepali social activist), Nadia Murad (Iraqi Nobel Prize laureate, human rights activist), Mariane Pearl (French journalist) and many more will take part in it. The campaign comes after the success of Free a Girl's School for Justice (SFJ) programme in India - that has been educating rescued girls to become lawyers, police officers, journalists and more to change the system from within. Commemorating this, Free a Girl is also officially opening, its first ever SFJ in Kathmandu, Nepal where every year more than 12,000 girls are trafficked. For details visit: freeagirl.com/voiceforjustice

Exhibiting prowess



NXP India conducted the second season of its annual flagship event "Young Innovator Design Challenge 2020" recently. It was crafted specifically for the school children to provide them with an opportunity to learn and imbibe the knowledge and passion for electronics and software, while encouraging them to innovate around this year's theme- "Let's fight Covid-19 together".

The event started in August and saw participation of around 100 children across four NXP India sites (Noida, Bengaluru, Pune, and Hyderabad), who came up with different innovative ideas and product demonstrations to fight Covid-19. In the junior category, Swapnil Dey was awarded with the first prize for creating a prototype "The Robotic Ultra-Violet Light Box". In the senior category, Akshat Sharma won the first prize for his unique innovation "Coronabot".



TAPPING INTO GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Demand has clearly shot up for digital market courses offered by several online learning platforms

VIVEK KUMAR SINGH

The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted our daily lives considerably, particularly the way we work, communicate and shop among other necessary modes of functioning. With external movement being fraught with risks and complications, working from home (WFH) and readily available online learning solutions are heralding a big shift towards digital platforms. The time has never been more appropriate for professionals across sectors to up-skill themselves in digital marketing, which is the newest buzzword.

Affordable 4G internet, higher smartphone penetration and growing consumer disposable income should drive the Indian ecommerce sector towards \$200 billion in value by 2026 or even earlier.

Demand has clearly shot up for digital market courses offered by several online learning platforms. Businesses are relying more and more on digital marketing solutions for finding new customers, driving online traffic, building communities, enhancing customer engagement, branding and building narratives around their brands. Even businesses with limited online engagement channels earlier, are steadily shifting towards influencer driven digital campaigns, social media marketing, content marketing and SEO.

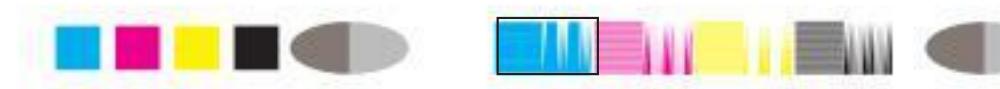
Courses teach aspirants to promote brands/businesses online while creating and leveraging strategies for engagement and online marketing campaigns. These courses also cover various avenues including video, display, email, social and search among others.

Digital marketing techniques are more

viable and cost-effective for companies in the present scenario while generating comparatively higher ROI (return on investment) than traditional marketing channels. Companies are choosing digital campaigns where they can easily track spends and compare metrics and return figures including viewership, analytics and click/bounce rates along with leads generated. Businesses are deriving greater value from solutions like content marketing, search optimization, pay per click marketing, email marketing and social media promotions.

Community building and enhanced digital interactions with customers are helping marketers flourish amidst the pandemic. In the near future, digital marketers will be in demand not just across companies but also for influencers, personal brands and celebrities alike.

With a wide array of career paths available,





WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta (*in photo, left*) insists he feels no disrespect towards him from his players. After their win on Sunday, former Manchester United captain Roy Keane criticised Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang for calling Arteta by his first name.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Court order: Delhi High Court on Thursday said a public interest litigation appeal challenging decisions granting recognition to 41 national sport federations would be heard by a special bench constituted by it. The Centre is accused of "abject inaction."

Kohli birthday: Virat Kohli on Thursday turned 32 and social media was full of birthday wishes. He made his international debut in 2008 to represent India in 86 Tests, 248 one-dayers, 82 Twenty20 Internationals, scoring 7240, 11867 and 2794 runs, respectively.

Probe demanded: The Sports Authority of India has lodged a complaint and demanded an immediate probe after several athletes across the country were cheated of money through a fake advertisement for next year's Khelo India Games slated to be held in Panchkula.

Fake plot: Australian cricketer Usman Khawaja's older brother was jailed on Thursday after being sentenced for his actions in framing a colleague using a fake terror plot. Arsalan Tariq Khawaja admitted forging entries in the notebook of one of his university co-workers.

Rasheed dead: Pakistan hockey suffered a huge loss with the passing away of former national captain Abdul Rasheed (junior) in Islamabad after a brief illness aged 79. The former Olympian was one of the finest centre-forwards his country had ever produced.

Bhuiyan's move: Bangladesh football captain Jamal Bhuiyan is likely to sign for Kolkata's Mohammadian Sporting Club for the I-League, subject to a confirmation of his return to Dhaka's Saif SC for the second phase of the Bangladesh Premier League.

Public petition: Almost 200,000 fans in Britain have signed a public petition calling on lawmakers to end football clubs being forced to play games behind closed doors. Members of Parliament will debate on Monday the petition relating to spectator attendance.

Johnson's return: Dustin Johnson returns to the Professional Golfers Association Tour after being diagnosed with Covid-19 last month, headlining a packed field at the Houston Open, which begins on Thursday offering players a tune-up before the Masters.

In isolation: Chelsea manager Frank Lampard says midfielder Kai Havertz has tested positive for the novel coronavirus. Lampard says the German is undergoing a period of self-isolation. Havertz is likely to miss Germany's next three games.

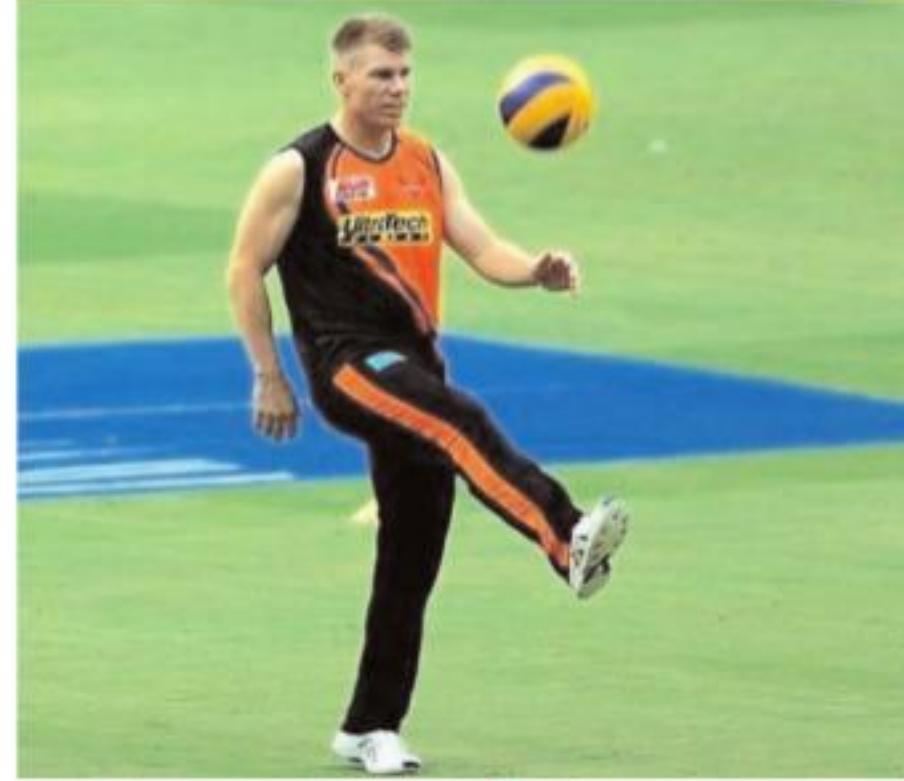
Al Hasan's stand: A "blessing in disguise" he calls it but Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan says he is also prepared to be doubted by his team-mates when, in a few days' time, he returns to cricket after serving a one-year ban for failing to report corrupt approaches.

F1 in Saudi Arabia: Saudi Arabia will host a Formula One race next year, a move aimed at attracting well-heeled globe-trotting visitors and raising the kingdom's profile internationally as a tourist destination. The kingdom said Thursday it will host the race in November 2021 in the Red Sea city of Jiddah, using scenic roads along the coast.

Motorsports for us is very important, Prince Khalid bin Sultan al-Faisal, chairman of the Saudi Automobile and Motorcycle Federation, told The Associated Press in an interview Thursday.

Sunrisers appear brighter than Royal Challengers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ABU DHABI, 5 NOVEMBER



SRH vs RCB: Match begins at 7.30 pm IST.

With momentum on their side, a confident Sunrisers Hyderabad would look for another complete performance to continue their campaign in the Indian Premier League when they face a struggling Royal Challengers Bangalore here tomorrow in what is called the "Eliminator."

Pushed to the wall after a slow start in the tournament, SRH produced a lion-hearted effort in its second phase, peaking at the right time to qualify for the play-offs by finishing third in the league, just ahead of RCB.

There have been contrasting results for the two teams at the business end of the tournament. While RCB suffered four consecutive defeats to finish the league stage as the No 4 team, SRH registered a hat-trick of wins to edge past Virat

Kohli's men in the standings. SRH made a remarkable turnaround in their final three league games -- defeating Delhi Capitals, RCB and table-toppers Mumbai Indians to book their last-fourth berth.

And come Friday, SRH

would be brimming with confidence, especially after their 10-wicket win over MI in their last, must-win game. The credit for SRH's success in the past

few matches goes to the opening pair of Warner (*in photo*) and Wriddhiman Saha. The duo has clicked upfront and has so far shared two century stands -- 107 against DC and then 151 against MI. While Warner has led SRH from the front, scoring 529 runs in 14 games to be No 2 on the scorers' list, Saha (184 runs in three matches) has proved that the SRH team management erred in benching him for 11 ties.

On the bowling front, SRH have found the right combination in Sandeep Sharma, Jason Holder, Shahbaz Nadeem, TNatarajan and Rashid Khan and are expected to stick with them. While Sharma has been sensational in powerplay sessions, Natarajan has done the job in the death overs.

Rashid has been consistent in the middle overs and the inclusion of Holder and Nadeem has provided balance to the team. Knowing very well that another blunder

could send them packing, Kohli-led RCB have a lot to ponder. Coming into the match with four consecutive losses, RCB's confidence could be rock-bottom.

But skipper Kohli understands it is not the time to think about past results and what matters from here on is winning until they land the IPL title.

But it would be easier said than done. In their previous match, against DC, RCB's top order failed to live up to expectations.

Josh Philippe, who has been brought in place of Aaron Finch, has looked good in patches but hasn't been able to build on his good starts and Kohli might be tempted to bring Finch back tomorrow.

Young Devdutt Padikkal,

who scored his fifth half-century in the event in their last game, has been consistent at the top but Kohli needs to step up as his strike rate has of late come under the scanner.

Sakho wins Wada apology and damages over doping claims

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON, 5 NOVEMBER



Crystal Palace defender Mamadou Sakho (*in photo*) has won "substantial" damages from the World Anti-Doping Agency over allegations that he had taken banned performance-enhancing drugs.

"I consider myself innocent," he said in a statement. "To officially receive the apology from Wada was for me something essential in order to be able to definitively turn the page."

The former Liverpool defender was briefly suspended in 2016 after he had tested positive for a fat-burning substance called higenamine after a Europa League game against Manchester United in March that year.

Hermann the Reds' Europa League final against Sevilla and, he also alleged, a place in France's Euro 2016 squad as a result of his suspension.

The 30-year-old was ultimately cleared in July 2016 by Uefa's disciplinary body, which found that higenamine was not on Wada's banned list and the

agency's own laboratories were unsure about its status.

Wada later issued two statements to The Daily Telegraph in August 2016 and to The Guardian in April 2017, which said Sakho was guilty of taking a prohibited performance-enhancing drug.

Sakho, who joined Palace in 2017, sued Wada for defamation and, at a High Court hearing in London on Wednesday, accepted an apology from the agency and an undisclosed sum in damages. His barrister, Julian Santos, said the defamatory allegations "were republished by a very large number of media organisations to many millions of readers, causing very serious harm to Mr Sakho's reputation."

"He added: "Wada has apologised and agreed to pay a substantial sum by way of compensation and not to repeat the allegations."

Surya, Hardik propel Mumbai Indians to a challenging 200 for 5 vs Delhi Capitals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI, 5 NOVEMBER



active tactics as far as his pace department was concerned.

Starting with left-arm seam of Daniel Sams (0/4 in 4 overs) badly backfired and even worse was Kagiso Rabada (0/4 in 4 overs) and Anrich Norje (1/50 in 4 overs) also had a forgettable day at the office.

In all, Mumbai Indians hit 15 fours and 12 sixes, a testimony to the number of bad balls

bowed by the Capitals attack, especially their speed merchants, who were bowling short of length consistently.

At the start, Rohit Sharma (0)’s dodgy hamstring did play its part as Ashwin bowled an off-break and the MI captain didn’t move his front foot enough to cover the spin and was adjudged leg before.

De Kock and Surya however continued in full flow as the boundaries and sixes continued to flow from their blades during the 62-run stand in only 6.1 overs.

While De Kock was severe

SCOREBOARD

Mumbai Indians Innings:		Total:	(For 5 wickets in 20 overs) 200
Quinton de Kock c Dhawan b Ashwin 40	Fall of Wickets: 1/16 2/78 3/100 4/101	5/140	
Rohit Sharma lbw b Ashwin 0			
Suryakumar Yadav c Sams b Norje 51			
Ishan Kishan not out 55			
Kieron Pollard c Rabada b Ashwin 0			
Krunal Pandya c Sams b Steinis 13			
Anrich Norje not out 37			
Extras: (8-1 LB-2 W-1) 4			

Total: (For 5 wickets in 20 overs) 200

Fall of Wickets: 1/16 2/78 3/100 4/101

5/140

Bowling: Daniel Sams 0-4-44-0,

Ravichandran Ashwin 4-0-29-3, Kagiso

Rabada 4-0-42-0, Axar Patel 3-0-27-0,

Anrich Norje 4-0-50-1, Marcus Stoinis 1-0-5-1.

Extras: 0-5-1.

Wicket: Kagiso Rabada 0-5-1.

Wicket: Daniel Sams 0-4-44-0.

Wicket: Ravichandran Ashwin 4-0-29-3.

Wicket: Kagiso Rabada 4-0-42-0.

Wicket: Axar Patel 3-0-27-0.

Wicket: Anrich Norje 4-0-50-1.

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Wicket: Daniel Sams 0-4-44-0.

Wicket: Ravichandran Ashwin 4-0-29-3.

Wicket: Kagiso Rabada 4-0-42-0.

Wicket: Axar Patel 3-0-27-0.

Wicket: Anrich Norje 4-0-50-1.

Wicket: Marcus Stoinis 1-0-5-1.

Wicket: Kagiso Rabada 0-5-1.

Wicket: Daniel Sams 0-4-44-0.

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