FRIDAY
13 NOVEMBER
2020

Pages 12 | ₹5 | LC

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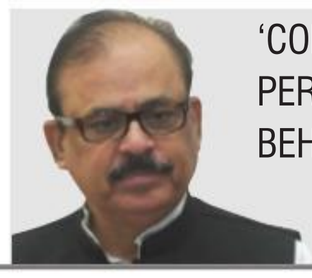
PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION

TN VARSITY REMOVES ARUNDHATI BOOK AFTER ABVP PROTEST

P4



'CONGRESS' POOR PERFORMANCE BEHIND BIHAR LOSS'

P5

DISQUIET IN UK GOVT AS JOHNSON AIDE QUITS

P10

HAMILTON ON THRESHOLD OF HISTORY

P12

WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. Mist/shallow fog in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 30 and 12 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY
Max: 98% Min: 44%

TEMPERATURE
Max: 29.2°C (+1) Min: 11.6°C (-2)

SUN RISES	SUN SETS
06:43 hrs	17:29 hrs
MOON RISES	MOON SETS
05:24 hrs	16:19 hrs

THUMBNAILS

People shop for jewellery during the traditional Dhanteras festival in Kolkata on Thursday. SNS

Actor found dead: Actor Asif Basra, a familiar face in several movies and TV shows including *Jab We Met*, *Kai Po Che!* and *Paatal Lok*, was found hanging in a private residential complex in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh, on Thursday, police said. He was 53. Police said he is believed to have hanged himself around 12-12.30 p.m. The news of the sudden death of the actor, which comes months after actor Sushant Singh Rajput was found hanging at his Mumbai residence was met with shock in the industry. P5

Varavara Rao's health: Bombay High Court has directed that doctors from a private hospital in Mumbai should conduct medical examination of jailed poet-activist Varavara Rao through video link, and a physical check-up if necessary. Rao, 81, an accused in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case, is lodged as an undertrial in Taloja prison in Navi Mumbai. The court was hearing a petition filed by Rao's wife seeking that he be shifted to Nanavati Hospital for better treatment, and for his release on bail.

Stimulus 3.0: Govt pushes jobs and infrastructure

FM announces 12 new measures to support the economy; stimulus tops ₹30 lakh crore

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 12 NOVEMBER

Announcing a fresh round of stimulus package and terming it as 'Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0', Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled a total of 12 new measures to support the economy and industry, ranging from employment generation, collateral-free credit for stressed sectors to subsidised fertiliser for farmers.

Sitharaman announced the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana' to incentivise creation of new employment opportunities during the Covid-recovery phase.

The employment scheme effective from October 1 will be applicable to eligible new employees joining EPFO-registered establishments and for those who exited these concerns during the period March 1-September 30, 2020 and drawing monthly wages of less than Rs 15,000.

Under the scheme, the central government will subsidise the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) contributions for two years.

The Centre will provide 12 per cent of the contributions of both employers and the employee for establishments with up to 1,000 employees. In the case of establishments with over 1,000 employees, the Centre will only subsidise 12 per cent of the employees' EPF contributions.

In order to provide a further boost to rural employment, the government will provide an additional outlay of Rs 10,000 crore for the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Rozgar Yojana.

The government will provide Rs 65,000 crore to farmers to ensure adequate supply of fertilisers in the upcoming crop season.

The government has also announced an Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS 2.0) for providing needed relief to stressed sectors by helping entities sustain employment and meet liabilities. The ECLGS scheme for MSMEs, MUDRA loan borrowers and individuals has been extended till March next year.

In a bid to boost housing sales, Sitharaman announced an increase in the permitted differential between the circle rate and agreement value of housing units to 20 per cent from the current mandated limit of 10 per cent till June 30. The increase in differential will be applicable in residential units of value up to Rs 2 crore.

To provide ease of doing business and relief to contractors whose money otherwise remains locked up, performance security on contracts will be reduced to 3 per cent earnest money deposit (EMD) for tenders will be replaced by bid security self-declaration. The relaxation will be available till December 31, 2021.

The Centre will also make an additional outlay of Rs 18,000 crore for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), which is likely to help ground 12 lakh houses and complete 18 lakh houses, as per the Finance Minister. The government will also invest Rs 6,000 crore in the NIIF (National Infrastructure Investment Fund) debt platform, which will provide infrastructure project financing of Rs 1,10,000 crore.

STIMULUS MEASURES

- **Income tax law will be relaxed to allow primary or first sale of housing units of up to Rs 2 crore at a price that can be 20 per cent below the stamp duty circle rate.**
- **The government will provide a subsidy equal to the EPF contribution that an employee and the employer have to make in establishments that hire new employees or re-hire those it fired during the pandemic.**
- **The Rs 3 lakh crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, under which small businesses can get collateral-free loans, has been extended till March 31, 2021. The scheme has also been extended to 26 stressed sectors.**
- **An additional outlay of Rs 18,000 crore will be made towards the affordable urban housing programme.**
- **A Rs 900 crore grant for the Department of Biotechnology for Covid-19 vaccine research.**
- **The government will provide Rs 65,000 crore of additional subsidy on fertiliser.**

Economy is seeing strong recovery: FM

NEW DELHI, 12 NOVEMBER

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the Indian economy is witnessing a strong recovery after a long lockdown.

While announcing more stimulus measures to boost growth, she cited data, including increase in tax collections for goods and services, rise in energy consumption and improvement in bank credit, to state that the economy was seeing "strong recovery" taking root.

She said composite purchasing managers index (PMI) rose to 58.9 per cent in October versus 54.6 per cent in the previous month, registering the strongest increase in output in close to nine years. Energy consumption growth trended higher in October at 12 per cent year-on-year, while GST collections have grown 10 per cent to over Rs 1.05 lakh crore. PTI

Details on Page 8

India enters technical recession: RBI

MUMBAI, 12 NOVEMBER

India has technically entered a recession with a likely contraction in its GDP during the July-September period, according to a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report.

RBI's Economic Activity Index estimates that India's GDP growth for the second quarter of the current financial year was negative and the GDP contracted by 8.6 per cent during the quarter. "India has entered into a technical recession in the first half of 2020-21 for the first time in its history with Q2:2020-21 likely to record the second successive quarter of GDP contraction," it said.

The contraction is ebbing with gradual normalisation in activities and expected to be short-lived.

The report said incoming data for October 2020 has brightened the near-term outloozk for the economy and stirred up consumer and business confidence. IANS

India, ASEAN call for freedom of navigation in South China Sea

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 12 NOVEMBER

In the summit, Prime Minister Modi announced a contribution of $1 million to COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund and stressed on leveraging strong ties between the two sides in the battle against the pandemic.

Amidst increasing Chinese assertiveness on maritime issues in the region, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and leaders of ten ASEAN countries today called for promoting peace, stability, safety and security in the South China Sea and freedom of navigation and overflight. They also called on all countries in the region to adhere to international laws and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Modi also stated that he favoured strengthening physical, economic, societal, digital, financial and maritime connectivity between India and ASEAN countries to give a new definition to the strategic partnership between the two sides.

"There are many similarities between our 'Indo Pacific Ocean Initiatives' and ASEAN's 'Outlook on Indo Pacific'. We believe we need a 'Cohesive and Responsive' ASEAN to achieve our objective of 'Security and Growth for all in the Region' (SAGAR)," he said.

Modi noted that India and ASEAN have come closer over the years and this partnership was bound to prosper in the years to come.

The Prime Minister was co-chairing the 17th ASEAN-India Summit along with his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Xuan Phuc in the virtual format. Leaders of all ten ASEAN member countries participated in the summit.

The summit reviewed the status of ASEAN-India strategic partnership and took stock of the progress made in key areas such as connectivity, maritime cooperation, trade and commerce, education and capacity building.

The leaders also discussed ways to further strengthen ASEAN-India engagement. Covid-19, post-pandemic economic recovery and important regional and international developments were also discussed. The ASEAN-India summits provide an opportunity to the two sides to engage at the highest level.

Modi had attended the 16th ASEAN-India Summit in Bangkok in November last year.

ICMR, SII finalise enrolment of vaccine phase-3 clinical trials

NEW DELHI, 12 NOVEMBER

The Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on Thursday announced the completion of enrolment of phase-3 clinical trials for potential Covid-19 vaccine Covishield in India.

The ICMR and SII have collaborated for the clinical development of Covovax developed by Novavax, US and upscaled by SII, a statement said.

"The partnership is a stellar example of private-public institutes collaborating to mitigate the dire consequences of the pandemic outbreak," the ICMR said in the statement.

While the ICMR has funded the clinical trial site fees, SII has funded other expenses for Covishield.

At present, SII and ICMR are conducting phase 2/3 clinical trials of Covishield at 15 different centres across the country. It had completed the enrolment of all 1,600 participants on October 31.

"The promising results of the trials so far gives confidence that Covishield could be a realistic solution to the deadly pandemic. Covishield is by far the most advanced vaccine in human testing in India," the ICMR said.

"Based on the phase 2/3 trial results, SII with the help of ICMR will pursue the early availability of this product for India. SII has already manufactured 40 million doses of the vaccine, under the at-risk manufacturing and stockpiling license from DCGI," the apex health research body said.

Covishield has been developed at SII Pune laboratory with a master seed from Oxford University/AstraZeneca. PTI

Covid-19 caseload climbs to 86.8L

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 12 NOVEMBER

A single-day increase of 47,905 infections took the country's Covid-19 caseload to 86,83,916, while the number of people who have recuperated from the disease have surged to 80,66,501, according to Union Health Ministry data updated on Thursday.

The coronavirus death toll climbed to 1,28,121 with 550 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 a.m. showed.

The number of active cases remained below 5 lakh for a second day.

There are 4,89,294 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country as on date, which comprise 5.63 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated. The total recoveries have reached 80,66,501, taking the national recovery rate to 92.89 per cent, while Covid-19 case fatality rate stands at 1.48 per cent.

Seventy-eight per cent of the new coronavirus infections reported in a span of 24 hours on Thursday are from 10 states and Union territories with Delhi continuing to register the highest single-day cases at 8,593 followed by Kerala and Maharashtra.

Delhi's Covid deaths spike to 104, highest in a day

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 12 NOVEMBER

Delhi today recorded 104 fresh coronavirus-linked fatalities ~ reportedly its highest single-day spike so far ~ which raised its Covid-19 toll to 7,332, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

The city reported 7,053 fresh cases of coronavirus infection, which took its caseload to 4,67,028, the health bulletin said. These cases were detected out of 60,229 tests, with the positivity rate being 11.71 per cent.

The patients who recovered from this deadly virus infection during the past 24 hours in the national capital numbered 6,462, with their cumulative count going up to 4,16,580.

There were 43,116 active cases in the city with 26,252 being under home isolation, the bulletin stated. The count of hospitalised patients was 9,811.

The total number of containment zones in the national capital was 4,141 now, the bulletin added.

FACT FILE

TOTAL CASES	86,83,916
ACTIVE CASES	4,89,294
NEW CASES	47,905
NEW RECOVERIES	52,718
TOTAL DEATHS	1,28,121

UNION HEALTH MINISTRY FIGURES AS OF 8.00 A.M. THURSDAY 12 NOV 2020

China denies finalising border disengagement plan with India

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 12 NOVEMBER

China today rejected reports in the Indian media that detailed arrangements for a proposed disengagement plan were being discussed and finalised by the armies of the two countries, saying the reports were not helpful for the two sides to reach their established goals.

While the momentum brought by the eighth round of corps commander talks was good, the "disengagement plan" mentioned by the media was "not accurate", China's state-run *Global Times* said quoting sources.

Reports in leading dailies in India said China and India have "broadly agreed to pull-back troops, tanks, howitzers and armoured vehicles from 'friction points' in the Pangong Tso-Chushul area in eastern Ladakh."

The Chinese newspaper said some Indian media outlets were good at projecting India's tough stance through partially true and partially false information, with the aim of stirring up domestic nationalism.

It quoted the Chinese sources as saying that India has always had "unrealistic" ideas about the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and disregarded history, unilaterally believing that Fingers 4 to 8 were its patrolling areas, and has sought to gain bargaining chips in talks. "This is a wrong premise for some Indian people in drafting policies," it added.

Meanwhile, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava also did not confirm the disengagement plan as reported in the Indian media. He said the two sides had held the eighth round of military level talks on 6 November and the meeting was candid.

"The two sides have decided to maintain contact at both the military and diplomatic level for settlement of the issue," he added. The spokesperson said the next round of talks between the two countries would be held soon.

Mandate favoured Grand Alliance, NDA won by deceit: Tejashwi

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
PATNA, 12 NOVEMBER

Two days after the results of the Bihar assembly elections were declared, the Election Commission has come under fire from the Opposition parties over the way votes were counted, objections raised by the opposition candidates being summarily rejected during the counting of votes and the results being held up for hours. The Opposition alleged the NDA won the elections by "deceit", saying "the mandate favoured the Grand Alliance but EC's result was in favour of the NDA".

These allegations were made at a joint Press conference of the Grand Alliance held here today after a meeting at which RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav was elected the leader of the Grand Alliance Legislature Party.

"The Election Commission's result says our vote share was 37.2 per cent and NDA's vote share was 37.3 per cent ~ a difference of just 0.1 percent. That means the NDA got only 12,270 votes more than the Grand Alliance. The question now is how can they win extra 15 seats with some 12,000 extra votes?" asked Tejashwi.

He also raised questions over the cancellation of a large number of postal ballots. "The Election Commission cancelled 500 to 900 postal ballots. Under whose pressure was this done?" he asked. He alleged the established rules of counting postal ballots first before the EVMS were ignored while some returning officers even tried to snatch victory certificates from the hands of the candidates.

He said people's mandate which was in favour of the Grand Alliance had been "hijacked" and charged the NDA with sneaking into power through the back door. He said Nitish Kumar might grab the chair but the Grand Alliance is in people's hearts. "We have not lost elections but we were defeated under a conspiracy. We will fight this tooth and nail," Tejashwi said adding, "The mandate favoured Grand Alliance but Election Commission's result was in favour of the NDA. This has not happened for the first time. In 2015 too, the mandate was given to the Grand Alliance but the BJP came to power through the back door". "It was a mandate for change. The NDA won by money, muscle power and deceit," Tejashwi said.

The RJD with 75 seats has emerged as the single largest party in the Bihar assembly while the BJP stands second with 74 seats. The JD-U led by Nitish Kumar, on the other hand, finished a distant third by winning just 43 seats. The single largest party in the House will sit in the Opposition for the second time in a row whereas the third-placed party will have its chief minister.

Nitish may take oath as CM on Monday

PATNA, 12 NOVEMBER

Nitish Kumar may take oath as Bihar chief minister for a fourth successive term next week but the date has not been finalised yet, a close aide said on Thurday.

However, speculation is rife in political circles that he will be sworn in on Monday, the day 'Bhaiyya Dooj' festival will be celebrated, as it is considered an auspicious day.

He will visit the state party headquarters later Thursday to meet the newly elected MLAs and other JD(U) functionaries.

Raj Bhavan sources said they have not received any communication about when the swearing-in ceremony will take place. Before he is sworn-in as the chief minister again, Nitish Kumar has to tender his resignation to the governor.

The newly elected MLAs of the NDA are yet to meet formally and elect Kumar as their leader. However, with top BJP leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, endorsing Kumar as the chief minister, there are no doubts over a fourth straight term for him in the office. PTI

epaper.thestatesman.com

One thing that has done a great deal of harm to the democratic system of our country is to give priority to our ideology over national interest

NARENDRA MODI
PRIME MINISTER

HC allows ICU beds reservation in city pvt hospitals for Covid cases

Vacating single judge's stay order, a Delhi HC division bench allows AAP govt to reserve 80 pc ICU beds for Covid patients in 33 private hospitals; also pulls up govt over the city's grim virus situation

PTI
NEW DELHI, 12 NOVEMBER

The Delhi High Court Thursday allowed the AAP government to reserve 80 per cent of ICU beds for COVID-19 patients in 33 private hospitals, saying the situation in the national capital is fairly dynamic and the state has to be "much more alive" to the circumstances.

Expressing concern over spiralling cases of COVID-19 in Delhi, the high court questioned the AAP government over "doing everything under the Sun to 'unlock' things".

A bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Subramonium Prasad allowed Delhi government's appeal challenging a single judge's September 22 interim order staying its decision to reserve 80 per cent of the ICU beds in private hospitals.

The high court vacated the stay order and listed the matter for further hearing on

November 26 before the single bench and till then the reservation of 80 per cent of ICU beds will continue.

The high court was hearing a plea by the Delhi government urging it to empower it to enforce the reservation of ICU beds for COVID-19 patients in 33 private hospitals at least for 15 days in view of the rise in the number of cases.

Delhi recorded its biggest single-day jump of 8,593 COVID-19 cases on Wednesday that took its infection tally to over 4.59 lakh people, while 85 new fatalities pushed the national capital's death toll to 7,228.

During the hearing, the high court said the state is responsible for the health of citizens for which others also have to chip in, including private hospitals.

It said the situation in Delhi is fairly dynamic and so far as the spread of COVID-19 infection and hospitalisation of patients is concerned, the Delhi government must keep hand on the pulse of the city to be able to cope with the situation.

"There has been sea change in the ground reality when the impugned order of September 22 was passed when the figure of COVID-19 infection in Delhi was hovering around in the range of 3-4,000 patients vis-a-vis today when the said figure is more than double," the bench said.

The high court said it was expected of the Delhi government to keep abreast of the situation and monitor it closely.

It asked the Delhi government to file an additional counter affidavit on material information by November 18 before the single judge who is seized of a plea by 'Association of Healthcare Providers' to quash the government's order to reserve 80 per cent ICU beds for COVID-19 patients.

Senior advocate Maninder Singh, representing the association of which the 33 hospitals are members, opposed the government's appeal saying if there is a compulsion of reserving 80 per cent ICU beds, the hospitals will have to keep the ICU bed vacant if there is no COVID-19 patient there and let other non-COVID-19 patients die by denying them the facility in emergency.

During the hearing, the bench observed, "Your (Delhi) government has to be much more alive to the situation than it is today. Please pass on our observation. It is not that alive to the current situation which the whole city can see for itself. The Delhi government is doing everything under the Sun to unlock things. It is vocalised on behalf of every citizen of Delhi."

To this, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Sanjay Jain and additional standing counsel Sanjoy Ghose, representing the Delhi government, said the 'unlock' is being done by National Disaster Management authority and the state also receives instructions from the Centre.

While several restrictions were eased in different 'unlock' phases, educational institutions continued to remain closed.

The court said no person in a health emergency should be made to run from pillar to post to get treatment even when there is a bed available in a hospital.

The court asked Delhi government counsel if nodal officers are deputed in each district where these 33 private hospitals are situated for being in constant touch with the hospital authorities to assist the availability of the ICU beds for admission of COVID-19 patients as against the beds required for non-COVID-19 patients who are required to be admitted in ICU in emergency and for other unforeseen situation.

bench said a blanket order passed three months ago by the government directing reservation of 80 per cent ICU beds for COVID-19 patients may not be in the best interest of the non-COVID-19 patients who are looking for critical care and support.

ASG Jain told the bench that 33 nodal officers have been deputed to coordinate with the 33 private hospitals and one nodal officer is there in each district.

To this, the bench said if such a network is available, these nodal officers are in a position to relax the norm of 80 per cent for these hospitals without strictly adhering to the Delhi government's decision.

The court also questioned the Delhi government for choosing the 33 private hospitals and did not pick the remaining 82 for reserving 80 per cent ICU beds for COVID-19 patients.

CM reviews Delhi's road redesigning project

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 12 NOVEMBER

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal convened a review meeting with PWD officials today on Delhi's ongoing road redesigning project on the lines of European cities. He directed the officials to ensure that all obstacles under the pilot project are removed to redesign the seven identified roads.

Kejriwal said the process of appointing a consultant for the redesigning of roads is in the final stage and the PWD should complete the appointment process soon. The project will follow the build-operate-transfer (BOT) model.

The construction company will have the responsibility to maintain the road for 15 years. The deadline for redesigning the first seven roads has been extended till March 2021 due to Covid, the earlier deadline was December 2020.

The Delhi government is working to redesign the 100-feet wide and 500-km long roads of the national capital on the lines of European cities. Kejriwal has envisaged the project to develop the roads of the national capital similar to any developed country. He approved the project of redesigning some of the roads falling under the jurisdiction of the PWD in November 2019. Under the pilot project, the Delhi government has decided to redesign 100-feet wide and 500-km long on the lines of European cities.

The Delhi government recently redeveloped the Chandni Chowk road as a pilot project, extending the scheme to 100-feet wide and about 500-km long road in Delhi.

He said people face issues because there are bottleneck roads, which create the problem of traffic congestion at various locations.

The wide roads in many parts of Delhi differently turn into a narrow road and then back into a wide road after a few km, which creates a bottleneck situation and heavy traffic at particular locations.

The priority will be removing those bottlenecks first for a smooth flow of traffic and an organised lane system.

The second goal would be to increase the efficiency of the existing space of the roads in the city so that spaces are best utilised as per their abilities.

There will be separate spaces for the planting of trees on the sides

of the footpaths. There will be separate parking spaces for electric vehicles and auto-rickshaws alongside the footpaths.

The slope of the roads as well as drains will be redesigned to tackle the problem of water-logging. Rainwater harvesting structures will be built inside the drainage systems to store rainwater as groundwater, he added.

Jain launches app for transportation of Covid patients

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 12 NOVEMBER

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Thursday launched a Jeevan Seva app in aid of Covid patients and their families for commuting safely to hospitals and other health care facilities in the city.

The app, launched in collaboration with EVERA, will use electric vehicles as an ambulance to transfer non-critical cases to a health care facility within Delhi free of cost.

Patients can download the app through the link which will be sent through SMS and QR code to every tested Covid positive patient in

Delhi. The patients can book a cab from the app after registering through OTP by entering their pick up and drop location. The nearest cab will automatically be dispatched to serve the needy. The service will be available 24 hours.

Speaking at the occasion, Jain said, "We are launching the Jeevan Seva app today to facilitate Delhi citizens in home isolation in case of need. From health checkups, ambulance requirements to admission to hospitals, health amenities are now just a click away. With this app, you will get access to an e-vehicle which will provide for free pick up and drop services. Each vehicle will be properly sanitised after every ride."

Nimish Trivedi, co-founder and CEO, Prakriti E-Mobility Pvt. Ltd, added, "The Jeevan Seva app is the first ever initiative to help Covid patients to reach health care facilities in EV cabs while taking care of the patients with zero emission cabs.

We are pleased to work with the Delhi government to launch this great initiative and hope that it will help us in fighting the ongoing pandemic."

The patient will be apprised of pickup time and can contact the driver through the app only, reducing the anxiety regarding the availability and reaching the cab ambulance. The process is all digital and it will give a touch-free convenient drive to patients.

Retired Delhi school principal held for looting job aspirants

PTI
NEW DELHI, 12 NOVEMBER

A retired Delhi government school principal has been arrested for allegedly duping a woman of Rs 18 lakh on the pretext of getting her a teaching job, police said on Thursday.

The accused, Aditya Shanker Vats, is currently the manager of a private school in Khureji, they said.

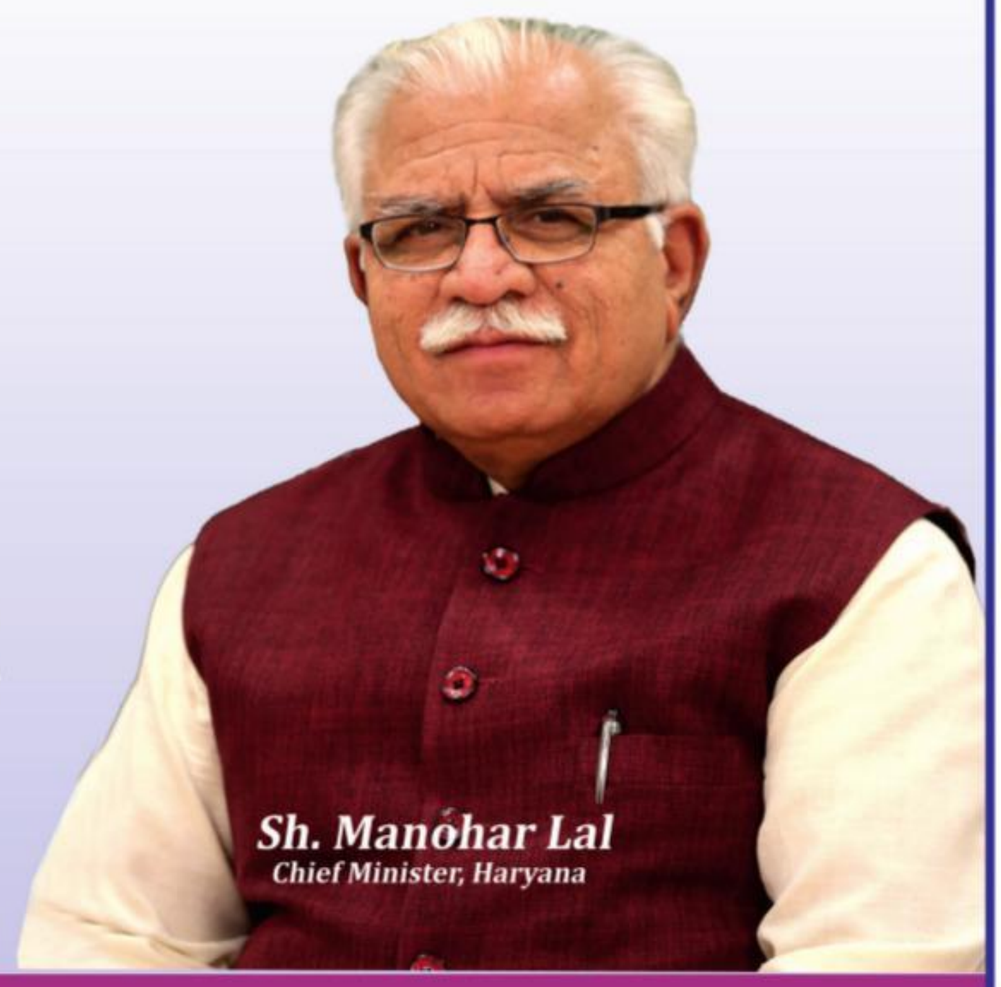
A Pooth-Kalan resident, Jyoti, filed a complaint against Vats, a retired principal of Sarvodya Bal Vidyalya in Shakarpur, regarding cheating of Rs 18 lakh on the pretext of getting her a teaching job in a government school.

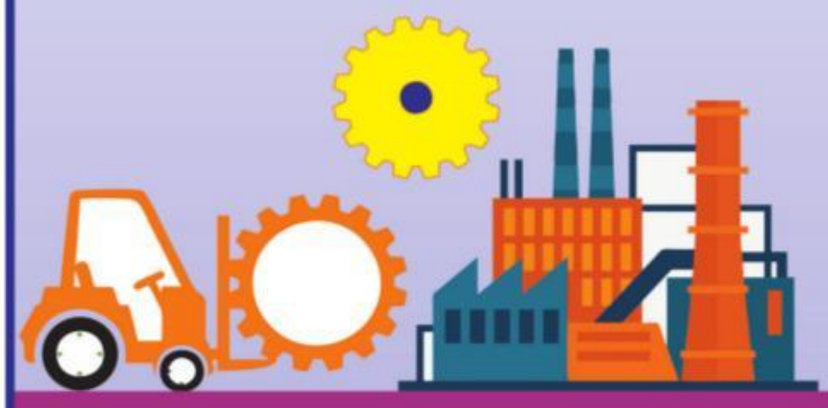
The accused had told the complainant that he had very good relations with senior-level officials of central and state governments, a senior police officer said.

हरियाणा 1 साल दूरदर्शिता पारदर्शिता दृढ़-संकल्प का

Govt. of Haryana

Accelerating Growth Pacing Development





Haryane Ka Badhiya Haal Chokkha Bitya Pehla Saal

Haryana ahead in Startup India program More than **4,000 youth startups registered**

Investment of Rs. 2409.38 Crore in the last one year

'MSME' Department constituted to promote micro, small and medium scale industries

53 large & medium with **14,804** micro and small industries set-up **97,623 people got employment**

प्रधानमंत्री mudra योजना

Under 'Mudra Loan-Shishu Yojana' **2% of total interest** on loan amount of up to Rs. 50,000 will be **borne by Haryana Govt.**

Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor project of Rs. 5,500 Crore approved to promote the industrial sector

Do Gaj Ki Duri, Mask Hai Jaroori

Information, Public Relations and Languages Department, Haryana

www.prharyana.gov.in
@Cmohry @DiprHaryana

India has entered into recession for the first time in history. Mr Modi's actions have turned India's strength into its weakness

CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI
TARGETING THE GOVERNMENT OVER THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY

Sivasankar sent to 14-day JC

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOCHI, 12 NOVEMBER

PMLA special court in Kochi on Thursday sent Kerala CM's former principal secretary M Sivasankar to 14-day judicial custody in connection with a money laundering case related to the smuggling of gold through diplomatic channels. It passed the order after the expiry of his 14-day ED custody. The agency opposed his bail application on Thursday.

Appearing for the ED, S V Raju, the additional solicitor general of India, submitted that the money found in the bank lockers of Swapna Suresh was the kickbacks meant for Sivasankar. He said the agency initially thought the money was proceeds of the crime of gold smuggling through diplomatic channel.

The ED arrived at such a conclusion after being misled by the accused. However, probe revealed the money was part of the commission for the LIFE Mission housing project meant for Sivasankar.

B. Raman Pillai and S. Rajeev, counsels for Sivasankar, countered ED's arguments, saying the allegation was raised based only on the statements given by Swapna Suresh, prime accused in the gold smuggling case, during her custodial interrogation. There were only vague and imaginary allegations against the accused and the investigation agency was moving ahead with some intentions to target someone in the case, they argued.

PM unveils Vivekananda statue in JNU campus

PTI
NEW DELHI, 12 NOVEMBER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday unveiled a statue of Swami Vivekananda in the JNU campus and asserted that people may have ideological differences but ideology should be seen supporting and not opposing the nation in matters of national interest.

Giving priority to one's ideology over national interest has harmed the democratic system of the country a lot, he said in his address to students after unveiling the statue through video conferencing.

Jawaharlal Nehru University has long been considered a citadel of the Left, with student unions affiliated to it calling the shots in the campus.

The BJP and Hindutva groups, including RSS' student wing ABVP, have often claimed that those with "anti-national" sentiments have found support from the Left-affiliated bodies.

The decision to instal a life-size statue of Vivekananda, a widely respected Hindu monk, is imbued with symbolism.

In his address, Modi said good reforms were earlier considered bad politics but now it is good politics because his government's intentions and commitment are pure, and it has prepared a "protection shield" for the poor and other vulnerable sections before carrying out reforms.

People have endorsed our reform measures with their votes, he said.

The prime minister said the statue in the campus will inspire everyone and instill courage and compassion that Swami Vivekananda wanted to see in everyone.

"Swami Vivekanda wanted that education in the country should be such that it provides self-confidence to individuals and makes them 'Atmanirbhar' in every way. The new National Education Policy is on the same line and has inclusion at its core," he added.

TN varsity removes Roy's book after ABVP protest

ABVP alleges book encourages armed revolutions of Maoists against the nation

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, 12 NOVEMBER

Succumbing to the pressure of RSS's student wing Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), Tamil Nadu's Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, has removed Arundhati Roy's *Walking with Comrades* from its syllabus.

The book forms part of the additional reading material for students in the third semester in MA English Literature. It is recommended under the 'Commonwealth Literature' elective and has been a part of the syllabus since 2017. The book, according to its publishers Penguin Random House, is a non-fiction account of 'a little-known rebel movement in India'. "Roy takes readers to the unseen frontlines of this ongoing battle, chronicling her months spent living with rebel guerrillas in the forests. In documenting their local struggles, Roy addresses the much larger question of whether global capitalism will tolerate any societies existing outside of its colossal control," Penguin House website says about the book.

The letter seeking removal of the book sent to the university's Vice-Chancellor by ABVP alleged the book openly encourages armed revolutions of Maoists against the nation. "For the past three years, Naxal and Maoist ideas were directly imposed on the students. Since the book kindles hatred towards the nation in the minds of students, many students were subjected to stress," the petition alleged.

Condemning the university management for adding this book, the ABVP demanded an apology from the university and to remove the book from its syllabus threatened to take the matter to the Ministry of Education and organise several protests if there is any delay in this.

Vice-Chancellor K Pitchumani formed a committee to examine the matter and decided to remove the book which has been replaced with another book by Padma Shri-winning Naturalist Krishnan.

Madurai LS MP and CPI (M) leader Su Venkatesan, a writer, condemned the university's decision to drop the book from its syllabus. DMK MP Thamizhachi Thangapandian tweeted: "If those in power decide what students should study, social justice, plurality and freedom of expression will become a question mark, that this act shows the authoritarianism of those in power.

DMK MP Kanimozhi tweeted: "When ruling power and politics decide what is art, literature and what students should study, a society's pluralism will be destroyed".

Gandhi Hospital resumes non-Covid op

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 12 NOV

After seven months Telangana's nodal hospital for Covid-19 will now be open to non-Covid patients as well after the number of virus-infected patients admitted to the facility has come down to 300.

The move came after some prodding from the junior doctors who went on strike demanding resumption of non- Covid services in the Gandhi Hospital at Secunderabad, citing loss in academics with just four months left before exams.

The Director of Medical education today issued an order to the hospital superintendent to begin non-Covid services in Gandhi Hospital from 21 November.

Ensure safety of minorities: India to Pak

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 12 NOVEMBER

India today expressed outrage over the reported killing of an 82-year-old Ahmadi man by some gunmen at Peshawar in Pakistan apparently because of his faith, saying this was a sad reflection of the state of minorities in the neighbouring country.

"Over a period of time, we have seen the space for people from the minority community to practice their religion shrink continuously. Besides, their condition remains deplorable," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said at a media briefing.

He said India has been consistently raising the issue of the safety, security and well-being of minority communities with the Pakistan Government. The spokesperson also referred to media reports in Pakistan about Pakistan's Federal Investigative Agency (FIA) releasing an updated "Book on Most Wanted / High Profile Terrorists" listing several Pakistani nationals involved in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.

"While the list includes a select few members of the Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, a UN designated terror entity based in Pakistan, including the crew members of the boats used to execute the 26/11 attacks, it glaringly omits the mastermind and key conspirators," he said.

He said, it was a fact that the 26/11 terror attacks were planned, executed and launched from Pakistan's territory. The list made it clear that Pakistan possessed all the necessary information and evidence on the conspirators and facilitators of the Mumbai terror attacks, he said.

TENDER

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT, JAMMU
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE), DIVISION REASI
Fax: 01991-244323 E-mail: phereasi001@gmail.com

Notice inviting e-Tender
E-NIT No.PHERSI/61of 2020-21Dated: - 05-11-2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of J&K e-tenders (Two cover System) Turn Key basis are invited from reputed and resourceful contractors/Firms/companies/joint venture of repute, which should be uploaded on the e-Procurement web portal **http://www.jktenders.gov.in** up to **last bidding date:- 27-11-2020 up to 16.30 PM** for the subject work referred below and as per the details mentioned in this e-tender notification and to whom all the terms and conditions of detailed NIT /Tender Documents/ PWD Form No:- 25 double are acceptable. The detailed tender document and Specifications etc. can be downloaded on the e-procurement Portal **http://www.jktenders.gov.in**.The cost of tender documents (Non-refundable/ Non-Transferable) should be in the shape of e-challan/Treasury Receipt to be deposited in MH:0215-WSS (Revenue Head) or through **RTGS in J&K Bank Branch REASI** bearing Bank Account No. **0029010200000829**, **IFSC code JAKA0REASSI in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE), Division REASI:-**

S.No. 1 Name of Work :- A). IMPROVEMENT AND AUGMENTATION OF WATER SUPPLY SCHEME SUEL PATWAR UNDER JAL JEEVAN MISSION. including civil, Electrical & Electro-Mechanical components, conducting complete necessary survey, soil tests & design as required at selected site, as per the Parameters/ specifications and operation & Maintenance mentioned in the tender document."

Adv. Cost of Work (s) in Lacs :- 298.01, **Earnest Money In Rs**. :-596020.00, **Class of Contract :-** "A", **Cost of Document :-** Rs. 5000/- , **Period of completion :-** 6 months, **MH of Account :-** JJM

S.No. 2 Name of Work :- B) Operation & Maintenance of critical components as per SBD for a period of three years.

i) 1st year , ii) 2nd year, iii). 3rd year

Adv. Cost of Work (s) in Lacs :- Nil, **Earnest Money In Rs. :-**--------, **Class of Contract :-** --------, **Cost of Document :-** --------- , **Period of completion :-**1st year, 2nd year, 3rd year, **MH of Account :-**

No. DIP/J-7011/20
Dated: 11-11-2020

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Division Reasi.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice

Dy. CSTE/C/CW/Northern Railway, DRM office, 2nd floor, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under **Single Packet system** from experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar nature of work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria on the prescribed form for the following work:

Name of work	" S&T work for alteration of PI at Kathua and Madhopur Punjab stations and associated telecom work at adjoining stations in c/w doubling across Ravi Bridge section over Firozpur Division of Northern Railway".
Approx. cost of the work	Rs. 66.35 Lakh
Earnest Money	Rs. 132700/- (Rupees One Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Seven Hundred only)
Completion period	**06 (Six) months**
Date, Time & Place for submission and opening of tender	Tender will be available on **www.ireps.gov.in** website from 14.11.2020 to 11.30 Hrs on 07.12.2020 and will be opened on 07.12.2020 after 11.30 hrs. Tender can be uploaded from 23.11.2020 to 11.30 hrs on 07.12.2020 and will be opened on 07.12.2020 after 11.30 hrs.
Address from where tender form can be purchased	E-Tender document cost - Nil. The detailed e-tender notice and document will be available on Northern Railway web site i.e. on www.ireps.gov.in from 14.11.2020 to 11.30 hrs on 07.12.2020, bidders are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which, they would require to, obtain class III digital certificate (if already not obtained) issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document.

No: 178-Sig/CW/32/96 Pt-I Dated: 12.11.2020 **2523/2020**
Serving Customers With A Smile

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DEE/EMU/GZB for and on behalf of President of India, Invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work:

1	**N.I.T No.**	232-Elect-EMU-WC-02-20-21
2	**Name of the work**	**(A) Cleaning of Traction Motor parts & T M Filter (its inspection, cleaning, checking & repairing)) B) Dismounting & re-mounting of Auxiliary Motors from EMU/MEMU Motor Coaches and (C) Overhauling of Auxiliary Motors.**
3	**Tender cost**	Rs. 2360.00 (online payment mode available on IREPS website)
4	**Approximate cost**	Rs. 1401566.90
5	**Earnest Money**	Rs. 28000.00 (online payment mode available on IREPS website)
6	**Completion period**	24 Months
7	**Validity of offer**	45 days
8	**Date & Time from tender advertised on IREPS website**	12/11/2020 (14:14 hrs.)
9	**Date & Time from tender submission start and end**	24/11/2020 (00.00 Hrs.) to 08/12/2020 (15:00 Hrs.)
10	**Tender closing Date & Time**	08/12/2020 (15:00 Hrs.)
11	**Date & Time of tender Opening (immediately when tender submission ends)**	08/12/2020 (15:00 Hrs.)
12	**Publication cost allocation**	06041132

Note 1: All participant Tenderer/Tenderers will submit their requisite documents along with their tender offer. "No post tender correspondence for submission of additional document shall be entertained after opening of the Technical & Commercial offer. Even suo-moto post tender letters of the tenders shall be treated as null & void".
Note 2: Duplicate documents should not be enclosed/up loaded.
Tender Notice is available on website of www.ireps.gov.in.

232-Elect-EMU-WC-02-20-21 Date: 12.11.2020 **2521/2020**
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No.: NR/CB Workshop/November/EV AC/2020-21/07 Date: 12.11.20

For and on behalf of the President of India, the 'Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer (Train Set), Northern Railway Charbagh Workshop, Lucknow invites following e-tender from reputed firms for works as given below:

Tender No.	W-CB- EV AC -2020-21-07
Name of Work	AMC & POH of EV AC Make Vacuum Toilet systems fitted on Vande Bharat (Train-18) Trains, Qty.-02 Rake.
Estimated Cost of Work	Rs 1,16,86,956/- inclusive of GST@18%
Earnest Money	Rs. 2,08,400/- only (accepted through net banking or payment gateway only)
Cost of Tender Form	Rs. 5,000/- only (accepted through net banking or payment gateway only)
Period of Contract	18 Months
Date & Time for Submission of Tender	from 23.11.2020 to 07.12.2020 up to 15:00 Hrs.
Date & Time for Opening of Tender:	after 15:15 Hrs. on 07.12.2020

• The tender form may be submitted at the website **www.ireps.gov.in** from 23.11.2020 to 07.12.2020 (up to 15:00 Hrs.) • Mannual offers are not allowed against this tender, any such mannual offer received shall be ignored. • Contractors are allowed to make payment against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, Credit card etc. Mannual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipt, FDR etc are not allowed. • The tender will be opened on specified date and time as above. In case the above date is a holiday the tender opening would be conducted at the same times on the next working day. • No post tender correspondence for submission of additional documents shall be entertained after opening the Technical & Commercial offers. Even suo-moto post letter of the tender shall be treated as NULL & void.

2514/20
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in

E-Tender Enquiry No.: 7191/P-1/EMP-11735
Dated: 05-11-2020 &
ID: 2020_POWER_55758_1

Scope of work: PROCUREMENT OF DA, O2, N_2 and CO2 GAS UNDER GS GROUP FOR THE YEAR 2020-21.

Qty.: As per NIT.

EMD: As per NIT.

Date & time up to which tender shall be received : 15-12-2020 up to 11-00 a.m.

Date & time of opening of tender : 22-12-2020 up to 11-30 a.m.

Tender specification can only be downloaded from PSPCL website: **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** & no hard copy of the same will be issued by this office.

Note:

1. In case any difficulty regarding uploading of the tender the prospective bidders are requested to get clarification from this office and / or e-Procurement System Government of Punjab. Contact No.: +91-(172)-2970284/63. It is also requested to get their digital signature well in time so as to submit tenders through e-tendering only.
2. It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspaper. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on website: **eproc.punjab.gov.in**

SE / HQR
451/RTP-49/2020 **GGSSTP, Roopnagar**

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum/Addendum-I

Due to technical reasons, extend the date of opening in respect of the NIT no. 558-Sig-16/M/Tender/1353 which is scheduled to be opened on 25.11.2020 for the work of **"Provision of Auto Signalling between HNZM and OKA Station of Delhi Division."** following changes are made:

S.No.	As per NIT drawn	To be read as
1	Date of Opening : 25.11.2020	Date of Opening : 04.12.2020

All other terms and condition will remain unchanged.
Tender No. 558-Sig/16/M/Tender/1353 Date : 12.11.2020 **2522/2020**
Serving Customers With A Smile

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN TENDER NOTICE (E-Tender)

For and on behalf of President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-tender for following work from experienced and capable tenderers.

1.	**Tender No.**	**197-S/193/Hiring-Truck/NDLS & NZM/19/MC-IV**
2.	**Name of work**	Hiring of Trucks (Carrying capacity-4.5 T) at Coach Care Centre, New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin for transportation of Railway material for two years.
3.	**Advertised Tender Value**	**Rs. 31,44,629.28/-** (Excluding GST & ECC)
4.	**Earnest Money in favour of Sr.DFM/NR, New Delhi**	**Rs. 62,900/-** (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS)
5.	**Date & time of submission of tender bid**	Up to 14.12.2020 at 12:00 hrs.
6.	**Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen**	**www.ireps.gov.in**

197-S/193/Hiring-Truck/NDLS & NZM/19/MC-IV Dated: 12.11.2020 **2511/2020**
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

	N.I.T. No.	S.N	30-2020-21-W-V
1	**Name of work with its location**	1	Annual Zone Work For Repairs to Bridges on DE-RE Section in the section of SSE/GGN under ADEN/DEE Period Ending 2020-21 **Similar nature of work:** Construction of bridges with pipe & box pushing technique/crossing of underground cable/pipe line etc.
2	**Approx Cost of Work**	1	**Rs. 5994021.22**
3	**Earnest Money**	1	(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 201025//CE-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016)
		1	**Rs. 119900.00**
4	**Completion period of Work**	1	**12 Months**
5	**Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender**		Upto 15.00 hrs on 08.12.2020, Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs On 08.12.2020
6	**Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.**		Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in**

No. 128-W/280/OET/2020-21/W-V/NIT-30 Dated: 10.11.2020 **2513/2020**
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD
(Power Wing)
Notice Inviting E-Tender

NIT No.: BP-2815
Name of office: Dy. Chief Engineer, Bhakra Power Houses Circle, BBMB (PW), Nangal.
Name of work: Providing Services for installation of 17 Nos. new VCB panels after dismantling of existing old 17 Nos. panels at Project Supply Centre near Bhakra Right Bank Power House and 11 KV Switchyard near 220 Switchyard of Bhakra Left Bank Power House of Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB).

Start date for download tender documents	05.11.2020 from 10:00 Hrs.
Last date for download tender documents	08.12.2020 upto 16:00 Hrs.
Start date for submission of online bid	06.11.2020 from 10:00 Hrs.
Last date for submission of online bid	08.12.2020 upto 17:00 Hrs.
Due date for opening technical bid	09.12.2020 at 11:30 Hrs.

For detailed NIT & Earnest Money to be deposited please visit BBMB website **https://bbmbeproc.abcprocure.com & www.bbmb.gov.in**

758-PR-Generation-5 **For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today**

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

N.I.T. No.:	12/20-21
Name of work with its location	(a) Replacing the window fixed glass by the provision of uPVC sliding window Rail Bhawan in the section of SSE/W/RB under ADEN E III NDLS.
Approx. Cost of work	(a) 10999727.08
Earnest Money	(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. Note: FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016)
	(a) 205000.00
Completion period of work	(a) 06 Months
Date and Time for Submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 1500 hrs on 08.12.2020 opening of tender at 1500 hrs.
Website particular notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in**

128-W/269/OET/20-21/WE/NIT/12 Dated : 12.11.2020 **2525/2020**
Serving Customers With A Smile

HIMACHAL PRADESH
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short terms tenders on form 6&8 are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer Bangana Division HP.PWD Bangana on behalf of the Governor of H.P. for the following works from the approved and eligible contractors/firms of appropriate class enlisted in HPPWD as per latest instructions so as to reach and open in his office as per time schedule given below The offer of the tender will be kept open for 120 days from the date of opening of the tenders. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.

1. Date of receipt of applications for the tender Form a/w requisite documents: - 07.12.2020 upto 5.00 PM.
2. Date of issue /sale of tender forms against Cash payment (Non-refundable):- 08.12.2020 upto 4.00 PM.
3. Date of receipt of tenders: - 09.12.2020 upto 10.30 AM.
4. Date of opening of tenders: - 09.12.2020 at 11.00 AM.

Sr. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Time Limit	Cost of Tender	Eligible class of Contractor
1.	RRD on Chalola Nangal Salangri Sanjhot road km. 0/0 to 4/0 (SH: C/o wire crate protection work for for 62.36 mter span vented cause way bridge over Sanjhot Khad at RD 3/560)	499825/-	10000/-	Two month	350/-	Class-D
2.	RRD on link road Samoor Schoolto Mohalla Saur km. 0/0 to 0/900 (SH: Providing and fixing paver Block flooring in km. 0/580 to 0/700)	498600/-	10000/-	Two month	350/-	Class-D
3.	Const of link road from Naloot to Pansai under SCSP (SH: C/o 2.00 mtr. RCC span culvert at RD 0/300)	407351/-	81500/-	Two month	350/-	Class-D

The Earnest money in the shape of National Saving certificate/Time deposit/Saving account of any post office or FDR of Nationalised Bank duly pledged in the name of undersigned must be accompanied with each tender. The conditional tender and tender not accompanying the earnest money in the proper mode of deposit will summarily be rejected.

The Tender documents to be sent should have invariably be waxed in sealed cover and in failure of that those will not be entertained.

The Copy of valid enlistment, GST Registration No., Income Tax PAN No & EPF No. must be attached with application.

SPECIAL CONDITION:-

1. The tender form will be issued to those contractors who have relevant machinery and equipment, the list of which may be attached with their applications.(The proof of ownership of machinery/legal tie up arrangement).

2. The tender form will not be issued to those contractors who have already two works in hand.The earnest money for the above work should be submitted with the application for the purchase of the tender forms. The application received without earnest money shall summarily be rejected.

3. The conditional/ambiguous/telegraphic tenders or tender by fax shall not entertained/considered in any case.

Executive Engineer
Bangana Division
HPPWD Bangana

4350/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

HIMACHAL PRADESH
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
"NOTICE INVITING TENDERS"

Sealed item rate tenders are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Bilaspur Division No. I, HP-PWD, Bilaspur, for the following works from the registered contractors of appropriate class enlisted in HP-PWD, whose registration stood renewed as per the revised instructions and also registered dealers under the Himachal Pradesh, General Sales Tax Act. 1968. The important dates of the tenders are as under:-

Date of application **03/12/2020**
Date of sale of tender form **05/12/2020**
Date of opening of tender. **07/12/2020**

The tenders shall be received up to 10.30 A.M. on 07/12/2020 and will be opened on the same day at 11.00 A.M. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives, who may like to be present. The tender forms can be had from this office against cash payment as shown below (Non-refundable) during the working hours on **05/12/2020.**

The Earnest money in the shape of National Saving Certificate/Deposit at call/ Time Deposit Account in any of the Post-Office /Nationalised Bank in H.P. duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Bilaspur Division No. I, HP-PWD, Bilaspur must accompany with the each application. Conditional tenders and the tenders received without earnest money will simultaneously be rejected. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days. The XEN reserve the right to accept or reject the tenders without assigning any reason.

Sr. No	Name of work	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Cost of tender form (In Rs.)	Time
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Construction of various roads under Bilaspur Division NO.I, HP.PWD, Bilaspur HP.(SH:- Preparation of Detailed Project Report (Under Nabard).	2,55,000/-	5,100/-	350/-	Three months

TERMS & CONDITIONS:-

1. The contractors should have executed two similar type of works 1/3 of each amount put to tender or single work of amount equal to the amount put to tender within last 3 years.
2. The list of similar type of work executed & work done performance certificate issued by the concerned Executive Engineer should be accompanied with application.
3. The Earnest money should be accompanied with application. Application without earnest money will be rejected.
4. The photo copy of PAN Number/GST Number should be attached with the application otherwise tender form will not be issued.
5. The cost of tender form in prescribed form (Non-refundable) in form of cash in favour of Executive Engineer, Bilaspur Division No.I, HP-PWD, Bilaspur.
6. Copy of contractor registration should be attached with the application.
7. The copy of Tin No should be attached with the application otherwise tender form will not be issued.

4317/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

epaper.thestatesman.com

Some political leaders and parties are 'Vakra-drashta', as they have a hostile view about everything.

UNION HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH

SAYING THOSE WITH HOSTILE VIEW ABOUT EVERYTHING WERE REJECTED IN RECENT POLLS

THUMBNAILS

BBMB chairman: A noted engineer from the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Sanjay Srivastava, has joined as the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB)`s chairman on Wednesday. He is an Engineering Services officer of the 1987 UPSC exam and was allocated the Central Power Engineering Services (CPES) cadre. He had joined the hydro wing of the CEA. He has almost 32 years of service thereon covering various aspects of hydro and EHV transmission sector and site issues. SNS

BJP MLA Surinder Jeena dies of Covid: Young and dynamic Uttarakhand political leader Surinder Singh Jeena, sitting MLA from Salt (Almora) died of coronavirus at a hospital in New Delhi on Thursday. He was 50. Jeena was considered one of the most active legislators, who used to constantly raise issues related to his area in the Assembly. The death of Jeena shocked Uttarakhand BJP and the state unit conducted a condolence meeting at its headquarters in Dehradun. SNS

CPM opposes govt rider on regulating digital media content

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 12 NOVEMBER

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) today opposed the Government's notification by which all digital/online media platforms and online content providers have been brought within the ambit of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

These were under the Ministry of Information and Electronic Technology earlier, and subject to various provisions under the IT Act to deal with digital platforms and intermediaries, the party said.

"This notification is a clear expression of intent that the Central Government is now moving to regulate digital media content. Having muzzled the print and electronic/visual media to a considerable extent, it is moving to control digital media," the party said.

"The CPI (M) is opposed to control of the digital media by a government department. The CPI (M) believes that the existing laws and IT Act are adequate for the purpose of a healthy digital media," the party stated.

'Continuous contraction of GDP destroying lives'

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) today said the Reserve Bank of India has officially confirmed the severe slowdown of the Indian economy and observed "India has entered a technical recession in the first half of 2020-21 for the first time in its history."

After the GDP plummeted by 23.9 per cent in the April-June quarter, it has further fallen by 8.6 per cent on top of this, in the quarter ended September, 2020, the party said.

"This continuous contraction of the GDP is destroying lives, livelihoods, pushing crores of our people into poverty, hunger and deprivation. It is no longer a crisis of livelihood: it is a crisis of survival," the CPI (M) commented.

"This colossal destruction of the Indian economy by the Modi government's policies can only be checked by substantially hiking public investments to build our much-needed infrastructure, generating a large number of jobs, leading to boosting domestic demand," the party said.

'Surge in India-China conflict can hurt Eurasian stability'

Russia airs concern over border tensions between two Asian superpowers, urges dialogue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 NOVEMBER

Russia on Thursday said any escalation in the border tension between India and China amidst the global turbulence and unpredictability would further trigger regional instability in Eurasia, and the friction can be misused by other players in their geopolitical purpose.

At an online media briefing, Russian Deputy Chief of Mission Roman Babushkin said Russia is "naturally concerned" over the tensions between the two Asian powers, noting that it was "very important" for both the countries to engage more in "constructive dialogue".

Referring to both India and China being members of the SCO and BRICS groupings, Babushkin said respectful dialogue is a main tool when it comes to cooperation in the framework of multilateral platforms.

"It is clear that amidst global turbulence and unpredictability, escalation between India and China would further affect regional instability in our common home Eurasia. The escalation we are witnessing can be misused by other players in their geo-political purposes," he said.

"We feel it is very important to encourage both our friendly Asian countries to be more engaged in constructive dialogue. Recent news about their commitment to exercise restraint and continue communication through diplomatic and military channels to remove tensions are absolutely welcoming developments," he added.

India and China are locked in a bitter border standoff in eastern Ladakh for over six months. Both sides are now working on proposals on disengagement of troops from the high-altitude region.

The Eurasian region has also been witnessing turmoil in the last few months primarily due to rising cases of coronavirus and tense relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

"Russia remains in a unique position since it has special strategic relations with both India and China and these relationships are independent in nature. We are naturally concerned with the current tensions between India and China. However, we believe that a peaceful solution is inevitable sooner rather than later," Babushkin said.

"Both are global and responsible neighbouring powers with huge economic and defence potential as well as civilisational wisdom," he added.

When asked whether the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the BRICS groups can play a role in defusing tensions between two of their member nations, the Russian diplomat said both the groupings have developed mechanisms for positive engagements. "

Certainly respectful dialogue is the main tool when it comes to cooperation in the framework of the SCO and BRICS. Both associations have developed dozens of mechanisms of sector wise cooperation and let me assure you that their relevant interest is growing," he said. The BRICS comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

Asked about growing ties between India and the US, Babushkin said Russia does not see any problem in the relations, adding New Delhi does not provide any reason for doubt when it comes to multilateral and bilateral commitments.

"New Delhi is a global power with multi-faceted and wide and diversified national interests and we respect that. India does not provide any reason for doubt when it comes to multilateral and bilateral commitments," he said.

At the same time, the Russian Deputy Chief of Mission made a veiled reference to the "threat" by the US to India to not go ahead with mega defence deals. Talking about regional cooperation, Babushkin also mentioned about the Russia-India-China trilateral grouping.

"Lets not forget about another very important trilateral mechanism, RIC, which will be chaired by India next year. We are confident that it is well designed to ensure a positive atmosphere and to expand its practical agenda," he said.

Russia: Working hard to ensure early supply of S-400s

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 NOVEMBER

Russia on Thursday said it was working "very hard" to advance the supply of the S-400 surface-to-air missiles to India even though the delivery of the first batch of the weapons system is scheduled by the end of next year.

At an online media briefing, Russian Deputy Chief of Mission Roman Babushkin also said that both sides are working on a mutual logistics support agreement and close to seal a multi-billion dollar deal under which an Indo-Russian joint venture will produce 200 Kamov Ka-226T attack helicopters for the Indian armed forces.

Asked whether the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) signed between India and the US will have security implications in operation of Russian-origin platforms by the Indian armed forces, Babushkin said Moscow's defence ties with India are immune to any "restrictions and foreign interference".

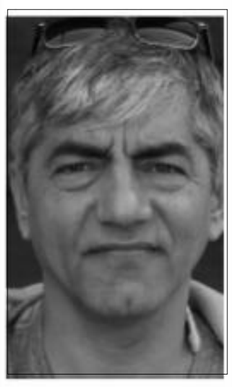
On the S-400 deal, he said: "The deadlines remained unchanged at the moment. The first batch is expected to be supplied by end of 2021 but we are working very hard for an earlier supply."

In October 2018, India had signed a $5 billion deal with Russia to buy five units of the S-400 air defence missile systems, notwithstanding a warning from the Trump administration that going ahead with the contract may invite US sanction.

In view of the evolving security scenario in its neighbourhood, India recently requested Russia to explore the possibility of advancing the supply of the interceptor-based missile systems which can destroy incoming hostile aircraft, missiles and even drones at ranges of up to 400 km.

In October 2018, India had signed a $5 billion deal with Russia to buy five units of the S-400 air defence missile systems, notwithstanding a warning from the Trump administration that going ahead with the contract may invite US sanctions.

Actor Asif Basra found hanging in Dharamshala



DHARAMSHALA, 12 NOVEMBER

Actor Asif Basra, a familiar face in several movies and TV shows, including *Jab We Met*, *Kai Po Che!* and *Paatal Lok*, was found hanging in a private residential complex here on Thursday, police said. He was 53. He hanged himself around 12-12.30 today. We are investigating the matter. We have sent the body for post-mortem. Prima facie it is a case of suicide," Kangra Senior Superintendent of Police Vimukt Ranjan said.

Basra had reportedly leased a property in McLeo-dganj, Upper Dhar-amshala, about five-six years ago and visited the place regularly.

The news of the sudden death of the character actor, which comes months after Bollywood star Sushant Singh Rajput was found hanging at his residence in Mumbai on 14 June. "What? This is too shocking!! Shot with him just before Lockdown!!! Oh My God!!!" tweeted actor Manoj Bajpayee.

In his over two-decade career, Basra played supporting parts in many critically-acclaimed features such as *Black Friday*, *Parzania* and *Outsourced*. His most recent outing was in Amazon Prime Video's smash-hit series *Paatal Lok*. PTI

Grand Alliance lost because of Congress' poor performance: Tariq

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA, 12 NOVEMBER

Senior Congress leader Tariq Anwar on Thursday came out with the candid admission that his party, on account of its dismal performance in the Bihar Assembly elections, emerged as the weak link preventing the Mahagathbandhan (Grand Alliance) from forming its government in the state.

He also expressed worry over entry of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) in Bihar.

Anwar, an AICC general secretary, came out with a flurry of tweets calling for "urgent and deep introspection" over the debacle of the party, the second largest constituent of the opposition coalition, which contested as many as 70 seats but returned with a tally of just 19.

"We must accept the truth. Because of the poor performance of the Congress, Bihar has been deprived of a Mahagathbandhan government. The Congress must introspect as to where it faltered. Also, the entry of AIMIM in Bihar is not a good sign," Anwar tweeted.

Anwar, who had been a multiple term MP from Katihar in the state, added, "The Congress is opposed to communalism in all forms. The AIMIM seeks to mobilize support of Muslims in much the same way as the BJP does in case of Hindus. Both would feed on each other. This is not good for the society at large. The AIMIM has made inroads in the densely populated Kosi Seemanchal region which has a high concentration of Muslims, and always been known for social harmony," he added.

The Hyderabad MP's party has returned with a tally of five seats, less than a year after registering its first victory in the state in a by-election.

Anwar said, "The BJP-led NDA has managed to win the elections yen ken prakaren (adopting all measures, fair and foul) but Bihar has lost. Bihar wanted change. It wanted deliverance from the woes brought about by an incompetent government in the last 15 years." Anwar also took a dig at Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, whose JD(U) has witnessed a sharp decline in its tally compared to what it was five years ago, and now has far fewer seats than the BJP. Losing 51 seats out of a total of 70 is a big setback for the party, Anwar said.

He said that he would inform the party high command on this on the basis of the feedback he has received from the party's grassroot workers.

Classified

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE COURT OF PERMANENT LOK ADALAT (PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES) Gurugram.
Application No. 2516 of 2019
Date of Institution; 02-09-2019
Date of hearing: 20-01-2021

Sh. Deepak Gulati, s/o Sh. O.P. Gulati, H. No. 652P, Sector-5, Gurugam, Haryana
— Complainant

M/s. Sare Gurugram Pvt. Ltd., through its former and Present Director/s at Garage Society, Plot No. 270, Phase-II, Udyog Vihar, Sector-20, Gurugram, Haryana-122016.
— Respondents

APPLICATION UNDER SECTION 22-C OF THE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES ACT.

To,
M/s. Sare Gurugram Pvt. Ltd. (Formerly know as Ramprastha Sare Realty Pvt. Ltd.), through its former and Present Director/s at Garage Society, Plot No. 270, Phase-II, Udyog Vihar, Sector-20, Gurugram, Haryana-122016.

Whereas it has been proved to the saitfaction of the court that the abovesaid respondent cannot be served through ordinary way of service and hance the respondent is being informed through this publication to appear personally or through some authorized person on 20-01-2021 at 10.00 a.m. before the aforesaid Adalta.

Given under my hand and Seal of the court this 10th day of Novemeber, 2020.

Shashi Bala Chauhan
Chairman
Permanent Lok Adalat
Public Utility Services
Gurugram

Seal of the Court

LEGAL Notice — Our client intends to purchase entire premises No. 67B, Malanga Lane, P.S.: Bowbazar, Ward No. 47, Kolkata-700012 consisting of 15 chittacks, 3 sq.ft. together with three-storied building standing thereon from the successors / owners namely Mr. Bhaskar Chowdhury and Mr. Dipankar Chowdhury, both sons and only heirs of Smt. Niyoti Chowdhury, a Hindu widow passed away intestate on 18th November, 2014.

Any person if having any claim against, to or in respect of the said property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, exchange, gift, liens, lease, charge, trust, maintenance, possession, easement or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to make the same known in writing with supporting documents to the undersigned at the address given or through E-mail below within a period of 10 days from the publication hereof failing which the sale will be completed, without reference to such claims and the same, if any, will be deemed to have been waived.

A.N. Bhattacharyya & Co.
Advocates & Consultant
6, Old Post Office Street
1st Floor, Room No. 59
Northern Gate
Kolkata-700001
(M) 9830084166 / 033 4007-0305
E-mail: admin@anbhattacharyyaadvocates.com

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, YOUD Mui Jessica Lo, D/o. late Thin Thuck Lo, R/o. 21, Bow Street, Block-C, Room No. 14 & 16, Bow Bazar, Kolkata-700012, do hereby declare that I, 'Youd Mui Jessica' and 'Youd Mui alias Jessica Lo' is same and identical person, vide affidavit sworn before Notary Public, Kolkata, dated 06.11.2020.

I, PRIYA, D/o. Prem Kumar Rauniyar and Priti Rauniyar, R/o. Rosedale, 20-E, Tower-3, Rajarhat, Kolkata-700156, have changed my name to Priya Rauniyar vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public Kolkata on 11.10.2019.

I, KRISHNA Dutta, W/o. Tarun Chandra Dutta and mother of Shubham Dutta, residing at 30/A, Doctor Bagan Lane, P.O.: Mallickpara, Serampore, Dist.: Hooghly, Pin-712203, declaring that I, Krishna Dutta have changed my name to Krishna Sinha Dutta from vide Affidavit No. 6999 / 03 / 11 / 12 sworn before Judicial Magistrate, 1st Class, Serampore, dated 03.11.2017.

I, DEPALI Maye Sarkar, spouse of Sushil Ranjan Sarkar, resident of Vill.: Doula, P.O.: Purba Nowa Para, Dist.: Nadia (W.B.) have changed my name from Depali Maye Sarkar to Depali Mayee Sarkar Biswas, vide affidavit dated 09.11.2020 before the Court of Executive Magistrate at Ranaghat.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

RE: LAND measuring 1 cottah 7 chittacks 10 sq.ft. together with two-storied building at Premises No. 7/1, Path Bari Lane, P.O.: Alambazar, P.S.: Baranagar, Kolkata-700035, Ward 30 within the vicinity of Baranagar Municipality.

One of my client desirous to purchase the entire mentioned property from the present owners' namely Smt. Chhaya Mallick and Smt. Madhumita Dass.

Anyone having any claim and interest in the said property or any part thereof, required to make the same known to the undersigned at his chamber address given below within 15 (fifteen) days from the date hereof, failing which said sale will be completed by execution and registration of Deed of Conveyance, without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, shall be considered as waived.

Sourav Chatterjee
Advocate
6, Old Post Office St.
2nd Floor, R-78, Kol.-700001
Dated: 13th November, 2020

TENDERS

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY
Sealed tenders are invited for Tender No.:
1. JU / NIT / COMP / 02 / 20-21 for Civil Engineering
2. JU / NIT / STN / 03 / 20-21 for Center Store.
Details are available on the website at www.jaduniv.edu.in under Tender link.
Registrar

WEB AUCTION SALE – NO. 2 / WEB / AUC / 2020-21
Under Instructions from CESC Ltd., Kolkata

CESC Ltd. is organizing Sale of various Ferrous / non-Ferrous Scrap like Scrap Cables & Joints, Switch Board with Circuit Breaker, Relay Control Panel, Battery Bank, Scrap Alu. Cable, Scrap Copper Cable, 50 MVA 132/34.5 kV Power Transformer, Vehicles etc. on "As is where is Condition" thru' e-Auction on 24.11.2020 (Tuesday), Inspection Date: 16.11.2020 to 21.11.2020. For further details, contact: MatexNet Pvt. Ltd. (e-Auctioneer), Ph.: 9831448506 / 7305081263, visit: www.matexnet.com E-mail: kolkata@matexnet.com

THE UNIVERSITY OF BURDWAN
For equipment manufacturers please visit: wbtenders.gov.in (Tender Id: 2020_BU_303925_1).
Coordinator
MODROBS-Rural

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL
Office of the Registrar
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
e-Tender is invited from reputed vendor for supply and installation of A3 size Production Printer in the University Press, University of North Bengal. For details please visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in (Tender ID: 2020_DHE_304711_1).
Registrar
Advt.No.-347/R-2020
Date: 11.11.2020

The Statesman

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Fax: (0651) 2247054
Email:
delhistatesman@gmail.com
ranchi@thestatesmangroup.com

AIR-SURCHARGE; Kathmandu - Rs. 2, Eastern Region - Re. 1
All other stations in India - Re. 1

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Kind Attention Rail Passengers!

On the occasion of "DEEPAWALI" festival on 14.11.2020 (Saturday), following arrangements have been made at all the Computerized Passenger Reservation offices, which are in control of **CCM/PM**

- **Partial**
  Skeleton service will be available up to 18:00 hrs at **(i) IRCA Reservation Complex (ii) Delhi/PRS & (iii) Hazrat Nizamuddin/PRS.**
- Reservation offices will remain closed in the evening shift from 14:00 hrs to 20:00 hrs
  (i) Sarojini Nagar (ii) Kirti Nagar (iii) Shakurbasti (iv) Delhi Shahdara (v) Ghaziabad (vi) Karkardooma (vii) Okhla (viii) Noida (ix) Tuglakabad (x) Subzi Mandi (xi) Adarsh Nagar (xii) All India Institute of Medical Science (xiii) Rohini and (xiv) Lajpat Nagar morning as usual.
- **PRS counters will remain closed for the whole day (i) Parliament House (ii) Press Club of India (iii) Railway Board**
- PRS counters will remain closed on 14.11.2020 (Saturday) in the **Evening shift** on the occasion of **DEEPAWALI** at following locations over Delhi Division i.e. **Anand Vihar Terminal (PRS), Sahibabad, Naya Ghaziabad, Gurgaon, Palam, Delhi Cantt., Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Faridabad, Ballabhgarh, Palwal, Narela, Sonipat, Panipat, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Jind, Mansa, Rohtak, Bahadurgarh, Nangloi, Shamli, Muradnagar, Modinagar, Meerut Cantt., Meerut City, Muzaffarnagar, Khatauli, Deoband, Baraut, Gohana, Pataudi Road, Jhajjar, Greater Noida, Noli, Saket Court, Dwarka Court, Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Shakurbasti, Samalkha, Ganaur, Shahabad Markanda, Jakhal, Tohana, Julana, Narwana, Chaudhary Charan Singh University (MTC) & Mahem Town.**
- **Current Reservation counters at New Delhi (Pahar Ganj & Ajmeri Gate Side), Delhi Main, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Anand Vihar & Delhi Sarai Rohilla** Railway Stations will work at usual timing.

Security Helpline No. 182 | **Integrated Helpline No. 139**

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2528/2020

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Standalone Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and Six months ended 30th September, 2020 (Rs. in Lacs)

S.No	Particulars	Quarter Ended			Six Month Ended		Year Ended
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
		30.09.2020	30.06.2020	30.09.2019	30.09.2020	30.09.2019	31.03.2020
1	Total Income from Operations Including Other Income (Net)	22.70	9.36	24.87	32.06	48.18	102.02
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (Before Tax, Exceptional Items and/or Extraordinary items)	2.73	(1.50)	(5.24)	1.23	(5.97)	(0.89)
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional Items and/or Extraordinary items)	2.73	(1.50)	(5.24)	1.23	(5.97)	(0.89)
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional Items and/or Extraordinary items)	2.73	(1.50)	(5.24)	1.23	(5.97)	(0.89)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit /(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive Income (after tax)	2.73	(1.50)	(5.24)	1.23	(5.97)	(0.89)
6	Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Rs.10/- per share)	460.00	460.00	460.00	460.00	460.00	460.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance sheet of previous year	-	-	-	-	-	(224.02)
8	Earning Per Share (EPS) (in Rs.) (Face Value of Rs.10/- each)						
	(a) Basic and diluted EPS before Extraordinary items	0.06	(0.03)	(0.11)	0.03	(0.13)	(0.02)
	(b) Basic and diluted EPS after Extraordinary items	0.06	(0.03)	(0.11)	0.03	(0.13)	(0.02)

Notes: 1) The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee subject to limited review by the statutory auditors of the company and approved by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on November 12, 2020.
2) This statement has been prepared in accordance with the Accounting Standards specified under Section 133 of the Companies Act,2013 read with Rule 7 of the Companies (Accounts) Rules, 2014.
3) The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Standalone Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and Six months ended September 30, 2020 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results for the quarter and Six months ended September 30, 2020 are available on website of the Stock Exchange at **www.bseindia.com** and also on the Company's website at **www.aail.in.**

For Ashiana Agro Industries Limited
Pavan Kumar.M
Whole-Time Director
DIN: 02438906

Place: Chennai
Date : 12/11/2020

The Statesman
Incorporating and directly descended from THE FRIEND OF INDIA - Founded 1818

Media matters

It was only a matter of time. The Government of India gazette notification earlier this week bringing digital media ~ online news portals and other content providers ~ under the aegis of the Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry for oversight came as no surprise given that the content streamed/uploaded on digital platforms was hitherto not covered by a regulatory mechanism. In an ideal world, media self-regulation would be the best course. We, unfortunately, live in the real, some would say surreal, world. In the chaotic contemporary media ecology of India, a statutory body ~ Press Council of India ~ monitors print media; TV news channels are self-regulated by the News Broadcasters Association; the Advertising Standards Council of India monitors content generated by the advertising industry, and films are examined before release by the Central Board of Film Certification. Given the state of play in the content-generation/dissemination industry, the case for an independent regulatory mechanism has, despite the acute discomfort of industry professionals and media organisations, gained massive traction. The governing class, by its very nature and since time immemorial, is always looking for opportunity to shape and/or control the public discourse. And in democracies, this effort is dressed up as the will of the people. Given the media's internecine wars of attrition and competitive impulses have resulted in all rules going out of the window, none should be surprised by the government's latest move. Especially, because the technological revolution of the new millennium has provided a reach for digital platforms which publications, TV channels and cinema-halls can only dream of.

Professional media, whether in the news and current affairs business or entertainment and fiction genres, has its path clearly set out. First, it needs to swallow the bitter pill that there is no support among the citizenry for self-regulation as it exists; it has manifestly failed, in the popular perception. While third party monitoring may be a fait accompli, that doesn't mean one simply rolls over. An insistence that any regulatory body must comprise a majority of industry professionals with domain knowledge would be a good start to ensure independent content is not handed over to the apparatchiks whether party political, bureaucratic, judicial or from the so-called voluntary sector. For social media, on the other hand, there is a different discussion to be had.

In the interim, the fatal flaw in the reasoning of the State in its attempt to control the flow of information perchance knowledge needs to be amplified. For, it is not as if digital or traditional media platforms are not subject to the law of the land. But in our Constitutional scheme of things, the freedom of the media is derived from the Right to Freedom of Expression for all citizens and is not an explicit right like, say, in the US Bill of Rights. It stands to reason, therefore, that if there is no specific, separate right which has been endowed upon the media there can be no specific regulatory mechanism aimed solely at monitoring it.

Last nail

It is official. The last nail in the coffin of Hong Kong's democracy has been hammered in by the island territory's masters in Beijing, with almost all entire Opposition lawmakers having announced their exit from the legislature after four of their colleagues were controversially disqualified this week. The four lost their seats in the House after Beijing passed a resolution on Wednesday to the effect that lawmakers would be disqualified if they supported Hong Kong's independence, refused to acknowledge China's sovereignty, asked foreign forces to interfere in the city's affairs or otherwise threatened national security. Immediately after the resolution was passed, the four lawmakers, two of them barristers, one a tax consultant and the last a urologist, were sacked. While no reasons were given for the action, two of the legislators had signed a joint letter to American senators seeking sanctions against Hong Kong for its repeated efforts to throttle democracy, the third had addressed a press conference after return from a trip to the United States while the fourth was said to have the "purported intention" to petition foreign powers against Hong Kong's rulers. While Beijing's reasoning may appear both flawed and tortuous if only because Hong Kong has, for all the years of its existence, thrived on its internationalism, it is just another signal of how rapidly the regime under President Xi Jinping has dismantled the "one country, two systems" promise that had underpinned the transfer of control from Britain to China in 1997. Hong Kong had last year faced months of protests by those who seek greater freedoms, but the movement was sought to be stifled, first, by harsh police measures and, when they appeared to be failing, through a new security law that criminalised "secession, subversion and collusion with foreign forces." Beginning July, student activists have been routinely arrested under these provisions. In the wake of the last arrests in October, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had issued a strongly worded statement accusing China of violating international obligations under the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration. Mr Pompeo had accused the "Chinese Communist Party and its Hong Kong proxies" of crushing "the promised autonomy of Hong Kong", while eviscerating "Hong Kong's respect for human rights, including the rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression." But Beijing is undeterred, as it will be by the latest warning ~ of imposing sanctions on those responsible ~ issued by Washington following the legislators' disqualifications. Overall, China's neighbours and those under its control such as the Uighurs and the Tibetans must brace for an increasingly belligerent regime that cares little for human rights, and even less for global criticism.

Managing hazards

India has a disappointing health and safety record. Much legislation exists to protect workers' rights and health, but there is an opportunity to improve in line with the approach taken by developed countries and include process safety elements for the prevention of accidents

Chemicalsare the thread that tieindustries together. From conventional oil/gas/bulk chemicals to pharmaceutical,automobile, agriculture, defense, solar power, building materials, apparels, telecom and mobile phone industries, 96 per cent of manufactured goods require chemicals. The chemical industry is intended to improve the quality of human life. But if due respect is not given to chemicals, they can lead to loss of life and environmental damage. This negatively impacts the reputation of the industry. Furthermore, the negative impact becomes greater when members of the public living outside factories are injured or killed.

The chemical processes when designed and constructed as per international and national standards are safe to operate if processes are under control. This requires adequate knowledge in process safety and risk management. The chemical industry is broad-based, consisting of very large industries as well as Medium scale and Small-scale industries. In India, several chemical accidents occur leading to fires, toxic releases and explosions. These accidents have resulted in environmental damage, loss of life, and property destruction. India has developed several mega chemical regions such as Dahej, Ankleshwar, Vapi and Vadodara. These regions include large companies, such as Reliance, Indian Oil, HPCL, BPCL, ONGC, etc. They maintain their own disaster response teams and resources.

We have seen several accidents in small and medium companies and such companies depend on local response facilities. India has a disappointing health and safety record. Much legislation exists to protect workers' rights and health, but there is an opportunity to improve in line with the approach taken by developed countries and include process safety elements for the prevention of accidents.

Chemical disaster prevention requires a different strategy. Neither National Disaster Management Authority nor other regulatory bodies can prevent manmade tragedies. There is an urgent necessity to develop the needed eco-systemin process safety and risk management, to minimize accidents.

Process Safety Management addresses the barriers of protection required to prevent the loss of control, termed preventive barriers, which are specific to the process and are provided at the site. There are also mitigative barriers which are generic in nature (e.g. fire-fighting vehicles, ambulances, medical centres, etc.). These are expensive and lie idle most of the time. Hence MSME industries are not able to afford them. They are like insurance against the remote occurrence of an event. These must be installed and maintained irrespective of the responsible operation of the processes. India's economy is moving forward to make considerable progress in GDP. "For every $1 generated by the chemical industry, a further $4.20 is generated elsewhere in the economy". Therefore, it is of utmost importance to focus on prevention of accidents. China has been the frontrunner in learning from accidents in past years and has included prevention aspects in education systems by collaborating with global universities. It is suggested that Industry should pool resources to install their own accident prevention programmes.This is not philanthropy nor is it CSR, it is purely enlightened self-interest. No company is immune to what goes wrong in the neighborhood, either due to toxicity or due to fires/explosions. Interdependent Process Safety Culture is the mantra for preventing such disasters by creating an ecosystem in process safety and risk management as the cornerstone of Aatmanirbhar Bharat (Self Reliant India).For this, India needs more than 100,000 scientists. Therefore, there is need to introduce advanced courses in Process Safety and Risk Management including required infrastructure to carry out advanced research in process safety and risk management. India need to create entities for this purpose. To meet these needs, every university should introduce advanced courses in Process Safety and Risk Management, with facilities to carry out advanced research on industry-projects. Next, India needs to set up a 'Centre of Excellence' offering master's and Ph.D. programmes in the subject where educational institutions, government and industry should collaborate to promote education and research, and to support industries and regulatory authorities. Such a COE should support regulatory authorities to keep abreast of evolving international developments; help in developing a national strategy, document and investigate all chemical accidents and allied activities.

DR. J P GUPTA

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India does have the National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC) under the Prime Minister's Office and it covers all aspects of large numbers of chemicals. India also has the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989, the Chemical Accidents (Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response) Rules, 1996 and the Central Crisis Group Alert System and manuals on emergency preparedness on chemical hazards.

But It is suggested we should have an independent agency, responsible for investigating industrial chemical accidents, like the Chemical Safety Board of the USA.The Chemical Safety Board (CSB) is an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents. Headquartered in Washington, DC, the agency's board members are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The CSB's mission is to "drive chemical safety change through independent investigation to protect people and the environment". Its vision is "a nation safe from chemical disasters".

The CSB conducts root cause investigations of chemical accidents at fixed industrial facilities. Root causes are usually deficiencies in safety management systems but can be any factor that would have prevented the accident if that factor had not occurred. Other accidental causes often involve equipment failures, human errors, unforeseen chemical reactions, or other hazards. The agency does not issue fines or citations but does make recommendations to plants, regulatory agencies such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Osha), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), industry organisations, and labour groups. Congress designed the CSB to be non-regulatory and independent of other agencies so that its investigations might, where appropriate, review the effectiveness of regulations and regulatory enforcement. The CSB investigative staff includes chemical and mechanical engineers, industrial safety experts, and other specialists with experience in the private and public sectors. Many investigators have years of chemical industry experience. Both accident investigations and hazard investigations lead to new safety recommendations, which is the board's principal tool for achieving positive change. Recommendations are issued to government agencies, companies, trade associations, labour unions, and other groups. The implementation of each safety recommendation is tracked and monitored by CSB staff. When recommended actions have been completed satisfactorily, the recommendation may be closed by a board vote. Accidents leading to fires, toxic releases, and explosions occur in small and mediumcompanies and immediate professional response is always a challenge. The proposal is to pool the resources and make the services available within five minutes by centrally locating these. Channel Industries Mutual Aid (CIMA) in the USA is a non-profit organization combining the firefighting, rescue, hazardous material handling, and emergency medical capabilities of the refining and petrochemical industry in the Greater Houston Metropolitan area. Since 1955, this organisation has been providing cooperative assistance and expertise for all kinds of emergencies ~ both natural and manmade. CIMA members include industrial companies, municipalities and government agencies, and work cooperatively in four geographic response zones. These groups maintain a corps of highly trained emergency personnel and a well-maintained pool of more than 200 pieces of specialized equipment, including rescue trucks, high-volume foam pumpers, and fully equipped ambulances. Joint operations are controlled from sophisticated command vehicles that link CIMA members via a radio system with a coverage range of 500 square miles. The Houston Ship Channel has one of the largest concentrations of refineries and petrochemical plants in the world, and these industries recognise their responsibility to protect neighbours in the surrounding communities. CIMA is there to provide world-class, rapid response assistance whenever emergencies occur.

In India, we lack such formal mutual aid arrangements (all large industries do have systems of mutual aid including in Industrial parks). Such a proposal would involve creation, maintenance and governance of such facilities to achieve the twin objectives of preventing disasters,but when they happen responding to them fullywithin five minutes and bringing the situation under control within 20 minutes. They can be provided with state-of-the-art equipment and on-call expertise.This will be at ground level, while all others can be at the satellite level and will require no funds from the government.

Their efforts will eliminate the duplication of efforts by Mutual Aids Response Group of the Directorate of Industrial Safety and the National Disaster Management Agency and will seek their support when resources are stretched. These centres will also focus on ensuring and enhancing the competency of chemical industry workers by getting them certified before they are deployed. Such centres should be created, owned, and effectively governed by industry associations in an area likecommon effluent treatment plans and hazard waste management facilities. They may have participation from regulatory authorities depending on their financial contribution.They should be led by competent experts in Process Safety Risk management and have wide representation from fire and medical professions. The industry should contribute depending on turnover of the facilities and set off the expense against CSR responsibility.

Such facilities should be at central locations to reach the farthest industry within five minutes. The facilities must also have fire-fighting training, first-aid training, and other process safety risk training facilities. Furthermore, these centres must also have mutual aid agreements with major industries for sharing infrastructure in the hour of need.

A MEMBER OF THE ANN ASIA NEWS NETWORK

ASIAN VOICES

Race for a cure

A pandemic-battered world on Monday welcomed the announcement by United States drug maker Pfizer and German partner BioNTech that their vaccine is more than 90 percent effective in preventing Covid-19. The findings, based on preliminary data from late-stage human trials, have shown no serious safety concerns so far, according to the developers who described it as a 'great day for science and humanity'. While the update from the two companies is a major breakthrough in the fight against the pandemic, it doesn't mean that we can get the vaccine tomorrow or next month.

Final results of the trial are still due, and more evidence is needed about the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine, which is now in Phase III study. The preliminary data, according to scientists, doesn't say if the vaccine prevents severe cases or whether it prevents people from carrying the virus without symptoms. It is also unclear how long the immunity will last or if it works in different age groups and ethnicities.

The vaccine will also need regulatory approval before it is rolled out for the public. Scientists and public health officials have already hinted that the vaccine will not be available this year, and there's a massive global demand to be catered to, one that will require the world to act together if it wants to contain the pandemic. Pfizer and BioNTech say they can produce up to 1.3 billion doses by the end of 2021 if they are granted regulatory approval.

According to the two companies, the vaccine will have to be administered in two doses around three weeks apart, but storage has already been flagged as a massive challenge as the vaccine needs to be kept in ultra-cold

THE KATHMANDU POST

conditions at around minus 80 degrees Celsius.

The super-cold storage infrastructure is something that the Oli administration must already start to explore besides working first to access the vaccine as ultra-cold freezer supplies are already limited, and there's no way out if this is the only proven vaccine.

To add, dozens more vaccines are currently under final stages of human trials, and scientists say there's a possibility that there will be more than one vaccine that's effective and would not require complex storing procedures.

Production and storage, however, are not the only issues as the world races for a cure. The World Health Organisation which welcomed the announcement has already warned that a funding gap could slow access to tests, medicines and vaccines in low-and middle-income countries.

The Oli administration needs to take stock of the situation as the two companies seek US emergency use authorisation within this month. Responding to the major announcement on Monday, Germany's Health Minister Jens Spahn said that he didn't expect the vaccine before the first quarter of 2021.

The European Union also announced that it would sign up for up to 300 million doses with the drug makers, which already have a $1.95 billion contract with the US government to deliver 100 million doses. Similarly, the United Kingdom, Canada and Japan have also reached supply agreements.

While a robust public health response and the adoption of precautionary measures still remain our primary defence against the virus that has already killed over a million people and infected over 50 million people worldwide, the government needs to be on its toes about the latest developments on the race for a cure, and ensure that a vaccine once proven safe and effective, must be accessible to Nepalis.

It must already start its homework for a free and nationwide inoculation campaign and identify priority groups and the logistics to deliver it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR editor@thestatesman.com

BJP's hegemony intact

SIR, This refers to your report "Bihar cliffhanger", (*The Statesman*, 11 November). Much against the predictions made in exit polls, the Bihar assembly election has brought back chief minister Nitish Kumar-led NDA to power. But the terms of relationship between the BJP and JD(U) have changed in favour of the former.

Despite the distress caused by the lockdown, which led to hundreds of thousands of Bihari migrants returning home, there is a fundamental trust that a large segment of citizens have in Prime Minister Narendra Modi. If Modi had not been the face of the alliance, it would have been difficult for the NDA to retain its base. The fact that the BJP has emerged the senior partner in Bihar, and has also won the majority of the by-polls across the country indicates that the voters aren't holding the party responsible for the economic and humanitarian distress caused by Covid-19. The BJP's hegemony remains intact. Economic distress is on the popular agenda, RJD may have failed to oust the NDA, but Tejaswi Yadav ran an energetic campaign focused on "economic justice" and emerged a key leader in his own right.

The fact that promise of government jobs became an issue for competitive politics is a reflection of how young voters in Bihar are seeking reforms that can generate employment within the state. But while this triggered disillusionment and voters wanted change, the nature of change was equally important.

And this is where Mr Yadav failed to reassure the electorate that his tenure would be different from his father's. Unconvinced about the nature of change, voters stuck to the status quo.

Yours, etc., N Sadhasiva Reddy,
Bengaluru, 11 November.

GOOD BUT DELAYED

SIR, The National Green Tribunal's (NGT) ban on the sale or use of firecrackers in the National Capital Region till November 30 has literally come as a breath of fresh air. Some governments have taken a very good decision to ban the use of crackers to avoid air pollution, particularly during the time of the Covid-19 pandemic. The decision is good but the intimation could have been given at least a month before Diwali. Many small shopkeepers have already bought crackers from factories. Retailers were already incurring losses due to the lockdown. Since Diwali is one of the biggest festival in India, strategic planning should have been done in the past few months.

Yours, etc.,Chandan Kumar Nath, Guwahati, 11 November.

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Can Joe Biden fix Donald Trump's environmental misadventures?

HIMMAT BAKSHI

iStock

Joe Biden has been elected the 46th president of the United States. This has raised a plethora of questions for environmentalists who need to find answers. The two presidential candidates could not be further apart with respect to their environmental ideologies and plans.

Donald Trump's campaign suggested opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil exploration, whereas the Biden campaign says it would permanently protect the ANWR from energy development. The two men who fought for the White House have polar opposite stances on most environmental issues.

Trump, the Republican candidate, has not only called climate change a hoax, but had also removed the U.S. from the 2015 Paris Agreement, which was officially done on 4 November. On the other hand, Biden, the Democrat, considers climate change an emergency and has promised to rejoin the Paris Agreement as soon as he is sworn in. He plans to host a global climate summit to persuade global leaders to set more ambitious and enforceable targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. What could Trump possibly have done to anger environmentalists so much? And how does his polar opposite plan to steady the ship?

Trump ended a moratorium on new leases for the production of coal. During his tenure, the U.S. surpassed Saudi Arabia and Russia as the world's largest oil producer, after becoming a net exporter of both oil and natural gas. He issued an executive order early in his tenure to reduce the regulatory barriers to oil, natural gas, and coal development. He also expedited the approval process for the exports of liquified natural gas.

Biden repudiated campaign donations from the fossil fuel industry and seeks to end subsidies for the industry both on a domestic scale as well as an international scale. He opposes new permits for oil development on public lands and wishes to ban offshore drilling, but recently said he "would not ban fracking."

He plans to stop China from exporting fossil fuel projects by working with other countries, and to offer financing for alternative cleaner ones. Biden will also try to convince the Group of 20 to eliminate coal financing for all, excluding the poorest countries. He will set "aggressive" limits on oil operations, and aims to plug abandoned oil and gas wells, as well as reclaim abandoned mines. On top of that, he aims to end the use of fossil fuels within 15 years.

Trump rescinded an executive order from President Barack Obama, which required federal infrastructure projects to take rising sea levels into account. The Trump administration also repealed several climate reports from the Obama-era, which required the government to place greater emphasis on climate change in decision making. Trump also pledged to stop contributing to the United Nations' international "Green Climate Fund."

Biden plans to spend $2 trillion to reach zero emissions by 2050. Besides rejoining the Paris Agreement, he would push countries to be more ambitious with their climate targets. He wants to "name and shame" countries by ranking them with respect to their climate commitments. Biden says that in his first year he would "demand" that Congress set enforcement mechanisms and legislations for reaching zero emissions by 2050.

During the pandemic, Trump assisted the oil and gas industry. Obama's "Clean Power Rule", which aimed not only to reduce emissions but also encourage growth of solar and wind power, was gutted. The administration also suggested an end to tax credits for electric vehicles, and proposed increases in fuel-economy standards for cars and small trucks.

Biden's climate plan includes investing $400 billion into clean energy and climate research over the next 10 years. He wants to deploy 500,000 new electric vehicle charging stations by 2030. New energy efficiency standards would be considered when upgrading four million buildings; two million would be weatherized in four years. He plans to cut carbon emissions from buildings in half by 2030.

Obama's rules, which prevented coal mines from dumping toxic metals into streams, were terminated. The Trump administration weakened a rule that limited toxic power plant discharge into public waterways. Trump refused to improve regulations to reduce smog and particulate matter.

Biden plans to establish an environmental justice division in the Department of Justice. Forty per cent of clean energy funds would be allocated to disadvantaged communities. He plans to speed up the testing for lead in drinking water and would remove toxic chemicals from water pipes. He said he would identify the different strategies that would result in fast improvements to air and water quality.

What Biden cannot do is recover the crucial time lost in the global effort to fight climate change. The window to hold off the worst climate change impacts is closing. Trump's failure to address environmental issues is the greatest harm he inflicted on the environment. This presents the Biden administration with its toughest challenge. The return of the U.S. to the battle against climate change should bring Biden's goals within reach.

The writer is a student at the Jindal School of Environment and Sustainability.

What regime change may mean

MAHIR ALI

iStock

Ding dong. Donald Trump will be obliged to quit the White House by January 20, even if he never formally acknowledges his status as a loser and a oncer — a one-term president, the first one to achieve that accolade since George H.W. Bush in 1992.

Somewhat predictably, the incumbent has refused to accept the popular verdict, and much of the Republican Party has endorsed his recalcitrance. There was an element of poetic justice, though, in the fact that last Saturday the president's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani stood spouting his verifiable untruths in the parking lot of a garden-variety business on the outskirts of Philadelphia, hemmed in by a crematorium and a porn shop.

When confronted with the fact that television networks had named Joe Biden as president-elect, Giuliani retorted: "Come on, don't be ridiculous. Networks don't get to decide elections. Courts do." In wishing to prove his point about a stolen election, the first witness Giuliani produced turned out to be a convicted sex offender.

You really couldn't make it up. And as for the concept of courts, rather than the voters, deciding how an election goes, about the only time that occurred was 20 years ago, when the US Supreme Court halted a recount in Florida that would have led to Al Gore's inauguration in 2001.

The fact that the appalling George W. Bush has greeted Joe Biden as the next president has excited considerable attention, not least among those who tend to overlook the fact that since Ronald Reagan, the trend towards neoliberalism has been sustained by Republican and Democratic presidents alike.

Back in 2008, Barack Obama rose to power on the strength of a popular movement that gave too much credence to his messages of 'hope' and 'change we can believe in', but then switched to the neoliberal norm, thus paving the way for Trump.

Four years ago, it seemed too many Americans took Trump at his word. They expected him to shake up the status quo. He did not. In fact, everything he did, from tax cuts for the very rich to outrageous concessions for carbon polluters, pointed to his misanthropic heritage. And he doubled down on his absurdity when the Covid-19 pandemic emerged.

The American death toll from the disease is approaching a quarter of a million souls — almost five times the number sacrificed in Vietnam for a grievously mistaken cause half a century ago. Yet Trump's vote among almost every demographic increased this month from its 2016 level.

At more than 75 million, Biden has scored more votes than any presidential candidate in American history. At about 4 million behind, Trump is a close second. The Biden landslide that several opinion polls presaged never came to pass, but we are also left wondering whether Trump would have easily been re-elected had it not been for his horrifically misguided response to the pandemic — regardless of all his other failings, indiscretions and proto-fascist inclinations.

It's worth noting that the vast majority of those who considered the economy their foremost priority apparently voted for Trump. One can only wonder why, given his indisputable inclination towards favouring his own ilk, i.e. the very rich. But then, this also reflects on the Democrats: despite irrefutable evidence of the Trump regime's predilections, too many Americans deemed the Biden team incapable of adequately responding to their most pressing needs.

And yet, the corporate interests that prop up both the mainstream American political parties are determined to blame the Democratic Socialists for the absence of the predicted 'blue wave'. Never mind that Biden rejected both Medicare for All and the Green New Deal, and often boasted about defeating Bernie Sanders in the primaries, without citing his party organisation's Obama-backed conspiracy to blot out its progressive tendencies.

The Democrats have thus far scored one net gain in the Senate and lost several seats in the House of Representatives. They will retain control of the latter — in which likes of Cori Bush and Jamaal Bowman will replenish the so-called progressive Squad — but may well lack a majority in the Senate, which will depend on the outcome of a couple of run-offs in Georgia on January 5.

Biden apparently intends to follow his inauguration with a blitz of executive orders that would, among other things, restore American adherence to the Paris climate change agreement, revive the US role in the Iranian nuclear treaty, and resuscitate its membership of the World Health Organisation.

Reverting to 'normal' won't be enough, though. And it is far from clear whether Biden will be able, or willing, to take domestic measures that might compel Trumpism to beat a retreat. If not, we'll be left wondering like little Peterkin, "But what good came of it at last?" And the response in Robert Southey's poem — "Why that I cannot tell…/ But 'twas a famous victory" — will not suffice.

Dawn/ANN.

CROSSWORD

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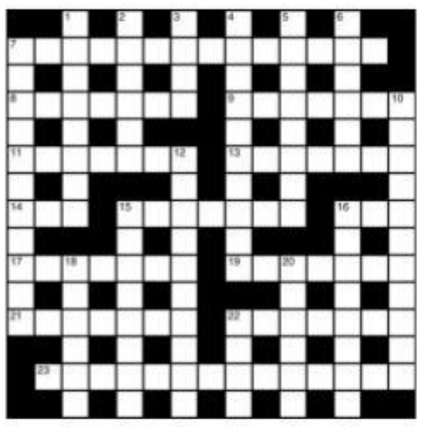

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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ACROSS

7 Edited topical item – Saving Energy – led by car offering computer control? (9,5)
8 Looking unhappy about navy at the third level (7)
9 English explorer not entirely fair about booze (7)
11 Extinction? Mostly ask questions of the French and America (7)
13 Cooler to attack supporters? (3,4)
14 Remains in party after leader goes (3)
15 Duke leading crowd right to the end? He has no serious intent (7)
16 Pass on, leaving item of punctuation (3)
17 Fellow from Fair Isle, possibly – or fellow from Middle East (7)
19 Vote in favour to split period of financial reporting? (4-3)
21 Knight, embraced by niece, getting disordered item of apparel (7)
22 Hide error in repair? (7)
23 "Fact is, if you set out … well, there's nothing to add" (7,2,2,3)

DOWN

1 Marine creature, small, this far out (8)
2 Tell Independent politician to get skill (6)
3 Messy location limiting a period in hotel (4)
4 Soil surrounding grain farmed initially with contempt (10)
5 Pitman going round wrong purveyor of headgear (8)
6 Judge old bottle capable of providing cheer (6)
7 Collector and historian describing tanks containing moulded tin (11)
10 Awkward youngster guided to follow books found in garden and on ship (11)
12 Collapse in membership fees? I study sources of club expenditure (10)
15 A shade hard, ultimately? Certainly difficult, we hear (8)
16 Champion sweet I distributed – most like toffee (8)
18 Scrum getting our side in uproar (6)
20 Get agitated time after time in A&E (6)
22 Lose it, following cheeky comments (4)

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

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

The newly formed Trades Union Congress will certainly disappoint any hopes that may have been founded upon it if Mr. Baptista's latest declarations are to be taken as representing the kind of policy it is likely to favour. Such a congress ought to be a Labour parliament in which industrial questions can be debated with useful effect by men with first-hand knowledge. The Trades Union Congress at Home may not be a perfect institution, but it fulfils this object in a very considerable measure. A Labour leader, if he is to be of real service, should be a man with intimate knowledge of the work, competent when occasion arises to represent the interests of the men efficiently and reliably in any negotiation with employers or in any joint committee which might be formed under the Whitley system. There might be no heroics or limelight effects in such work, but there might be solid service. What, however, can be expected of a leader in Mr. Baptista's position if, because he is disappointed with the reply of the Governor of Bombay to a deputation on local strikes, he threatens to preach "non-cooperation with the Post Office and Tramway Company," exhorts people to boycott both post and trams, proposes to start a new post office himself and to float an omnibus company, and declares that "next week, in the garb of Mr. Gandhi, he will go about begging in order to repay the loan?"

NEWS ITEMS

BRITISH WORKERS SAVE AUSTRIA

The annual report of the "Save-the-Children" Fund and the Economic Conference of the "Fight-the-Famine Council," just held in London, clearly demonstrates that it is the Anglo-Saxon world from which practical advice and practical help for Austria are forthcoming. As far as charity is concerned, little Switzerland is dividing the honours with the great democracies of Britain and America. With regard to advice and help for the reconstruction of Austria, Britain is easily first. The term "Western Powers" is often used to denote the quarter from which Austria expects, and is already getting help; as a matter of fact only America and Great Britain play any considerable part. Certainly the most outstanding figure amongst all the foreign relief works in Vienna is that of Sir William Goode, President of the Austrian section of the Reparation Commission.

BOMBAY AUXILIARY OFFICERS CORPS

Bombay, Nov 12
Speaking at the Active Service Association Dinner in Bombay tonight, General James gave some interesting information concerning the Auxiliary Officers Corps of the I.A.F. A regular commanding officer will not be allowed, being contrary to principle, he said, so it will be for you to consider and nominate or suggest men from among yourselves for this important appointment. A regular Adjutant will be appointed if the strength of the corps warrants it, and of that I refuse to entertain a doubt. As regards organisation it is perhaps too early to say exactly what can be done, but as soon as you have rolled up in your hundreds we will get the Adjutant, and begin to split up into branches.

MIXED COURTS IN CAIRO

Allahabad, Nov 12
The mandate of mixed courts comes to an end on the 31st instant, and negotiations are in progress for its renewal. One of the reforms which the Milner Mission proposes to introduce into Egypt, is the abolition of consular courts and the extension of the jurisdiction of mixed courts so as to include the criminal, civil, and commercial jurisdiction enjoyed hitherto by the consular courts. In regard to their own nationals this reform is embodied in the draft treaty which the Milner Mission recently submitted to Zashlud Pasha and his colleagues in the Cabinet out there. The factor which appears to be worrying the people, Fellaheen, Government officials, and landed proprietors, is that the new regime connotes the disappearance of British control.

WOMAN SMOKER FINED

Summoned at Westminster for smoking in a railway carriage not set apart for that purpose, Miss Evelin Bagge, Duke Street, Grosvenor Square, was ordered to pay two guineas costs. Miss Bagge was a first class passenger from Horsham to Victoria, and alone in the carriage, was smoking a cigarette when other women, two of them mistresses of a girls' school, were placed in the compartment by the guard. The new arrivals pointed out that it was not a smoking carriage. Miss Bagge persisted in smoking and remarked that everybody now smoked in the tube. Thereupon one of the women flicked the cigarette and its five-guinea gold and tortoise shell holder from Miss Bagge's mouth out of the window.

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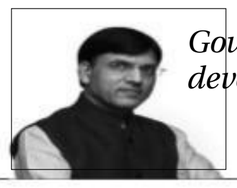


Govt will focus on creating a port grid in the country besides development of waterways and coastal shipping

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA
UNION MINISTER

THUMBNAILS

TCS acquisition: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Thursday said it has inked an agreement with Prudential Financial, Inc (PFI), under which the Indian firm will acquire over 1,500 employees and select assets of Pramerica Systems Ireland Ltd (Pramerica). The move will help strengthen TCS' delivery capability in Ireland, it said in a statement. Pramerica is PFI's subsidiary based in Letterkenny, Ireland. PFI will retain the Pramerica Ireland entity, which will continue to operate from Letterkenny and will focus on providing regional business services, reporting under its global asset manager PGIM, the statement said. PTI

AU Bank: AU Small Finance Bank commenced its operations in eastern India on Thursday with the first AU Bank branch launched in Kolkata, West Bengal. With the launch of this branch, AU Bank now has over 710 banking touchpoints in 13 states and 2 union territories, according to a media statement. In the last three and a half years as a bank, AU has built a net worth of Rs 4,900 crore, deposit base of almost Rs 27,000 crore and a loan AUM of Rs 30,500 crore, said the statement. SNS

EIL buyback: State-owned Engineers India Ltd (EIL) will buy back nearly 7 crore shares for about Rs 587 crore as the government taps cash-rich PSUs to meet its revenue targets. In a filing to the stock exchanges, EIL said it will buy back 11.06 per cent of the fully paid-up equity shares at a price of Rs 84 apiece. PTI

Arvind Fashions MD: Arvind Fashions Ltd on Thursday said it has appointed Shailesh Chaturvedi as the managing director and chief executive officer of the company with effect from 1 February 2021. Chaturvedi, previously MD and CEO of PVH -Arvind brands ~ a joint venture that houses eminent brands Tommy Hilfiger and Calvin Klein ~ and also led the Arrow brand for Arvind Fashions, will take over from J Suresh, the current MD and CEO who will be retiring later this year. PTI

Servotech pact: Servotech India, one of the leading manufacturers of LED lights and solar products in India, signed an agreement with GIZ (German Government) for manufacturing UVC disinfectant products. Servotech India MD Raman Bhatia and GIC German Ambassador Walter J Lindner were present on the occasion. The project will promote PM Modi government's campaign 'vocal for local', said a Press release statement. SNS

PFC profit: State-run Power Finance Corporation (PFC) on Thursday reported a 72 per cent jump in its consolidated net profit at Rs 4,290 crore in the July-September quarter on account of higher revenues. Its net profit was Rs 2,497 crore in the quarter ended 30 September 2019, a BSE filing said. PTI

Economy witnessing strong recovery, says Sitharaman

Macro-economic indicators are pointing towards recovery, the Union finance minister says

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 NOVEMBER

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman today said the Indian economy is witnessing a strong recovery after a long and strict lockdown.

Addressing a Press conference to announce more stimulus measures to boost growth, she said macro-economic indicators are pointing towards recovery.

She noted that Covid-19 active cases have declined from over 10 lakh to 4.89 lakh with case fatality rate (CFR) at 1.47 per cent.

Giving out details of recovery, she said composite purchasing managers index (PMI) rose to 58.9 per cent in October versus 54.6 per cent in the previous month, registering the strongest increase in output in close to nine years.

Energy consumption growth trended higher in October at 12 per cent year-on-year, while goods and services tax (GST) collections have grown 10 per cent to over Rs 1.05 lakh crore.

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and minister of state Anurag Thakur during a Press conference in New Delhi on Thursday. SNS

Daily railway freight tonnage grew by an average 20 per cent year-on-year versus 12 per cent, she said adding bank credit has improved 5.1 per cent.

Also, foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows in April-August at $35.37 billion has seen a 13 per cent rise on a year-on-year basis.

The Reserve Bank of India has predicted a strong likelihood of Indian economy returning to positive growth in Q3 of fiscal 2020-21, ahead by a quarter from the earlier forecast, she said, adding prominent economists have suggested that the rebound is not only due to pent-up demand but also due to strong economic growth.

Giving details of the progress made on the previous stimulus announcements under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan, Sitharaman said 28 states/union territories (UTs) have been brought under the national portability of ration cards with effect from 1 September.

This now covers 68.6 crore beneficiaries who now have an option to lift their foodgrain from any fair-price shops (FPS) of their choice in any of these 28 states/UTs, she said.

Intra-state portability is also enabled in these 28 states/UTs, she said adding 1.5 crore monthly transactions are happening.

Under PM Street Vendor's Aatmanirbhar Nidhi, 26.62 lakh loan applications were received out of which 13.78 lakh loans totalling Rs 1,373.33 crore were sanctioned.

The finance minister said credit boost to 2.5 crore farmers has been achieved through Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs).

"So far 183.14 lakh applications have been received and have issued KCCs for 157.44 lakh eligible farmers and sanctioned a limit of Rs 1,43,262 crore in two phases," she said. Under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), proposals worth Rs 1,682.32 crore from 21 states were sanctioned.

As much as Rs 25,000 crore has been disbursed to farmers under the additional emergency working capital fund, she said. Sitharaman further said, Rs 2.05 lakh crore was sanctioned to 61 lakh borrowers. Of this Rs 1.52 lakh crore has been disbursed.

As much as Rs 26,889 crore worth of portfolios have been bought by public sector banks (PSBs) under the partial credit guarantee scheme, she said adding Rs 7,227 crore was disbursed to non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and housing finance companies (HFCs).

She said Rs 1,18,272 crore worth of loans have been sanctioned to 17 states/UTs for liquidity injections in electricity distribution companies. Of this, 11 states have received Rs 31,136 crore.

The finance minister said Rs 25,000 crore has been provided as additional capital expenditure to the ministry of road transport and ministry of defence. Also, 11 states have been sanctioned Rs 3,621 crore as interest free loan towards capital expenditure, she said.

Industrial production grows by 0.2% in Sep

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 NOVEMBER

Industrial production entered positive territory after a gap of six months, mainly due to higher output in mining and power sectors, official data showed today.

The industrial output grew by 0.2 per cent in September, according to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data.

The manufacturing sector, which constitutes 77.63 per cent of the index, recorded a marginal contraction of 0.6 per cent in September.

The output of mining and power segments grew by 1.4 per cent and 4.9 per cent, respectively. The IIP had contracted by 4.6 per cent in September 2019.

The industrial production had witnessed a 5.2 per cent growth in February this year. Thereafter it recorded a contraction of 18.7 per cent in March, (-) 57.3 per cent in April, (-) 33.4 in May, (-) 16.6 in June and (-) 10.8 in July this year.

Meanwhile, the contraction in IIP for August has been revised to (-) 7.4 per cent from the (-) 8 per cent provisional data released last month.

The government had imposed a lockdown to contain the spread of Covid-19 infections on 25 March this year.

With the gradual relaxation of restrictions, there has been a relative improvement in the economic activities by varying degrees as well as in data reporting, the ministry of statistics and programme implementation said in a statement. It may not be appropriate to compare the IIP in the post-pandemic months with the IIP for months preceding the Covid-19 pandemic, it added.

The manufacturing sector had recorded a decline of 4.3 per cent in September last year. Similarly, the mining sector output fell 8.6 per cent in September 2019. Power generation also shrank by 2.6 per cent a year ago.

The output of capital goods, which is a barometer of investment, fell by 3.3 per cent in September as against a contraction of 20.5 per cent earlier.

Consumer durables output grew by 2.8 per cent, as against a contraction of 10.5 per cent in September 2019.

Consumer non-durable goods production grew by 4.1 per cent, compared to a contraction of 1.1 per cent in the same period a year ago.

'Stimulus to support stressed sectors, spur job creation'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 NOVEMBER

Corporate India today welcomed the bouquet of measures announced by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and said these would deliver festive cheer and have a multiplier effect on the growth trajectory through support to stressed sectors, thrust to job creation and increased private investments.

Sitharaman announced tax relief on select home sale deals, enhanced credit guarantee programme for small businesses and provided incentives for new job creation as the government widened stimulus measures to boost the economy.

The measures that also include additional fertiliser subsidy and already announced production-linked incentive scheme for manufacturing units, totalled Rs 2.65 lakh crore, taking the cumulative stimulus package announced since the lockdown to almost Rs 30 lakh crore, or 15 per cent of the gross domestic product.

"It is heartening to note that despite fiscal constraints, the government chose to hasten the recovery process by spending an additional Rs 2.65 lakh crore, thus taking the cumulative fiscal stimulus (till date) to Rs 17.2 lakh crore or 9 per cent of GDP," said Uday Kotak, president, CII.

He said the government's decision to extend the emergency credit line guarantee scheme (ECLGS) for the 26 stressed sectors identified by the Kamath Committee will help the sectors, which employ a large number of people, tide over the cash crunch and working capital issues, in the wake of low demand.

Ficci president Sangita Reddy said the clear focus on housing, infrastructure and construction shows that the government wants to leverage the huge multiplier impact these sectors have to rev up the economy that is already showing multiple signs of recovery.

PHD Chamber of Commerce president Sanjay Aggarwal said the reforms will have a multiplier effect on the economic growth trajectory through enhanced demand, job creation, increased private investments, escalated exports and growth of sectors that have strong backward and forward linkages.

Moody's raises GDP forecast

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 NOVEMBER

Moody's Investors Service today revised upwards its GDP forecasts for India to (-) 8.9 per cent contraction in the 2020 calendar year, as the economy reflates after a long and strict nationwide lockdown but said the recovery is patchy.

In its Global Macro Outlook 2021-22, Moody's also revised upwards India's GDP forecast for calendar year 2021 to 8.6 per cent growth from an earlier projection of 8.1 per cent expansion. The Indian economy had grown by 4.8 per cent in 2019.

For the calendar year 2020, it forecast a -8.9 per cent contraction, up from its an earlier projection of -9.6 per cent contraction. "India's economy had the biggest contraction, 24 per cent year-over-year, in the second quarter (April-June), as a result of a long and strict nationwide lockdown," the rating agency said.

India had a 69-day nationwide lockdown, which was followed by local and state-level restrictions to contain the spread of the pandemic.

Restrictions have eased only slowly and in phases, and localised restrictions in containment zones remain.

"As a result, the recovery has been patchy," it said.

A steady decline in new and active coronavirus cases since September, if maintained, should enable further easing of restrictions.

"We, therefore, forecast a gradual improvement in economic activity over the coming quarters," it said. "However, slow credit intermediation will hamper the pace of recovery because of an already weakened financial sector."

Moody's said the nascent global economic recovery is under threat from rising Covid-19 cases in the US and Europe.

"All of the G-20 countries have sustained severe output losses this year, but the contraction in some economies is sharper than in others. The pace of improvement will be asymmetric across countries," it said.

The recovery path is beset with uncertainty and will remain highly dependent on the development and distribution of a vaccine, effective pandemic management, and government policy support.

"Overall, sustained economic improvement is not possible in countries where new waves of the virus continue to cause disruption," it said.

For the G-20 advanced economies, it forecast a 5.1 per cent contraction in 2020, followed by a growth of 4.2 per cent in 2021 and 3.3 per cent in 2022.

REVISED ESTIMATES

- **For the calendar year 2020, Moody's forecast a -8.9 per cent contraction, up from its an earlier projection of -9.6 per cent contraction.**
- **It also revised upwards India's GDP forecast for calendar year 2021 to 8.6 per cent growth from an earlier projection of 8.1 per cent expansion.**

Next round of coal mine auction in Jan: Minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 NOVEMBER

Union coal minister Pralhad Joshi today said the Centre is planning to go for next round of auction of blocks in January and also appealed to the states to cooperate with commercial mine allottees to facilitate early operationalisation of the blocks as it would create a positive atmosphere and boost confidence of investors.

The statement assumes significance as of the total 35 coal mines successfully auctioned in the last 10 tranches of auction, only 14 blocks could begin operations.

"I appeal to the state governments to cooperate (with the successful allottees of commercial coal mines auction)," Joshi said.

He said: "Allow the 19 bidders which have been allotted blocks to operationalise the mines. Rest will also get confidence. So we will have to create such atmosphere. Cooperation means you (state) should get them (allottees) earlier clearances for the blocks...We want cooperation from state governments with regard to land acquisition, pollution control board."

The minister further said that before the sale of blocks began, the Jharkhand government was of the view that if the auction took place during Covid-19 times, not much revenue would be generated.

But in contrast, the minister said the Jharkhand government will be receiving the highest revenue amongst all states, of Rs 2,690 crore per annum from the auctioned blocks.

Retail inflation rises to 7.61%

NEW DELHI, 12 NOVEMBER

Driven by rising food prices, retail inflation inched up to 7.61 per cent in October, remaining above the comfort level of the Reserve Bank.

According to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) data released by the government today, inflation stood at 7.27 per cent in September 2020. It was 4.62 per cent in October 2019. The rise in general inflation was mainly on account of elevated food prices.

As per the data, the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) rose to 11.07 per cent in October, up from 10.68 per cent in the previous month of September.

The Reserve Bank, which mainly factors in retail inflation while arriving at key policy rates, has been mandated by the government to keep inflation at 4 per cent (+, - 2 per cent). PTI

Grasim sells fertilisers biz to Indorama for ₹2,649 cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 12 NOVEMBER

Aditya Birla Group flagship firm Grasim Industries today announced the sale of its fertilisers business to Indorama Corporation for Rs 2,649 crore.

Grasim Industries' board today approved the divestment of the company's fertiliser business ~ Indo Gulf Fertilisers ~ by way of a slump sale to Indorama India Pvt Ltd (IIP), a subsidiary of Indorama Corporation Pte. Ltd, Singapore, the company said in a regulatory filing.

"The transfer of the business will be for a lump-sum cash consideration of Rs 2,649 crore to be paid by IIP to Grasim. This consideration is commensurate to the strength and future potential of the business," it said.

The divestment of the fertiliser business is a significant value unlocking exercise for Grasim. It will further enable the company to pursue growth opportunities in its core businesses, the filing added.

The fertiliser unit had a turnover of Rs 2,679.51 crore in fiscal 2019-20 and accounted for 3.45 per cent of the total consolidated turnover of Grasim Industries, it said.

Grasim Industries managing director Dilip Gaur said: "The divestment of the fertiliser business by Grasim is a strategic portfolio choice and unlocks value for the shareholders. It is in line with the strategic thrust of the company to focus on core businesses."

Indo Gulf Fertilisers is synonymous with strong performance and high sustainability standards. To take it to the next level in size and value, the company is pleased to have found in Indorama Corporation a credible fertiliser player to own IGF, he added.

"IGF will benefit from synergies and expertise of Indorama Corporation's existing agri portfolio," Gaur said.

Indorama Corporation vice-chairman Amit Lohia said that with this acquisition, Shaktiman and the Paras brands will be able to join hands to offer a complete range of products for farmers. That will include urea, phosphate fertilisers, potash, soil health products, seeds, and crop protection products.

"We are excited about this union and believe it will facilitate greater access and development of high-quality agri inputs for the farming community," he added.

IBM, AMD sign joint development agreement

NEW DELHI, 12 NOVEMBER

Tech giants IBM and AMD have announced a multi-year joint development agreement to enhance and extend the security and artificial intelligence (AI) offerings of both the companies. The joint development agreement will expand this vision by building upon open-source software, open standards, and open system architectures to drive "confidential computing" in hybrid cloud environments, a statement said.

This will also support a broad range of accelerators across high-performance computing (HPC), and enterprise-critical capabilities such as virtualisation and encryption, it added. Confidential computing protects data while it is being processed. According to Gartner, confidential computing potentially removes the remaining barrier to hybrid cloud adoption for highly regulated businesses or any organisation concerned about unauthorised third-party access to data in use in the public cloud.

"The commitment of AMD to technological innovation aligns with our mission to develop and accelerate the adoption of the hybrid cloud to help connect, secure and power our digital world," IBM research director Dario Gil said. IBM is focused on giving clients choice, agility and security in its hybrid cloud offerings through advanced research, development and scaling of new technologies, Gil added.

"This agreement between AMD and IBM aligns well with our long-standing commitment to collaborating with leaders in the industry," AMD executive V-P and CTO Mark Papermaster said. PTI

Equity benchmarks snap 8-session winning run

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 12 NOVEMBER

The Sensex and the Nifty snapped their eight-session rising streak today as the new set of stimulus measures announced by the finance minister failed to stem profit-booking in banking, IT and energy stocks.

Lacklustre global cues and a weakening rupee further weighed on sentiment, traders said.

After dropping 466.12 points during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 236.48 points or 0.54 per cent lower at 43,357.19 points.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty slipped 58.35 points or 0.46 per cent to 12,690.80 points.

SBI was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding 3.16 per cent, followed by Kotak Bank, IndusInd Bank, NTPC, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank and ONGC.

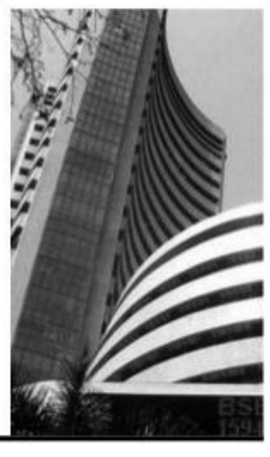
On the other hand, HUL, ITC, L&T, Bajaj Finserv, Tech Mahindra and Bajaj Finance ended with gains of up to 2.89 per cent.

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman today announced tax relief on select home sale deals, enhanced credit guarantee programme for small businesses and incentives for new job creation as the government widened stimulus measures to boost the economy.

The measures, that also included additional fertiliser subsidy and already announced production-linked inventive scheme for manufacturing units, totalled Rs 2.65 lakh crore, taking the cumulative stimulus package announced since lockdown to almost Rs 30 lakh crore, or 15 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

MARKET WATCH

- **After dropping 466.12 points during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 236.48 points or 0.54 per cent lower at 43,357.19 points.**
- **Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty slipped 58.35 points or 0.46 per cent to 12,690.80 points.**
- **The rupee depreciated 28 paise to close at 74.64 against the US dollar on Thursday, as weak domestic equities weighed on investor sentiments.**



"Market was hesitant to raise its optimism further as profit-booking was triggered across the banking sector post the announcement of the stimulus. FM's new measures will have a positive impact on developers and home buyers due to tax reliefs and will ensure demand for housing which is on a strong recovery stage. Subsidy announcement of Rs 65,000 crore for fertilisers is likely to help rural and agricultural sectors. Expansion of production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme to additional 10 sectors will boost domestic manufacturing, in the long-term," said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services.

BSE bankex, finance, utilities, energy and IT indices ended up to 2.05 per cent lower, while FMCG, capital goods, industrials and realty indices finished higher.

Broader BSE mid-cap and small-cap indices outperformed the benchmark, rallying up to 1.20 per cent.

Global equities took a breather after the Pfizer vaccine-induced rally.

In Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Seoul ended in the red, while Tokyo settled on a positive note.

Stock exchanges in Europe were also trading with losses in early deals.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.07 per cent lower at $43.77 per barrel.

Meanwhile, the rupee depreciated 28 paise to close at 74.64 (provisional) against the US dollar today, as weak domestic equities weighed on investor sentiments.

The local unit opened at 74.44 against the greenback at the interbank forex market and finally settled at 74.64 against the greenback, down 28 paise over its last close.

During the session, the domestic unit witnessed an intra-day high of 74.38 and a low of 74.74 against the American currency.

On Wednesday, the rupee declined by 18 paise to close at 74.36 against the US dollar. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.22 per cent to 92.83.

epaper.thestatesman.com

Leaders should redouble efforts to enhance the 10-member ASEAN's competitiveness in the post-COVID-19 world

SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTER LEE HSIEN LOONG
ADDRESSING THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS VIRTUAL SUMMIT

HK legislators hand in resignations

The mass departure will leave Hong Kong's legislature with just 43 legislators, 41 of whom belong to the pro-Beijing bloc

ASSOCIATED PRESS
HONG KONG, 12 NOVEMBER

Pro-democracy legislators in Hong Kong began resigning Thursday to protest the expulsion of four other lawmakers, heightening a conflict with Beijing over the semi-autonomous Chinese territory's future.

Pro-democracy activists say China's ruling Communist Party, which has tightened control in Hong Kong in response to demands for more democracy, is destroying the civil liberties and rights that were promised the territory when Britain returned it to China in 1997.

The 15 remaining lawmakers in the pro-democracy bloc said Wednesday they will resign en masse after China's central government passed a resolution this week that led to the four lawmakers' disqualification.

The four had urged foreign governments to sanction China and Hong Kong over Beijing's crackdown on dissent in the territory. The Communist Party accused them of violating their oaths of office.

Most of the 15 lawmakers did not attend a regular session of the legislature on Thursday, and some later handed in resignation letters at the Legislative Council's secretariat.

China sharply criticised the move. Its Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office called the mass resignation "an open challenge" to the authority of the central government and the Basic Law, Hong Kong's constitution.

"If these lawmakers hope to use their resignation to provoke opposition and beg for foreign interference, they have miscalculated," it said in a statement.

Wu Chi-wai, the head of the pro-democracy bloc, said the Chinese and Hong Kong governments were trying to take away the separation of powers in the city, since the ousting of the four lawmakers bypassed the courts.

"We lost our check-and-balance power, and all the constitutional power in Hong Kong rests in the chief executive's hands," Wu said.

He said it was the end of the city's "one country, two systems" framework under which Hong Kong enjoyed autonomy and freedoms not found on the mainland since it was returned to China in 1997.

Claudia Mo, a pro-democracy lawmaker who also handed in her resignation, said: "We are quitting the legislature only at this juncture. We're not quitting Hong Kong's democracy fight."

Earlier in the day, one of the pro-democracy lawmakers, Lam Cheuk-ting, unfurled a banner from a balcony inside the Legislative Council building saying city leader Carrie Lam had brought disaster to Hong Kong and its people, and that her infamy would last ten thousand years.

The mass departure will leave Hong Kong's legislature with just 43 legislators, 41 of whom belong to the pro-Beijing bloc. This means that the legislature could pass bills favored by Beijing with little opposition.

The lawmakers announced their decision to resign hours after the Hong Kong government said it was disqualifying the four legislators — Alvin Yeung, Dennis Kwok, Kwok Ka-ki and Kenneth Leung.

A resolution passed this week by the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress said that any lawmaker who supports Hong Kong's independence, refuses to acknowledge China's sovereignty over the city, threatens national security, or asks external forces to interfere in the city's affairs should be disqualified.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin on Thursday reiterated Beijing's support for Hong Kong's government in "fulfilling its duty according to the NPC Standing Committee's decision."

"No country will turn a blind eye to acts of betrayal of the country by public officials, including members of the Legislative Council, who break their oaths of office," Wang said at a daily news briefing.

Britain, the United States, Australia and the EU denounced China's move.

The UK summoned China's ambassador in London to register "deep concern at this latest action by his government," Foreign Office minister Nigel Adams told lawmakers Thursday.

Adams said it was "another sad day for the people of Hong Kong" and that the British government has declared it the third breach of the Sino-British Joint Declaration on the territory's handover since it came into force in 1997 and the second time in the last six months.

Pak court jails spokesperson of JuD for 32 years

LAHORE, 12 NOVEMBER

A Pakistani anti-terrorism court has handed down 32 years of imprisonment to Yahya Mujahid, spokesperson of Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed's Jamat-ud-Dawah (JuD) terror group, in two terror financing cases.

The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) here on Wednesday also convicted two other JuD leaders, including the brother-in-law of Saeed, in terror financing cases.

"ATC Judge Ijaz Ahmad Buttar handed down 32 years imprisonment to JuD spokesperson Yahya Mujahid in two FIRs. Prof Zafar Iqbal and Prof Hafiz Abdul Rehman Makki (brother-in-law of Saeed) were awarded 16 and one-year jail terms in two cases, a court official told PTI.

He said that the two other JuD leaders, Abdul Salam bin Muhammad and Luqman Shah, were indicted in more terror financing cases.

The court directed the prosecution to present its witnesses on November 16.

The suspects were presented in the court in high security and media was not allowed to enter the court premises during the case proceedings.

Last week, the ATC Lahore convicted JuD's Hafiz Abdul Rehman Makki, Zafar Iqbal and Muhammad Ashraf in two more cases of terror financing registered by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police.

Zafar Iqbal and Muhammad Ashraf have been given a collective imprisonment of 16 years each under different sections of the Anti-Terrorism Act. Makki has been sentenced to one-year imprisonment in a case with a fine of Rs 170,000. PTI

Ethiopia tensions spread as 150 'operatives' held

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NAIROBI, 12 NOVEMBER

Tensions over the deadly conflict in Ethiopia are spreading well beyond its cut-off Tigray region, as the federal government says some 150 suspected operatives accused of seeking to strike fear and terror throughout the country have been detained.

The new statement says the suspects happen to be ethnically diverse, but concerns remain high among ethnic Tigrayans amid reports of being singled out by authorities.

The statement comes as rallies are expected Thursday in support of the federal government's military offensive in the northern Tigray region against a regional government that Nobel Peace Prize-winning Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and his government regard as illegal.

Close to 10,000 Ethiopian refugees have already fled the weeklong conflict into neighbouring Sudan, where local authorities are already warning they are overwhelmed. They are preparing for up to 200,000 arrivals.

Ethiopia's prime minister has rejected international pleas for negotiation and de-escalation, saying that cannot come until the Tigray People's Liberation Front ruling clique is removed and arrested and its heavily stocked arsenal is destroyed.

What appeared to be a sudden slide toward civil war has been months in the making.

Abiy after taking office in 2018 announced sweeping political reforms that won him the Nobel but marginalised the TPLF, which had dominated Ethiopia's ruling coalition.

The TPLF later left the coalition and in September held a local election in defiance of the federal government. Each side now regards the other as illegal, and each blames the other for starting the fighting.

Communications and transport links remain severed in the Tigray region, making it difficult to verify claims, while the United Nations and others warn of a looming humanitarian disaster as food and fuel run short for millions of people.

Turkey minister reaffirms Russian S-400 plans

ISTANBUL, 12 NOVEMBER

Turkey's defence minister has reaffirmed the country's plans to use a Russian-made missile defence system it purchased despite continued objections from the United States.

Defence Minister Hulusi Akar told a parliamentary budget commission Thursday the military is continuing its checks and preparations of the S-400s as planned.

Washington is strongly against NATO member Turkey's acquisition of the Russian anti-aircraft system and kicked Turkey out of its F-35 fighter jet programme, saying the S-400s are a threat to the stealth fighter jets and wouldn't be interoperable with NATO systems. AP

NATURE'S FURY

Residents carry their belongings through the flood brought by Typhoon *Vamco* in Manila, the Philippines on Thursday. IANS

China's military lays out technology roadmap to catch up with the US by 2027: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BEIJING, 12 NOVEMBER

China must apply cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence if it wants to transform its military into a modern fighting force on a par with those of other leading powers, according to new guidelines and comments from President Xi Jinping and other officials.

The statements come from a booklet published this month by the state-run People's Publishing House, in which senior officials, including President Xi, outlined the latest five-year plan for the country's development.

The military modernisation is being pushed by 67-year-old Xi, who besides heading the ruling Communist Party (CPC) and the Presidency is also the Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), which is the overall high command for China's 2-million strong military.

China this year approved about $179 billion defence budget, the second-highest after United States defence spending of $ 732 billion.

According to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) military expenditure figures, China defence spending in 2019 amounted to $232 billion.

Recent key conclave of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) has finalised plans to build a fully modern military on par with the US by 2027.

By the year 2027, which marks the centennial of the founding of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), China will build a fully modern military, a goal that is in alignment with the national strength and will fulfil the future national defence need, state-run Global Times quoted Chinese analysts as saying early this month.

The Plenary session of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) headed by Xi, which held a four-day meeting, adopted his proposals for the formulation of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035.

Analysts say China's aim is to build an army that is on a par with that of the United States.

In an article titled "Speed up the Modernisation of Defence and Military" from the booklet published by People's Publishing House, Xu Qiliang, vice-chairman of the CMC, stressed the importance of smart technologies in modernising the PLA, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Thursday.

Military analyst Ye Jianliang said that it is imperative for China to improve its military might to match its economic strength.

The military had to be more proactive in designing how the war was fought, rather than just responding to conflicts, he said.

"(China has to) keep pace with the developments of the times and emphasise the use of smart technologies to achieve interdisciplinary innovation," Xu said.

That would involve modernising military theories, formations, personnel and strategic management, he was quoted as saying.

"Always bear in mind that (a nation) is in danger if it forgets about war or makes inadequate preparations for war," Xu said.

His comments were echoed in another article in the booklet, which said modernisation was essential to making an intelligent military, the Post report said.

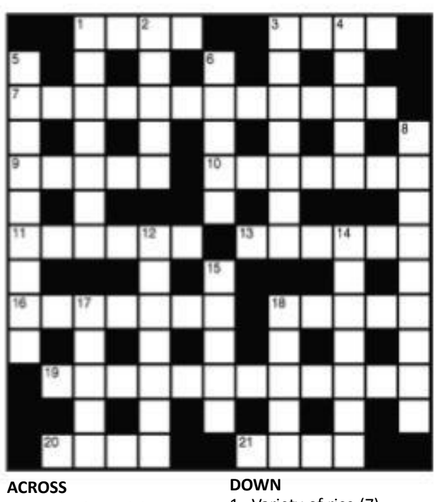
"A new round of scientific and technological revolution, industrial revolution and military revolution is evolving rapidlyit's a global trend to build an intelligent military, it said.

The transformation process should be about creating a fighting force that is less labour-intensive and more focused on new technology, much of it home-grown, it said.

Military analyst Ye Jianliang said in his article in the booklet that China's defence capabilities do not match its status in the international community or its national security needs.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Donkey's cry (4)
3 Leg joint (4)
7 Cause to lose bearings (12)
9 Rub out (5)
10 Improve (7)
11 Suture (6)
13 Quickly purchase (4,2)
16 Clothing item (7)
18 Rub hard (5)
19 Principal source (12)
20 Fruit (4)
21 Tennis match divisions (4)

DOWN
1 Variety of rice (7)
2 Concur (5)
3 Food preparation room (7)
4 Consumed (5)
5 Hardship (9)
6 Discourage (5)
8 Reckless criminal (9)
12 Singer (7)
14 Series of actions (7)
15 Water vapour (5)
17 Writing (5)
18 From that time (5)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Knew, 4 Waive (New Wave), 8 Curt, 9 Two-faced, 10 Child benefit, 13 Gurkha, 14 Tee off, 16 Fermentation, 18 Ping-Pong, 21 Ecru, 22 Prate, 23 Dots.

DOWN:
2 Nitpick, 3 Withdrawn, 4 Woo, 5 Image, 6 Eve, 7 Juncture, 11 Estranged, 12 Infantry, 15 Evident, 17 Magma, 19 Imp, 20 Ore.

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

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker

RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson

DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski

NEED TO KNOW

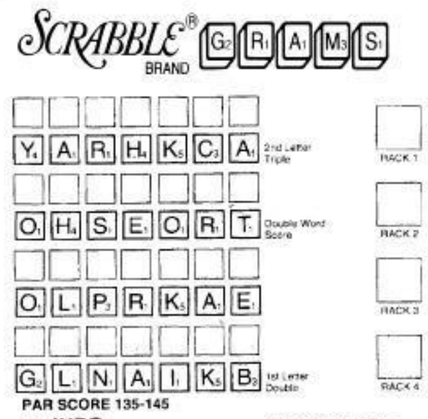
HOSPITALS
- AIIMS 26588500, 26588900
- Moolchand Medcity (formerly Hospital) 42000000 & 24-hour Chemist Shop 42000447
- Vidyasagar Institute for Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences 26924300, 26924304
- Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre 29051280, 29958747
- Deen Dayal Upadhyay 25496320, 25494403
- Guru Tegh Bahadur 22586262, 22585007

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

ROADWAYS INQUIRY
- ISBT (General Inquiry): 23868836, 23865181
- Haryana Roadways 23861262
- Himachal Roadways 23717473, 23325320
- Punjab Roadways 23867842, 23860626
- Rajasthan Roadways 23864470
- U.P. Roadways 23868709

FLIGHT INQUIRY
- AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 18001801407
- INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Centre 09910383838, 18001803838, Reservation 43513186; Indigo Airlines Airport 011-25671580; Terminal I-B 25671576, Palam Road 25671579, 18001803838
- JET AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 39841111
- EMIRATES Flight Inquiry and Reservation 33773377
- Air Canada Flight Inquiry 25656421/25656431 Reservation 41528181
- Air France Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23466262 (City) 25652294 (Airport)
- Kuwait Airways Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23354373

SCRABBLE BRAND GRAMS



PAR SCORE 135-145
by JUDD
FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

PREVIOUS DAY'S SOLUTION BY JUDD

RACK 1	78
RACK 2	61
RACK 3	33
RACK 4	27
JUDD'S TOTAL	199

PAR SCORE 125-135

Directions Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary(Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words(Chambers). Judd's solution tomorrow.
10-25-12

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SUDOKU

Conceptis SudoKu — By Dave Green

	5			1			2	
4								6
	6		9		5		3	
		4				3		
3				7				9
		2				6		
	3		4		8		1	
5								3
	8			6			4	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/09

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answer to previous puzzle

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that no row, no column and no 3x3 box contains the same number. The difficulty level increases through the week.

epaper.thestatesman.com

We're not out of the woods yet. Every death is a tragedy, we mourn everybody who's gone

UK PRIME MINISTER BORIS JOHNSON
AS UK BECAME THE FIRST COUNTRY IN EUROPE TO CROSS 50,000 COVID-19 RELATED DEATHS

WEATHER

CITY	MAX(°C)	MIN(°C)	
SINGAPORE	28	26	H
HONG KONG	32	28	H
TOKYO	29	24	H
LONDON	25	18	S
DUBAI	40	30	H
SAN FRANCISCO	20	15	R
NEW YORK	27	19	H
MOSCOW	19	11	S

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

THUMBNAILS

A policeman investigates a damaged car after a sticky bomb attack in Helmand prov-ince in Afghanistan. AGENCIES

Georgia announces hand recount of votes: Georgia will conduct a manual hand recount of millions of ballots cast in the battleground state where President-elect Joe Biden is leading by more than 14,000 votes over President Donald Trump, who has not conceded in the US presidential race, and instead made unfounded claims about widespread voter fraud and electoral malpractice. PTI

Members of religious sect held: Singaporean authorities have arrested 21 people who are thought to be connected to a secretive South Korean religious sect that was widely blamed for thousands of virus infections in the country. AP

Saudi king points to Iran as top threat: Saudi Arabia's King Salman slammed rival Iran and hailed his country's efforts at combating the coronavirus and stabilizing oil supplies in an annual speech delivered early Thursday. He accused Iran of supporting terrorism. AP

Biden names Ron Klain as WH Chief of Staff

Klain was most recently a senior advisor to the Biden for President campaign and served as Biden's Chief of Staff when he became V-P

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 12 NOVEMBER

US President-elect Joe Biden has tapped veteran political operative Ron Klain as Chief of Staff, elevating his "invaluable" longtime aide to one of the most powerful positions in the White House.

The White House Chief of Staff manages the president's daily schedule. He is often described as the president's gatekeeper.

In addition to supporting the president-elect, Klain, 59, will work to build a diverse, experienced and talented team to help Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris meet the urgent challenges facing the country, the Biden transition office said in a media release on Wednesday.

Ron has been invaluable to me over the many years that we have worked together, including as we rescued the American economy from one of the worst downturns in our history in 2009 and later overcame a daunting public health emergency in 2014

JOE BIDEN
US PRESIDENT-ELECT

"Ron has been invaluable to me over the many years that we have worked together, including as we rescued the American economy from one of the worst downturns in our history in 2009 and later overcame a daunting public health emergency in 2014," said Biden.

"His deep, varied experience and capacity to work with people all across the political spectrum is precisely what I need in a White House chief of staff as we confront this moment of crisis and bring our country together again, Biden said as the Democrat stepped up efforts to establish his own White House team though President Donald Trump, his Republican rival in the November 3 election has refused to concede.

Klain was most recently a senior advisor to the Biden for President campaign and has previously served Biden in a number of roles including as his Chief of Staff when he became Vice President.

Klain is also known for his role as the White House Ebola Response Coordinator at the height of the public health crisis in 2014.

The incoming Biden administration is facing the daunting task of combating the COVID-19 pandemic which has not only devastated the US economy but has also killed over 241,000 people and infected more than 10,400,000.

Klain said, "It's the honour of a lifetime to serve President-elect Biden in this role, and I am humbled by his confidence. I look forward to helping him and the Vice President-elect assemble a talented and diverse team to work in the White House, as we tackle their ambitious agenda for change, and seek to heal the divides in our country."

Klain served as Biden's first Chief of Staff when he became Vice President (2009-11); Chief Counsel of the Senate Judiciary Committee during his tenure as Chair of the Committee (1989-92); and Policy Advisor on the Judiciary Committee staff (1986-87). Klain also worked as an advisor on Biden's 1988 and 2008 presidential campaigns. According to the Biden-Harris Transition, Klain has devoted many years to public service, serving as White House Ebola Response Coordinator (2014-15).

At the conclusion of his work coordinating the US response, then President Barack Obama said that Klain had taken on a challenge that many called insurmountable, and, in leading the team responsible for tremendous progress, helped remind the world what makes America exceptional.

Earlier, in addition to his work with then-Vice President Biden, Klain served as Chief of Staff for Vice President Al Gore, Chief of Staff and Counsellor to Attorney General Janet Reno, and Staff Director of the Senate Democratic Leadership Committee.

'No tax increase for annual income below $400,000'

WASHINGTON, 12 NOVEMBER

US Vice President-elect Kamala Harris has assured Americans that there would be no increase in taxes for those having an annual income of less than $400,000.

At the same time, Harris has insisted that in the Joe Biden administration, corporations and the wealthiest will finally be made to pay their fair share. PTI

Military wary that shakeup could upend its apolitical nature

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 12 NOVEMBER

The words spoken by America's top military officer carried a familiar ring, but in the midst of a chaotic week at the Pentagon, they were particularly poignant.

We are unique among militaries," said Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. We do not take an oath to a king or a queen, a tyrant or a dictator. We do not take an oath to an individual.

Milley was speaking Wednesday at the dedication of an Army museum in a week that saw President Donald Trump fire Defense Secretary Mark Esper and install three staunch loyalists to senior Pentagon policy positions.

The abrupt changes have raised fears about what Trump may try to do in his final two months of office and whether the military's long held apolitical nature could be upended.

Trump's motives for the Pentagon shakeup are unclear, but it has created a great deal of unease within the building

Milley's comments, made as he stood alongside Esper's successor, acting defense chief Christopher Miller, reflected a view he has long been passionate about: the military's unequivocal duty to protect and defend the Constitution what he called the moral north star for everyone in uniform.

But his message in a time of turmoil Trump has refused to concede his election loss was unmistakable: The military exists to defend democracy and is not to be used as a political pawn.

We take an oath to the Constitution, Milley said, adding that every service member will protect and defend that document regardless of personal price.

Trump's motives for the Pentagon shakeup are unclear, but it has created a great deal of unease within the building.

Was he simply striking out at Esper and others he deemed not loyal enough? Or is there a broader plan to enact policy changes that Trump could tout in his final days as commander in chief? Indeed, Trump had grown increasingly angry with Esper, who openly disagreed with his desire to use the active-duty military during the civil unrest in June.

Esper also had worked with military leaders to talk Trump out of complete troop withdrawals from Syria and Afghanistan. His firing had long been rumoured.

If the motive is to hand Trump some quick policy changes, then filling top jobs with more amenable loyalists will help, particularly in any effort to impede the smooth transition of power to President-elect Joe Biden. Accelerating troop withdrawals may also be a goal but there is a fairly limited pool of other options.

Trump wins Alaska, tally up at 217

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 12 NOVEMBER

US President Donald Trump has won the closely-fought presidential election in the state of Alaska, winning three electoral college votes and taking his tally to 217, , as per the count maintained by The New York Times.

The Republican Party has also retained the Senate seat from Alaska, giving it 50 seats in the 100-member United States Senate.

When the election was called in Alaska, Trump had received 56.9 per cent of the total votes counted and President-elect Joe Biden from the Democratic Party with 39.1 per cent.

Biden has already been declared winner of the November 3 presidential election with 279 of the 538 electoral college votes. Trump has refused to concede and has filed lawsuits in multiple states, challenging election results.

The election results in Alaska also gave the Republican Party an edge over the Democrats in the Senate. Republican senator Dan Sullivan won his Senate re-election bid. This gives the Republicans 50 Senate seats, while the Democrats have 48. The two Senate seats are going in for elections on January 5.

'Biden govt likely to be pragmatic in dealing with Pakistan'

WASHINGTON, 12 NOVEMBER

The Biden administration is likely to be pragmatic in its dealings with Pakistan, pressing Islamabad to act on terrorism related issues and support America's endeavours for peace in Afghanistan, according to a former top Pakistani diplomat.

There may be a resumption of the strategic dialogue process with Pakistan, but it will not be of the same level or scale as during the Obama administration, former Pakistani Ambassador to the US, Husain Haqqani, said.

A Biden administration is likely to be pragmatic in its dealings with Islamabad. It will continue to engage with Pakistan, asking Islamabad to act on terrorism related issues, including at the FATF, and support US endeavours for peace in Afghanistan. It is unlikely that a Biden administration will resume payments of security assistance or Coalition Support Funds, he said.

Coalition Support Funds are drawn from a presidentially designed and congressionally authorised fund of money to reimburse counterterrorism allies for incremental costs associated with supporting US combat operations.

In 2018, the Trump administration suspended security aid to Pakistan after it failed to rein in terrorist groups. During his first official visit to Pakistan in 2018, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had said he hoped to "reset the relationship" with the Imran Khan-led Pakistan government after a period of sharp disagreements between the longtime security allies over Pakistan's harbouring of anti-Afghan militants.

Pakistan's close ties with China and its lack of democracy and disregard for human rights will not be overlooked, said Haqqani.

Observing that US President-elect Joe Biden and his advisors understand the importance of a stable and peaceful Afghanistan, Haqqani said they may prefer to stretch out the US troops withdrawal, making it truly conditional to end of Taliban violence. PTI

UK first country in Europe to cross 50,000 Covid-19 deaths

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON, 12 NOVEMBER

The UK has become the first country in Europe to cross the grim milestone of 50,000 COVID-19 related deaths as Prime Minister Boris Johnson said, we mourn everybody who's gone.

As per the official figures released by the government, 1,256,725 people have tested positive for the virus after 22,950 new cases were recorded this week.

A further 595 fatalities due to the deadly viral infection on Wednesday took the death toll to 50,365, making the UK the fifth country in the world to cross the 50,000-mark after the US, Brazil, India and Mexico.

"We're not out of the woods yet. Every death is a tragedy, we mourn everybody who's gone and our feelings are with their families and friends, Johnson said.

"It is a global pandemic whose effects, whose treatments, whose implications for the economy, all those have been becoming clearer as the months have gone on," he said.

The grim death toll comes as news of a possible new effective vaccine being ready by the end of the year hit the global headlines earlier this week. However, Johnson has previously warned that it is still very, very early days for the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine.

It is still some way off. And we absolutely cannot rely on this as a solution, he said, urging people to continue to follow the strict lockdown rules in order to keep the rate of infections in check.

Meanwhile, the UK government has been expanding its mass testing capabilities, with an initial pilot in the city of Liverpool being expanded to further cities and also for students on university campuses wanting to travel back home for Christmas after lockdown is lifted from December 2.

We are absolutely committed to using the latest testing technology to make asymptomatic testing available in more areas, said UK Health Minister Lord James Bethell.

UK economy saw big bounce-back in summer: The British economy bounced back strongly in the third quarter of the year as many of the restrictions associated with the spring lockdown were lifted, official figures showed Thursday. The Office for National Statistics said the economy grew by 15.5 per cent in the July to September period. Though that was in line with market expectations, the recovery clearly eased in September.

RISING THREAT

■ **Turkey's interior ministry has banned smoking in public places across the country to curb the spread of COVID-19. In a statement late Wednesday, the ministry said smoking would be banned in busy streets, bus stops and public squares when necessary.**

■ **Iran on Thursday passed the grim milestone of 40,000 coronavirus deaths, with the latest 10,000 added in less than a month, as the country struggles to contain its most widespread wave of infection yet. The Iranian health ministry announced 457 new fatalities on Thursday, along with 117,517 new infections, pushing the total case count past 726,000.**

■ **The Sri Lankan government has appealed to the Hindu communities in the country to curtail their activities at religious sites during Diwali this year to contain the spread of the coronavirus that has infected over 15,000 people in the island nation. Diwali activities in the country need to be curtailed this time to contain the virus spread.**

Pacific isles, secretive states among last virus-free places

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WELLINGTON (NEW ZEALAND), 12 NOVEMBER

From Argentina to Zimbabwe, from the Vatican to the White House, the coronavirus has spread relentlessly.

It's been confirmed on every continent but one and in nearly every country. Yet a few places have yet to report even a single case of infection. Some have been genuinely spared so far, while others may be hiding the truth.

PACIFIC ISLANDS: The largest cluster of countries without the coronavirus is in the South Pacific. Tonga, Kiribati, Samoa, Micronesia and Tuvalu are among the small island nations yet to report a single case. They haven't been spared from the pandemic's effects, however.

Tonga managed to keep the virus out by stopping cruise ships from docking and closing the airport in March.

ANTARCTICA: There has been perhaps no place on Earth where people have been more vigilant in keeping out the virus than Antarctica, the only continent which remains virus-free.

While most countries have been reducing the number of scientists and staff they are sending to Antarctica this Southern Hemisphere summer, hundreds of people still have been arriving to ensure bases are maintained and long-term scientific programs continue to tick over.

NORTH KOREA: With a population of more than 25 million, North Korea is by far the largest nation yet to report a single case, although there's widespread skepticism over leader Kim Jong Un's claim of a perfect record in keeping out the evil virus.

North Korea says its anti-virus campaign is a matter of national existence. It has severely restricted cross-border traffic, banned tourists, flown out diplomats and mobilised tens of thousands of health workers to screen entry points, monitor residents and isolate those with symptoms.

TURKMENISTAN: As with North Korea, there is significant doubt about Turkmenistan's claim of zero cases. Authorities in the secretive and authoritarian Central Asian nation of 6 million have rejected allegations they're hiding information about the outbreak. Health officials have recommended people wear masks and keep a distance of 2 meters from each other in public places.

McCarrick report forces debate on power and abuse

ROME, 12 NOVEMBER

The Vatican's report into ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick has raised uncomfortable questions the Holy See will have to confront going forward, chief among them what it's going to do about current and future clergy who abuse their power to sexually abuse adults.

Priests, lay experts and canon lawyers alike say the Vatican needs to revisit how the church protects its seminarians, nuns and even rank-and-file parishioners from problem bishops and cardinals, who for centuries have wielded power and authority with few, if any, checks or accountability.

McCarrick was only investigated and defrocked by Pope Francis because a former altar boy came forward in 2017 to report the prelate had groped him when he was a teenager in the 1970s.

It was the first time someone had claimed to be abused by McCarrick while a minor, a serious crime in the Vatican's in-house legal system. And yet the bulk of the Vatican's 449-page forensic study into the McCarrick scandal released Tuesday dealt with the cardinal's behavior with young men: the seminarians whose priestly careers he controlled and who felt powerless to say no when he arranged for them to sleep in his bed.

McCarrick's friends and superiors went to enormous lengths to find ways to claim his behavior wasn't necessarily sexual, couldn't be proven and would cause a scandal if it ever went public. Their decades-long reflex to turn a blind eye was evidence of the church's old boys culture of silence, clerical privilege and protection of reputations at all cost. AP

Disquiet within 10 Downing Street as Johnson's top aide quits

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON, 12 NOVEMBER

There are widespread reports of a power struggle at the heart of the UK government as one of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's closest aides has announced his resignation as the Director of Communications.

Lee Cain, 39, announced he would step down as Johnson's top media aide on Wednesday night after ministers and advisers, including Johnson's fiancee Carrie Symonds, are said to have protested over his planned promotion to Chief of Staff.

Cain is also a close aide of fellow Brexiteer and Downing Street Chief Strategy Adviser Dominic Cummings, another one of Johnson's most influential and high-profile top team members.

"After careful consideration I have this evening resigned as No. 10 Director of Communications and will leave the post at the end of the year," reads Cain's resignation letter.

"I would like to thank the prime minister for his loyalty and leadership. I have no doubt that under his premiership the country will deliver on the promises made in the 2019 election campaign and build back better from the coronavirus pandemic," he said.

In response, the UK Prime Minister thanked Cain for his "extraordinary service" to him, both in No. 10 and previously when he was Foreign Secretary.

"He has been a true ally and friend and I am very glad that he will remain Director of Communications until the New Year and to help restructure the operation. He will be much missed," Johnson said.

Lee Cain announced he would step down as Johnson's top media aide on Wednesday night after ministers and advisers, including Johnson's fiancee Carrie Symonds, are said to have protested over his planned promotion to Chief of Staff

The letter came amid a brewing storm within 10 Downing Street after media reports suggested the elevation of former BBC journalist Allegra Stratton as the face of new daily televised press briefings planned from the New Year caused a considerable shake-up.

It was reported that Cain was to be offered a promotion to rebalance the power shift, but that appointment came under fire from across the Conservative Party ranks as well as Symonds, the mother of Johnson's baby Wilfred, born in April.

Dominic Cummings, on the other hand, was said to be furious over his close aide Cain losing out on the promotion and there was some speculation that he may also follow him out of Downing Street.

However, so far it would seem the struggle within the corridors of power has been somewhat curtailed, with the UK Prime Minister's chief spokesperson, James Slack, likely to step into Cain's role.

Cain went to Ormskirk Grammar School in Lancashire and Staffordshire University, before starting a career in journalism in 2006. Later, he became a member of the communications team for the Vote Leave campaign, and worked as a special adviser for Johnson at the Foreign Office.

Johnson is looking to fill the post of Chief of Staff as part of a wider reorganisation at the very top of his government structure.

However, several members of Parliament from within his ruling Conservative Party have expressed dismay at the wrangling in No. 10, which comes at a time of growing unease on the Tory benches at the government's handling of the pandemic and the economic damage being caused by the current lockdown in England.

Charles Walker, the vice-chairman of the influential 1922 Committee of backbench MPs, told the BBC there has been "unhappiness about the Number 10 operation for some time.

"Members of Parliament have felt excluded from the decision-making process, and that's no secret. The real opportunity here is for the Chief of Staff position to be filled by someone who has good links with the Conservative Party and its representation in the House of Commons," he said.

The Opposition Labour Party said the developments were a sign of an "incompetent and divided" government.

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SONICA ARON

To the best of one's abilities

Being professional requires ethical behaviour that drives interactions with employees, customers and leaders

iStock

Professionalism and ethics, are two words that we all know are important, and yet, in our behaviour, we often, unconsciously or deliberately overlook them in pursuit of short term benefits.

Working with integrity and intrinsic motivation leads an individual to work to the best of his abilities. Ethics are the morals and principals that govern a person's behaviour. It means to be able to differentiate between what is right or wrong, and what is good or bad. People with robust work ethics perform their work with full dedication. It makes them stand out from the rest who may try to dodge hard work. The one with strong ethics never loses focus from their goals. They put persistent efforts, leading them to produce high-quality work consistently.

In today's corporate era, business ethics or code of ethics are buzzwords. The reason behind this is the VUCA (volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity) world we are all in. Here information, definitions, directions might not be clear, and employees have to rely on guidelines and their judgements to stay on the right side. Above all, the pressure to succeed in a highly competitive world and taking short cuts or driving short term benefits might take precedence over being morally on the right side, especially if lines are blurred.

According to few people ethics can be taught while some say, it depends upon how a person has been raised, if he or she was made to distinguish between being morally right and being ethically wrong. It basically demonstrates that all the ethics courses online are useless. But psychologists today say that ethics consists of knowing what we ought to do, and such knowledge can be taught.

Professionalism is the conduct, behaviour and attitude of a person in a work or a corporate environment. Professionalism can, indeed, be taught, and it has been for centuries, but not in the classroom. Instead, it is taught in the hidden curriculum at work, where professional behaviours are recognised and promoted while unprofessional practices get penalised, directly or indirectly, sooner or later.

Underlying professionalism and ethics are values such as integrity, commitment, sensitivity and respect, and civic sense. Being professional requires ethical behaviour that drives interactions with employees, customers and leaders. It is based on how someone performs their job, takes decisions, and how their work is perceived in the organisation.

Success

Organisations require committed professional who will perform while abiding by the code of ethics, commitment and resilience. Short term attitude might prove to be detrimental for the organisation and hence will not be welcomed. Therefore, to become long term talent, professionalism, and ethics are crucial. A team member who is extremely intelligent and talented but with poor work ethics will only harm the organisation.

Checking tool

Workplace ethics act as a moral compass and provide employees with the guidelines for decision making in situations that appear grey. It's always better to err on the side of caution than to take a risk. For instance, the present case, where organisations are struggling with cash flows, to maintain employee wellbeing and experience. At this time, their decision-making process and the way of execution will exhibit their code of ethics.

Organisational reputation and brand

An organisation where employees uphold the highest standards of professionalism and ethics is seen as an employer of choice. But in reality, it is not awards and publications that make a person the best employer. Rather it is the way when you uphold your values in times of crisis and helps the organisation to get through it.

Profitability and productivity

Ethics and organisational success go hand in hand. Value-driven companies are always successful in the long run, with a workforce that is committed, engaged and capable. In today's crisis, organisations that will persevere, pivot and innovate to meet the needs of a new normal and engage their employees while doing so will emerge as winners.

Building of society

Organisations are a subunit of the society. What we do at work, we carry back home and vice versa. As we abide with professional and ethical standards at work, we bring the same values of commitment, dedication, loyalty and integrity to our family and society.

These are just a few implications of imbibing professionalism and ethics in our day to day interactions, at work and in our personal dealings. It is also evident, that maintaining a professional and ethical mindset, as individuals and organisations will be vital in emerging as conquerors in the corona crisis.

The writer is founder and managing partner, Marching Sheep

NEED TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY

People with disabilities have a wide range of aspirations, preferences, and attitudes towards brands and products, yet this niche market is still underserved

iStock

JONES MATHEW

One profitable group of customers that has largely remained unaddressed by marketers is the persons with disabilities segment. Today, it might be worth a look at special needs groups like persons with disabilities as profitable target segments in a focused manner.

According to the World Bank, the size of this market is in the range of approximately 15 per cent of the global population comprised of people with varying degrees of disabilities. That is to say, approximately 1 billion people on the planet are in dire need of products that can help solve their day to day problems of fitting in, holding down jobs, or simply surviving with dignity. In India, the number of persons with disabilities is nearly 2.7 crores.

Add to this another 150 million senior citizens who also face varying degrees of disabilities and impairments as they age beyond 60 years. A further impetus comes from the knowledge that as lifespans increase due to better healthcare facilities, the proportion of such senior citizens will only increase in the future. It might therefore be safe to surmise that it is a lucrative enough market to pursue with earnestness. Are marketers scanning the demographic and persons with disabilities data well enough to aggressively chase this segment? Could it be a new blue ocean for early starters in this domain?

Intervention experts who work with persons with disabilities have time and again exhorted industry doyens to design and develop assistive devices for this segment. An assistive device is any device that helps an individual to do something that they otherwise might be incapable of doing. It often helps people overcome a handicap. Some examples include aids to help mobility like wheelchairs or prosthetic devices, aids to assist cognitive functions, tools like automatic page turners, book holders, and adapted pencil grips for learners with disabilities, physical modifications in the built environment to mention a few.

People with disabilities have the same range of aspirations, preferences, and attitude towards brands and products as people without. And yet this niche market is underserved. While the big companies focus on the vast majority of the market, smaller firms and entrepreneurs will do well to engage with this niche segment.

People like to buy from people who look like them. So people with disabilities should be made mainstream by engaging them in advertisements. Marketers should keep in mind people with disabilities and their family members or care givers to obtain precise feedback from this section. Marketers must also exhibit genuine interest and concern for the segment by engaging with disability oriented organisations and NGOs in their activities. Marketing to PwDs needs appreciation of the fact that disabilities are varied and a one-size-fits-all approach will be counterproductive - a visually challenged person's needs would be quite different from that of a mobility impaired person's needs. Marketers would also do well to bear in mind that instead of trying to bring new to the world products, tweaking existing products to improve accessibility for the disabled person could be quicker. For example, a Braille smartphone for the visually impaired; AI based software that converts speech into text for the hearing impaired; cars designed to allow wheelchair bound people to enter the car directly with the wheelchair and then drive sitting in it; voice / gesture activated home appliances for the mobility impaired; medicine boxes with light/sound signals to help elderly and memory loss individuals from remembering to take/keep track of prescribed drug schedules; spectacles-mounted laser pointers for computer keyboards for cerebral palsy patients, and so on.

The need is acute for assistive technology products, much more acute than what marketers have cared to explore. With government policies like Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan (Accessible India Campaign) in motion since 2015, marketers could deliver a better quality of life for persons with disabilities because there is now a structured approach and framework available. Importantly, such marketing must not be pursued as a charity or philanthropic activity. Persons with disabilities value their self-esteem and personal dignity just as much as any other person. All that marketers need to do is deliver value in the form of access to an equal lifestyle at a reasonable cost and there could be found an ocean of loyal and proud customers among the persons with disabilities.

The writer is professor, marketing, Great Lakes Institute of Management, Gurgaon

PLUS POINTS

Sneak peek

Kolkata Centre for Creativity organised an insightful webinar on Satyajit Ray's graphic designs, costumes, jewellery and character design in his films. The webinar "Ray: Speak through Graphic Design Session IV" was conducted by Sandip Ray, film director and member - Satyajit Ray Society, Siladitya Sen, film critic and essayist, Soukarya Ghosal, film director and Riddhi Goswami, assistant professor.

It consisted of detailed visuals and insights from Ray's notebook. Drawings and designs of sets, character's costumes from movies like *Gupi Gayen Bagha Bayen, Pather Panchali*, et al were shown. Ray being an enthusiast in drawing, designing and photography drew detailed designs of the film set, costumes of the characters himself which in turn helped his crew members immensely. At the webinar Sandip Ray's reminiscences about his childhood and his working experience with his father.

– SOUMI MANDAL

Upskilling opportunity

Indiarath announced the launch of its first cohort of nine startups recently. The selected startups are Tales By Le Weaver, *Printpackexchange.com*, Ringlerr, CORDSS, Wardo Circular Fashion Private Limited, Minions.in, Lekh-Haq, Black Eye Technologies, Stealth Mode Startup. 700+ startups across India applied with a majority of applications coming from tier II cities and beyond. The selected startups will be given access to mentors across borders from Google, Amazon, Microsoft, Facebook, Silicon Valley Bank, Paytm, OYO and more.

The 24-week long incubator programme has personalised sessions and coaching to enable startups of any scale/help with navigating any business challenge across verticals. The programme is focused on three broad categories that include upskilling entrepreneurs, business remodelling, product designing, branding strategy, et al.

Nurturing careers

Storm Model Agency, known for discovering iconic models like Kate Moss, Lily Cole, Cara, and Jourdan Dunn partnered with viral media and music platform, Triller, BritAsia TV and RIKA Records to find the "New Face of Asia" back in July.

Following deliberation from experts at Storm including legendary model agent Sarah Doukas, the two winners are Prince Singh– a 20-year old professional footballer and academic with a Bachelors in Science. The female winner is 22-year old Esha Gohil, based in Mumbai. The opportunity saw male and female entries from the US, India, Malaysia and the UK, who submit their videos via the Triller app with 20 talented semi-finalists being considered as winners.

Creative minds

WhiteHat Jr crafted the Silicon Valley programme to reinforce an idea with kids to make accessible industry veterans and help them understand that nothing is out of bounds if one dares to dream. The programme entailed getting kids to create an app to solve real-life problems. The apps represent the students' original concept and are not viable for immediate commercial use.

The kids were shortlisted from the list of over 7,000+ entries. 26 bright young minds presented their innovations to the Silicon Valley team, of which 22 were Indians and four were from the USA. The panel included industry veterans like Amit Patel, managing director of Owl Ventures, Arun Saigal, co-founder and CEO, Thunkable and Suvir Sujan, managing director of Nexus India Capital Advisors.

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Sport
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CALLING A SPADE A SPADE

Germany and Real Madrid player Toni Kroos (photo, left) has taken a swipe at Fifa and Uefa, claiming they are treating players like "puppets" by expanding tournaments and creating new competitions. Kroos criticised the creation of the Uefa Nations League in 2018, which he competes in with Germany, as well as Fifa's expanded Club World Cup, postponed because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

For more updates www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Tokyo Games: Athletes arriving in Tokyo for next year's Olympic Games, postponed from 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic, will be exempt from the 14-day isolation period Japan has imposed on anyone from abroad to help stop the virus from spreading.

Legal threat: Barcelona will sue Neymar for 10.2 million euros that they believe they overpaid the Brazilian. Neymar enjoyed a successful spell at Barca between 2013 and 2017 before joining Paris Saint-Germain for 222 million euros, a world-record fee.

Maradona safe: Maradona left hospital on Wednesday followed by a convoy of supporters, eight days after undergoing surgery to remove a blood clot on his brain. Maradona did not speak to journalists and chanting fans gathered outside in masks as he left the clinic.

Gomez out: Liverpool's Joe Gomez has withdrawn from the England squad after sustaining a knee injury while training with the national team. The centre-back was in line to feature for Gareth Southgate's side against the Republic of Ireland but would miss the friendly.

Cyclist banned: Dylan Groenewegen, one of cycling's top sprinters, has been banned for nine months after causing a crash which left his fellow Dutchman Fabio Jakobsen in a coma. Groenewegen veered from his line during stage one at the Tour of Poland in August.

Duo dropped: Mohammad Amir and Shoaib Malik have been left out of a squad announced for Pakistan's tour of New Zealand as "selectors prefer(red) youth," the Pakistan Cricket Board said on Wednesday. "Malik and Amir are not in the white-ball matches," it said.

France slump to 2-0 defeat against Finland

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS, 12 NOVEMBER

Finland spoiled Marcus Thuram's party on Wednesday after beating France 2-0 on the day the Borussia Moenchengladbach attacker emulated his father Lilian Thuram by making his debut for Les Bleus.

Thuram was picked by Didier Deschamps for the friendly at the Stade de France over 22 years after his dad won the World Cup at the same ground, but despite a strong performance on the left wing could not stop the Finns from coming out on top.

The 23-year-old hit the bar with less 15 minutes gone and soon after flashed a difficult volley over as he and Lucas Digne caused continual problems down the left flank for the away side.

However, Marcus Forss stunned the hosts when he collected the ball after a Moussa Sissoko mistake and rammed home at Steve Mandanda's near post.

France barely had any time to react before Onni Valakari doubled the away side's lead with a stunning effort after being left to stroll towards goal. Deschamps brought on Antoine Griezmann, Anthony Martial and N'Golo Kante just before the hour mark but could not break down the well-organised Finns.

The result will disappoint Deschamps but he will likely have been happy with the performance of Thuram, who made more of an impression than some of the more established international players on display, including Paul Pogba and Olivier Giroud.

"It was a good first half despite the goals," Thuram told television channel *M6*.

"I'm trying to learn a lot alongside the other internationals... and to gain as much experience as possible. I hope that will continue."

He could be in contention for World Cup holders France's Nations League matches against European champions Portugal and Sweden.

Deschamps said last week that the son of his old France team-mate had "gone up a level" since joining Moenchengladbach from French side Guingamp in July 2019.

Goal quest

Cristiano Ronaldo continued his quest to snatch the all-time record for most international goals when he struck his 102nd Portugal goal in their in a 7-0 win over Andorra.

France's opponents on Saturday in what could be a Nations League A, Group 3 decider strolled post their weak opponents in Lisbon despite not starting a single player from the team that had beaten Sweden 3-0 last month.

Ronaldo missed that match after testing positive for the coronavirus and was introduced at half-time on Wednesday, but had to wait until there were only five minutes remaining to boost his record bid with a close-range header.

Former Iran striker Ali Daei holds the record on 109 goals.

Italy extended their unbeaten streak to 20 games after a second-string line-up comfortably beat Estonia a 4-0.

Oz pick uncapped Pucovski, Green, Abbott for Test

MELBOURNE, 12 NOVEMBER

The prodigiously talented pair of Will Pucovski and Cameroon Green were among five uncapped players picked Thursday in a 17-member Australian Test squad for the big-ticket four-match series against India, starting December 17.

The other uncapped Test players in the Tim Paine-led side are fast bowler Sean Abbott -- whose bouncer had accidentally hit Phil Hughes during a Sheffield Shield game in 2014, leading to his tragic death -- leg-spinner Mitchell Swepson and all-rounder Michael Neser.

All the players who are yet to wear the Baggy Green have been called on the back of extraordinary performances in the domestic circuit in recent times, Cricket Australia said.

Cricket Australia's national selector Trevor Hohns said the Shield performances augur well for the country's cricketing future.

"Two of those many standout players were of course Cameron Green and Will Pucovski," Hohns said in a statement.

Each of these players, though, has represented Australia in other formats.

Up against a strong Indian line-up and seeking to regain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy they lost for the first time in 2018-19, the fresh faces in the Australian Test squad will join the seasoned stars who dominated their most recent Test series' -- against Pakistan and New Zealand at home.

The performance took the team to the top of the world rankings before the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

The limited overs leg, which will comprise three ODIs and as many T20Is, will be held prior to the Test series, starting November 27. World's number one pacer Pat Cummins was named Paine's deputy in the Test team.

Australia Test squad:

Tim Paine (c), Sean Abbott, Joe Burns, Pat Cummins, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Michael Neser, James Pattinson, Will Pucovski, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Mitchell Swepson, Matthew Wade, David Warner PTI

Brazil and Argentina grapple with injuries

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
RIO DE JANEIRO, 12 NOVEMBER

Brazil must confront a growing injury list that includes star forward Neymar as they resume World Cup qualifying this week, while Argentina are out to extend their perfect start at home to neighbours Paraguay.

Brazil host Venezuela in Sao Paulo on Friday chasing a third win in as many matches after launching their Qatar 2022 campaign with victories over Bolivia and Peru.

However, Brazil coach Tite **(in photo)** will be without Neymar after the world's most expensive player injured his thigh while on Champions League duty. Neymar, 28, bagged a hat-trick in a 4-2 win in Lima last time out to surpass Ronaldo as Brazil's second leading scorer in history. His tally of 64 goals leaves him 13 shy of Pele's record.

Despite his latest setback Neymar will still travel with the squad amid hopes that he may recover in time for the trip to Uruguay on 17 November.

However, national team coordinator Juninho Paulista said Tite had told PSG sporting director Leonardo that he "would never risk a player's health." Defender Thiago Silva has tightened up the Chelsea defence since his arrival in England, but the 36-year-old has warned the crowded global fixture list is taking its toll on players.

"You have to keep endlessly reinventing yourself. We're losing players infected by Covid-19, or others who get hurt because we're playing too many matches. We're not machines," he said.

"We saw recent studies showing it's more than likely you get injured after four or five matches come one after another (every three days). It's very worrying for us."

While goalkeeper Alisson Becker and forward Gabriel Jesus return after injury, Brazil will also be without Casemiro, Philippe Coutinho and Fabinho.

Argentina, who began qualifying with narrow wins over Ecuador and Bolivia, are hoping Lionel Messi will be fit for both their games against Paraguay and Peru.

The Barcelona forward is said to be nursing a sore ankle, leaving Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni considering his options if his captain is unavailable.

Paulo Dybala is again missing from the squad along with Sergio Aguero, although Angel Di Maria has been recalled for the first time in over a year. Lautaro Martinez will likely start up front while super-sub Joaquin Correa could be rewarded for his winning goal in the altitude of La Paz.

Lucas Alario has also forced his way into contention after scoring seven goals for Bayer Leverkusen in his past four Bundesliga appearances. Uruguay meet Colombia in Barranquilla on Friday attempting to bounce back from last month's 4-2 loss in Ecuador.

Luis Suarez is the joint leading scorer in qualifying with three goals, all of them penalties, carrying over his form from club level with Atletico Madrid.

Real Madrid midfielder Fede Valverde is out with a fractured shin and Maxi Gomez is absent due to a knee problem for Uruguay.

Last year's Copa America runners-up Peru on Friday play Chile -- the country that won the tournament in 2015 and 2016. Both nations are looking to breathe life into their qualifying bids in Santiago after collecting just a point from the opening two rounds.

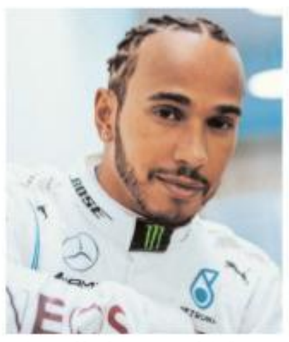
Ready for big series

NEW DELHI, 12 NOVEMBER: Members of the Indian cricket team have assembled ahead of their tour of Australia after a gruelling season of the Indian Premier League and were in protective clothing in images shared by the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

Cheteshwar Pujara, who did not play in the IPL, was among the players in the images along with head coach Ravi Shastri. In another development, Australia have included youngsters Will Pucovski and Cameron Green in their 17-member squad for Border-Gavaskar Trophy matches against India. Sean Abbott, Mitchell Swepson and Michael Neser are other players included in the squad and could be in line for a Test debut. IANS

Hamilton poised to clinch seventh title

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ISTANBUL, 12 NOVEMBER



Lewis Hamilton **(in photo)** can seal a record-equalling seventh drivers' world title on Sunday, position himself to be the "best of the best" and set up long-awaited negotiations for a new Mercedes contract at this weekend's Turkish Grand Prix.

The Briton needs only to prevent his Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas from outscoring him by eight points to retain his crown and, in the eyes of many including former Ferrari rival Felipe Massa, move on to become the most successful in F1 history.

A seventh championship would draw him level with Massa's erstwhile Ferrari team-mate Michael Schumacher for titles, but with the record for wins, poles and podiums, as well as consecutive points finishes, he will in many eyes already be the "greatest of all time."

Brazilian Massa, who himself missed out on a title triumph when Hamilton claimed his first in Sao Paulo in 2008, has no doubt that the Englishman, whose contract expires later this year, will deserve that sobriquet and a salary to match it.

"Lewis can really be the best of the best and everybody will say that for years and years, or maybe decades, or whatever," he told the F1 Nation podcast. "So, I think he is just preparing his two or three-year contract, which I think he deserves. What he is doing... He shows that he definitely deserves it - to be different to all of the other drivers in terms of everything and even in terms of salary."

Hamilton departed the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix at Imola earlier this month with an enigmatic suggestion, after his record-increasing 93rd win had secured Mercedes' unparalleled seventh consecutive constructors' championship, that he may not return to racing in 2021.

Notions of retirement were rejected by his team chief Toto Wolff, who is also out of contract this year. Massa suggested Hamilton was set for a bumper new deal ahead of any confirmed "salary cap" in the sport.

"I remember when Michael was my team-mate and he was like that," he recalled. "Michael was completely different from everybody in terms of everything - in records, numbers and salary.

"For sure, Michael helped many other drivers to increase their salary. That's what Lewis is, in my view, trying to do. I think he is 'doing right' and he deserves it."

In the simplest terms, Hamilton will be champion again if he beats Bottas, who trails him by 85 points with four races remaining. For the Finn to keep alive his own title bid, he must outscore Hamilton by nine points or more.

Given that Hamilton has beaten him at 10 of this year's 13 races to date and has been in the points at a record 46 consecutive races, Bottas faces a daunting challenge.

Even if he wins on Sunday at the Istanbul Park Circuit, returning to the calendar for the first time since 2011, Hamilton can still take the title by finishing second and clocking the fastest lap.

With the title race reduced to a duel between the two 'silver arrows' drivers, many other teams have turned already to plans for next season - Ferrari boss Mattia Binotto deciding to stay in Italy to concentrate on car development.

Class-act Choi the benchmark for Augusta's Asian brigade

CHINA DAILY/ANN

When nine Asian golf stars, including Chinese amateur Lin Yuxin and Chinese Taipei's CT Pan, tee off at this week's Masters, they could well find inspiration from the success story of South Korean trailblazer KJ Choi (in photo), who has come closest to donning the coveted green jacket.

Choi, who turned 50 earlier this year, has enjoyed a love affair with Augusta National since making his debut in 2003, and has been heartbroken following some close shaves, which include a career-best third-place finish in 2004 and two other top-10s in 2010 and 2011. His impressive Masters record and well-documented rise to fame on the PGA Tour will be a fresh reminder to the Asian brigade that anything is possible in the fabled tournament.

For over two decades, Choi, who is nicknamed "The Tank" due to his solid frame and single-mindedness on the course, has blazed a trail for Asian golf with an incredible journey that began in Wando Island, South Korea, where he grew up in a farming family.

Thanks mainly to his unflinching dedication, he remains the most successful Asian golfer on the PGA Tour with eight victories, 68 top-10s and over $32 million in prize money.

"When I first came to play in the US, I questioned if a Korean player could win on the PGA Tour. To be honest, most of my thoughts were negative thoughts, but I pushed and worked hard to reach my goal. I look back at my career now, and there are really some records to commemorate and I'm very honored and proud of my achievements on the tour," said Choi.

The Asian contingent at Augusta is comprised of four Koreans-Im Sung-jae, An Byeong-hun, Kim Si-woo and Kang Sung-Chinese Taipei's Pan, Thailand's Jazz Janewattananond, Japanese duo Hideki Matsuyama and Shugo Imahira and China's 2019 Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship winner, Lin.

Choi's advice to any aspiring golfers is simple: Work harder than the rest.

"There are a few things that people talk about when they think of KJ Choi, such as KJ changing grips and having success, always wearing visor caps, and so on," he said. "Of all these words, the phrase I like best is, 'KJ Choi, he worked really hard.' I like this saying because people acknowledge that I have worked hard my entire life. I think that is my legacy.

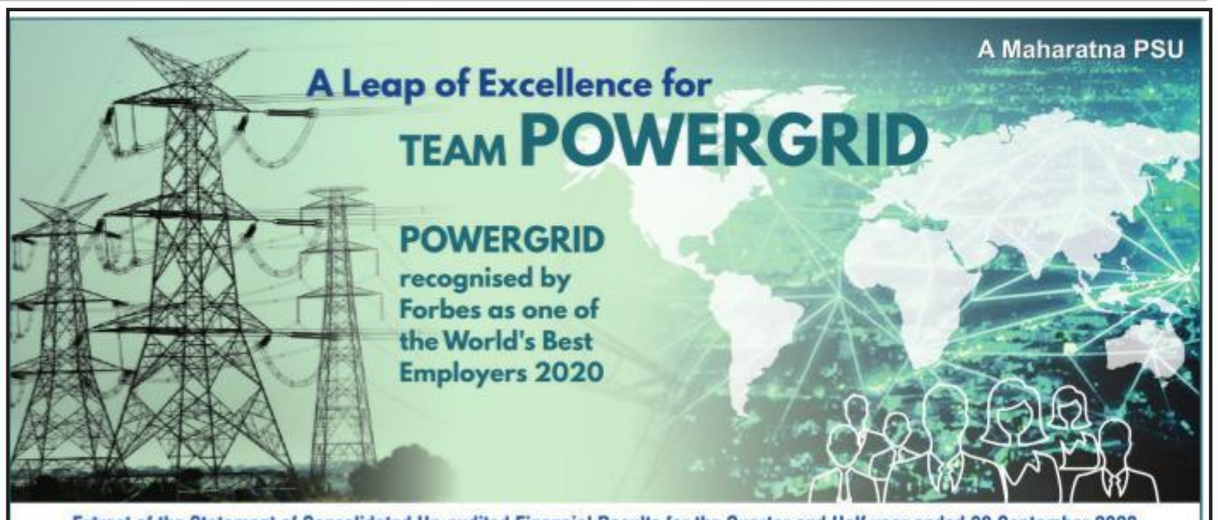
"If other players practiced for two hours, I did three hours. I always tried to practice more than the others and I was obsessed to overcome what people thought of me. And those hours of hard work and with God's help, I could play on the PGA Tour for 21 years. As I look back at my career now, there are really some records to commemorate and I'm proud to be one of the Korean players to play on the tour."

Im, the 2019 PGA Tour Rookie of the Year, is among the growing legion of Korean stars who were inspired by Choi.

"Since I was young, I watched KJ winning on the tour and always thought that one day I want to experience what KJ has done. Playing on the PGA Tour was my goal since then," said Im.

"If we practice together, he comments about course management and gives advice. He also gives advice on general things."

An, who moved to the US when he was 15 to pursue his golf dreams, added that Choi was always ready to play practice rounds with the new generation of players and impart his knowledge along the way. "He never refused," said An, who will be making his fourth Masters appearance.



Extract of the Statement of Consolidated Un-audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Half year ended 30 September 2020

(₹ in Crore)

S.No.	Particulars	Quarter ended			Half year ended		Year ended
		30.09.2020 (Un-audited)	30.06.2020 (Un-audited)	30.09.2019 (Un-audited)	30.09.2020 (Un-audited)	30.09.2019 (Un-audited)	31.03.2020 (Audited)
1	Revenue From Operations	9,529.68	9,457.40	9,051.29	18,987.08	18,230.92	37,743.54
2	Profit before Exceptional Items and Tax (including Regulatory Deferral Account Balances (net of tax))	3,892.89	3,981.38	3,356.48	7,874.27	6,758.94	14,590.15
3	Profit before Tax (including Regulatory Deferral Account Balances (net of tax))	3,889.25	2,906.38	3,356.48	6,795.63	6,758.94	14,590.15
4	Profit after Tax for the period before Regulatory Deferral Account Balances	3,102.32	1,654.36	2,219.23	4,756.68	4,728.33	9,376.00
5	Profit after Tax for the period	3,094.10	2,048.42	2,571.10	5,142.52	5,073.90	11,059.40
6	Total Comprehensive Income comprising net Profit after Tax and Other Comprehensive Income	3,088.98	2,056.02	2,551.55	5,145.00	5,040.94	10,955.38
7	Paid up Equity Share Capital (face value of share : ₹10/- each)	5,231.59	5,231.59	5,231.59	5,231.59	5,231.59	5,231.59
8	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Balance sheet				62,495.20	57,309.63	59,463.76
9	Earnings per equity share including movement in Regulatory Deferral Account Balances (Face value of ₹10/- each): Basic and Diluted (in ₹)	5.91	3.92	4.92	9.83	9.70	21.14
10	Earnings per equity share excluding movement in Regulatory Deferral Account Balances (Face value of ₹10/- each): Basic and Diluted (in ₹)	5.93	3.16	4.24	9.09	9.04	17.92

Notes :

(₹ in Crore)

S.No.	Particulars	Quarter ended			Half year ended		Year ended
		30.09.2020 (Un-audited)	30.06.2020 (Un-audited)	30.09.2019 (Un-audited)	30.09.2020 (Un-audited)	30.09.2019 (Un-audited)	31.03.2020 (Audited)
1	Key Standalone Financial information						
a)	Revenue From Operations	9,057.89	8,988.72	8,684.98	18,046.61	17,489.09	36,185.54
b)	Profit before Exceptional Items and Tax (including Regulatory Deferral Account Balances (net of tax))	3,803.40	3,827.02	3,282.68	7,630.42	6,578.92	14,330.75
c)	Profit before Tax (including Regulatory Deferral Account Balances(net of tax))	3,799.76	2,752.02	3,282.68	6,551.78	6,578.92	14,330.75
d)	Profit after Tax for the period before Regulatory Deferral Account Balances	3,125.63	1,584.85	2,175.27	4,710.48	4,609.46	9,127.78
e)	Profit after Tax for the period	3,117.41	1,978.91	2,527.14	5,096.32	4,955.03	10,811.18

2 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly and Half yearly Consolidated and Standalone Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulations 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly and Half yearly Consolidated and Standalone Financial Results is available on the Investor Relations section of our website http://www.powergridindia.com and under Corporates Section of BSE Limited & National Stock Exchange of India Limited at http://www.bseindia.com and http://www.nseindia.com respectively.

3 Previous periods figures have been regrouped/rearranged wherever considered necessary

For and on behalf of POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.

Sd/-
(K. Sreekant)
Chairman & Managing Director

Place : Gurugram
Date : 11th November, 2020

पावरग्रिड POWERGRID

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
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CIN : L40101DL1989GOI038121

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ONE NATION GRID FREQUENCY

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