



'INDO PACIFIC CONCEPT
A REJECTION OF
SPHERES OF INFLUENCE'



'GANDHIS ARE
CONGRESS
UNIFIERS'

P5

P7



'TRUMP SENDING
DAMAGING MESSAGE
BY NOT CONCEDING'

P10



NADAL AMONG
LAST FOUR IN
LONDON COMBATS

P12

WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. Cold wave conditions at isolated pockets. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 25 and 08 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 93% Min: 42%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 25.4°C (-2) Min: 0.7°C (-5)

SUN RISES

06:49 hrs 17:26 hrs

MOON RISES

13:13 hrs 23:30 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee during Chhath Puja celebrations at Doi Ghat in Kolkata on Friday.

IANS

ED files money laundering case in TRP scam:

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a money laundering complaint in the alleged TRP rigging scam that is being investigated by the Mumbai police, official sources said. They said the central probe agency has filed an enforcement case information report under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The ED complaint was filed after studying a Mumbai police FIR that had named the Republic TV, two Marathi channels and few others.

Pfizer seeks emergency use of vaccine in US: Pfizer said on Friday it is asking U.S. regulators to allow emergency use of its Covid-19 vaccine, starting the clock on a process that could bring limited first shots as early as next month and eventually an end to the pandemic but not until after a long, hard winter. The action comes days after Pfizer Inc. and its German partner BioNTech announced that its vaccine appears 95% effective at preventing mild to severe Covid-19 disease in an ongoing study. **P10**

India's Covid tally over 90 lakh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 20 NOVEMBER

Delhi logs 118 corona deaths, toll 8,159

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 20 NOVEMBER

The new Covid cases were detected out of 62,425 tests, including 38,918 rapid antigen tests and 23,507 RTPCR/CBAAT/TreNAT tests, the health bulletin said.

The positivity rate was 10.59 per cent against yesterday's 12.09 per cent.

The city yesterday logged 7,546 Covid cases and 98 more fatalities.

The terrorists have started using these sectors along the IB to infiltrate due to

sources privy to the high-level meeting said that Prime Minister Modi

reviewed the security grid as investigations in the Nagrota encounter indicated that the terrorists were planning to do something big on the anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack.

The Intelligence Bureau Chief briefed Modi on inputs suggesting that the four Jaish terrorists killed in an encounter on Thursday were planning something big for forthcoming District Development Council (DDC) elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Source said this year 16 terrorists were killed and seven arrested in the Jammu zone. The source also said that security forces had also arrested 26 overground workers.

Pakistan is exploiting the International Border in Punjab and Jammu area in an attempt to push in the maximum number of terrorists before the onset of winter.

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Delhi's air quality remains 'poor'

PTI
NEW DELHI, 20 NOVEMBER

Delhi's air quality was recorded in the "poor" category on Friday while central government agencies said it is likely to improve marginally due to favourable wind speed.

The city's 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) was 296. It was 283 on Thursday, 211 on Wednesday and 171 on Tuesday.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".

The central government's Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi said Delhi-NCR air quality is likely to remain in the "poor" to "moderate" category on Saturday. The predominant surface wind direction is likely to be west-northwesterly and the maximum wind speed 15 kmph on Saturday, it said.

SAFAR said "energetic" surface winds are likely to influence AQI positively in the next two days.

The minimum temperature settled at 7.5 degrees Celsius on Friday the lowest in

the month of November in 14 years, according to IMD.

Calm winds and low temperatures trap pollutants close to the ground, while favourable wind speed helps in their dispersion.

Delhi's ventilation index - a product of mixing depth and average wind speed was around 12,500 m²/s on Friday and is likely to be 13,000 m²/s on Saturday.

Mixing depth is the vertical height in which pollutants are suspended in the air. It reduces on cold days with calm wind speed.

A ventillation index lower than 6,000 sqm/second, with the average wind speed less than 10 kmph, is unfavourable for dispersal of pollutants.

The IMD said the minimum temperature in Delhi will drop to 7 degrees Celsius by Monday, as cold winds have started blowing from hilly regions, which have witnessed a fresh bout of snowfall.

The minimum temperature this month, barring on November 16, has remained below 2.3 degree Celsius below normal in the absence of a cloud cover, according to IMD officials.

According to the Ministry

Classified

LEGAL NOTICES

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT
(Order 5 Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
Ms. Charu Asiwal
Civil Judge Central-08
Room No. 231
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54
Suit No. CS/SC/1893/19
ICICI Bank Ltd.

— Plaintiff
Against
Jatin Talreja — Defendant

To,
Jatin Talreja, s/o Mukesh Talreja, r/o H.N.C-1107, Prajteek Lourel Society, Sector 120, Noida, UP-201301.

Also at: 33 Satilla Apartment, Dayal Bagh, Agara, UP-282005.

Also at: Barclays Global Services Centre, Plot No. 2, 8th Floor Unittech Infospace Tower 1, Block B, Industrial Area, Sector 62, Noida-UP-201309.

The Court has noticed that whereas you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 25 November 2020 the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex parte.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court this 28-09-2020.

Civil Judge Central-08
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

Seal of the Court

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT
(Order 5 Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
Ms. Charu Asiwal
Civil Judge Central-08
Room No. 231
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54
Suit No. CS/SC/1894/19
ICICI Bank Ltd.

— Plaintiff
Against
Nitin Kumar Saha — Defendant

To,
Nitin Kumar Saha, s/o Arun Kumar Saha, r/o 80/53A, First Floor, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110017.

Also at: Ward No. 27, Dhamashala Road, Kishan Kangan, Bihar-855107.

Also at: Aon Services India Pvt. Ltd. Unitech Infospace Building No. 2, Aon Centre Sector 48, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001.

The Defence abominated whereas you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 25 November 2020 the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex parte.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court this 28-09-2020.

Civil Judge Central-08
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

Seal of the Court

DEBT'S RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
4th Floor, Teekwan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
DA No. 486/2019
ICICI Bank Limited

Versus
Alok Nath Gupta — Respondent

To,
1. Alok Nath Gupta, s/o Ranjeet Gupta, r/o House No. A-191, Sector-P-4, Greater Noida, Post-Agra, Greater Noida, 240010.
2. Gautam Budhatkar, Nager, 3 Near Utthan, Sector-20, 200088.

Whereas the abovenamed applicant has instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 17,36,209.01/- (Rupees Seventeen Lacs Thirty Six Thousand Two Hundred Nine and One Paise only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before Lt. Registrar on 22-02-2021 at 10-30 a.m. (for further details kindly visit DRT website www.tribunal.gov.in Phone Number : 011-2374873).

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the abovementioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Due to ongoing Pandemic

Situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:

(i) All the Advocate/Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" application.

(ii) Meeting ID and Pass-

word for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Registrar/Recovery Officer-I and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the next date of DRT Officer Portal i.e. Drt.gov.in under the Public Notice Head.

(iii) In any exigency qua that, the Advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned Official at Ph. No. 011-2374873.

Given under my hand and Seal of the Tribunal on this 05th October of 2020.

By Order of this Tribunal
For Registrar

The central government's Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi said Delhi-NCR air quality is likely to remain in the "poor" to "moderate" category on Saturday. The predominant surface wind direction is likely to be west-northwesterly and the maximum wind speed 15 kmph on Saturday, it said

of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, SAFAR, stubble burning accounted for 15 per cent of Delhi's PM2.5 pollution on Friday. It was 20 per cent on Thursday, eight per cent on Wednesday and three per cent on Tuesday.

SAFAR said "energetic" surface winds are likely to influence AQI positively in the next two days.

The minimum tempera-

ture this month, barring on November 16, has remained below 2.3 degree Celsius below normal in the absence of a cloud cover, according to IMD officials.

PUBLIC NOTICE

To declare that I, Rahul Sh. S/o Sh. Kam Avtar, 87, Galli No. 1, Ghiloli, Mehrauli, Delhi-30 am no longer associated and have no concern whatsoever with M/s Viljoo Retail Pvt. Ltd. Regd. Office 808, 8th Floor, Gopal Heights, NSP, Tilpatpura, Delhi-110034 (Company). I was unknowingly and fraudulently made as Director of the company but resigned as the Director of the Company w.e.f. 19.10.20. Now I had/have no stake, no concern and no association of any kind in the affair of business of the company w.e.f. 19.10.2020. Request to all person / company / institution not to deal with the company under my name / designation/signatures and I shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

I, Ramesh Chandra, s/o Late Sh. Puran Singh, r/o Village Badrola sub Tehsil Dayalpur district Faridabad, Present address House No.324 Phase-3, Sushant Lok Sector-57 Tehsil Wazirabad District Gurugram, Haryana. Inform that I disowned my son Amit Kumar and wife Seema and Sunil Kumar and wife Savita from my all movable and immoveable properties due to his misconduct. In future anybody deals with them so do at own risk and responsibility. AFTER the demise of Smt. Jharua Roy, her son, Sri Arinbaran Roy, by virtue of inheritance is the present owner of All That land measuring 2 cattahs, 4 chittacks & 13 sqft. forming part of C.S. & R.S. Dag Nos. 201 (P) & 202 (R), Sector-112, Khatian No. 185, L.O.P. 86/1, Mouza: Panshali, P.S.: Khardhan situated at 119, Panshali Govt. Colony, Ward No. 19 of Panjhati Municipality, Jharna Roy prior to her demise has lost

E-Auction E-waste items, 26-11-2020 at 02:30 Inspectors: 25-11-2020 from 11:00 to 4:00, at Pt. Deenbandhu Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, Delhi. Security 20,000/- Accurate, 9868215515

SALE BY AUCTION

To declare that I, Jai Bhagwan S/o Sh. Babu Lal, S-171/39, Malikpur Kohi, Rang Puri Pahar, Delhi-37 am no longer associated and have no concern whatsoever with M/s Viljoo Retail Pvt. Ltd. Regd. Office 808, 8th Floor, Gopal Heights, NSP, Tilpatpura, Delhi-110034 (Company). I was unknowingly and fraudulently made as Director of the company but resigned as the Director of the Company w.e.f. 19.10.20. Now I had/have no stake, no concern and no association of any kind in the affair of business of the company w.e.f. 17.10.2020. Request to all person / company / institution not to deal with the company under my name / designation/signatures and I shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

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www.wbtenders.gov.in

TENDERS

ARAMBAGH Municipality — The Chairperson of Arambagh Municipality is tender for various work, under Arambagh Municipality, P.O. — P.S.: Arambagh Dist: Hooghly Submission start date: 24.11.2020. End date: 8.12.2020.

Chairperson Arambagh Municipality

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To declare that I, Jai Bhagwan S/o Sh. Babu Lal, S-171/39, Malikpur Kohi, Rang Puri Pahar, Delhi-37 am no longer associated and have no concern whatsoever with M/s Viljoo Retail Pvt. Ltd. Regd. Office 808, 8th Floor, Gopal Heights, NSP, Tilpatpura, Delhi-110034 (Company). I was unknowingly and fraudulently made as Director of the company but resigned as the Director of the Company w.e.f. 19.10.20. Now I had/have no stake, no concern and no association of any kind in the affair of business of the company w.e.f. 17.10.2020. Request to all person / company / institution not to deal with the company under my name / designation/signatures and I shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

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Chairperson Arambagh Municipality

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SHIMLA

Cabin No. 305, P. C. Chambers

Near Jodha Niwas



The YSRCP regime made tall promises to the people but it did not make any efforts to fulfil the same after coming to power.

JYOTHULA NEHRU

SENIOR TELUGU DESAM PARTY LEADER

The Statesman

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2020

03

Haryana govt to come out with enterprises promotion policy

Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar says his government's focus is not just on enhancing the ease of doing business, but also on reducing the cost of doing business

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 20 NOVEMBER

To support enterprises, the Haryana government will soon come out with its Enterprises Promotion Policy 2020.

Speaking at the Haryana-Singapore Roundtable Virtual Conference organised by the Haryana government, Invest India and Enterprise Singapore on Friday, Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar said his government's focus was not just on enhancing ease of doing business, but also on reducing the cost of doing business. The CM said that Haryana has adopted a sector-focused approach to development and with a view to provide incentives to investors, Haryana last year also introduced five sector-specific policies for agribusiness and food processing, textile, warehousing-logistic retail, pharmaceutical and MSMEs.

Haryana has also emerged as a base for the knowledge industry destination for knowledge based and manufacturer



Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar addressing the Haryana-Singapore roundtable virtual conference at Chandigarh on Friday.

health care units in Haryana.

Khattar said Haryana is considered as an "industrial power house" with more than 250 fortune 500 companies based in the state. He said to ensure a seamless investment process, a single-roof clearance system has been set up in the state, wherein any investor or enterprises could obtain all state-related clearances through an online portal in a time-bound manner. All clearances are granted to investors in a maximum of 45 days. Over one lakh clearances from various departments have already been granted through this mechanism, Khattar added.

The CM also said that the state government was focusing on the creation of world class infrastructure. The state was also working on big ticket projects such as Integrated Multi-Modal Logistics Hub in Narnaul, Global City in Gurugram and an integrated Aviation Hub in Hisar. "Further, we are in the process of developing three smart cities at Faridabad, Gurgaon and Karnal," he added.

Himachal ramps up coronavirus testing

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 20 NOVEMBER

The Himachal Pradesh government's health secretary Amitabh Awasthi on Friday said that the government was taking all necessary preventive and remedial steps to contain the spread of corona pandemic in the state and that the capacity of testing has also been enhanced now.

Hesaid that till now 475263 persons have been screened for coronavirus in which 32197 persons were found positive. The rate of positive cases in the state is 6.5 percent.

He said that keeping in view the festive season it is necessary to be more cautious from getting COVID-19 infection.

He said that not adhering to the safety and preventive measures would be an invitation to coronavirus. He urged people to adopt regular safe practices to increase immunity and to ensure early screening of COVID-19 without panicking so that chances of infection could be controlled and if the report was found positive the person could be isolated on time. He urged people to contact helpline number 104 or avail e-Sanjeevani facility in case of fever, cough, cold or respiratory problems.

Awasthi said that to contain the spread of virus people should strictly follow the guidelines of central as well as state government issued from time to time.

He urged people to follow the social distancing norms, using face masks while going out of home and use of hand sanitizer. He said to avoid touching nose, eyes and mouth without washing hands properly.

Shoolini varsity researcher wins global laurels



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 20 NOVEMBER

Dr Gaurav Sharma of Shoolini University based in Himachal Pradesh's Solan has been recognised as a highly cited researcher for 2020 by Clarivate Analytics of Web of Science Group.

The list of highly cited researchers from the Web of Science Group identifies scientists and social scientists who have demonstrated significant broad influence, reflected through their publication of multiple papers and have been frequently cited by their peers during the last decade.

Dr Sharma is only among 20 researchers from India in the total list of 6167 top scientists from across the world.

Dr Sharma's research activity started in 2009 at Shoolini University as master of philosophy student, and then he continued his research work as PhD student. He is working on the preparation and characterization of diverse multifunctional nanomaterials and their composites, specially focused for their potential applications in

environmental remediation and biological field.

Researchers are selected for their exceptional influence and performance in one or more of 21 fields or across several fields. Dr Gaurav Sharma has been awarded highly cited researcher in across field category. The number of researchers selected in each field is based on the square root of the population of authors listed in the field's highly cited papers. The number of those with cross-field influence is determined by finding those who have influence equivalent to those identified in the 21 fields.

For the Highly Cited Researchers 2020 analysis, the papers surveyed were those published and cited during 2009-2019 and which at the end of 2019 ranked in the top one percent by citations for their field and year.

Dr Gaurav Sharma's achievement has been hailed by Shoolini University Vice Chancellor Professor P K Khosla, who described it as a "very proud moment for the university which has been laying special emphasis on research".

HP minister clears air over Central varsity campuses

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 20 NOVEMBER

Himachal Pradesh Revenue Minister Mahender Singh Thakur said here on Friday that the Government of India has given approval for setting up two campuses of the Central University Dharamshala, which includes the northern campus Jadarangal Tehsil Dharamshala and the southern campus Dehra.

The state government had transferred 34.55 hectares of government land in 2010 to the Central University of Himachal Pradesh for the construction of the southern campus Dehra, the mutation of which was done in 2010.

He said that apart from this, the approval to divert 81.79 hectares of forest land under the Forest Conservation Act was received on December 11, 2018, in the name of User Agency Director Higher Education, Himachal Pradesh, but this included the condition that the land which has been granted permission to convert cannot be transferred in any case to another agency, department or any other person without the approval of the Central Government. There will be no change in the legal status of such diverted forest land. On the request of the Department of Revenue for this matter and some other mat-

ters, the Forest Department had requested the Union Ministry of Forest and Environment, Government of India, on 22 April, 2019 for the necessary clarification, whether the diverted forest land agency may or may not be transferred to user agency through mutation mode. The Revenue Department had also urged the Union Ministry of Forest and Environment, Government of India, whether the documents for possession of the converted forest land can be entered in the revenue records or not.

He said on this, the Union Ministry of Forest and Environment, through a letter on July 30, 2019, had clarified that the legal status of the forest land that is diverted under the Forest Protection Act 1980 will remain as forest land only. Such diverted land arrangement, the name of the user agency or user department cannot be transferred by the revenue department in the revenue records.

According to the clarification of the Ministry of Forest and Environment, Government of India, in the matter of Central University of Dharamshala as well as in 30 other cases, the forest land has not yet been given to the concerned user agency. He said that the state government is taking necessary steps for getting approval for

the establishment of Central University and all other developmental projects by taking action under the Forest Conservation Act 1980, but in view of the clarification of the Ministry of Forest and Environment, the Central University and the works of many other important projects are getting delayed.

The Revenue Minister made it clear that the State Government has taken prompt action in converting forest land for the Central University under the Forest Conservation Act 1980. Necessary approval for this was also issued on December 11, 2018 and under Green Cover Plan, Rs. Five crore 60 lakh was deposited in Campa Head in November 2018. This amount was in addition to the previously deposited amount of Rs. 17 crore 27 lakh 53 thousand.

The Revenue Minister said that the state government has taken up the matter with the Ministry of Forest and Environment Government of India to reconsider the situation arising in this regard. He urged the Union Minister of State for Finance, Ministry of Forest and Environment, Government of India to redress these technical issues so that the construction work of Central University and the pending works of about 30 other projects could be started and the pace of development could be accelerated.

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UNAUDITED STANALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER & HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

(Rs. In Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Particulars	STANALONE						CONSOLIDATED					
		Quarter Ended		Half Year Ended		Year Ended		Quarter Ended		Half Year Ended		Year Ended	
		30.09.2020 (Unaudited)	30.06.2020 (Unaudited)	30.09.2019 (Unaudited)	30.09.2020 (Unaudited)	30.09.2019 (Unaudited)	31.03.2020 (Audited)	30.09.2020 (Unaudited)	30.06.2020 (Unaudited)	30.09.2019 (Unaudited)	30.09.2020 (Unaudited)	30.09.2019 (Unaudited)	31.03.2020 (Audited)
1	Income from operations	7,631	8,030	13,896	15,661	27,153	55,141	7,631	8,030	13,896	15,661	27,153	55,141
	(a) Revenue from operations	16	16	2	32	5	61	16	16	2	32	5	61
	Total income	7,647	8,046	13,898	15,693	27,158	55,202	7,647	8,046	13,898	15,693	27,158	55,202
2	Expenses	5,229	7,070	12,579	12,299	23,797	47,205	5,229	7,070	12,579	12,299	23,797	47,205
	(a) Cost of materials consumed	984	(385)	(779)	599	(741)	745	984	(385)	(779)	599	(741)	745
	(b) Changes in inventories of finished goods, work-in-progress and stock-in-trade	491	529	612	1,020	1,249	2,085	491	529	612	1,020	1,249	2,085
	(c) Employee benefits expense	219	226	182	445	365	840	219	226	182	445	365	840
	(d) Finance cost	223	218	182	441	368	811	223	218	182	441	368	811
	(e) Depreciation and amortisation expense	332	373	549	705	1,150	2,639	332	373	549	705	1,150	2,639
	Total expenses	7,478	8,031	13,325	15,509	26,188	54,325	7,478	8,031	13,325	15,509	26,188	54,325
3	Profit before Taxes (1 - 2)	169	15	573	184	970	877	169	15	573	184	970	877
4	Tax expense	41	7	113	48	194	38	41	7	113	48	194	38
5	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (3 ± 4)	128	8	460	136	776	839	128	8	460	136	776	839
6	Other Comprehensive Income / (Loss) Items that will not be reclassified to profit or (loss)												
7	Net Profit / (Loss) after tax (5 ± 6)	135	14	460	149	761	840	135	14	460	149	761	840
8	Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Face Value of the Share is Rs.10/- each)	489	489	489	489	489	489	489	489	489	489	489	489
9	Other Equity												
10	Earnings per share (of Rs. 10/- each) (not annualised):												
	(a) Basic	2.62	0.16	9.40	2.78	15.86	17.15	2.62	0.16	9.40	2.78	15.86	17.15
	(b) Diluted	2.62	0.										



Rahul Gandhi is the top leader of the party and we feel no other person articulates the party's ideological thinking better than him

CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON SUPRIYA SHRINARE

ASSERTING THAT CRORES OF PARTY WORKERS WANT HIM TO COME BACK AS CONGRESS CHIEF

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ndia

THUMBNAILS



Rashtrapati Bhavan is illuminated in blue on the occasion of World Children's Day, to bring the spotlight on climate change and impact of Covid-19 on children, in New Delhi on Friday. ■ SUBRATA DUTTA

SC hearing: The Supreme Court Friday said it would hear on November 23 the plea filed by Rajya Sabha MP Binoy Viswam seeking direction to the RBI for framing regulation to ensure that data collected on UPI platforms is not exploited or used in any manner other than for processing payments. Earlier, the court had sought responses from the Centre, the RBI, National Payments Corporation of India and others on the plea. PTI

K'taka cabinet exercise to be finalised in 3 days

Swearing-in of new ministers soon, says Yediyurappa

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU, 20 NOVEMBER



Karnataka chief minister B S Yediyurappa on Friday said the much awaited expansion or reshuffle of his cabinet will be finalised within three days and a programme will be planned thereafter for the swearing-in of new Ministers.

"Regarding cabinet expansion I have discussed with our (BJP) national president J P Nadda on what to do, how to do it, in what way changes have to be made."

According to me in two days he will confirm and in three-four days, a programme will be planned for the swearing-in of new ministers," Yediyurappa said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said within three days everything will be finalised.

Responding to a question about a few aspirants pitching for their induction into the cabinet by dropping some incumbent ministers and their holding separate meetings, Yediyurappa said, "such discussions keep happening. MLAs will express their opin-

ion, I would not like to discuss about it."

As the wait continued for the cabinet exercise, Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi earlier in the day said at Kalaburagi that the BJP high command was likely to communicate its decision to the CM in about a week's time.

Yediyurappa had met Nadda in New Delhi on November 18 to discuss the cabinet exercise, following which he had said the party national president has sought a couple of days time to consult other leaders on the matter.

Developments in Delhi on

Wednesday was seen as a repetition of sorts for Yediyurappa, as he was sent back with a similar reply by Nadda, when the Chief Minister had gone with a proposal to take up cabinet expansion exercise in September, ahead of the monsoon session of the state legislature.

Political activities have intensified within the ruling BJP camp in the state after Yediyurappa on November 10 indicated that cabinet reshuffle was on the cards after the party's victory in the bypolls to two assembly constituencies.

The Chief Minister had

then hinted about reshuffle by dropping or inducing some Ministers.

The cabinet expansion or reshuffle is expected to be a tightrope walk for Yediyurappa, considering that there are too many aspirants.

Several legislators have openly declared their aspirations and political hobnobbing is also taking place within the BJP circles.

Several aspirants including 8-time MLA Umesh Katti, who has been sulking for some time now on being denied a chance in the past, also Chief ministers political secretary M P Renukacharya, among others, have met Yediyurappa pitching for their induction into the cabinet.

A few MLAs had met BJP state president Nalin Kumar Katreel on Thursday. If Katti is inducted, Belagavi district's representation in the cabinet will increase to five and legislators from other regions are opposed to it, and have reportedly put pressure on the leadership to drop one or two ministers from the district, if the senior legislator is inducted.

Sivasankar files bail plea in Kerala HC

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
20 NOVEMBER

M Sivasankar, former principal secretary to the Kerala chief minister, who was arrested by Enforcement Directorate (ED) over money laundering charges related to the Kerala gold smuggling case, has filed a bail petition in Kerala High Court. On Tuesday, the Special Court for Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) cases in Kochi

denied bail to him.

In his bail petition, Sivasankar has stated that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) failed to unearth any evidence to substantiate its findings that he had called up Customs officers to clear diplomatic baggage at the behest of Swapna Suresh, the prime accused in the case.

Meanwhile, it has been reported that the South Zone DIG for Prisons, in a report, has stated that the voice

clip which was widely circulated through media cannot be confirmed to be of Swapna Suresh. Suresh told the DIG that though the voice is similar, it cannot be confirmed.

The audio clip, purportedly that of Suresh saying the investigating officers were forcing her to give a statement against chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan has kicked up a row in the state on Thursday. The ED on Friday rejected the claims of coercion made in the audio clip.

On polls eve, KCR bats for regional languages

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 21 NOVEMBER

Telangana chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to allow candidates to write competitive exams for recruitment in Government of India, other central agencies and public sector units in regional languages since under the current system those from non-Hindi states are at a disadvantage because the exams are conducted only in Hindi and English.

The appeal came at the eve of civic polls in Hyderabad. An astute politician Mr Rao is known to play the regional card during elections and this let-

ter is no exception. As the BJP is once again raising national issues and targeting TRS for its ties with the AIMIM, Mr Rao has attacked the BJP for its disinvestment policies and failure to release funds after the floods in Hyderabad.

Mr Rao wrote: "The students who do not study in English medium or those who are not from Hindi speaking states face serious disadvantage in these competitive examinations."

"In order to provide equal and fair opportunity to the students from all states of India. It is requested that the candidates should be permitted to write all competitive examinations in the regional lan-

guages also for recruitment in Government of India and its departments and undertakings through UPSC and all other agencies."

Moreover, the letter will strike a chord with other regional parties like DMK in Tamil Nadu as Mr Rao intends to hold a conclave with non-BJP allies in second week of December.

Meanwhile the TRS has submitted a complaint against BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar for calling Mr Rao a "traitor" and anti-Hindi. They accused the BJP state president and Karimnagar MP of "trying to communalize and poison the minds of the voters of GHMC."

Gogoi health deteriorates

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
GUWAHATI, 20 NOVEMBER

Veteran Congress leader Tarun Gogoi, who is undergoing treatment at Guwa-

hati Medical College Hospital, has not shown improvement for two days. The former chief minister was admitted in the hospital on November 1 as he complained of breathing problems. Early-

er, after he tested Covid-19 positive, Gogoi was shifted to the hospital on 26 August. He was discharged on 25 October after some improvement in his condition.

Gujarat puts off reopening schools; curfew in capital

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, 20 NOVEMBER

A 57-hour curfew has been imposed in the city and surrounding areas from Friday night as Covid-19 cases have registered a rise in Gujarat soon after the Deepali festivals are over.

The decision about the curfew, from 9.00 p.m tonight to 6.00 a.m on Monday, was taken at a high-level meeting late on Thursday night when the alarming pandemic situation was reviewed.

Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, however, has clarified that curfew being imposed is not a precursor to another round of lockdown. But night curfew from 9.00 p.m. to 6.00 in the morning would continue for an indefinite period even after the 57-hour curfew ends on Monday morning, said Additional Chief Secretary

Covid-19: Spitting and tobacco consumption in public places to attract ₹ 2,000 fine in Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 20 NOVEMBER

The notification was issued by the health department following Lt Governor Anil Baijal's approval

on Friday that the gradual reduction in the number of new Covid-19 cases and the positivity rate is a "clear indicator" that the spread of the virus is decreasing in the national capital.

The minister announced that government rates would apply for the normal, non-ICU beds reserved in private hospitals by the Delhi government for Covid-19 patients.

The positivity rate was 15.26 per cent on November 7. It is less than 11 per cent now. The maximum number of cases (8,593) were reported on November 10, Jain said.

"The positivity rate has come down and the number of cases is also reducing gradually. It is a clear indicator that the spread of the virus is decreasing in Delhi," he told reporters.

The average death rate across the country is 1.48 per cent, and in Delhi, it is 1.57 per cent, Jain said, adding that it was around 3.50 per cent in June.

TENDER

H. P. P.W.D. TENDER

Sealed item rate tenders on the form 6&8 are invited by the Executive Engineer Indora Division HPPWD, Indora on behalf of the Governor of HP for the following works from the approved and eligible contractors enlisted in HPPWD.						
TENDER SCHEDULE:						
1. Date & time of receipt of application for tender form:						
2. Date and time of issue of tender form:						
3. Date and time of receipt of tenders:						
4. Date and time of opening of tenders:						
The tenders form will be issued against cash payment (non refundable). The earnest money in the shape of NSC/FDR/Deposit at call of any Post Office/Bank in H.P duly pledged in the name of the Executive Engineer Indora Division HPPWD Indora must accompany with each tender.						
Job No. Name of work Estimated cost (Rs.) Earnest money (Rs.) Time limit Cost of form Eligible class of Contractor						
1 Restoratopn of Rain damages on Link road to Civil Enclave Pathankot km.0/0 to 4/0 (SH:- Providing wire crate at RD.0/555 to 0/580 1st step & 2nd step)	499802/-	1000/-	One Month	350/-	Class D&C	
2 Restoratopn of Rain damages on Link road to Civil Enclave Pathankot km.0/0 to 4/0 (SH:- Providing wire crate at RD.0/580 to 0/605 1st step & 2nd step)	499802/-	1000/-	One Month	350/-	Class D&C	
3 Restoratopn of Rain damages on Link road to Civil Enclave Pathankot km.0/0 to 4/0 (SH:- Providing wire crate at RD.0/605 to 0/625 1st step & 2nd step)	399841/-	800/-	One Month	350/-	Class D&C	
4 Restoratopn of Rain damages on Link road to Civil Enclave Pathankot km.0/0 to 4/0 (SH:- Providing wire crate at RD.0/555 to 0/607.50 3rd step)	478545/-	960/-	One Month	350/-	Class D&C	
5 Restoratopn of Rain damages on Link road to Civil Enclave Pathankot km.0/0 to 4/0 (SH:- Providing wire crate at RD.0/555 to 0/625 0/607.50 4th step)	478545/-	960/-	One Month	350/-	Class D&C	
6 Restoratopn of Rain damages on Link road to Civil Enclave Pathankot km.0/0 to 4/0 (SH:- Providing wire crate at RD.0/555 to 0/625 0/607.50 5th step)	478545/-	960/-	One Month	350/-	Class D&C	
7 Restoratopn of Rain damages on Link road to Civil Enclave Pathankot km.0/0 to 4/0 (SH:- Providing wire crate at RD.0/607.50 to 0/625 3rd,4th & 5th step)	478545/-	960/-	One Month	350/-	Class D&C	
8 Restoratopn of Rain damages on Link road to Civil Enclave Pathankot km.0/0 to 4/0 (SH:- Providing wire crate at RD.0/555 to 0/625 0/625 6th step)	478545/-	960/-	One Month	350/-	Class D&C	
9 Restoratopn of Rain damages on Link road to Civil Enclave Pathankot km.0/0 to 4/0 (SH:- Providing wire crate at RD.0/555 to 0/625 7th step)	478545/-	960/-	One Month	350/-	Class D&C	
10 Restoratopn of Rain damages on Link road to Civil Enclave Pathankot km.0/0 to 4/0 (SH:- Providing wire crate at RD.0/555 to 0/625 8th step)	478545/-	960/-	One Month	350/-	Class D&C	
(i) The contractor/firms should possess the following documents (Photocopy to be attached): PAN (Permanent Account No.) Registration under GST Ambiguos/telegraphic/conditional tenders or tender by Fax/E-mail shall not be entertained /considered in any case. (v) The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject/cancel any or all the tenders without assigning any reason(s). (vi) Paver and finisher shall be used at site.						
Executive Engineer, Indora Division, HPPWD, Indora On behalf of Governor						
4494/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK						

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Bilaspur invites tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following work(s) through offline process:-						
Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest Money	Cost of form	Time allowed	Eligible class of Contractor
1	AR&MT LIS Maloth Samog in Tehsil Sadar District Bilaspur(SH:- Replacement of centrifugal pumping machinery and allied accessories)	497250/-	9950/-	250/-	Two Months	
2	Deployment of manpower for operation and maintenance of LWSS Thoru Mangrot in Tehsil Sadar District Bilaspur for six months.	497903/-	9960/-	250/-</td		



The concerns expressed have been noted and necessary instructions have been issued.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR LT GOVERNOR MANOJ SINHA

ASSURING PARTIES OF SMOOTH CAMPAIGN FOR UPCOMING DDC POLLS

The Statesman

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2020

05

THUMBNAILS



Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria took a sortie in indigenous Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), in Bengaluru on Friday.

Coldest November morning: The national capital recorded a minimum of 7.5 degrees Celsius on Friday, the lowest in the month of November in 14 years, according to the India Meteorological Department.

JK candidates want level playing field

Confined to hotels in the name of security, candidates in Kashmir's local body elections fume over restrictions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SRINAGAR, 20 NOVEMBER

Murmurs of discontent from candidates rather than speeches can be heard ahead of local body elections in Kashmir with most parties in the fray claiming their leaders are confined to distant hotels in the guise of security and are unable to campaign freely because of the many restrictions imposed on them.

It's just not a level playing field, several candidates said ahead of the November 28 District Development Council polls, the first democratic exercise since Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 was revoked in August last year and the state was bifurcated into union territories.

Seven parties, including the National Conference and the PDP have come together on one platform, the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), to contest the elections. But the lack of enthusiasm is evident with political parties accusing the administration of strictly restricting the hours of campaigning and not even allowing their candidates to move out, unless it is in a government car.

"BJP and 'Kings party' candidates and their junior-level workers are provided individual personal security and bulletproof vehicles, while all others are hounded to far away government accommodations. Is this the 'new mantra' of providing a level playing field? asked Nasir Aslam Wani, NC provincial president, Kashmir. King's

party is a reference to the April Party, floated by businessman-turned-politician Altaf Bukhari.

Wani said PAGD candidates have been locked up in hotels and guesthouses in several places and not allowed to campaign.

"I have never witnessed this kind of electioneering not since the political process started after the eruption of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir. We have always had candidates running around. How can you expect somebody to campaign only between 12 noon and 3 pm?"

The NC leader said the claims of the UT administration and Union Home Minister Amit Shah about the situation being peaceful in Jammu and Kashmir were either wrong or they were trying to influence this elec-

tion. "If we listen to what the home minister or the state administration has to say, militancy has been wiped out. Then is this being done to influence the election? You cannot run with the hare and hunt with the hounds. You have to go one way about it."

"Either the situation is safe, as they claim, and let the candidates campaign. Or else, the security scenario is so bad that they cannot create a conducive environment. In that case, why have the polls then?" he added.

It is not just about the campaigning not taking place, Wani said. The party, he added, is also worried it may not get candidates to file their nominations for the rest of the eight-phase polls.

The administration, on its part, said administrative security is necessary given the resource

limitations. Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said providing security to each candidate contesting the polls is difficult. "We are providing them collective security and they are being put up in secure areas," he said.

Enough vehicles or security available," he asserted.

His party colleague and candidate Mohammad Ashraf Lone said there are only six vehicles for about 40 candidates in the hotel he has been allotted.

"How can we all move around in just a few vehicles? The government says new faces should contest the polls and so we did. But if they cannot provide us with the facilities, how can we manage? If they do not want us to contest, let them say it then," Lone asked.

According to Lone, the candidates were told to use the vehicles to campaign but return before 4 pm. "The journey from our hotel to Beerwah (in central Kashmir's Budgam district) itself takes about two hours. How can we campaign in such a short time," he said.

Modi launches RuPay phase-II in Bhutan

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 20 NOVEMBER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today launched phase-II of the RuPay card scheme in Bhutan with his Bhutanese counterpart Lotay Tshering.

Speaking on the occasion, Modi said RuPay cards issued by the Bhutan National Bank can be used at ATMs for Rs 1 lakh and for Rs 20 lakh at Point-of-Sale (PoS) terminals.

"This would make tourism, shopping and other transactions easier for Bhutanese tourists in India. I'm happy to know that there have been 11,000 successful RuPay transactions in Bhutan already. Had Covid not happened, this number would have been much higher. We are launching Phase II of the RuPay card scheme," he added.

Indo-Pacific concept a rejection of spheres of influence: Jaishankar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 20 NOVEMBER

The concept of the Indo-Pacific is a rejection of the spheres of influence and a reiteration that the world cannot be frozen for the benefit of a few even if that is the case with the United Nations, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Friday.

Addressing a global town hall event via video-conferencing, Jaishankar also said that the Indo-Pacific was an indication of a future not a throwback to the past and "only



those harbouring a Cold War mindset will see such intentions".

His remarks come in the wake of China's increasing mil-

itary muscle-flexing in the region which has become a major talking point among leading global powers.

Jaishankar said there has

been a growing recognition of the logic of the Indo-Pacific in recent times and the ASEAN's outlook on it was a notable step.

"Apart from the nations of the larger region, we've also seen Germany, France and the Netherlands subscribe recently to this approach. The need of the day is to give it a practical shape, this can be done by plurilateral diplomatic consultations such as the QUAD or it can be furthered in a structured fashion by the Indo-Pacific Oceans initiative that India tabled at the East

Asia Summit in 2019," Jaishankar said at the town hall session, titled 'The Indo-Pacific and the Covid crisis'.

"This is built on the seven pillars of maritime security; maritime ecology; maritime resources, capacity building and resource sharing; disaster risk reduction and management; science, technology and academic cooperation; and trade, connectivity and maritime transport," he said.

Jaishankar said that from any objective viewpoint, Indo-Pacific is a more contempo-

rary description of the current reality.

Such a landscape creates an ethos for greater cooperation -- one particularly necessary at a time when global goods are in short supply, he said.

Jaishankar said that when challenges multiply but capacities do not keep pace, the answer is only in more intensified cooperation.

Issues like maritime security, transparency and market-based connectivity or counter-terrorism do require such solutions, he said.

Chouhan slams Cong for Gupkar alliance support

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Bhopal, 20 NOVEMBER

sion of India because he was in a hurry to become the Prime Minister," he alleged.

The CM targeted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi too and said that Rahul Gandhi had termed the abolition of Article 370 as unconstitutional. Chouhan also castigated the leaders of the Gupkar Alliance for allegedly making statements that they would get Article 370 restored in Jammu and Kashmir with the help of China and the USA.

"The leaders of the 'Gupkar gang' have sent their children to study abroad and they themselves lead lavish lives, but they have abandoned the sons and daughters of J&K and left them with stones in their hands," Chouhan averred.

The alliance got its name, as it was founded at a meeting at Farooq Abdullah's residence, which is located on Gupkar road in Srinagar.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI

4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

OA NO. 06/2020

Versus

APPLICANT

SH. AMIT KEDIA & ANR.

DEFENDANTS

To, 1. Sh. Amit Kedia S/o Sh. Subhash Chandra Singh, H. No. 70, 1st Floor, Block B-7, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi

2, M/s Amrapali Dream Valley Pvt. Ltd., 307, 3rd Floor, Nipun Towers, Plot No. 15, Community Centre, Karkardooma, Delhi-110092, Through Its Chairman/ Authorised Signatory

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 14,06,819.00/- (Rupees Fourteen Lacs Six Thousand Eight Hundred Nineteen Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before Ld. Registrar on 17.03.2021 at 10.30 A.M. (for further details kindly visit DRT website www.tribunal.gov.in Phone No. 011-23748473)

Take Notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the matters will be taken up through video conferencing and for that purpose:-

(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "CISCO WEBEX" application / Software;

(ii) "Meeting ID" and "Password" for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Registrars/Recovery Officer-I and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. "drt.gov.in" under the Public Notice Head.

(iii) In any exigency qua that, the Advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 011-23748473.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this 18th day of November, 2020

By Order of this Tribunal

For Registrar

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that the Group Housing Complex "Esfera" located at Village Basai Sector-37C District- Gurgaon, Haryana had been granted Environmental Clearance (EC) vide letter no. SEIAA/HR/2014/597 dated 15.04.2014 by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority Haryana, Bay No.55-58, Payatan Bhawan, Sector-2, Panchkula. The copy of environmental clearance is available with the office of Haryana State Pollution Control Board, Panchkula. This Public Information is in compliance with clause no. viii of General condition on EC letter and may also be seen on the website of Imperia Structures Ltd. at

www.imperiastructures.com/esfera-overview

Imperia Structures Ltd.
A-25 Mohan Co-operative Industrial Estate, New Delhi-110044

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EAST BOUND FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS ON 21.11.2020 & 22.11.2020

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during on-going festival season, Northern Railway in coordination with other Zonal Railways has planned to run following East bound Festival Special Trains from Delhi area stations on 21.11.2020 & 22.11.2020 as per the schedule given below:-

Festival Spl. No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Accommodation	Stoppages
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LIST OF EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA ON 21.11.2020 (SATURDAY)

02550	Anand Vihar (T)	06:45	Kamakhya	16:35	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Aligarh Jn, Tundla Jn, Etawah, Kanpur Central, Fatehpur, Prayagraj Jn, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn, Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Barauni Jn, Begu Sarai, Khagaria Jn, Mansi Jn, Naugachia, Kathiar Jn, Barsoi Jn, Kishanganj, New Jalpaiguri, Jalpaiguri Road, New Cooch Behar, New Alipurduar, Kokrajhar, New Bongaigaon, Baraipara Road & Raniganj Jn Stations
04428	Anand Vihar (T)	09:00	Jogbani	13:15	Second Seating (Reserved)	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Varanasi, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxer, Ara, Patliputra, Hazipur, Barauni Jn, Begu Sarai, Khagaria, Naugachia, Kathiar Jn, Barsoi Jn, Kishanganj, New Jalpaiguri, Jalpaiguri Road, New Cooch Behar, New Alipurduar, Kokrajhar, New Bongaigaon, Baraipara Road & Raniganj Jn Stations
04434	Anand Vihar (T)	11:00	Jaynagar	13:35	Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Varanasi, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn, Buxer, Ara, Patliputra, Hazipur, Barauni Jn, Begu Sarai, Khagaria, Naugachia, Kathiar Jn, Barsoi Jn, Kishanganj, New Jalpaiguri, Jalpaiguri Road, New Cooch Behar, New Alipurduar, Kokrajhar, New Bongaigaon, Baraipara Road & Raniganj Jn Stations
03258	Anand Vihar (T)	13:30	Danapur	07:30	Second Seating (Reserved)	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Varanasi, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxer, Ara, Patliputra, Hazipur, Barauni Jn, Begu Sarai, Khagaria, Naugachia, Kathiar Jn, Barsoi Jn, Kishanganj, New Jalpaiguri, Jalpaiguri Road, New C

Leftovers

For those interested in arcane, fringe developments in Indian politics ~ and that's exactly what the Left has reduced itself to in the past 50 years ~ a bit of a storm in a teacup is brewing. Following a decent showing in the recently concluded Bihar election in which the CPI (ML), CPI (M) and CPI together won nearly 20 seats, a prominent face of the first-mentioned of these parties, which could be described as the hard Left as opposed to the latter two more mainstream parties, has come up with an ideological formulation with implications for the role of the Left in the near future including but not limited to the 2021 West Bengal Assembly poll. This rather convoluted grand idea, as it were, is to work out a theoretically kosher yet practically implementable "line" to defeat what social media socialists believe are political forces fooling all the people all the time. It is, in brief, the thesis that the CPI(M) and CPI had got it all wrong in West Bengal and Tripura where they were politically dominant till not so long ago. That opposing the Trinamool Congress in these states while okay to an extent, must never triumph over fighting Public Enemy No. 1 which is the "fascist" BJP. The traditional Left's position that it must be a robust yet secular opposition to the TMC thereby preventing anti-incumbency votes from going to the BJP is superficially unexceptionable but its fatal flaw, the CPI (ML) believes, is in thinking that by doing so it is carrying out anti-BJP work. Ditto, the Left Front's emphasis on fighting what it defines as communalism ~ majority and minority by the BJP and TMC respectively ~ as that in the opinion of the hard Left amounts to equalisation and strengthens the former. The CPI (ML), its spokesperson clarifies, is opposed to any "stage theory" argument in West Bengal suggesting "Ram in 2021, Baam in 2026" which ends up helping the BJP.

The burden of its song is that the Left Front should, instead of expending its available strength in attacking the TMC, focus its attention on alerting the electorate of West Bengal and Tripura to the "existential threat" posed by the BJP. The mainstream Left parties whose cadre have been victims of the TMC on the ground over the past decade have rejected this self-serving prescription of the CPI (ML).

So, leftist echo-chambers on social media and other such rarefied platforms are buzzing with passionate arguments and counters. Of course, underlying these contorted intellectual calisthenics is the unstated reinforcement of the old Marxist trope of the people's "false consciousness" which leads them to support and repeatedly vote in the very same "fascist forces" the Left rails against. An honest assessment of why and how the BJP has gained mass support would have been far more useful. But that would be too much, perhaps, to expect from any shade of the Left.

A minister goes

Several ironies are implicit in the resignation of Bihar's Education Minister and Janata Dal (United) leader Mewa Lal Chaudhury within three days of taking oath, ostensibly on the ground that he faced charges of corruption relating to appointments made during his tenure as Vice-Chancellor of the Bhagalpur Agricultural University. The opposition has alleged that sanction for his prosecution was granted by then Governor of the state and that a FIR had been registered, leading to his suspension from the party for some time in 2017. Glossed over is the fact that no charge-sheet was filed.

The first irony is that Mr Chaudhury is one of the few candidates in the Bihar assembly election to have declared that he had no criminal charges pending against him. This must be viewed against the backdrop of the findings of the Association of Democratic Rights which determined that 68 per cent of the winning candidates had criminal cases against them, and 51 per cent faced serious criminal charges such as murder, attempt to murder, kidnapping, crimes against women, etc. If the registration of a FIR qualifies as a "pending criminal case", Mr Chaudhury could be guilty of a misdeclaration in his election papers. But judgments of the apex court mandate that such declarations must be made by candidates who face actual criminal cases, not necessarily by those who may have been named in three-year-old First Information Reports that have failed to yield even a charge sheet.

The other irony is that the JD (U), the party to which Mr Chaudhury belongs, has the best record insofar as criminal antecedents of its candidates is concerned. Less than half of its winning candidates face criminal charges, and about a quarter are accused of serious crimes. While these numbers are unflattering, they must be viewed in the context of Bihar, where the records of the two parties that fared the best at the hustings are far from edifying. Nearly three-fourths of the winners from the RJD face criminal charges, and 60 per cent are accused of serious crimes.

The record of the Bharatiya Janata Party is not much better; nearly two-thirds of its MLAs face criminal charges while almost half are accused of serious crimes. Compared to worthies of these two and other parties, Mr Chaudhury's record is nearly stellar, which then would suggest that the BJP has begun the process of letting its junior partner in the National Democratic Alliance administration know just who calls the shots. For while the demand for Mr Chaudhury's resignation was raised by the opposition, its acceptance within the space of hours would not have occurred without the BJP's prodding. This is the only reasonable explanation for Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's hasty capitulation, and ought also to inform him on how his stewardship of government may be circumscribed in the days to come.

Obama, Biden and India

Every reader ought to notice that Barack Obama has gone out of his way in his biography to say how much of his childhood years he spent listening to the episodes in the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*. This of course, implies his appetite for spiritualism as well as his interest



There are deeper messages in former American President Barack Obama's autobiography than would come across in a casual reading. The name of his book, *A Promised Land*, although smacking of Abrahamic origins, actually implies that for the lesser well-off folk, the United States is yet to fulfil its promise. There is no doubt that Indian culture has charmed Obama for the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata* to have found noticeable space in his life story, which is significant. That he was influenced by India was evidenced in his first visit to New Delhi, when he addressed the political elite in the Central Hall of Parliament. His speech was predominantly all about ancient India; the path-breaking achievements, various inventions and some of the human traditions set then. Initially, I wondered why Obama was telling India to Indians, but as his speech progressed, it occurred to me that Obama was telling the Indian political elite how well he knows their country, arguably, a shade better than most from India's political class.

Presumably, as a sensitive and thinking mind, he was missing spirituality whether in his brush with Islam through his father or his practice of Christianity. Evidently, Obama had understood Gandhi and grasped his most original innovation, namely the satyagraha. President Obama's rueful concern for India's future, especially because of our communal divide, in my opinion should be a cause of worry to us Indians, due to its intractability for centuries. Gandhi tried his hand at solving this problem but failed, and gave us Partition as his dying present. His favourite bhajan "Ishwar Allah Tero Naam" left Muslims cold, for in their eyes, no one can be higher than or even equal to Allah, the Merciful.

Jawaharlal Nehru also opened his laboratory at Aligarh University in 1948, by telling its students: "Both our communities share a common history, similar

traditions and face an identical future". He was speaking straight from the shoulder but met only a cool reaction from the audience. Thereafter, Nehru served the community what they wanted, namely identity. He became the most trusted leader in India as far as the Muslims were concerned. This Nehruvian laboratory functioned with vigour until 2014 until the advent of Narendra Modi, who has inaugurated a new experimental station and whose motto is integration. In other words, you and I must come together on the same terms.

In the recently concluded US Presidential elections ~ even as the jury is still out ~ Barack Obama did campaign, more as a senior than anyone else for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. This gives me the feeling that the super rudder of the Biden administration could be subtly handled by him. Obama proved by the visit of the US Marines to Abbottabad that Osama bin Laden and his Al Qaeda were a menace to the rest of the world. He would now fully realize that President Xi Jinping is an even bigger menace. Xi's misadventures could well result in a military clash. In such an eventuality, India would be better placed to take the field with America providing as much wherewithal as necessary, thus saving itself the pain of body bags. In any case, Obama's experience and insights would guide a Biden administration and tell it that Asia rather than Europe is the central theatre of world politics. One mustn't forget that it was under Obama that the US policy of a 'pivot' to Asia, i.e., refocusing on the Asia-Pacific theatre, began.

India has plenty of trained soldiers, sailors and airmen, but in an extended war, could well

need advanced weapons and equipment. The US and India are therefore ideal partners. Neither Joe Biden nor Kamala Harris may be familiar with the complications of Afghanistan or the sea change in Pakistan that has taken place over the last decade - from an American ally to a running dog of China. To the extent that for the sake of foreign money, Islamabad has had to give up some of its rights over its own territory to its Chinese masters. This is a situation more pathetic than a defeat. A quick refresher of subcontinental history of the last century should provide a clear clue as to why Kashmir belongs to India and not to Pakistan. A majority or otherwise of a province supporting Islamabad in this cause, in the context of India despite Partition having as many Muslim citizens as Pakistan, would be a wild goose chase. Every reader ought to notice that Barack Obama has gone

out of his way in his biography to say how much of his childhood years he spent listening to the episodes in the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*. This of course, implies his appetite for spiritualism as well as his interest in India. This is further evidenced by what he says about Gandhi, his interest in Eastern religions, etc., not to forget the compliments he gives to Dr. Manmohan Singh.

The Pakistan story has nothing comparable to offer. All this of course, would soon be noted by the Biden-Harris team. They may or may not remember that President Obama had visited India twice and had been the honoured guest to be present throughout the Republic Day parade at Rajpath. In comparison, Obama hardly looked at Pakistan. There is of course, that crowd of eternal hopers, partic-

ularly so in the charmed circle of Lutyens who might be salivating at the prospects of a Biden presidency in the fond hope that it would be softer on Pakistan, and harsher on their nemesis Narendra Modi. But for these dreamers, what Barack Obama has stated in his autobiography would be a sobering realization.

Describing the events that firms up his resolve to take out the world's number one jihadi terrorist Osama bin Laden, Obama has revealed that he mulled over three options: taking the Pakistani establishment into confidence, which was a non-starter, given the Pakistani army's and ISI's close ties to the Taliban and Al Qaeda terrorists, a fact Obama himself states, air strikes to obliterate the Laden hideout, or a commando raid on his compound without letting the Pakistanis know and thus openly violating Pakistan's sovereignty. In a way, Obama has already tied a chain around Biden's legs by revealing that his then Vice-President was against an operation to eliminate Laden, in sum, saying that Biden has been somewhat sympathetic to various jihadi outfits like those which operate in Kashmir and Pakistan. Joe Biden therefore will have very limited choices; in effect, liberal hopes for a major American policy turnaround have been washed away even before a Biden administration moves into office ~ assuming that happens.

One can speculate as to the political significance of Obama's disclosure of his fondness for India, *Ramayana*, *Mahabharata* and other things Hindu. India is now a pivotal power, not to neglect mention of being a major one as well. The USA cannot see a future without India and for that to materialize, Indian civilizational polarization and support to Biden is a must. In fact, this is so irrespective of who eventually sits in the White House. Let us not be surprised if the coming American dream will have to traverse via India. Needless to add, all this is the result of the efforts of one man over the last six years.

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIAN VOICES

The might-is-right trade era

If you wanted a demonstration of how the world's largest free trade area is likely to fall short of expectations, you could do worse than look at the customs sheds at Shanghai's Pudong airport.

As final preparations for signing the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership pact, or RCEP, were being made earlier this month, several metric tons of Australian lobster were being delayed at the Chinese border for several days ~ far longer than the six-hour time frame for perishable goods under RCEP rules. That was owing to an unofficial order from Beijing to hold up seven categories of products from the country. Diplomatic relations between the two have been fraying and China's Foreign Ministry this month told Australians to "reflect upon their deeds" if they wanted a better economic relationship.

To engage in economic coercion of your trading partners while simultaneously joining them in a new trading bloc is an appropriate emblem of our times. Attempts to build a rules-based global order after the fall of the Soviet Union have given way to a new era of might-is-right diplomacy. The trend is so pervasive that even touted free-trade deals are being shaped in its image.

To be sure, the final texts to emerge from the RCEP look surprisingly positive. India's decision to pull out last year probably made it easier for the remaining countries to come to agreement.

Possibly as a result, the wording on sticky issues like investment, services and agriculture looks stronger than anticipated, according to an analysis by Deborah Elms, executive director of the Singapore-based Asian Trade Centre.

Even so, the bloc will fall short of the sort of comprehensive agreement seen in the European Economic Area or even the reformed Trans-Pacific Partnership, known as the CPTPP, which now binds key RCEP members including Australia, Japan and Vietnam after the US dropped out.

From one perspective, that doesn't really matter. The agreement will lift China's gross domestic product by 0.5 percent over the period to 2030, according to Bloomberg Intelligence economist Yuki Masujima. South Korea, which hasn't hitherto joined a major trade bloc, will see a 1.4 percent benefit, while the uplift for Japan will be 1.3 percent. The trouble is that those gains, while real, are so modest. The vision that drove the founding of the World Trade Organization saw nations across the world reducing their tariffs, harmonizing their rules and agreeing to a common dispute and enforcement mechanism to encourage more commerce and investment across borders. The RCEP and CPTPP revert to an older vision of trading blocs, where deepening integration within the zone is matched by fraying ties with outsiders.

An outgrowth of the Association of Southeast Asian nations, the RCEP is increasingly now seen as a sort of Pax Sinica, binding the region into a China-led global order. CPTPP, for its part, was explicitly sold as an American attempt to restrain China's global ambitions before Washington itself quit the grouping.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Our jawans deserve the best

SIR, This refers to the report "Troops in eastern Ladakh get upgraded facilities" (*The Statesman*, 19 November). It

cedes ago; soon after the 1962 Chinese aggression as the entire upper Himalayan region demands 24x7 watch

round'. Through *The Statesman* we pay homage to the brave men of 'Charlie' Company. Recently, the Indian

it seems to serve only a political interest. Pertinently, the situation clearly suggests that the Indo-China border issue is unlikely to be resolved soon. And this unresolved state of affairs could be a boon for some political parties.

Our jawans need all modern, state-of-the-art integrated facilities that the country can provide.

Yours, etc., Rupam Guha,

Kolkata, 19 November.

BLACK SHEEP

SIR, The Supreme Court on

16 November rightly put the onus on Parliament to decide on debarring tainted

politicians from contesting elections.

A five-judge Constitution bench had in September 2018 described

criminalisation of politics as

a "termite to the citadel of

democracy", but hastened to

add that the court couldn't

upset the power of law-

making vested with the leg-

islature.

Half of the winning can-

didates in the just-conclu-

ded Bihar assembly elec-

tions have serious criminal

cases against them, includ-

ing those related to mur-

der and kidnapping, accord-

ing to the Association of Democ-

ratic Reforms. In

February this year, days after

the Delhi Assembly polls,

the Supreme Court had

ordered political parties to

upload details of pending

criminal cases against their

candidates and specify rea-

sons for preferring tainted

ones to those with unblem-

ished records. The court had

also asked the Election Com-

mission to report non-

compliance of this order. It

seems no such exercise was

carried out during the Bihar

polls. There is no gainsaying

that candidates accused of

committing or plotting hein-

ous crimes should have no

place in the electoral arena,

CRACK THE WHIP

SIR, This refers to the editorial "Delhi again" (19 November). The increased coronavirus afflictions in Delhi indicate that the citizens flout government rules on restrictions on gatherings in public places. The onset of winter in Delhi brings increased cases of virus annually and the government should ensure citizens follow restrictions strictly so that numbers of Covid positive patients do not increase. Rules mandating use of masks are not followed properly by a section of citizens and even the recent ban on crack-

ers was defied. Strict punishments are warranted.

Yours, etc., Dilip Kumar Dutta, Midnapore, 20 November.



is great news that our dedicated soldiers working in the eastern Ladakh region at a temperature of minus forty degrees Celsius would be able to make use of temporary (warm) modern habitats for at least some time, if duty/situation permits. This kind of modern, temperature-controlled shelter should have been provided de-

and patrolling. In this context let us remember that it was exactly at this time in November 1962, that the gallant heroes of the Battle of Rezang La in Eastern Ladakh, our bravehearts of 'Charlie' Company 13 Kumaon, under the inspiring leadership of Major Shaitan Singh, fought the Chinese Army to the 'last man, last

Army has held eight rounds

of Corps-commander level

talks with China but no bre-

'Gandhis are Congress unifiers'

The appointment of **KULDEEP SINGH RATHORE**, 60, as president of the Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee in January 2019 had come as a surprise in the state's political circles. He was considered to be a loyalist of former Union minister Anand Sharma, but was backed for the coveted post by state party heavyweight and ex-CM Virbhadra Singh, Sharma's bête noire. Rathore has come a long way since then, seeking to prove his mettle in the challenging Covid times by resorting to street protests against various alleged failures of the Jai Ram Thakur-led BJP government. He has also continued to grapple with the raging game of oneupmanship within the Congress in the hill state — especially the challenge coming from his younger party rivals. An articulate leader and a lawyer by training, Rathore has been a party organisational man over the last four decades without any electoral background, even as the profile of this emerging Congress leader is expected to evolve in coming days. In an interview with **ARCHANA PHULL**, Rathore, dealt with a range of burning political issues. Excerpts:



reach their homes.

Q. How is the Congress party doing in Himachal under your leadership?

A. The Congress is playing the role of an effective Opposition in HP. Apart from holding strong protests against the Narendra Modi government on various national issues, the party is continuously raising its voice against anti-people approach and failures of the BJP government in the state. We fulfilled our political as well as social responsibility in Covid times as people have a lot of expectations from us as an Opposition party. The BJP government in Himachal has just left everything to 'Ram Bharosey' (God's mercy) amid the Covid crisis. The Covid cases and deaths are increasing. The government is not even able to provide beds to Covid patients and there is total failure of governance. In such a situation, the Congress is helping people and even hospitals with safety equipment. The party ensured that poor people and migrant workers could get food and

am open to dialogue if someone has suggestions for any improvement. The BJP is in power in the state and at the Centre. It is time to struggle, put up a strong fight against the BJP and make a comeback in HP in 2022. The personal ambitions should not be a hurdle in that. Everyone, senior and young leaders alike, should contribute to this and gear up for the next Assembly polls unitedly.

Q. Isn't your non-electoral background a disadvantage in the political battlefield?

A. No. I don't think so. The party high command picked me for the prestigious post looking at my organisational skills and capabilities. My non-electoral background is rather an advantage for me. I come from Theog area in Shimla district, which already had an established leader like Vidya Stokes. I never tried to destabilise the Congress and have always devoted all my time to strengthen the party,

whatever responsibility I was given. I want to bring the party back to power in HP and don't have any personal ambition. I have left my political future in the hands of the party high command.

Q. At the national level, the Congress party seems to be beset by fresh internal turmoil after its dismal performance in the Bihar Assembly polls and countrywide bypolls. What do you think of the situation?

A. These are issues which arise in any party and are settled through discussion. Just a difference of opinion. The Congress party is united under the leadership of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

Q. A section of the RJD or even the Congress has called the Congress the 'weakest link' in the Mahagathbandhan Alliance that led to its defeat in Bihar despite the Tejashwi-led RJD becoming the

single largest party there. Your comments?

A. There is no question of the Congress being the weakest link in Mahagathbandhan. It was a united fight and none can say that somebody was strong and the others were weak. The Congress has played its role in ensuring the victory of those in the Mahagathbandhan.

Q. An RJD leader even said that Rahul Gandhi was having a picnic at Priyanka Gandhi's house in Shimla in the midst of the Bihar polls. How would you respond to such charges?

A. It is a wrong accusation. Rahul Gandhi campaigned in every nook and corner of Bihar in the polls. He worked hard and extensively toured the state to campaign for Mahagathbandhan.

Q. Former Union minister Kapil Sibal has now openly expressed his resentment over the prevailing state of affairs in the Congress party, voicing his dissent over the party leadership issue again. Ashok Gehlot and Salman Khurshid have joined issue with him. How do you look at this new round of infighting among your senior Congress leaders?

A. I have been associated with the Congress organisation for long. I feel that all the internal issues concerning the party should be raised at the party platform, not in public. If anyone in the party has any grievances, they have to be taken up within the party. Discipline is very important in any political party. Even when there are internal issues regarding party affairs in states, they are brought to the notice of the party high command in Delhi and are resolved within the party democratically.

Q. When will the AICC leadership issue be resolved once and for all? And who should really lead the Congress party?

A. No comments. Whatever be, the role of the Gandhi family in the Congress party can neither be ignored nor undermined. They have been a unifying force in the party and the Congress politics revolves around them.

OCCASIONAL NOTE

It seems but yesterday since the scarcity of shipping was one of the greatest impediments in the way of the return of the world to normal conditions. Now the out-turn of new shipping and the restoration to commerce of mercantile vessels employed in the war have increased the means of transport to an extent which outpaces the production of commodities to be carried. The result is a fall in freights which is said to have averaged over 50 per cent during the past six months, while signs of the downward movement are not yet at an end. By way of example, coal freights from the United States to France are cited, the fall being from 20 and half dollars at the end of May to 9 dollars now. The activity of the British shipbuilding yards, which has been a subject of congratulation, has its natural effect in assisting to bring down freights.

Remembering the preposterous levels to which freights rose during the period of the war, the general public cannot be expected to lament the present decline. For the sake of shipbuilders, ship-owners, and the general public alike, however, it can only be hoped that the economic recovery of Europe, providing more goods for transport, will be so speeded up as to avert the threatened necessity of laying up tonnage. In the meantime the hapless suppliant for a passage from India to England or England to India will wonder ruefully why some of the redundant tonnage could not have been given to the passenger traffic.

ALLAHABAD UNIVERSITY AND ALIGARH

The annual meeting of Senate of Allahabad University was held in the Senate Hall today. The Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Justice Piggott, presided. Dr. Ziauddin moved that Aligarh should be made a centre for B.A., B.Sc. and LL.B. examination. Sir P.C. Banerjee opposed the motion in view of the fact that Aligarh would be a part of the new Mahomedan University, and would cease to be a part of Allahabad University. Moreover arrangements for supervision of examinations at Aligarh were not very efficient, and thirteen students had to be expelled for malpractices, and finally, in view of the disturbances at Aligarh it was not at all desirable that Aligarh should be made a centre for examination. Mr. Burrell endorsed the arguments put forward by Sir P.C. Banerjee against Aligarh becoming a centre.

BOMBAY STRIKES

After nearly six weeks' duration the end of the tramway strike is in sight. A deputation of tramway strikers waited on the management, and were informed that the men would be reinstated on conditions to be laid down by the directors. The Secretary of the Tramway Union announces: The men have decided to accept conditions which they consider to be reciprocatory and traffic will resume work from tomorrow (Sunday), while the workmen will return to work on Monday. The Postal and Telegraph strikers are busily engaged in deciding their course of action in view of the Postmaster-General's notice, giving time till Monday noon only to return to work without penalties.

THE SALVATION OF INDIA

The Hindus and Mahomedans of Ranchi district assembled resolved that for the salvation of India and for the Hindu-Moslem unity it is essential that the protection of the cows be considered as their duties; that the meeting of the Hindus and Mahomedans of Ranchi resolves that the resolution adopted by the Indian National Congress, Moslem League, and Khilafat Committee be wholly adopted, with its programme as settled by the All India Congress Committee, and declares that those who are still candidates for the Reform Councils neither are nor will be representatives of the people; that the meeting of Ranchi district wants to place on record their gratitude and thanks to those who have suffered for the cause of Khilafat India, and heartily sympathises with them.

U.S. BRIBES INQUIRY

Every day brings a fresh disclosure from the investigation of the Lockwood Committee into the alleged building trust, which is said to be the obstacle in the way of New York's homeless thousands getting roofs over their heads. Information reached the committee, which had adjourned, that some weeks ago an offer in the nature of a bribe had been made to Mr. John F. Hylan, the Mayor of New York. Accordingly, it has deemed it advisable to resume its investigation immediately. The bribe took the form of an intimation to Mr. Hylan that if he signed a limestone contract of pound 500,000 for a new county court house, his administration would obtain whenever necessary the enthusiastic endorsement of the 115,000 members of the unions affiliated to Mr. Robert P. Brindell's Building Trades Council.

Resolving America's twin dilemmas

PRAMOD MISHRA



More than 78 million Americans felt a sense of relief the Saturday after the US presidential elections when news networks, including the Associated Press, called the election for Joe Biden. Biden had not only topped the popular votes by a few million but also crossed the 270-magic mark in the tally of electoral votes. Millions all over the world also rejoiced. The thinking was that it would not only be the end of attention-seeking tweets from the White House but also President Trump's racial dog-whistles, bizarre theories and whimsical anti-immigrant, anti-women and anti-minority statements, giving America and the world some peace of mind, because an American president's words and actions reverberate throughout the world.

Well, despite President Trump's refusal to concede, despite his unrealistic desire to have a second term (and presumably his love for the pomp and splendour of the American presidency), come mid-December, he will have to make way for President-elect Joe Biden because the Biden-Harris ticket has clearly won both the popular and electoral votes. American democratic institutions have deep roots and have stood strong for over 200 years through a Civil War, domestic upheavals, two World Wars and a Cold War. It will not allow any tin-pot dictator to rise and hold power by defrauding a genuine election.

Trump may have lost and will have to leave office but Trumpism is here to stay. By Trumpism we mean the whims and fancies of Trump's personality and the baser instincts he has awakened in a sizable portion of the

American people. However, anti-Trump Americans need to honestly ask whether it is just Trumpism alone - the dash and flash, garish display of ignorance and tattooed, gun-toting white nationalism and white supremacy - that Trump has awakened in America.

Republicans since the end of Reconstruction and the Great Migration of Blacks to the northern and western American cities have never seriously dealt with the American dilemma that Gunnar Myrdal explored in his epochal study (1944) of the same name about the tensions between poverty among Blacks caused by racial oppression and American democracy. Similarly, the Democrats since Bill Clinton's rise to the presidency in 1992 have not only ignored but aggravated the second biggest American dilemma of the past decades - namely the emergence of the White underclass that memoirs like Hillbilly Elegy (2016) and sociohistorical studies like White Trash (2016) have explored. Hillary Clinton's use of the derisive phrase 'baskets of deplorables' represents that blindness

quite well.

While the Black inner-city 'hoods' have festered in the American urban landscape with homicides, drugs and gang violence ever since the Great Migration (1916-1970), terms like 'white trash' and 'hillbilly' have expanded their geographical reach in the past 30 years, spreading from the backwoods of Appalachia to the rust and coal belts from Pennsylvania to Illinois; since the outsourcing of middle class-producing manufacturing jobs to cheap labour destinations of Asia and Latin America in a globalised economy.

As abandoned farms litter the rural midwestern landscape, so do

sprinkle the suburban American landscape, such as the Research Triangle Park in North Carolina, Silicon Valley in California, Atlanta in Georgia and so on, where the tech barons existed not far away from the run-down ghettos of minorities while the blue-collar and rural America of quiet dignity, play-by-the-rule ethos and Sunday school turned to addictions and suicides to escape the economic humiliation caused by the new economy. Suicide rates and drug and alcohol addictions among white blue-collar workers have skyrocketed in the past 30 years.

In American cities, concentrations of extreme wealth and liberal values co-exist side by side with extreme poverty and urban decay and pathology. While the White rural and manufacturing America suffered job losses and responded by embracing white supremacy, nationalism, conspiracies and a phobia of the racial other when stripped of staple economic dignity, the urban ghetto of the minority population responded through its nihilism of black-on-black violence.

But both the Republicans and the Democrats have ignored the twin dilemmas of the American body polity. Can democracy survive without addressing the discontented that have turned to Trump? Can it survive without resolving the urban pathology that has turned on itself? Even though Trump has awakened the spectre of white discontent, Trumpism is probably more bluster than any durable economic policy to address the malaise of the White working class.

Similarly, even Bill Clinton, called the 'first black president' by Toni Morrison, only aggravated black incarceration rates through his 'three strike and out' law in the early '90s. And the real black president Barack Obama during his two terms was too reconciliatory of the White working class.

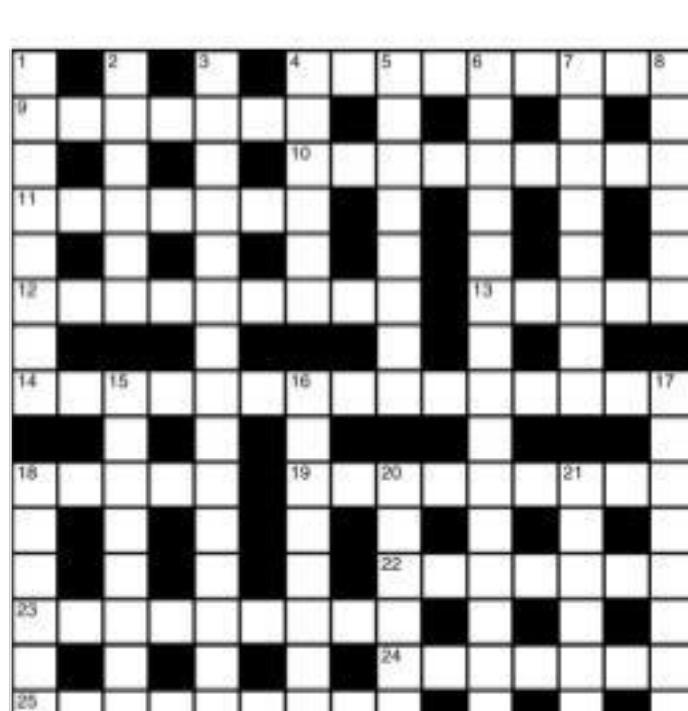
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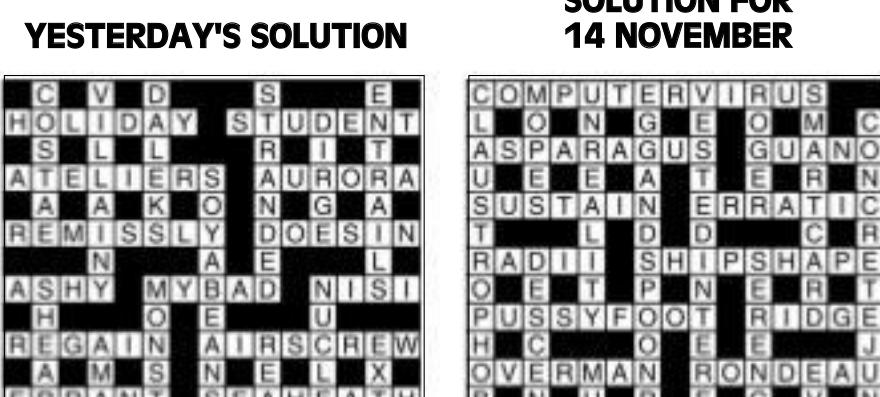
And she is the first person of colour and first woman to be vice president in American history. In this sense, America, despite all its historical sins and dilemmas, remains a land of possibilities. And the possibility of resolving its issues remains as alive as ever because of America's willingness to embrace the new, despite the pull of the old remaining as strong as ever. If America can produce a Donald, the country can equally push to the top a Barack and a Kamala Devi as well. And so can it find solutions to the twin American dilemmas.

The Kathmandu Post/ANN

NO 28141



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



SOLUTION FOR 14 NOVEMBER

ACROSS

- 4 Quick bite? Lunch organised (2,3,4)
- 9 Former head, a classy chap (3,4)
- 10 Screw undone, ergo almost out (9)
- 11 Parasite taking skin off edible fruit (7)
- 12 Jester extremely irritating in part - too much backtracking (9)
- 13 Service break (1,3,1)
- 14 There's no danger Catholics will mess with Teresa (5,2,5)
- 18 Magical female left out of group (5)
- 19 Fused lead taking yonks to melt (9)
- 22 Boy, caught by stream, a

DOWN

- 23 Remains found in sinister elements of test? (9)
- 24 Masters' shirt seams partly turned back (7)
- 25 Enclose article on ambassador stopping WWII entertainers (9)
- 1 Mould old aviator after number one is dropped (5,3)
- 2 One who served for his country died crashing into European mountain (6)
- 3 Having an air of protest, bubbly Rachel loves to interrupt most of females (2,5,8)
- 4 During study, trainee's first recess (6)
- 5 Also, grub is served up around one in such a style? (8)
- 6 Household device for re-heating kippers (8,7)
- 7 Old Bolshevik pressing Eastern church to show mercy (8)
- 8 British command having the edge (6)
- 15 Noise-suppression device connected to organs (8)
- 16 Band maintaining safety in an estate, say (4,4)
- 17 Animals toned up in fresh air (8)
- 18 Pass on porky dog (6)
- 20 Light touch applied to hem of madame's veil (4-2)
- 21 Look to Italy to welcome France (6)

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



A total of 5,000 compressed bio-gas plants with an approximate investment of ₹2 lakh crore are envisaged

DHARMENDRA PRADHAN
OIL MINISTER

THUMBNAILS

Crude oil futures up on spot demand: Crude oil prices on Friday rose by Rs 15 to Rs 3,108 per barrel as participants widened their positions on firm spot demand. On the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude oil for delivery in December traded higher by Rs 15, or 0.48 per cent, at Rs 3,108 per barrel in 3,041 lots. Analysts said raising of bets by participants kept crude oil prices higher in futures trade. West Texas Intermediate crude oil fell by 0.31 per cent to USD 41.61 per barrel, while Brent crude was trading up by 0.05 per cent at USD 44.22 per barrel in New York.

Gold futures gain on spot demand: Gold prices on Friday rose by Rs 76 to Rs 50,068 per 10 gram in futures trade as speculators created fresh positions on firm spot demand. On the Multi Commodity Exchange, gold contracts for December delivery traded higher by Rs 76, or 0.15 per cent, at Rs 50,068 per 10 gram in a business turnover of 6,331 lots. Fresh positions built up by participants led to the rise in gold prices, analysts said. Gold prices traded 0.22 per cent higher at USD 1,865.66 per ounce in New York.

Cottonseed oil cake futures rise on fresh bets: Cottonseed oil cake prices on Friday increased by Rs 35 to Rs 2,054 per quintal in futures trade as speculators created fresh positions driven by firm spot demand. On the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, cottonseed oil cake for delivery in December traded up by Rs 35, or 1.73 per cent, to Rs 2,054 per quintal with an open interest of 32,520 lots. For delivery in January, cottonseed oil cake traded higher by Rs 34, or 1.67 per cent, to Rs 2,068 per quintal with an open interest of 14,680 lots. Marketmen said raising of positions by participants amid a rising demand from cattle-feed makers mainly influenced cottonseed oil cake prices here.

Sebi panel proposes information asymmetry among shareholders

The panel has suggested that written transcripts of post-earning conference calls be made available on websites

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 20 NOVEMBER

To address information asymmetry amongst shareholders, a Sebi panel has recommended that listed companies should make available audio and video recordings of post-earning conference calls on their websites as well as stock exchanges within 24 hours or before the next trading day.

The recommendations have been made in a report on disclosures on analyst meets, investor meets and conference calls, prepared by a sub-group headed by HDFC Vice Chairman and CEO Keki Mistry. The sub-group was formed by the Primary Markets Advisory Committee, which also discussed the report this month.

The panel has also suggested that written transcripts of post-earning conference calls should be made available on websites of listed companies and respective stock exchanges within five working days after such calls.

Further, listed companies



should make available audio/video recordings and the written transcripts on their websites for at least eight years in addition to the details disseminated on respective stock exchanges.

The recommendations should be made applicable in a phased manner. The requirements should be initially recommended for one year and mandatory thereafter for all listed companies, as per the report. The panel noticed that "though certain companies have an elaborate mechanism in place to effectively disclose information to shareholders, there are many listed companies which lack

such procedures or deal with the disclosure requirement as more of the tick of the box compliance".

While many listed companies disclose the occurrence of institutional investors meets or conference call with analysts, it has also been noticed that they do not divulge the details of what transpired in such meetings.

Minority shareholders, who do not attend these meetings, are not privy to the information shared with a select group of investors, thereby creating information asymmetry among different classes of shareholders, according to the sub-group.

under the Sebi Regulations, 2015, whichever is earlier," the report said. LoDR refers to Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirement. It noted that listed companies can decide as to whether conference calls are open to everyone to attend or limit such calls to their existing shareholders. Listed companies should provide the number of one-to-one meetings with select investors as part of corporate governance reports submitted by them to stock exchanges every quarter along with the affirmation that no Unpublished Price Sensitive Information (UPSI) was shared by any official of the company in such meetings, the report said.

Further, the company should maintain a record of all such one-to-one meetings, as the same could be required for future reference. The data should be preserved for at least eight years, it added. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has sought comments from the public on the panel's recommendations till December 21.

Pandemic-driven reform agenda can raise India's medium-term growth: Fitch

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 20 NOVEMBER



also downside pressures to growth and it will take time to assess whether the reforms are implemented effectively," the agency said in a statement.

According to Fitch, the pandemic will slow medium-term growth, as damaged corporate balance sheets are expected to dampen investment for years.

Govt requests for user data up 23% globally in H1 2020: Facebook

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 20 NOVEMBER

Government requests for Facebook user data increased 23 per cent globally in January-June 2020 with India occupying the second spot after the US in terms of such requests being made. According to Facebook's latest transparency report, total 35,560 requests were made by India in the period for 57,294 users accounts. Some data was produced in 50 per cent cases, it added.

In the first six months of 2020, government requests for user data increased by 23 per cent to 1,73,592 globally from 1,40,875 in the second half of 2019.

The highest number of requests in January-June 2020 came from the US with 61,528 requests for 106,114

users/accounts, and some data was produced in 88 per cent of the cases, the report said.

Germany, France and the UK followed the US and India in the tally. Facebook said it responds to government requests for data in accordance with applicable law and its terms of service.

Each and every request it receives is carefully reviewed for legal sufficiency and it may reject or require greater specificity on requests that appear overly broad or vague.

"We do not provide governments with direct access or back doors to people's information."

We believe that intentionally weakening our services in this way would undermine the security necessary to protect our users," Facebook VP and Deputy General Counsel Chris Sonderby said.

During the period under review, the volume of content restrictions based on local law increased 40 per cent from 15,826 to 22,120 globally. The increase was in part related

to COVID-19-related restrictions, Facebook said.

India saw 824 pieces of content being restricted in the same period.

The report noted that in January-June 2020, the company identified 52 disruptions of Facebook services in nine countries, compared to 45 disruptions in six countries in the second half of 2019.

Also, it took down 3,716,817 pieces of content based on 659,444 copyright reports; 404,078 pieces of content based on 166,310 trademark reports; and 1,308,834 pieces of content based on 97,186 counterfeit reports in the first half of 2020.

"Advances in our technology including updates to Rights Manager attributed to increases across content removals," Sonderby said.

L&T Finance invokes shares of three Essel Group companies



NEW DELHI, 20 NOVEMBER

L&T Finance Ltd has invoked shares of three Essel Group companies -- Zee Media Corporation, Zee Learn and Siti Network Ltd -- and appropriated them against loan outstanding amounts.

As per regulatory filings, L&T Finance also invoked and appropriated against loan outstanding amount 96.02 lakh shares constituting 2.94 per cent stake of Zee Media Corporation on November 18.

In a separate filing, L&T Finance said it has invoked and appropriated against loan outstanding amount 5.73 crore shares constituting 6.58 percent stake of Siti Networks on November 18.

Another Larsen and Toubro (L&T) group firm L&T Infrastructure Finance Company said it has acquired through off-market transfer from security trustee and appropriated against loan outstanding amount 1.29 crore shares constituting 2.74 per cent stake of Zee Media Corporation on November 18. Zee Media Corporation (formerly Zee News Ltd) is a news network with 10 news channels in six different languages.

As per BSE data, on quarter ended September 30, 2020, shareholding of promoter and promoter group firm in Zee Media Corporation stood at 25.85 per cent, out of which 99.65 per cent stake is pledged or encumbered.

Govt okays subsidised loans worth ₹3,971.31 cr for micro-irrigation projects

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 20 NOVEMBER

The Union Agriculture Ministry on Friday said it has given nod for subsidised loans worth Rs 3,971.31 crore for implementing micro-irrigation projects, and maximum loan has been approved for Tamil Nadu.

The interest subvented loans are being offered under Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF) created with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for implementing micro-irrigation projects.

This fund with a corpus of Rs 5,000 crore was operationalised in the 2019-20 financial year with an objective to facilitate states in availing subsidised loans for expanding coverage of micro irrigation.

In a statement, the ministry



said the steering committee of MIF has approved projects for loan worth Rs 3,971.31 crore. Out of this, maximum loan of Rs 1,357.93 crore has

been approved for Tamil Nadu, followed by Rs 790.94 crore for Haryana, Rs 764.13 crore for Gujarat, Rs 616.13 crore for Andhra Pradesh, Rs 276.55

crore for West Bengal, Rs 150 crore for Punjab and Rs 15.63 crore for Uttarakhand, it said.

However, NABARD has so far released a total loan amount of Rs 1,754.60 crore to the states. Of this, about Rs 659.70 crore has been released to Haryana, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

About Rs 616.13 crore loan has been released to Andhra Pradesh, Rs 937.47 crore to Tamil Nadu, Rs 21.57 crore to Haryana and Rs 179.43 crore to Gujarat so far, it added.

Under the MIF, subsidised loans are provided for not only taking up special and innovative projects but also for incentivising micro irrigation beyond the provisions available under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchay Yojana (Per Drop More Crop) to encourage farmers to install micro irrigation systems.

LVB resolution: RBI delays final merger scheme to next week

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI, 20 NOVEMBER

The Reserve Bank did not issue the final merger scheme for Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) with DBS India on Friday as stated earlier and is likely to do so only next week, according to a central bank official.

While placing LVB under a moratorium and then issuing a draft amalgamation scheme on November 17, the RBI had said it would issue the final merger scheme on November 20 (Friday) so as to help complete the resolution for the 94-year-old lender by December 16.

However, as of 22,000 hrs on Friday, the central bank did not issue the final merger scheme. When contacted, a senior RBI official told PTI that the same would now be issued early next week. While promoters own just 6.8 percent of the bank -- KR Pradeep owns 4.8 percent

and the other three promoter families NRamamrithan, NT Shah and SB Prabhakaran collectively own 2 per cent -- retail shareholders hold over 45 per cent of LVB's shares.

Institutional investors, led by Indiabulls Housing, own a little over 20 per cent.

The other institutional investors are Prolific Finvest (3.36 percent), Sri Infra (3.34 percent), Capri Global Advisory Services (2 percent), MN Dastur & Co (1.89 percent), Capri Global Holdings (1.82 percent), Trinity Alternative Investment Managers (1.61 percent), Boyance Infrastructure (1.36 percent) and LIC (1.32 percent).

All of them stand to lose every penny of their investment, according to the present merger scheme.

The single largest promoter KR Pradeep in the day told PTI that he would wait for the final merger scheme from

During the first six months of 2020, government requests for user data increased by 23 per cent from 140,875 to 173,592, it said.

Of the total volume, the US continues to submit the largest number of requests, followed by India, Germany, France, and the UK, it added.

During the period, the volume of content restrictions based on local law increased globally by 40 per cent from 15,826 to 22,120. The increase was in part related to COVID-19 related restrictions, it said.

Also, in the first half of 2020, the company identified 52 disruptions of Facebook services in nine countries, compared to 45 disruptions in six countries in the second half of 2019.

'Need further efforts by G-20 countries to end Covid crisis'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 20 NOVEMBER

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday emphasised the need for further efforts by the G-20 countries to end the COVID-19 crisis, and highlighted affordability as well as the accessibility of vaccines for all as a crucial step in this direction.

At a virtual meeting on Friday, the finance ministers of G-20 countries, which is a grouping of developing and developed nations, gathered to discuss their views on the global economic outlook and downside risks in the wake of COVID-19 crisis and how G-20 could carry forward the collective global action initiated during the crisis. The Finance Minister emphasised the need for further efforts by the G-20 members to end the crisis and highlighted afford-

ability and accessibility of vaccines for all as a crucial step in this direction," an official statement issued here said.

Sitharaman highlighted the G-20 Action Plan as the mainstay of the G-20's economic response and shared that it not only coordinates our immediate response but also guides our long-term recovery efforts.

The G-20 finance ministers and central bank governors in April published an Action Plan for the international response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Action Plan covers healthcare, economic and fiscal responses that G-20 members have agreed to undertake, as well as measures to ensure a return to a strong and sustainable global economy, the provision of support to countries in need and the learning of lessons in preparation for future crises.

10 to 11 views of hate speech for every 10,000 views of content in Q3: Facebook

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 20 NOVEMBER

Social media giant Facebook has for the first time disclosed prevalence of hate speech on its platform, saying that out of every 10,000 content views in the third quarter, 10-11 were hate speech.

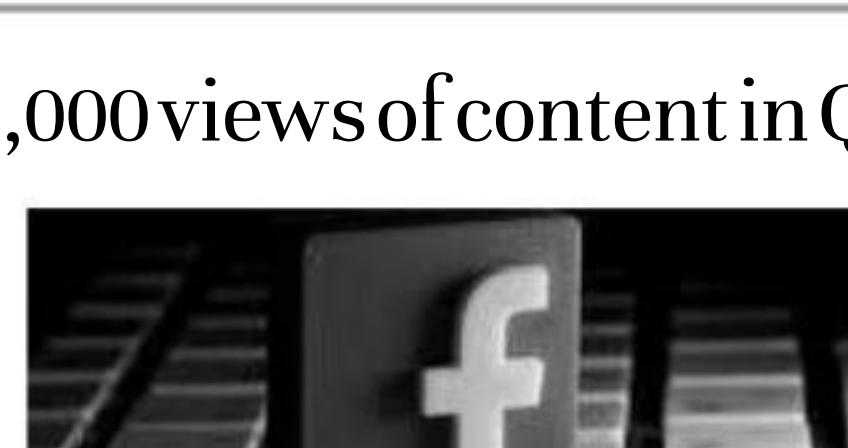
Facebook, which has 1.82 billion daily users globally, has drawn flak in the past for its handling of hate speech on the platform in India, which is among its biggest markets.

In its Community Standards Enforcement Report for September 2020 quarter, Facebook said it is including the prevalence of hate speech on its platform globally "for the first time".

Facebook explained. During the third quarter, Facebook took action on 22.1 million pieces of hate speech content, about 95 per cent of which was proactively identified. On Instagram, the company took action on 6.5 million pieces of hate speech content (up from 3.2 million in June quarter), about 95 per cent of which was proactively identified (up from about 85 per cent in the previous quarter), it added.

The latest Community Standards Enforcement Report provides metrics on how Facebook enforced its policies from July to September, and includes metrics across 12 policies on Facebook and 10 policies on Instagram.

Facebook Vice President (Integrity) Guy Rosen said the company is also updating its Community Standards Enforcement Report to include additional policies that require more context and can't always be applied at scale. These policies often require specialised teams to gather more information on a given issue in order to make decisions, he added. The Transparency Report shares numbers on government requests for user data, content restrictions based on local law, intellectual property takedowns and internet disruptions.



Community Standards Enforcement Report is published in conjunction with Facebook's biannual Transparency Report. The Transparency Report shares numbers on government requests for user data, content restrictions based on local law, intellectual property takedowns and internet disruptions.

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During the period, the volume of content restrictions based on local law increased globally by 40 per cent from

Custodial deaths rock Odisha

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 20 NOVEMBER

Two custodial deaths at Puri and Biramitrapur in Sambalpur district rocked Odisha with activists hitting the streets demanding murder charges against police officers and Opposition Congress and BJP disrupting the Assembly session, petitioning the NHRC, OHRC as well as the High Court.

The two alleged custodial deaths – K Ramesh at Puri and Tariq Salim at Biramitrapur in Sundergarh district took place in aspan of 24 hours yesterday.

The body of K Ramesh who died at Puri was cremated in the dead of the night without being handed over to his family members. Some members of the family were taken by the police well past midnight to a dark

open space and showed the body. His parents have not returned home, charged the BJP leaders as well as bereaved relatives.

BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra met the NHRC members at Delhi and said notices have been issued to the state government.

Puri BJP MLA Jayant Sarangi met the family members and later demanded immediate arrest and dismissal of the policemen involved in the death of Ramesh as well as the inhuman act of cremating the body without handing it over to the family.

Former law minister and veteran Congress mla Narasingha Mishra said Jungle Raj is prevailing in Odisha and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik remains silent without even making a statement in the Assembly.

It is a re-run of the Hathras

- Akhileshwar Singh, SP, Puri transferred to police headquarters.
- Hathras re-run at Puri alleges Congress
- BJP's Sambit Patra moves NHRC notices issued to Odisha govt,
- Victim's family alleges dead-of-night cremation by police

incident in UP, except there is no charge of rape here, remarked Mishra while chiding the BJP for forgetting that UP and Bihar seem to have inspired Odisha police.

All police officers at Puri and Biramitrapur should immediately be transferred lest they tamper with evidence, he said.

Lambasting the BJD government, Mishra said the biggest gold loot takes place in the heart of Cuttack, six

persons of a family are murdered in Patnagarh, a sarpanch outrages the modesty of a woman, the HC summons the DGP as it is dissatisfied with progress of investigation in a rape case, a Tehsil office in set on fire, drugs are seized in huge quantity on a daily basis. Yet CM Naveen Patnaik remains mum and does not speak even from the confines of his house.

This is nothing but Jun-

gle Raj, he iterated.

The rising unemployment is the root cause of the lawlessness. The law and order machinery has collapsed, charged Mishra.

Inside the Odisha Assembly, Opposition Congress and BJP members raised slogans forcing Speaker S N Patro to adjourn the House on four occasions before calling an all party meeting to resolve the matter.

Reports from Sundergarh district said the family of Tariq Salim demanded stringent action against police officers responsible for the custodial death. Salim had been arrested in connection with a case of kidnapping.

Salim's alleged custodial death had sparked an angry public reaction in the locality with irate people staging a protest demonstration in front of Biramitrapur police station.

Before Covid-19, society became victim of 2 pandemics ~ religiosity, strident nationalism: Ansari

PTI
NEW DELHI, 20 NOVEMBER

belongs to a recognised religious minority.

It is this diverse mass that a new ideology is seeking to homogenise supposedly on the basis of a faith premised on an "imaginary history", he said.

"The COVID-19 as a pandemic is bad enough, but before it our society became a victim of two other pandemics – religiosity and strident nationalism.

Ansari said that as against religiosity and strident nationalism, patriotism is a more positive concept as it is defensive both militarily and culturally.

Speaking at the virtual launch of senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor's book 'The Battle of Belonging', Ansari said that in a short space of four years, India has made along journey from its founding vision of civic nationalism to a new political imagery of cultural nationalism that appears to be firmly embedded in the public realm.

The former vice president said that "there is a passionate plea for an ideal of India (in the book), an India that was taken for granted by our generation" and now is seemingly endangered by "overt and covert ideas and ideologies that seek to segment it on imagined criteria of us and them".

"Hitherto, our core values were summed up as an existential reality of a plural society, a democratic polity and a secular state structure. These were accepted in the freedom movement, they were incorporated in the Constitution and encapsulated in the preamble of the Constitution," said Ansari, who was vice president from 2007-2017. The plurality of Indian society is evident from the sociological evidence of 4,635 communities, he said, adding that every fifth Indian

Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs or Christians are not different as they are all human beings and thus "we chose (Mahatma) Gandhi's India, (Jawaharlal) Nehru's India, an India that belong to everyone", Abdullah said.

"That's how I feel till this government came in. They think that only a Hindu can be Indian and all the others who are there cannot be Indians, they are second class citizens. This I am never going to accept till my dying day," he said.

"My belief is that this is for all of us, this is our motherland, we grew in it, we were educated in it, we have developed in it, our families live here, our ancestors are buried here, this is as good for me as it is for any Hindu. Today we are being divided, divided on religion, on caste on creed on language," the National Conference leader said.

"Tyrants come and tyrants go, nations continue to survive and I am confident that his nation will survive, these dividers will go," he said.

Former JD(U) leader Pavan Varma said that the role of secular parties on issues such as minority appeasement like in the Shah Bano case also needs to be examined while dealing with the question of the idea of India. Also part of the discussion, Professor Makarand R Paranjape argued that there was not one idea of India, but many that were being hotly contested.

Phase-3 trial of 'Covaxin' begins at SUM Hospital

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 20 NOVEMBER

The third phase human trial of 'Covaxin', began at the Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital here.

The vaccine was administered to two recruits at the Preventive and Therapeutic Clinical Trial Unit (PTCTU) at the hospital, the only institute in Odisha chosen by the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) for the human trial of the vaccine, Dr. Venkata Rao, Principal Investigator (ICMR) for the human trial said.

The trial is being conducted at 21 selected medical institutes across the country.

Prof. Rao said the vac-



Incidents of 'Love Jihad' happening in country, Fadnavis claims

PTI
NAGPUR, 20 NOVEMBER

BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis said here on Friday that incidents of 'Love Jihad' were taking place in the country and therefore laws to curb the practice were justified.

He was responding to a question about Congress leader and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot accusing the BJP of manufacturing the term Love Jihad and disrupting communal harmony.

"These are all pseudo-

secular people... they think that attacking and abusing Hindus is secularism," the former Maharashtra chief minister said.

"Love Jihad is happening in the country and it was also



acknowledged in Kerala where the BJP is not in power," he said.

"It is the government's job to frame laws when such things come to light," he said.

Some BJP-ruled states have announced plans to prevent so-called 'Love Jihad' which refer to an alleged conspiracy to convert Hindu women by marrying them.

About an incident in Mumbai where a Shiv Sena worker asked the owner of a sweet shop to drop the word 'Karachi' from the shop's name because it is a Pakistani city, Fadnavis said, "We believe in 'Akhand Bharat' (undivided India) and we believe that one day Karachi will be part of India."

'KALLOLA': 500 kids present films & radio jingles

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 20 NOVEMBER

UNICEF Odisha in collaboration with Aaina, an Odisha-based voluntary organization hosted the inaugural ceremony of Children's Festival Week of Season 6 of 'KALLOLA 2020' - a Celebration of Children's Creativity, here today on the theme of Children and COVID-19.

The festival was launched with support of Women and Child Development, Government of Odisha and Mo School Sangathan.

The festival, over the next few days, will showcase short videos and jingles produced with scripts written by around 500 children in child care institutions and government-run schools in the state.

The scripts were produced through a series of online workshops organized for these children by film makers in Odisha. Sharing his experience Subham Sahu, 15 years, from Manikeshwari High School from Kalahandi

district said, "I had a lot of fun learning about the different aspects of writing a script. We also watched movies to understand how an idea is converted into a script. I worked with four other fellow students and we are so happy to see a film made with our script." Jhumukhi Kirsani, 15 years, from SOVA Astha Children's Home from Koraput district, said it was a unique experience for the participants from her institution. "We had thought scripts could only be written by grownups. But once we understood how a story is broken into parts, visualized and converted into a script, we are now confident of writing more scripts and radio jingles."

Chief of Field Office, UNICEF Odisha Dr. Monika O. Nielsen said, "Today, as we celebrate the World

Children's Day, we are acutely aware of the impact the pandemic has made on the lives of children. We need to find avenues of hearing their views directly from them. Young people rarely have a voice in the decisions that affect their lives, yet they have immense energy, talent and creativity that, if harnessed, can contribute to their societies' advancement. The scripts written by the children showcase this creativity and we are very proud of them."

Sharing her thoughts Ms Sneha Mishra said "Working with children is always fun! This year we were apprehensive in the beginning as to how we interact with children online but we managed to reach out to nearly 500 children with the support of Odisha State Child Protection Society (OSCPs) and Mo School. It was a very good experience to hear from children what they had to say about the pandemic and related issues. Their imagination and creativity reflected in the scripts they produced."

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 20 NOVEMBER

In a bid to prepare its air warriors for hostile situations where the Indian Air Force pilots might need to land and take off from civilian airports, Hawk trainer jets of the IAF were observed landing and taking off from the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International (NSCBI) Airport in Kolkata.

The sight of the Hawk trainers was sure to catch the eyes of civilian flyers that were enthralled at the sight.

An IAF source today said the mighty birds flew down from the Kalaikunda airbase, a few kilometres from Kolkata and were used in making IAF trainee pilots get familiarised with operations at civilian airfields where they might need to land in times of emergencies during war or other emergency situations.

Concerning challenges,

involved in a fighter jet operations from civilian airports, it was pointed out that it is extremely vital to maintain constant coordination with the Air Traffic Controllers (ATC) and other civil aviation authorities concerned since the whole operation needs to be conducted with utmost attention to obliterate any chances of an encounter, that may

lead to a collision, between fighter jets and civilian aircraft. The fighter jets need to perform without affecting civil aviation services.

It was highlighted that the IAF fighter pilots, through this exercise, are being familiarised with the procedure of flying at these busy airfields and coordinating with their civilian counterparts, who in turn are gaining thorough training experience in such military operations.

No civil aviation operations were disrupted as the exercise was carried out, it was learnt.

The Hawk aircraft are used for ground attacks, flying training, weapons training, aerobatics etc. It is a combat-capable aircraft.

The IAF recruits the Hawk during stage 3 training before the pilots get to fly the mighty fighter jets such as Jaguars, MiG 21s etc.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Quarry (4)	1 Incidental benefit (Informal) (4)
3 Understand (3)	2 All together (2,5)
7 Edge of a hat (4)	3 Ointment (5)
8 Marine molluscs (8)	4 Strong black coffee (8)
9 Disease of pigs (5,5)	5 Tryst (11)
11 Give way (4,2)	6 Heedless (4-7)
12 Vigorous (6)	10 Become established (4,4)
14 Eternity (10)	13 Type of pop group (3,4)
17 Ship's window (8)	15 Don (3,2)
18 Slightly open (4)	16 Differ (4)
19 Unit of weight (3)	
20 Whirl (4)	

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

22586262, 22585007

RAILWAY INQUIRY

General Inquiry 139

AIRPORTS

Toll Free Nos. 180012511

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886,

FLIGHT INQUIRY

IBST (General Inquiry):

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2386836, 23865181

RAILWAYS

Haryana Roads 23861262

AIRPORTS

Himachal Roads 2371743, 23325320

SHIPPING

Guru Teg Bahadur 43513186, Indigo Airlines AIRPORTS

PORTS

23860562, 23864740

SHIPPING

Punjab Roadways 23867842, 23860562

SHIPPING

Rajasthan Roadways 23657157, 18001803838

SHIPPING

*I have been troubled, like I think every American...should be...when you start having attempts to block, negate, overturn the people's vote*

FORMER US PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

TERMING PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S CLAIMS OF VOTER FRAUD AS 'BOGUS'

WEATHER

CITY	MAX(°C)	MIN(°C)
SINGAPORE	31	25 H
HONG KONG	25	21 H
TOKYO	19	11 H
LONDON	11	3 R
DUBAI	30	22 CL
SAN FRANCISCO	17	9 H
NEW YORK	8	-2 R
MOSCOW	1	-1 R

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

THUMBNAILS



Egypt's governor and security officials inspect the accident site in Minya, Egypt, where a bus-lorry crash killed at least 12, on Friday.

IANS

Italy to start vaccinations in Jan: A significant number of Italians who want to be vaccinated against COVID-19 should have received their shots by next September, Italy's special commissioner for the virus emergency said. Italy is set to receive 3.4 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine in the second half of January.

AP

Nine killed as truck hits funeral procession: A truck crashed into a funeral procession in central China on Friday, killing nine people and injuring four others, the media reported. The accident happened on a national highway in Henan province's Huabian county.

PTI

'Cannibalism' in Berlin man killing: German prosecutors said Friday there is evidence of cannibalism in the killing of a 44-year-old man whose remains were found on the northern edge of Berlin earlier this month. A 41-year-old man was arrested Thursday on suspicion of murder.

AP

Lawsuit now covers H-1B petitions for market research analyst:

WASHINGTON, 20 NOVEMBER

A federal judge has granted class certification in a lawsuit challenging the alleged pattern and practice of the US Citizenship and Immigration Services arbitrarily denying H-1B non-immigrant employment-based petitions for market research analyst positions filed by businesses in this country.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. The technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in the Northern District of California by the American Immigration Council, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, along with law firms Van Der Hout LLP, Joseph & Hall PC, and Kuck Baxter Immigration LLC, seeks to rein in the unlawful adjudication practice the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) uses in determining whether a market research analyst job qualifies as a specialty occupation.

The lawsuit also points to the agency's misinterpretation of the Occupational Outlook Handbook publication of the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics that profiles hundreds of occupations in the US job market, according to a statement. Research shows that H-1B workers complement US workers, fill employment gaps in many occupations, and expand job opportunities for all, Dellon said.

PTI

Pfizer seeks emergency use of vaccine in US

Action comes days after Pfizer Inc. and its partner BioNTech announced that its vaccine appears 95% effective at preventing COVID-19

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK, 20 NOVEMBER



Pfizer said Friday it is asking US regulators to allow emergency use of its COVID-19 vaccine, starting the clock on a process that could bring limited first shots as early as next month and eventually an end to the pandemic, but not until after a long, hard winter.

The action comes days after Pfizer Inc. and its German partner BioNTech announced that its vaccine appears 95% effective at preventing mild to severe COVID-19 disease in a large, ongoing study.

The companies said that protection plus a good safety record means the vaccine should qualify for emergency use authorisation, something

the Food and Drug Administration can grant before the final testing is fully complete. In addition to Friday's FDA submission, they have already started "rolling" applications in Europe and the U.K. and intend to submit similar information soon.

"Our work to deliver a safe and effective vaccine has never been more urgent," Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla said in a statement.

With the coronavirus sur-

ing around the US and the world, the pressure is on for regulators to make a speedy decision.

"Help is on the way," Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top US infectious disease expert said on the eve of Pfizer's announcement, adding that it's too early to abandon masks and other protective measures.

Friday's filing would set off a chain of events as the FDA and its independent advisers debate if the shots are ready. If so, still another government group will have to decide how the initial limited supplies are rationed out to anxious-waiting Americans.

How much vaccine is available and when is a moving target, but initial supplies will be scarce and rationed. Globally, Pfizer has estimated it could have 50 million doses

available by year's end.

About 25 million may become available for US use in December, 30 million in January and 35 million more in February and March, according to information presented to the National Academy of Medicine this week. Recipients will need two doses, three weeks apart.

Not far behind is competitor Moderna Inc.'s COVID-19 vaccine. Its early data suggests the shots are as strong as Pfizer's, and that company expects to also seek emergency authorization within weeks.

The public's first chance to see how strong the evidence really is will come in early December at a public meeting of the FDA's scientific advisers.

So far, what's known is

based only on statements from Pfizer and BioNTech.

Of 170 infections detected to date, only eight were among people who'd received the actual vaccine and the rest had gotten a dummy shot. On the safety side, the companies cite results from 38,000 study participants who've been tracked for two months after their second dose. That's a milestone FDA set because historically, vaccine side effects don't crop up later than that.

"We'll drill down on these data," said FDA adviser Dr. Paul Offit of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Think of it like science on trial. A few days before the meeting, the FDA will release its own internal analysis. That sets the stage for the advisers' daylong debate about any signs of safety concerns and

how the new vaccine technology works before rendering a verdict.

They'll recommend not just whether FDA should allow broader use of the vaccine generally but if so, for whom. For example, is there enough proof the vaccine works as well for older, sicker adults as for younger, healthier people?

There's still no guarantee. "We don't know what that vote's going to be," said former FDA vaccine chief Norman Baylor.

If there's an emergency green light, "that vaccine is still deemed investigational. It's not approved yet," Dr. Marion Gruber, chief of FDA's vaccine office, told the National Academy of Medicine this week.

That means anyone offered an emergency vaccination must get a "fact sheet" describ-

ing potential benefits and risks before going through with the shot, she said.

There will be a lot of unknowns. For example, the 95% protection rate is based on people who developed symptoms and then were tested for the virus. Can the vaccinated get infected but have no symptoms, able to spread the virus? How long does protection last? That's why the 44,000-person study needs to keep running, something difficult considering ethicality, participants given dummy shots at some point must be offered real vaccine, complicating the search for answers.

And at least for now, pregnant women won't qualify because they weren't studied. Pfizer only recently began testing the vaccine in children as young as 12.

Mexico tops 100,000 Covid-19 deaths

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MEXICO CITY, 20 NOVEMBER



Mexico passed the 100,000 mark in COVID-19 deaths, becoming only the fourth country to do so amid concerns about the lingering physical and psychological scars on survivors.

José Luis Aloma Zegarra, Mexico's director of epidemiology, announced late Thursday that Mexico had 100,104 confirmed Covid-19 deaths, behind only the United States, Brazil and India.

The milestone comes less than a week after Mexico topped 1 million registered coronavirus cases, though officials agree the number is probably much higher because of low levels of testing.

The coverage of the back-to-back milestones has raised the hackles of some government officials.

Mexico's pointman on the pandemic, Assistant Health Secretary Hugo López-Gatell, bristled when asked about Mexico reaching the 100,000 deaths point, criticizing the media for being alarmist, in the same way he has criticized those who suggest the government is undercounting Covid-19 deaths or providing contradictory and weak advice on using face masks.

The epidemic is terrible in itself, you don't have to add drama to it, said López-Gatell, suggesting some media out-

lets were focusing on the number of deaths to sell newspapers or spark political confrontation. Putting statistics on the front page doesn't, in my view, help much, he said.

Mexico resembles a divided country, where some people are so unconcerned by the pandemic they won't wear masks, while others are so scared they descend into abject terror at the first sign of shortness of breath.

Besides the trauma of the deaths, many coronavirus survivors say the psychosis caused by the pandemic is one of the most lasting effects.

With little testing being done Mexico tests only people with severe symptoms and has performed only around 2.5 million tests in a country of 130 million and a general fear of hospitals, many in Mexico are left to home

remedies and relatives' care.

Such is the case in the poverty-stricken Ampliación Magdalena neighborhood on Mexico City's rough east side, where most people work off-the-books as day laborers at the city's sprawling produce market. The busy market was the scene of one of the first big outbreaks in the greater metropolitan area, home to 21 million people, and so early on in the pandemic local undertakers were swamped with corpses.

Pak reports 2,738 cases of coronavirus in a day: Pakistan has reported 2,738 new cases of coronavirus in the last 24 hours, highest since July 11 when the daily infection figure crossed the 2,700-mark, taking the current tally of patients with the disease in the nation to 3,68,655, a media report said on Friday.

MASK UP



Officials provide a face mask to a rickshaw puller during mobile court drives in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

IANS

Trump sending damaging message by not conceding poll results'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 20 NOVEMBER



US President Donald Trump is sending an incredibly damaging message to the international community by not conceding the election results, President-elect Joe Biden said on Thursday.

Major news networks have declared Biden as the winner of the November 3 presidential elections, weeks ahead of their formal certification by the respective State legislatures.

Trump, however, has refused to concede. He has filed multiple lawsuits in several states challenging the election results alleging that there has been massive voter fraud and electoral malpractice, a charge denied by state officials and news outlets.

I think they were witnessing incredible irresponsibility; incredibly damaging mes-

sages being sent to the rest of the world about how democracy functions. I do not know his motive, but I just think it is totally irresponsible, Biden, 77, said during a meeting with a bipartisan group of governors in Wilmington.

What the president is doing now is going to be another incident where he will go down in history as being one of the most irresponsible presidents of America," he said in response to a question.

We are going to end up making it clear that we won,

group of governors in his hometown in Wilmington, Delaware.

In April, President Donald Trump announced that the US would withdraw from the WHO, accusing the UN organisation for failing to oversee the onset of the coronavirus as it began to spread in China.

Biden was responding to a question on Thursday about his remarks during the presidential debates that he wanted to punish China over the way Beijing has been behaving. He was asked if that could include eco-

and but it is hard to fathom how this man thinks. I am confident he knows he has not won and is not going to be able to

win, and we are going to be sworn in on January 20...." he said.

Responding to another

question, Biden said he is not concerned that people may question the legitimacy of his administration.

He said that is one of the reasons why his administration is going to rejoin the World Health Organisation.

We're going to rejoin on day one as well and it needs reform, acknowledge, and rejoin the Paris Climate Accord. And we have to make sure that the rest of the world and we get together and make sure there are certain right lines the Chinese understand, Biden, a Democrat, said.

The vast majority of the American people, they have already—all the polling data has indicated all the Republicans who worry about it is higher, but you know, over 78 percent of the American people believe it is without question, it is legitimate, he said.

I think most of the Republicans I have spoken to, including some governors, think this is debilitating. It sends a horrible message about who we are as a country, he added.

The President-elect in response to another question did not rule out taking action against the General Services Administration (GSA), the governmental department which has refused to help him in the transition.

Biden also said that he has already decided on the name of the next Treasury Secretary and will make the announcement around Thanksgiving.

Georgia's historic first statewide audit reaffirmed that the state's new secure paper ballot voting system accurately counted and reported results, said Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger on Thursday.

Georgia hadn't voted for a Democratic presidential candidate since Bill Clinton in 1992.

Officials said that the audit confirmed that there was no widespread fraud or irregularities in the election held on November 3.

This is a credit to the hard work of our county and local elections officials who moved quickly to undertake and complete such a momentous task in a short period of time, the Republican official said.

Georgia has been a traditional Republican stronghold. Biden is the first Democratic president to have won Georgia since 1992. The election results in Georgia, which has 16 electoral college votes, is expected to be certified on Friday.

Biden was declared the winner of the presidential election on November 7 after flipping Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin to the Democrats' column.

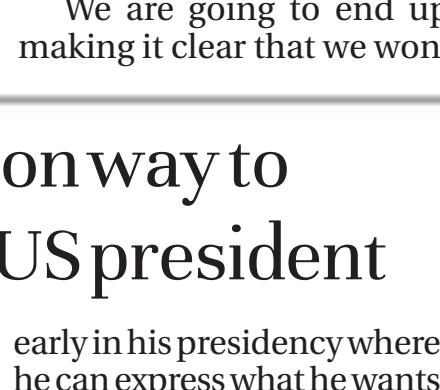
With Georgia's 16 electoral votes, Biden will now have 306 electoral votes to Trump's 232.

Trump won Georgia by 5 percentage points in 2016 over Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Meanwhile, Trump campaign's senior legal advisor Jenna Ellis accused the media of falsely reporting that Biden has been declared the winner in Georgia as the State has not yet certified its results.

Biden turns 78, on way to become oldest US president

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 20 NOVEMBER



President-elect Joe Biden turned 78 on Friday. In exactly two months, he'll take the reins of a politically fractured nation facing the worst public health crisis in a century, high unemployment and a reckoning on racial injustice.

As he wrestles with those issues, Biden will be attempting to accomplish another feat: Demonstrate to Americans that age is but a number and he's up to the job.

Biden will be sworn in as the oldest president in the nation's history, displacing Ronald Reagan, who left the White House in 1989 when he was 77 years and 349 days old.

The age and health of both Biden and President Donald Trump, less than four years Biden's junior, loomed throughout a race that was decided by a younger and more diverse electorate and at a moment when the nation is facing no shortage of issues of consequence.



I got the report two weeks ago and it made me physically ill... I was totally and utterly shocked and mortified

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE MINISTER LINDA REYNOLDS
ON THE AUSTRALIAN WAR CRIMES REPORT

The Statesman

11

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2020

Hunger crisis alarm tolls in nations

UN agencies warned that 250 million people in 20 countries are threatened with malnutrition or even famine

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ABS (YEMEN), 20 NOVEMBER

The twin baby boys lay on a bed of woven palm leaves in a remote camp for displaced people in Yemen's north, their collar bones and ribs visible. They cried loudly, twisting as if in pain, not from disease but from the hunger gnawing away at them.

Here, UN officials' increasingly dire warnings that a hunger crisis is growing around the world are becoming a reality.

UN agencies have warned that some 250 million people in 20 countries are threatened with sharply spiking malnutrition or even famine in coming months.

The United Nations humanitarian office this week released \$100 million in emergency funding to seven countries most at risk of famine — Yemen, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Congo, and Burkina Faso.

UN prepares for 200,000 Ethiopian refugees in Sudan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NAIROBI, 20 NOVEMBER

The United Nations refugee agency says about 32,000 people have fled Ethiopia's embattled Tigray region into neighbouring Sudan, and it is preparing to take in up to 200,000 in the next six months if necessary.

Axel Bisschop, the agency's representative in Sudan, told reporters that nobody at this stage can say exactly how many will come, but UN officials said fighting continues between Ethiopian government and Tigray regional government forces.

Some of the refugees are arriving with accounts of shelling or airplanes flying overhead, but Bisschop said for now authorities are asking mainly humanitarian questions as they urgently seek to provide services.

The refugees are arriving in a very remote area, and humanitarians must create a crisis response virtually from zero even as up to 5,000 refugees continue to arrive every day.

No one knows when the flow might ease.

We have not heard specifics from the fighting, but what definitely is clear is that fighting is ongoing and it is sporadic, you never know where it's going to happen, said Hameed Nuru, the Sudan country representative for the World Food Program.

So it is this anticipation and not-knowing which is causing a lot more fear and causing people now to cross.

He also noted reports that some fighters may have put down their arms and joined the flow of people crossing, which could add to tensions



But David Beasley, head of the World Food Program, says billions in new aid are needed. Without it, we are going to have famines of biblical proportions in 2021, he said in an Associated Press interview last week.

In multiple countries, the coronavirus pandemic has added a new burden on top of the impact of ongoing wars, pushing more people into poverty, unable to afford food. At the same time, international aid funding has fallen short, weakening a safety net that keeps people alive.

In Afghanistan's capital Kabul, Zemaray Hakimi said

he can only give his children one meal a day, usually hard, black bread dunked in tea. He lost his work as a taxi driver after contracting COVID-19 and now waits daily on the street for day laborer work that rarely comes.

When his children complain of hunger, he said, I tell them to bear it. One day maybe we can get something better. South Sudan may be closer than any other country to famine, as crisis after crisis wears on a population depleted by five years of civil war.

The UN projected earlier this year that a quarter of the

population of Jonglei State, home to more than 1.2 million, would reach the brink of famine.

Now cut off from much of the world by flooding that has affected some 1 million people, many South Sudanese have seen farming and other food routines ripped apart. The challenges are so numerous that plastic sheets are not available, as they had largely been used for the previous flood response, the U.N. humanitarian agency said this week.

Covid-19 has restricted trade and travel. Food prices rose. Post-war unrest remains deadly; gunmen recently fired on WFP boats carrying supplies. The convergence of conflict, macroeconomic crisis, recurrent flooding as well as the indirect impacts of COVID create a 'perfect storm,' the country director for the CARE aid group, Rosalind Crowther, said in an email. Flooding and violence have led to massive displacement, low

crop production and loss of livelihoods and livestock. In the Arabian peninsula, Yemen is on a countdown to catastrophe, Beasley, of the WFP, warned the Security Council last week.

Famine is truly a real and dangerous hazard and the warning lights are ... flashing red as can be, he said.

For years, Yemen has been the center of the world's worst food crisis, driven by the destructive civil war between Iranian-backed Houthi rebels who took over the north and the capital, Sanaa, in 2014 and a Saudi-led coalition backing the government in the south.

International aid pulled it from the edge of famine two years ago. But the threat has surged back this year, fueled by increasing violence and a currency collapse that put food out of reach for growing numbers of people.

Donors have been wary of new funding because of corruption and restrictions that

Houthi have put on humanitarian workers. The U.N. had to cut in half the rations it gives to 9 million people and faces possible cuts to another 6 million in January.

The 18-month-old twins, Mohammed and Ali, weigh only about 3 kilograms, or 6.6 pounds, less than a third of the weight they should be, according to their doctor.

Their father, Hassan al-Jamai, was a farmer in northern Hajjah province near the border with Saudi Arabia. Soon after their birth, the family had to flee fighting to a displaced camp in the district of Abs. We are struggling to treat them, said Mariam Hassam, the twins' grandmother.

Their father took them everywhere. Two-thirds of Yemen's population of about 28 million people are hungry. In the south, UN data from recent surveys show cases of severe acute malnutrition rose 15.5 percent this year, and at least 98,000 children under five could die of it.

Azerbaijani army enters territory ceded by Armenian forces



ASSOCIATED PRESS
MOSCOW, 20 NOVEMBER

Units of the Azerbaijani army on Friday morning entered the Aghdam region, a territory ceded by Armenian forces in a cease-fire agreement that ended six weeks of heavy fighting over the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry said. Azerbaijan's president declared that his forces have taken control of the Aghdam region.

The truce, brokered by Russia last week, stipulated that Armenia hand over control of some areas it holds outside Nagorno-Karabakh's borders to Azerbaijan. The first one, Aghdam, is to be turned over on Friday.

Nagorno-Karabakh lies within Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since a separatist war there ended in 1994. That war left not only Nagorno-Karabakh itself but substantial surrounding territory in Armenian hands.

Heavy fighting that flared up Sept 27 marked the biggest escalation of the decades-old conflict between the two ex-Soviet nations in over a quarter-century, killing hundreds and possibly thousands of people.

The truce last week halted the violence after several failed attempts to establish a lasting cease-fire. It was celebrated as a victory in Azerbaijan, but sparked mass protests in Armenia, with thousands regularly taking to the streets to demand the ouster of the country's prime minister.

Although regaining the region is a triumph for Azerbaijan, the joy of returning is shot through with grief and anger. The region's main city, Aghdam, was once home to 50,000, known for its white homes and an elaborate three-story teahouse, but it is so ruined that it's sometimes called the "Hiroshima of the Caucasus."

Hindu temple discovered in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, 20 NOVEMBER

A Hindu temple, believed to have been constructed 1,300 years ago, has been discovered by Pakistani and Italian archaeological experts at a mountain in northwest Pakistan's Swat district.

The discovery was made during an excavation at Barikot Ghundai. Announcing the discovery on Thursday, Fazle Khaliq of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Department of Archaeology said that the temple discovered is of Lord Vishnu.

It was built by the Hindus 1,300 years ago during the Hindu Shahi period, he said.

The Hindu Shahis or Kabul Shahis (850-1026 CE) was a Hindu dynasty that ruled the Kabul Valley (eastern Afghanistan), Gandhara (modern-day Pakistan), and present-day northwestern India.

During their excavation, the archaeologists also found traces of cantonment and watchtowers near the temple site.

The experts also found a water tank near the temple site which they believe was used by the Hindus for bathing before worship. Khaliq said that Swat district is home to a thousand-year-old archaeological sites and the traces of the Hindu Shahi period have been found for the first time in the area.

Dr Luka, the head of the Italian archaeological mission, said this was the first temple of the Ghandhara civilisation discovered in Swat district.

Swat district is among the top 20 sites in Pakistan which is home to every kind of tourism like natural beauty, religious tourism, cultural tourism and archaeological sites.

Several places of worship of Buddhism are also situated in Swat district.

OFFICIAL VISIT



Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani (2nd R, front) and visiting Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan inspect the honour guard in Kabul, Afghanistan. Pakistan supports inclusive peace process in Afghanistan, Imran Khan said on 20 November. IANS

PIA engineers blamed for 2016 crash in probe report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, 20 NOVEMBER

Nearly four years after a Pakistan International Airlines' flight crashed in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, killing 47 people, a probe report has said that the aircraft had three technical anomalies for which the airline's engineers were responsible, according to a media report.

The plane crashed near Havelian in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province on December 7, 2016, killing all 47 passengers and crew on board the ATR42 aircraft of the national carrier.

Junaid Jamshed, a singer-turned-preacher, was among the people killed in one of the most disastrous air

crashes in the country's aviation history.

The Aircraft Accident and Investigation Board (AAIB) completed its investigation into the crash and revealed that the aircraft had three technical anomalies for which the airline's engineers were responsible, the Dawn News reported. Head of the AAIB Air Commodore Usman Ghani submitted the report on Thursday to a bench of the Sindh High Court (SHC) after repeating directives by the bench in a petition filed about various incidents involving ATR planes.

A spokesman for the avia-

tion division, senior joint secretary Abdul Sattar Khokhar, said in a press release that the investigation was carried out under the guidelines provided by the International Civil Aviation Organisation and were aimed at improving the safety of air travel.

According to the investigation report, the air crash was the result of three latent technical factors, including fracture of one of the power turbine blades of Engine 1; a broken/fractured pin inside overspeed governor; and probable pre-existing contamination inside Propeller Valve Module.

The AAIB report, which held the PIA engineers responsible for the disaster, said the aircraft remained in air for

about 42 minutes before the crash. Analysis of the digital flight data recorder indicated that the aircraft's Engine 1 was degraded, the daily said.

The flight took off with two pre-existing technical anomalies. One anomaly was a fractured Power Turbine (PT-1) blade and the second was a fractured pin inside the Over-Speed Governor (OSG) of the same side. The probable latent pre-existing condition was contamination external from the engine observed in Propeller Valve Module.

It said most probably the PT-1 blade had fractured during a previous flight.

However, this defect is not observable during regular operations.

Pompeo visits Israel museum honouring Christian Zionists

ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM, 20 NOVEMBER



plan that overwhelmingly favored Israel and was rejected by the Palestinians.

It has also adopted a maximum pressure campaign against Israel's archenemy Iran while brokering normalization agreements with Arab nations.

The moves Pompeo announced Thursday are largely symbolic and could be easily reversed by President-elect Joe Biden's incoming administration. But it was a powerful show of support for Israel and its Christian allies.

Israel captured the West Bank and east Jerusalem in the 1967 war, territories the Palestinians want for their future state. The Palestinians view the settlements as a violation of international law and a major obstacle to peace, a position shared by most of the international community.

Israel seized the Golan Heights from Syria in the same war and later annexed it.

Last year, the US became the first country to recognise it as part of Israel, a position Pompeo reaffirmed during his visit to the strategic plateau on Thursday, and released a Mideast

policy that is widely accepted by the Palestinians. The use of filters to enhance selfies is widespread in India and the US, according to a global study conducted by Google which says selfie-taking and sharing is such a big part of Indian women's lives that it affects their behaviour and household economics.

Unlike Germany, Indian respondents expressed low levels of concern about the impact of filters on their children's wellbeing. And filter use for beautification purposes is highly normalised and socially accepted in South Korea, the study noted.

More than 70 per cent of the photos taken on an Android device use the front-facing camera. Indians are active selfie takers and sharers, and they consider filters a useful tool in enhancing their appearance and presenting their best self, it said.

"Indian women, in particular, are enthusiastic about their ability to beautify their images, and they make use of a variety of filtering apps and editing tools to achieve a desired look. The most pop-

ular filter apps are PicsArt and Makeup Plus; Snapchat is used by younger users (age 29 and under), it said.

"The selfie-taking and sharing is such a big part of Indian women's lives that it affects their behaviour and even household economics: several women reported that they never wear the same dress again if they had taken a selfie in it, it said.

As a young woman reported, I told my mom, I'll never wear this dress again because I posted a selfie in it. She said, do you think money comes from the trees? the study said.

Indian men are also active selfie-takers and users of filters but they tend to focus more on the story aspect

rather than their appearance, it said.

Indian respondents expressed low levels of concern about the impact of filters on their children's wellbeing. They exhibit a relaxed attitude towards their children's use of filters, considering it a fun activity, it said, adding that some parents are comfortable using slight beautification filters like lipstick on their child's photo.

Indian parents were more concerned about their children's excessive use of mobile phones or privacy and safety of smartphones rather than the use of filters, it said.

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Indians prolific users of filters in selfies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, 20 NOVEMBER

The use of filters to enhance selfies is widespread in India and the US, according to a global study conducted by Google which says selfie-taking and sharing is such a big part of Indian women's lives that it affects their behaviour and even household economics: several women reported that they never wear the same dress again if they had taken a selfie in it, it said.



CUB CLASS

Tiger Woods will compete in the 2020 PNC Championship alongside his 11-year-old son Charlie (photo, left). Woods will make his debut in the event, where 20 Major-winners compete as a team with a family member, at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club in Orlando from 17 December to 20 December.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

India slip: Australia climbed to the top and pushed India down to No 2 in the World Test Championship after the International Cricket Council yesterday changed some WTC rules as several series had not been played because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Loew's luck: German fans want to show national coach Joachim Loew the red card with ex-players also suggesting the 60-year-old should step aside amid the fall-out of their historic thrashing in Spain. Germany were trounced 6-0 in Tuesday's Nations League tie.

Ozil v Gunners: Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta says he is hurt by Mesut Ozil's situation at the Premier League club but is resigned to facing questions about the German midfielder after every defeat. Ozil earns £350,000 a week, but has not played this season.

Wright choice: Former Arsenal striker Ian Wright has revealed he has forgiven a football fan who racially abused him as a player in the 1990s, after receiving a letter of apology that made him "well up." Wright has been outspoken on racism inside and outside football.

City's gain: Coach Pep Guardiola has extended his stay as Manchester City after signing a new contract which will see him at the club until the 2022-2023 season. "The challenge for us is to continue improving and evolving, and I am very excited," Guardiola said.

Court battle: Newcastle United have confirmed they are engaged in a legal dispute with the Premier League over a failed takeover of the club. A consortium withdrew its £35million offer for the Magpies after a long wait for the governing body to approve the deal.

WAGs fight: A court battle between the wives of former England football stars Wayne Rooney and Jamie Vardy kicked off in London on Thursday, with Mrs Vardy suing Mrs Rooney for libel after the latter had accused her of leaking stories from her private life.

Proteas' plight: South Africa have been hit by a positive coronavirus test which has forced three players to isolate, damaging valuable preparation time ahead of the white-ball series against England. Both squads are entering a bio-secure base in Cape Town.

Caribbean claim: The 2020 edition of the Caribbean Premier League saw an increase of 67 per cent television, streaming and digital viewership this year, reaching 52.3 million viewers and passing half a billion for the first time in the tournament's history.

Expansion planned: Formula One is planning to expand to 24 races in the near future, with some rotation of circuits, chief executive Chase Carey said on Thursday. The sport has pencilled in a record 23 for next year, all hinging on developments in the pandemic.

Nadal battles past Tsitsipas

THE INDEPENDENT & AGENCIES

LONDON, 20 NOVEMBER

World number two Rafael Nadal (in photo) has entered the semi-finals of the ATP Finals by defeating defending champion Stefanos Tsitsipas.

On Thursday, Nadal defeated Tsitsipas 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 in two hours and five minutes to make it to his sixth semi-final appearance at the event and continued his pursuit of a maiden title at the year-end championships. The Spaniard tallied a 2-1 record to claim second place in Group London 2020 behind Dominic Thiem.

He will next play Daniil Medvedev in a rematch of the 2019 US Open final.

"(To) be in the semi-finals here, in the last tournament of the year, is an important thing," Nadal said in his on-court interview. "(I am) happy for that and I am looking forward to the semi-finals against Daniil."

Last year, Nadal defeated Tsitsipas in the final round-robin match, but the lefty was still ousted from the tournament. This time, he only needed a win to move on, and despite a slip at the end of the second set, he emerged victorious to extend his head-to-



head lead against the Greek to 6-1.

"I still won two matches like last year," Nadal said. "Last year, I was a little bit unlucky not to be in the semi-finals. The year before I had to pull out. It is always difficult to play here against the best players in the world every single day (at the) end of the season."

Most of the time, you get here a little bit tired, but this

year is a little bit different... I am just excited to be in the semi-finals and I hope to be ready to try my best," he added.

Fresh clash

Novak Djokovic has added fuel to the fire in his ongoing row with the Association of Tennis Professionals over the newly-founded Profession-

al Tennis Players' Association.

Djokovic and Canadian Vasek Pospisil took a stance in August when they left the ATP Player Council, which saw them recruit other players in New York to form the Professional Tennis Players' Association.

Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal were among those who criticised the Serbian for his move, with his two rivals still current members of the council.

It was therefore a shock when the names for potential candidates ahead of the new council elections in January were released, with both Djokovic and Pospisil record-

ed.

ATP has brought in a new rule effectively prohibiting their participation in both bodies.

He said: "We of course made ourselves available but then the rule by ATP board was voted on last night, which basically doesn't allow any active player to be part of the council and any other organisation in the tennis ecosystem, which is disappointing, to be honest, because I have not been approached by anybody from ATP on that matter."

"I was saying before and I'm going to say it again: We want to collaborate with ATP, and we want to be able to potentially have a place in the ecosystem, because this is what players deserve."

"Now, with this rule that has been voted on last night, that actually is a strong message from ATP that they don't want PTPA at all in the system. So it's very clear."

"We are just trying to fight for a better position and better treatment out there in the ecosystem, and that's all there is. It's unfortunate really to see that the ATP's position is such, but OK, now we know where we stand."

"So then we obviously have to consider other strategic positions and we have to consider our next move in a different way. We'll see what happens."

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Board case

NEW DELHI, 20 NOVEMBER: Almost 200 interlocutory applications from across the state cricket entities could be sent back to high courts if the Supreme Court decides to vacate its March 2019 order when it hears the Board of Control for Cricket in India case on 1 December. The 14 March, 2019, order prevented the high courts and tribunals across the country from hearing matters relating to the BCCI or its affiliates resulting from the recommendations of the Justice Lodha Committee for cricket reforms. "Once they vacate the stay, they will ask all the parties to go back to the high courts because these cases were being filed in the Supreme Court as there was a stay. It will have huge ramifications," said a source in the know of things. AGENCIES

ATK Mohun Bagan start off with 1-0 win over Kerala Blasters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BAMBOOLIM, 20 NOVEMBER



composed finish.

All eyes were on the 131-year-old legacy club Mohun Bagan as they were making their ISL debut following their 'marriage' with three-time defending champions ATK.

The match had an interesting subplot as Kibu Vicu-

na, who had guided Mohun Bagan to their fifth I-League title last season, sat in the opposite dugout in KBFC jersey, while the most successful ISL coach Antonio Lopez Habas was at the helm of ATKMB.

Habas named a predictable

3-5-2 lineup with their star signing Sandesh Jhingan helming the defence in his first outing after a lengthy injury layoff of more than 12 months.

ATKMB had a dominant first half and made some early inroads with Roy Krishna missing an early chance, even as KBFC enjoyed more ball possession in the first 45 minutes.

KBFC, who were the designated home team, looked more threatening and came out with an attacking intent in the second-half.

But KBFC were made to pay for it as Roy Krishna made amends for his three misses in the first half with his poacher goal to become the difference between the two sides.

That goal was enough for ATKMB to sink Kerala Blasters' hearts.

New look Mumbai City aiming for fresh start against NorthEast United

VASCO, 20 NOVEMBER

attacking football. Obviously, we need balance. In football, it's not possible only to attack, you need balance between attack and defence," Loberahad said.

Mumbai have two good strikers in Bartholomew Ogbeche and Adam Le Fondre who can prove to be more than handful for any opposition. The team has roped in utility midfielders like Ahmed Jahouh, England-born Japanese Cy Goddard and their roles as feeders will be important in the larger context of the game.

During the pre-match press briefing, custodian Amrinder Singh said that he was ready for any situation including a counter-attack.

"All these situations are

there in football and we need to be ready for any situation. Yes, counter-attack is difficult to handle, but we have done the planning on how to face it.

"Football is a 90-minute game and we need to handle any kind of situation and if the team executes the plans, then nothing will be difficult," he said.

Loberah has multiple options in Farukh Choudhary, Hugo Boumous, Herman Santana, Raynier Fernandes, Rowlin Borges and Pranjal Bhumij among others. The inclusion of Mandar Rao Dessai has bolstered the team's defence and he coupled with the likes of Sarthak Golui, Senegalese Mourada Fall and Mohamad Rakip are ready thwart any attacking line-up. PTI

'Split captaincy cannot work in our culture'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 20 NOVEMBER



The 61-year-old recently underwent an angioplasty after suffering a heart attack.

Talking about the art of fast bowling, the 1983 World Cup-winning former skipper said fast bowlers opting for too many variations saddens him.

"I am not happy with fast bowlers (these days). The first ball cannot be cross seam. Players in IPL realised that swing is more important than pace. Sandeep (Sharma), who bowled 120 kph, was tougher because he was moving the ball," he explained.

"Bowlers have to understand it's not the pace, it's the swing. They should learn but are running away from art. T Natarajan was my hero of IPL. Young boy was fearless and bowling so many Yorkers," the legendary all-rounder said referring to the two Sunrisers Hyderabad pacers.

Call me the 'Experienced One', says Mourinho

AGENCIES

LONDON, 20 NOVEMBER

Tottenham Hotspur manager Jose Mourinho has said the wealth of experience he has gained from previous coaching stints should be reflected in a new moniker: The Experienced One.

Mourinho famously described himself as 'A Special One' when he arrived in England as Chelsea's manager in 2004, having just guided Portuguese club Porto to the Champions League title.

The 57-year-old Portuguese has since held coaching positions at Inter Milan and Real Madrid followed by a second stint with Chelsea before taking over at Manchester United and then Spurs.

Asked how he would describe himself, Mourinho told *Tencent Sports* in an interview: "The 'Experienced One.' I am very

experienced. Basically everything that happens to me in football is dejavu, is something that has happened to me before.

"There are jobs that you need a special fitness condition like a football player. A 40-year-old does not have the same potential like a 20- or 30-year old, unless you're (AC Milan's Swedish striker) Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

"Coaching you just need your brain, an accumulation of experiences and knowledge can only make you better."

Mourinho's Tottenham are second in the Premier League with 17 points, one point behind Leicester City and five ahead of Saturday's visitors Manchester City who have a game in hand.

Survival package

The British government announced a £300 million win-

ter survival package yesterday to help sport through the Covid-19 pandemic, with rugby set for the biggest share but nothing for top-level football and cricket.

The first payments will be made over the coming weeks, mainly as low-interest loans with flexible terms but also through grants.

The money covers sport in England, with other parts of the United Kingdom having separate budgets.

Sport minister Nigel Huddleston told the British parliament in late September not to reopen stadia from Oct 1 as had major consequences for sports clubs large and small," he said. "Clearly for many organisations not being able to generate gate receipts deprives them of a

major source of income."

Support will be provided to both rugby codes, horse racing, the National League and women's football, motor sport, tennis, netball, basketball, ice hockey, badminton and greyhound racing.

More than 100 sports bodies wrote to Prime Minister Boris Johnson in September asking for emergency funding and warning of a 'lost generation of activity' due to the pandemic.

Preliminary allocations by sport, based on needs assessment, saw rugby union top the list with up to £135 million.

Premiership rugby clubs, who had warned of bankruptcies without state aid, accounted for £59 million and the national Rugby Football Union £44 million.

RFU chief executive Bill Sweeney said the support was "much-needed".

Khan says Australia will visit Pakistan in 2022

DAWN/ANN

SYDNEY, 20 NOVEMBER

Pakistan Cricket Board chief executive Wasim Khan hopes to be able to persuade Australia to return to his country after 24 years for an extensive tour involving Tests and limited-overs matches in 2022, saying, "There is no reason right now Australia won't be coming."

Along-awaited resumption of Australian teams playing in Pakistan appeared to move a step closer on Wednesday night when Khan made a statement confirming a first England tour in 16 years next October - that "we also expect

cricket to be played. But all things going well, we're looking forward to welcoming them in 2022."

Contacted in Lahore by The Sydney Morning Herald and The Age yesterday, Khan said there had been no agreement yet on an Australian return to Pakistan but talks with Cricket Australia had been positive.

"Our international cricket departments are working together on the schedule for February and March 2022," he said. "By then a lot of cricket will have been played in Pakistan."

"There's been no formal announcement at the moment because there is still a lot of

"ideally, as a PCB we would like them to come for an extended period of time, so we can complete both white and red-ball obligations."

Australia last toured Pakistan in 1998 when captain Mark Taylor famously made 334 not out in the second Test at Peshawar, matching Don Bradman's then Australian record.

Back then players could use a day off safely to take a minibus trip up the Khyber Pass and peer into Taliban-ruled Afghanistan.

While international sides continued touring there until the deadly attack on the Sri Lankan team bus in Lahore

in 2009, Australia haven't been back this century because of security concerns and have instead been hosted by Pakistan in the UAE and in 2010 in England.

The emergence of the country's own Twenty20 tournament, the Pakistan Super League, since 2015 has aided in reopening it to the cricket world and in the last three years West Indies, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh have sent international sides there.

South Africa are also due there for Tests and T20s in January 2021 followed by New Zealand for white-ball games next September and England for T20 matches.

With the likes of