

# THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2020



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**Cong says MP ministers unwilling to quit after losing polls 'unethical'**



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## WINDOWS



Novak Djokovic of Serbia celebrates winning match point against Diego Schwartzman of Argentina during the ATP World Finals in London on Monday.

— AP

■ Report on Page 8

## SC notice to UP govt over Kerala journalist's arrest

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court sought response of the UP government on a plea challenging the arrest of Kerala-based journalist Siddique Kappan on his way to Hathras where a dalit woman had died after allegedly being gangraped. The top court asked the counsel for the Kerala Union of Working Journalists as to why it has not approached the Allahabad high court and came to it straight away.

Full report on Page 4

## 'No reimposition of lockdown in Delhi'

**New Delhi:** There will be no reimposition of lockdown in Delhi, clarified health minister Satyendar Jain while adding that the third wave of Covid-19 has passed its peak in the national capital. "I don't think it will be an effective step now, wearing of masks by everyone will be more beneficial.

Full report on Page 2

## Rape survivor set ablaze by accused

**Jaipur:** A 37-year-old rape survivor was allegedly set ablaze here by the accused who was absconding for seven months. The woman, her minor daughter and the 28-year-old accused identified as Lekhray Koli were injured in the incident and have been hospitalised.

— PTI

## COUNTERPOINT



**Our leader is swearing... at their ceremony!**

## WEATHER

**Max:** 25.8°C  
**Min:** 16°C  
**RH:** 87%  
**Rain:** NIL

**Forecast:** Mainly clear sky

## ASTROGUIDE

**Sarvari:** Dakshinayana  
**Tithi:** Kartika Shuddha Tadiya till 1.20 am (Wednesday)  
**Star:** Jyeshtha till 12.25 pm  
**Variyam:** NIL  
**Durmuhurtam:** 8.40 am to 9.25 am; 10.44 pm to 11.35 pm  
**Rahukalam:** 3 pm to 4.30 pm  
**SUNSET TODAY 5.27 PM**  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.45 AM**  
**MOONRISE TOMORROW 7.45 PM**  
**MOONSET TODAY 6.33 PM**

# Nitish is Bihar CM for 4th term

■ 2 BJP leaders also take oath as deputy CMs of Kumar; 12 ministers sworn in | ■ HAM chief Manjhi's son Santosh Suman, VIP chief Mukesh Sahani in new Cabinet

**NAYEAR AZAD**  
PATNA, NOV. 16

JD(U) president Nitish Kumar was on Monday sworn in as the chief minister of Bihar for the fourth straight term in the presence of top leaders of the NDA, including Union home minister Amit Shah and BJP national president Jagat Prakash Nadda. Two BJP leaders — Tarkishore Prasad and Renu Devi — also took oath as Mr Kumar's new deputies at the governor house.

Apart from them 12 others were also sworn in as ministers among whom five each are from the JD(U) and the BJP, and one each from Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) and Vikasheel Insaan Party (VIP). The BJP being the largest party in the NDA has seven ministers, including two deputy chief ministers. This is the seventh time in two decades that Mr Kumar will be Bihar chief minister.

Five ministers from the JD(U) who took oath are former Bihar Assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, senior JD(U) leader and former energy minister Vijendra Yadav, JD(U) leader Ashok Chaudhary, Mewail Chaudhary and Sheila Mandal.

Besides Tarkishore Prasad and Renu Devi, the others who took oath from the BJP are former health



Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar with deputy chief ministers Tarkishore Prasad and Renu Devi during the oath-taking ceremony at Raj Bhavan in Patna on Monday. The BJP being the largest party in the NDA has seven ministers, including two deputy chief ministers.

— PTI

minister Mangal Pandey, Amarendra Pratap Singh, Rampreet Paswan, Jivesh Mishra and Ramsurat Rai.

HAM chief Jitan Ram Manjhi's son Santosh Suman and VIP chief Mukesh Sahani were also inducted into the new Cabinet.

NDA insiders said that the ministries have been allocated on the basis of two berths each for every seven seats won by the allies. However, sources said that both the JD(U) and the BJP may increase ministerial berths in the

coming days after consulting NDA allies.

Amid all these developments, there are reports that senior BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi is rattled over being sidelined by the party. Popularly called "SuMo", he has been Mr Kumar's deputy since 2005.

After the BJP's debacle in 2015, when Mr Kumar formed a grand alliance government with the RJD and the Congress, it was Mr Sushil Kumar Modi who highlighted the illegal properties allegedly held by Lalu Yadav and

his family. In 2017, when Mr Kumar broke his ties with the grand alliance and formed the government with the BJP's support, Sushil Kumar Modi was made the deputy chief minister.

"He will be missed," JD(U) leaders said after the oath on Monday. However, BJP leaders when asked about Sushil Kumar Modi's role in the government said that "he is party's asset and may get some important role. Our Central leadership will take a final decision about his new role".

# BJP vows to turn Bengal into Gujarat, TMC says no

**RAJIB CHOWDHURI**  
KOLKATA, NOV. 16

West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh on Monday made a promise that may come back to haunt the BJP when he asserted that if voted to power in the forthcoming Assembly elections, his party would "turn" the state into Gujarat.

Speaking in Barasat, North 24 Parganas, Mr Ghosh was playing the industrialisation card when he said, "We want to turn our state into Gujarat. Didi sometimes complains against



Dilip Ghosh

this state into Gujarat. Our youth will get jobs here. No one will have to go to Gujarat."

He pointed out that the Tata Group was given land by the BJP in Gujarat for its Nano car project soon after it was driven out of Singur by Trinamul Congress supreme Mamata

Banerjee when she was in the Opposition during the Left rule.

"Shutting down Tata's factory you will win votes and we will have to live as beggars here? The Tatas, after coming under attack here, later set up their factory in Gujarat as we gave them land within 24 hours of their exit from this state," the Midnapore BJP MP said.

Though Mr Ghosh, born and brought up in West Bengal where it doesn't take much for strong parochial feelings to turn chauvinistic and hostile

■ Turn to Page 3

# Modi to attend virtual summit of Brics today

**New Delhi, Nov. 16:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend a virtual summit of the influential grouping Brics on Tuesday which will focus on cooperation in counter-terrorism, trade, health, energy and ways to offset impact of the coronavirus pandemic. Chinese President Xi

Jinping, Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro and Russian President Vladimir Putin are scheduled to attend the summit.

The summit is taking place at a time two of the bloc's members, India and China, are locked in a bitter border standoff in eastern Ladakh for over six months.

— PTI



Tourists take sledge rides after season's first snowfall in Gulmarg on Monday. Authorities have issued an avalanche warning in four districts of the Valley as the higher reaches of the Union Territory received moderate to heavy snowfall.

— PTI

# Disquiet in Cong as Bihar rout sinks in; rebellion 2.0 likely

**SREEPARNA CHAKRABARTY**  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 16

Even as Nitish Kumar begins his record fourth term as Bihar chief minister, the Congress Party is in the throes of a meltdown over its disastrous performance in the Assembly polls which prevented the Grand Alliance from winning the elections by a hair's breadth.

The Congress, which could win only 19 out of the 70 seats it contested in the just concluded Bihar polls, is largely being held responsible for the debacle of the Mahagathbandhan or the Grand Alliance with the Left parties and the Rashtriya Janata Dal having performed far better.

This has led to many senior Congress leaders, who were already on a warpath over the "organisational mess in the party", to speak out again. Sources told this newspaper that the group of 23, which comprises leaders who had written a letter to Congress president Sonia Gandhi expressing their grievances in late August, are planning to take up the Bihar polls debacle, too.

Sources said that the leaders are waiting for Congress treasurer Ahmed Patel to recover from Covid-19. Mr Patel, who is known to be very close to Congress president Sonia Gandhi and has been her political secretary, is currently in hospital.

Senior lawyer and Rajya Sabha MP Kapil

■ THE CONGRESS, which could win only 19 out of the 70 seats it contested, is largely being held responsible for the debacle of the grand alliance

■ SOURCES SAID that the group of 23, which comprises leaders who had written a letter to Sonia Gandhi expressing their grievances in late August, are planning to take up the Bihar polls debacle, too

Sibal, who is one of the leaders among the group of 23, has already come out in the open saying that the party is unwilling to introspect.

"If for six years, the Congress has not introspected, what hope do we have for introspection now? We know what is wrong with Congress. The party itself knows the answers. But they are not willing to recognise those answers. If they do not recognise those answers, then the graph will continue to decline," he said.

Mr Sibal added that there was "reluctance because the CWC is a nominated body. Democratic processes must be adopted and embraced even in the constitution of the CWC, which is reflected in the provisions of the Congress' constitution itself".

Among others who have spoken out are Tamil Nadu MP and former finance minister P. Chidambaram's son Karti Chidambaram and Bihar Congress leader

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# Malabar 2nd phase to start from today

**US' Nimitz in Arabian Sea drills**

**PAWAN BALI**  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 16

In an indication that they mean business, the second phase of the naval exercises Malabar 2020 involving the Quad countries (India, the United States, Japan and Australia) starting from Tuesday is going to get bigger with the participation of the Indian Navy's aircraft-carrier Vikramaditya and the US Navy's nuclear-powered aircraft-carrier Nimitz. The four-day war games will be conducted in the northern Arabian Sea.

Beijing sees such exercises as a militarisation of the informal Quad, that it sees as an anti-China alliance. India invited Royal Australian Navy this year to join the Malabar exercises, in a clear message to China. "Phase 2 of Exercise Malabar 2020 will witness

joint operations, centered around the Vikramaditya carrier battle group of the Indian Navy and the Nimitz carrier strike group of the US Navy," said Indian Navy spokesman Commander Vivek Madhwal.

The first phase of Malabar 2020 was conducted in the Bay of Bengal from November 3 to 6.

The second phase will involve coordinated operations of increasing complexity between the Australian, Indian, Japanese and US navies.

The two carriers Vikramaditya and Nimitz, along with other ships, submarine and aircraft of the participating navies, would be engaged in high-intensity naval operations over the four days. These exercises include cross-deck flying operations and advanced

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# Universities, colleges in Punjab reopen

**Chandigarh, Nov. 16:** Colleges and universities in Punjab reopened on Monday after being shut for nearly eight months due to the Covid-19, officials said.

Institutions have been directed to strictly observe Covid-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs) framed by their respective administrative departments in consultation with the state health department and the Union health ministry.

— PTI

■ More on Page 4





## IN BRIEF

**2 arrested for selling crackers in Gr Noida**

**Noida:** Two men were arrested in Greater Noida for allegedly selling firecrackers despite a ban on their sale or use in Delhi-NCR, police said on Monday. Two sacks and two cartons full of firecrackers estimated to be worth ₹40,000 were also seized from their possession on Sunday, police said. "The accused were held from Ajaaypur Bazaar in Dadri area for illegally selling firecrackers," a police spokesperson said. Those held have been identified as Neeraj Prasad and Hariom, both local residents, the spokesperson said. Two more of their partners are accused in the case but they managed to escape, the officials. An FIR has been lodged against the duo under provisions of the Explosives Substances Act, the police said. On Saturday, the day of Diwali, five people were arrested while two men were held on Sunday across Noida and Greater Noida on similar charges, according to officials. — PTI

**Covid: Govt to revise its containment plan**

**New Delhi:** The Delhi government is working on revising its containment strategy and is likely to conduct a survey in the high-coronavirus incidence areas of the city, officials said on Monday, a day after chief minister Arvind Kejriwal met Union home minister Amit Shah for a review of the Covid situation in the capital. A top official of the Delhi government said a revised plan of the containment strategy is expected to be finalised after discussions in the coming days. With Delhi witnessing a fresh spike in the number of Covid cases, the Centre on Sunday announced a slew of steps, including making available 300 additional ICU beds, doubling the number of daily PCR tests and a house-to-house survey in the national capital. The announcement came after an emergency meeting attended by Shah and Kejriwal. The home minister emphasised that the entire set of containment measures instituted earlier should be reviewed continuously, so that there are no gaps in implementation. — PTI

**North mayor launches drive against Covid-19**

**New Delhi:** North Delhi mayor Jai Prakash, on Monday, launched a drive to sensitise women about the precautions to be taken for Covid-19 and distributed masks to mark the occasion of Bhaiyadooj. He distributed masks to women in front of the Delhi University, Indraprastha College, Pul Bangash, and R.K. Ashram Metro stations to mark the festival of Bhaiyadooj. On the occasion, Mr Prakash said that since the cases of corona are increasing rapidly nowadays, everyone needs to take more precautions by keeping themselves alert. "We must follow the Prime Minister's message: Do gay ki duri, mask lagana hai zaruri and Jab tak dawai nahi, tab tak dhilai nahi, which means we must maintain a distance of at least two yards and we must ensure to wear mask and we must remain alert till the vaccine is available. This is the practical approach which should be followed to keep our families safe from the dreaded disease," Mr Prakash added.

**Bail granted to man in triple talaq case**

**New Delhi:** A Delhi court has granted bail to a man who has been arrested for allegedly giving "triple talaq" to his wife through a letter. Metropolitan Magistrate Rakesh Kumar Rampuri granted the relief to Gulfam on furnishing a bail bond of ₹10,000 with one surety of like amount. The court directed him not to try to influence or commit any wrong to his wife or her family members, saying it was apparent that she had apprehension of threat from him. "Keeping the nature of offence in question this court is of the considered view that there is no requirement to keep accused (Gulfam) behind bars during the remaining investigation. However, in view of the submission of the complainant (wife) it is also apparent that she has apprehension of threat from the accused," the court said. — PTI



Civil Defence volunteers hold a placard while taking part in the 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign in New Delhi on Monday. — PTI

## Rain and gusty winds let Delhi, NCR breathe easy

*City's air quality likely to deteriorate tomorrow*

**New Delhi, Nov. 16:** Delhi's air quality improved "significantly" on Monday due to light rain and favourable wind speed and was recorded in the "poor" category after a 15-day spell of "very poor" and "severe" air days.

The city's 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) improved to 221, which falls in the "poor" category. It was 435 on Sunday and 414 on Saturday (Diwali).

The last time Delhi's AQI was recorded in the "poor" category was on November 2.

The AQI reached the "moderate" category by 6 pm.

The central government's Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi said AQI improved "significantly" after Diwali owing to rainfall and strong winds and is likely to remain in the "moderate" category on Tuesday. The air quality is likely

to deteriorate marginally and hit the "poor" category on Wednesday. In Delhi-NCR, the levels of PM<sub>2.5</sub> — which is about three per cent the diameter of a human hair and can lead to premature deaths from heart and lung diseases — were 88 microgram per cubic meter (µg/m<sup>3</sup>) at 6 pm. The safe limit is 60 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

PM<sub>10</sub> level stood at 135 µg/m<sup>3</sup> at 6 pm. PM<sub>10</sub> levels below 100 µg/m<sup>3</sup> is considered safe in India and 500 µg/m<sup>3</sup> is the emergency threshold. The last time Delhi recorded such low PM<sub>10</sub> levels was on September 28.

The neighbouring cities of Faridabad (186), Ghaziabad (207), Greater Noida (226), Gurgaon (246) and Noida (243) recorded their AQI in "poor" and "moderate" categories after braving "severe" air quality on Saturday and Sunday.

Delhi had recorded the worst pollution levels on Diwali in the last four years due to the combined effect of stubble burning, firecrackers and unfavourable meteorological conditions.

The air quality on the day after Diwali was also the poorest since 2016.

In a special report, the Central Pollution Control Board said almost all pollutants reported higher values on Diwali day this year as compared to 2019.

It could be attributed to bursting of firecrackers, higher share of stubble burning and unfavourable meteorology during the festival season, the CPCB said. — PTI

**6 shortlisted for NIF Kamaladevi book prize 2020**

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 16

The New India Foundation on Monday announced the shortlist for the third edition of the "Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize", which "recognises and celebrates excellence in non-fiction writings on modern/contemporary India". Established in 2018, the prize carries a cash award of Rs 15 lakhs and a citation. The final winner will be declared in early December.

This year the jury, that included eminent historian-author Ramachandra Guha and entrepreneur-author Nandan Nilekani, shortlisted the following six books: *Mobilizing the Marginalized: Ethnic Parties without Ethnic Movements* by Amit Ahuja (Oxford University Press); *Midnight's Machines: A Political History of Technology in India* by Arun Mohan Sukumar (Penguin Random House); *The Unquiet River: A Biography of the Brahmaputra* by Arupiyoti Saikia (OUP); *A Chequered Brilliance: The Many Lives of V.K. Krishna Menon* by Jairam Ramesh (PRH); *Bottle of Lies: Ranbaxy and the Dark Side of Indian Pharma* by Katherine Eban (Juggernaut) and *Wild Himalaya: A Natural History of the Greatest Mountain Range on Earth* by Stephen Alter (Aleph).

The prize builds on the New India Foundation's mission of sponsoring high-quality research and writing on all aspects of independent India. It was named after Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, the great patriot and institution-builder who contributed significantly to the freedom struggle, the women's movement, to refugee rehabilitation and to the renewal of handicrafts.

## At 25.8°C, city records season's lowest temp

**New Delhi, Nov. 16:** The national capital recorded a maximum temperature of 25.8 degrees Celsius on Monday, the lowest this season so far, following rains under the influence of a Western Disturbance.

However, the minimum temperature rose to 16 degrees Celsius, the highest since October 22, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

IMD officials attributed the drop in the maximum temperature and the increase in the minimum temperature to the presence of clouds in the region under the influence of the Western Disturbance.

Until now, Delhi had been witnessing a trend of low minimum temperatures this month due to the absence of cloud cover.

Clouds trap some of the outgoing infrared radiation and radiate it back downward, warming the ground.

The minimum temperature is likely to drop below the 10 degrees Celsius mark by Friday, according to the IMD.

"As the Western Disturbance withdraws from the region, the wind direction will again change to northwesterly. Cold winds from hilly regions, which have received a fresh bout of snowfall, will start blowing towards the national capital," an IMD official said. On Sunday, the city recorded a minimum of 11.4 degrees Celsius, which was two notches below normal, and a maximum of 29.1 degrees Celsius.

The Safdarjung Observatory, which provides representative data for the city, recorded 0.4 mm rainfall on Sunday.

The weather stations at Palam, Lodhi Road, Ridge, Jafarpur, Najafgarh and Pusa recorded 0.3 mm, 1.2 mm, 1mm, 1mm and 2.5 mm rainfall respectively. — PTI

## Asked not to consume alcohol, 2 men stab eatery owner to death

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 16

A 42-year-old man was stabbed to death allegedly by two men after he scolded them for eating and consuming alcohol near his house in Northwest Delhi's Jahangirpuri area. The police said that it has arrested the duo accused.

The deceased has been identified as Rajesh, who ran an eatery near his house in Jahangirpuri area. According to DCP (Northwest district) Vijayanta Arya, the incident took place late on Sunday night after a quarrel broke out between Rajesh and the two men after he scolded them for eating and consuming alcohol.

"The quarrel escalated and one of them took out a knife and stabbed Rajesh in the chest before

during interrogation, the accused disclosed that they used to eat and drink in the lane near the house of the victim and for this the victim used to scold them. Since the last two days, they were even beaten by the victim

fleeing from the spot. Rajesh was rushed to Babu Jagjivan Ram Memorial Hospital, where he died during treatment," said the DCP. "During enquiry, it was revealed that both the accused and the victim had altercations on the same issue quite a few times earlier as well. The victim had once even warned the duo but they continued with their activities," said the DCP. "The police had registered a case under Sections 302 (murder)

## ■ "There are no plans to reimpose lockdown in Delhi" Jain: 3rd wave of Covid-19 has crossed its peak in city

**New Delhi, Nov. 16:** Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain on Monday said there is no chance of reimposition of lockdown in the national capital since the third wave of coronavirus has peaked out in the city.

Talking to reporters, he said the virus cannot be contained through lockdown and that people should protect themselves by wearing face masks.

Delhi has witnessed a spurt in Covid cases since October 28 when the daily rise breached the 5,000-mark for the first time and it crossed the 8,000-mark on Wednesday.

On Thursday, 104 deaths, the highest in over five months, were recorded in the city. Asked whether the lockdown would be reimposed in Delhi, Mr Jain said, "No chance." "I can tell you that the peak of the third wave is gone," he said.

"Positivity rate is the main indicator in assessing the Covid situation and it had to be observed over a week's time. First peak was in June, when it stood at nearly 37 per cent, in September when the second wave happened, it was 12-13 per cent, and in the third wave, it was at its high, at 15 per cent few

**84 new corona cases in Noida push tally to 20,424**

**Noida, Nov. 16:** Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddha Nagar recorded 84 new Covid cases that pushed the district's infection tally to 20,424 on Monday, official data showed.

Active cases came down to 1,209, the fourth highest in the state, from 1,221 the previous day, according to the data released by the UP Health Department for a 24-hour period. One hundred more patients got discharged during the period in Gautam Buddha Nagar with the overall recoveries reaching

19,142, the sixth highest in the state, it showed.

With a death toll of 73, Gautam Buddha Nagar now has a mortality rate of 0.35 per cent. The recovery rate of patients reached 93.72 per cent, the statistics showed.

Meanwhile, the number of active cases in UP came down to 22,603 on Monday from 22,967 on Sunday. The overall recoveries in the state reached 4,82,854 as the death toll linked to Covid climbed to 7,393 on Monday, according to the data. — PTI

days ago and then falling.

Yesterday, also it was around 15 per cent. So, I can say, the peak is gone," Jain said. Mr Jain's remarks come a day after the Centre announced a slew of steps including making available 300 additional ICU beds, doubling the number of daily RTPCR tests and a house-to-house survey in the national capital to check the spiralling numbers of

cases in Delhi.

Union home minister Amit Shah said some of the hospitals under the municipal corporations of Delhi will be converted into dedicated Covid hospitals. The National Centre for Disease Control, in a report drafted recently, had warned that Delhi needed to be prepared for about 15,000 fresh Covid cases per day, taking into account the

## 'No. of non-corona ICU beds shrinking at many hospitals'

**New Delhi, Nov. 16:** The number of non-Covid ICU beds at several leading hospitals here is shrinking fast, parallel to the surge in the number of coronavirus cases, according to official data.

The rise in Covid cases has happened at a time when approaching winter and deteriorating air quality in the city has led to complications in people with respiratory illnesses.

The online 'Corona Dashboard' of the Delhi government showed that around 4 pm, out of 1,588 non-Covid ICU beds, only 422 were vacant.

At Max hospital, Patparganj; Batra hospital; Fortis hospital,

Shalimar Bagh; and Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, all non-Covid ICU beds were occupied, as per the data.

Their numbers were fast reducing in government facilities too, including AIIMS where out of 86 such beds, only 19 were vacant.

At Sir Ganga Ram Hospital (39 out of 108 such beds); Apollo Hospital (11 out of 81); BLK Hospital (36 out of 94); Max hospital, East-West Block (7 out of 32); BSA Hospital (2 out of 12); DDU Hospital (8 out of 43), were empty, according to the data at 4 pm.

The number of Covid ICU beds have already

filled up at many hospitals in Delhi and their count is shrinking at other facilities too.

Delhi has witnessed a spurt in coronavirus cases since October 28 when the daily rise breached the 5,000-mark for the first time and it crossed the 8,000-mark on Wednesday.

On Thursday, 104 deaths, the highest in over five months, were recorded in the city.

Experts have cautioned that rising air pollution, winter season will aggravate complications of persons with respiratory illnesses, and it is a double whammy for them as they stand at risk of contracting Covid too. — PTI



Rush of passengers at a bus depot on the occasion of Bhai Dooj festival in Noida on Monday. — PTI

## Anaj Mandi fire: Police arrests fourth accused

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 16

Nearly a year after a massive fire at a four-story building in north Delhi's Anaj Mandi area claimed the lives of 45 people, the fourth accused in the case, who had been absconding, has been arrested by the Delhi Police, officials said on Monday.

The police had earlier arrested three accused — the building's owner Rehan, his manager Furkaan and another man named Mohammad Suhail in connection with the case.

The fourth accused, Mohammad Imraan, who is Rehan's brother and partly owns the building, was nabbed on Saturday, they said.

Imraan was absconding since the day of incident and was carrying a reward of Rs 50,000, police said.

On December 8 last year, a massive fire had ripped through a four-storey building housing illegal manufacturing units in north Delhi's congested Anaj Mandi area, killing 45 people including nine minors and injuring 21 others, including six minors.

Almost all the deceased were migrant labourers hailing from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh who stayed as well as worked inside the building.

After the incident, a case had been registered at Sadar Bazar police station which was later transferred to the Crime Branch.

Additional CP (Crime) BK Singh said, "On Saturday, our team received information that Imraan would be coming to Delhi to attend a family function. A trap was laid and Imraan was apprehended near Rameshwar Nagar in Azadpur."

## Body of man found hanging from tree

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 16

The body of a 46-year-old man was found hanging from a tree in Defence Colony area, police said on Monday.

The deceased was identified as Daan Veer, a resident of Andrews Ganj. He worked as a taxi driver-cum-helper, they said.

Police said it is a suspected case of suicide.

The police were informed about the body on the intervening night of November 12-13. The police said a note was also recovered from the victim in which he has alleged that he worked for a sub-inspector, who was posted in a unit in Andrews Ganj, and he did not pay him his due. In the note, he has also alleged that he could not go home in Diwali as the official did not give him money.



## IN BRIEF

## WINTER, BUDGET SESSIONS LIKELY TO BE CLUBBED

**New Delhi:** In the wake of rising Covid cases in Delhi, it is being contemplated that a single extended session of parliament be held instead of separate winter and budget sessions, sources said on Monday. However, nothing has been finalised and discussions are still in a preliminary stage. A final call is yet to be taken, but there are suggestions that a single unified session can be held in the place of two sessions in such a short span of period, the sources said. The winter session of parliament usually starts from the last week of November or the first week of December, while the budget session starts from the last week of January and the Union Budget is tabled on February 1. The monsoon session, which was held from September 14 in midst of the pandemic, was cut short by eight days and concluded on September 24 as, despite the elaborate arrangements made by authorities, many MPs and Parliament staff members tested positive for Covid. — PTI

## Disquiet in Congress

■ Continued from Page 1

Tariq Anwar. "It's time we introspect, ideate, consult & act @INCIndia," Karti Chidambaram tweeted.

Mr Anwar said on Sunday that the Congress must learn from the Bihar debacle and complete alliance formalities well in advance for upcoming Assembly polls. He, however, claimed that the high command was serious about introspection as well as a thorough analysis of the results.

Sources said that the issue was likely to be taken up at the All India Congress Committee meeting which is likely to be held in late January or early February and preparations for which have already begun.

In August, when the 23 senior leaders had raised issues critical to the party organisation, they were confronted and accused of being disloyal at a meeting of Congress leaders which was attended by both Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

## BJP: Will turn Bengal into Gujarat

■ Continued from Page 1 when the "cultured Bengali" is pitted against the "moneyed Marwari and Gujarati", was making an economic pitch and his intention was to highlight joblessness and forced migration, it may not play out as well as it was intended.

The TMC latched on to the comparison immediately, vowing to foil all attempts of turning West Bengal into Gujarat.

TMC minister Firhad Hakim said, "Encounter-killing is the norm in Gujarat and UP. That is what they do there. We do not want our state to be turned into Gujarat. We want it to remain as Bengal. Even the Nano factory has been closed there. In Gujarat a lease has been given to some people, mainly the Ambanis and Adanis.

## SC judge recuses self

■ Continued from Page 1 important to the Opposition Telugu Desam Party (TDP) were "allocated to a few judges".

Justice Lalit was heading a three-judge bench, also comprising Justice Vineet Saran and Justice S. Ravindra Bhat, before which three separate petitions by advocates G.S. Mani, Sunil Kumar Singh and Anti-Corruption Council of India Trust, seeking action against the chief minister for his allegations.

They have alleged that Mr Jagannathan Reddy didn't just write a note to Chief Justice Bobde levelling allegations against Justice Ramana, but he also made his aide hold a press conference to release the letter, with false statements.

Mr Singh has urged the Supreme Court to issue an order to bar the chief minister from making public statements that lower the image of the judiciary in the eyes of the public.

## Nitish: Masterful craftsman of realpolitik who believes politics is the art of possible

**Patna, Nov. 16:** "Politics is the art of the possible", German statesman Otto Von Bismarck once famously said. And who understands it better than Nitish Kumar, the modern-day craftsman of realpolitik, who has survived many a headwind to secure a fourth straight term as the Bihar chief minister despite his party finishing a poor third in the 243-member state assembly.

Nitish Kumar's unusual knack for spotting friends has got him where it has despite the drastic slump in the electoral fortune of his party that won just 43 seats, down from 71 it had in 2015, and 31 less than ally BJP which clinched 74.

The most atypical of politicians owing their rise to post-Mandal politics, Nitish Kumar stood out for his ability to address the governance deficit, unlike a majority of the breed reared in the socialist stable, but was often accused of pursuing politics of opportunism.



Union home minister Amit Shah and BJP president J.P. Nadda, governor Phagu Chauhan, HAM(S) chief Jitan Ram Manjhi with Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, deputy CMs Renu Devi and Tarkishore Prasad at Raj Bhavan in Patna on Monday.

Call it political opportunism or sagacity, his moves, in effect, prevented the Hindutva forces from holding sway over Bihar, where a section of the BJP feels mortified over not having its own chief minister till date despite enjoying a near hegemonic status nationally. Known for weighing his options carefully before making any move, Mr Kumar, upon a closer look,

comes across as a risk taker who has not shied away from going against the tide.

An engineer by training who had taken an active part in the JP movement, Mr Kumar spurned a job offer from the state electricity department and decided to take the political gamble, an oddity among educated youth in Bihar for whom the lure of "sarkaari naukri" remains undiminished.

## Chirag takes a dig at Nitish, hopes he completes term as NDA CM

**Patna, Nov. 16:** LJP president Chirag Paswan on Monday congratulated Nitish Kumar on becoming the Bihar Chief Minister once again, saying, tongue-in-cheek, that he hopes the JD(U) leader will "continue to remain the NDA's CM".

In an apparent swipe at Kumar becoming the chief minister despite having way too less MLAs than the BJP, he said, "I congratulate you on becoming the Chief Minister and the BJP for making you one".

"Congratulations to respected @NitishKumar ji for becoming the chief minister once again. Hope the government will complete its term and you will continue to be the NDA's chief minister," Paswan, a

► **PASWAN, WHO** had chosen to plough a lonely furrow, had said the LJP was and will remain loyal to the BJP, which was staring at the spectre of yet another "paltimaar" (volte-face) by the JD(U) president

bitter critic of Kumar, said in a series of tweets in Hindi.

Mr Paswan, during the acrimony-filled campaign for the Bihar assembly polls, had claimed Kumar might ditch the BJP after the results were out, join the RJD-led Grand Alliance, and make yet another attempt at posing a challenge to the NDA in the 2024 general elections.

Paswan, who had chosen to plough a lonely furrow,

had said the LJP was and will remain loyal to the BJP, which was staring at the spectre of yet another "paltimaar" (volte-face) by the JD(U) president.

In another tweet on Monday, the LJP chief termed the NDA's victory in the state polls "a big win for Prime Minister Narendra Modi", and took a swipe at Kumar, saying "There are some people who have been in power for 15 years but still have to take help of three friends (to stay there)".

The NDA in Bihar includes the JD(U), BJP, Hindustani Awam Morcha of former chief minister Jitan Ram Manjhi and Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) of backward class leader Mukesh Sahni.

— PTI

## Alagiri may float political outfit

■ Continued from Page 1 on November 21.

It has also been suggested that Mr Alagiri could possibly tie up with Bharatiya Janata Party, given that the saffron party is said to be calling up every political leader they can get in touch with, irrespective of ideological leanings and religious affiliations, to request them to join hands.

Mr Alagiri was functioning as a southern satrap of the DMK in his heydays - he was the party's south zone secretary last - and is being credited with engineering the infamous "Tirumangalam formula" that came to national limelight as the pioneering cash-for-vote exercise in the 2009 by-elections to the Tirumangalam assembly constituency.

► **IT IS** believed that the BJP, which has seemingly set itself the goal of defeating the DMK in the 2021 Assembly elections, might use Mr Alagiri in its mission

However, it is believed that the Bharatiya Janata Party, which has seemingly set itself the goal of defeating the DMK in the 2021 Assembly elections, might use Mr Alagiri in its mission.

His voter appeal remains a question mark but he could still be used to wean voters away from the DMK, at least in southern Tamil Nadu.

The BJP has high hopes from Mr Shah's one-day visit to Chennai and his programmes include a possible meeting with actor Rajinikanth, party sources said.

## Malabar 2nd phase to start from today

■ Continued from Page 1 air defence exercises by MiG-29K fighters off the Vikramaditya and F-18 fighters and E2C Hawkeyes from the Nimetz. In addition, advanced surface and anti-submarine warfare exercises, seamanship evolutions and weapon firings will also be undertaken.

Besides the Vikramaditya and its fighter and helicopter air wings, indigenous destroyers Kolkata and Chennai, stealth frigate Talwar, fleet support ship Deepak and integral helicopters will also participate in the exercises, led by Rear Adm. K r i s h n a

Swaminathan, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Fleet. The indigenously built submarine Khanderi and P8I maritime reconnaissance aircraft of the Indian Navy will also showcase their capabilities during the exercise.

The United States' Navy's strike carrier Nimitz will be accompanied by cruiser Princeton and destroyer Sterett, in addition to P8A maritime reconnaissance aircraft.

The Royal Australian Navy will be represented by frigate Ballarat along with its integral helicopter.

Unlike Lalu Prasad and Ram Vilas Paswan, his co-travellers during the movement led by Jayaprakash Narayan, electoral success eluded Kumar for long.

He got the first taste of victory, after three successive defeats, in the 1985 assembly polls when he won from Harnaut as a candidate of the Lok Dal though the Congress swept the elections riding the tailwind generated by the assassination of Indira Gandhi the previous year.

Four years later he entered the Lok Sabha from Barh even as fellow MP from Saran Lalu Prasad shifted to Bihar, taking over as the chief minister and scripting a spectacular success story which altered the state's political landscape.

Mr Kumar, one of the most articulate leaders of the Janata Dal, had fully backed Lalu in the keenly fought internal contest for chief ministership.

The next decade-and-a-half saw Mr Prasad's rise as one of the most powerful but controversial figures of

his time who ruled the state by proxy, getting his demure homemaker wife Rabri Devi elected as his successor, when a charge sheet in fodder scam caused him to step down as the chief minister.

During the same period, Mr Kumar burnt his bridges with Prasad, floated the Samata Party, and built his own political edifice brick by brick.

The Samata Party joined forces with the BJP and Kumar made a mark for himself as an outstanding parliamentarian and was reckoned among the competent ministers in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee cabinet.

After a rift between Sharad Yadav, the then Janata Dal president, and Lalu Prasad, the latter broke away and formed the RJD. The Samata Party merged with Sharad Yadav's Janata Dal while continuing its alliance with the BJP.

After the NDA lost power in 2004, a victory in Bihar held out the promise of a degree of redemption for the BJP-led alliance. — PTI

## Grand alliance boycotts Bihar CM's oath-taking

**Patna, Nov. 16:** The opposition Grand Alliance on Monday decided to boycott the oath-taking ceremony of Nitish Kumar, claiming the mandate in the elections was "against the National Democratic Alliance" which has been changed by a "fraud".

Rashtriya Janata Dal, which is spearheading the five-party Mahagathbandhan, and its allies have decided to remain away from the swearing-in function of Kumar.

"The Rashtriya Janata Dal boycotts oath-taking ceremony of this puppet government. The mandate is for a change, and against the (ruling

National Democratic Alliance. The peoples verdict has been changed by the rulers order," the Rashtriya Janata Dal alleged in a tweet.

"Ask the unemployed, the farmer, the contract worker and teacher as to what they are going through. People are angry with National Democratic Alliances fraud. We are public representatives and we stand with people," it said.

The Rashtriya Janata Dal, which emerged as the single largest party in Bihar with 75 seats, also claimed the state is getting a "helpless government by the two helpless parties". — PTI

## Ministers lose bypolls in MP, refuse to resign

**RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY**  
BHOPAL, NOV. 16

Two ministers in the Shivraj Singh Cabinet have sparked a political row by 'deciding' to continue in their positions despite being defeated in the recent byelections in their respective Assembly constituencies.

State ministers Imarti Devi and Giriraj Dandotia have so far maintained a silence over their next course of action following their loss in the bypolls, indicating that they are not in favour of stepping down and want to continue in their position till January 2 when their six-month tenure in the ministry ends.

As per the Constitution, a non-MLA can be inducted into a ministry for six

months during which he or she needs to be elected.

The Congress on Monday raked up the issue demanding that all the ministers in the Shivraj Singh ministry who lost the bypolls should step down on moral grounds.

"It is unethical on the part of the ministers who lost the bypolls to continue in their positions. They forfeited the moral right to continue in the ministry after losing. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan should ask them to put in their papers if they do not volunteer to resign," Congress spokesman Bhupendra Gupta said here.

The BJP has chosen to keep mum on the issue. "It is the Chief Minister's prerogative to decide whom he wants in his ministry and

whom he wants to drop", BJP spokesman here Rajneesh Agrawal said.

Legal experts say that Constitutional provisions do not bar the defeated ministers from continuing in the ministry till the end of the six-month-period even after failing to get elected to the House during the period.

"As per Article 164 (4) of the Constitution, a person who is not an MLA can continue as a minister for six months," Anand Bhardwaj, senior advocate of the Gwalior bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, said.

Another minister in the Shivraj Singh cabinet, Anand Singh Kansana, has also lost the byelections. He has announced that he will step down. But he is yet to put in his papers.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR  
-----Telefax:- 0194-2496089. Email ID:- xemmhcdh@yahoo.in-----  
Gist of e-tender  
NIT No: MHCHD/TS /2020-21/188/e-tendering  
Dated: 12.11.2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-tenders, valid for 180 days, are invited from the Registered, reputed & experienced firms as detailed in the NIT for below mentioned works:

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Earnest Money (Lacs of Rs)	Time of completion (in Days)	Position of AAA/funds
1	2	3	4	5	6
Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Hot water Radiators & piping to Newly created Isolation facility for COVID-19 patients of Govt. LD Hospital, Srinagar.	9.89	500	19800	10	Available

1. Downloading of Bids:- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 12.11.2020 (8.00 hrs) and can be downloaded from 12.11.2020 (8.00 hrs), to 23.11.2020 (14.00hrs) in two (02) covers.

2. Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 13.11.2020 (10.00 hrs) to 23.11.2020 (14.00hrs).

3. Opening of Bids:- The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 23.11.2020 at 16.00 hrs or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
MHCHD, Srinagar  
Date : 12-11-2020

No: MHCHD/TS/ 5747-52  
DIPK-8968/20 Dated 15.11.20

## At swearing-in, Sushil looks forlorn

**Patna, Nov. 16:** Senior BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi, who has not been retained in the new Bihar dispensation after serving as the deputy chief minister for close to 15 years, attended the swearing-in ceremony of new NDA government on Monday but looked aloof in the crowd of new MLAs.

A 14-member council of ministers headed by chief minister Nitish Kumar was administered the oath of office at the Raj Bhavan here by Governor Phagu Chauhan.

Sushil Modi, who has been Nitish Kumar's deputy in all the NDA government he has led in Bihar, was not among the 14. He was invited for the swearing-in ceremony though, and he came, but did not look his usual self. Otherwise a vibrant

politician, Sushil Modi watched, not betraying much emotions, as Kumar and others were administered the oath of office.

The BJP has replaced Sushil Modi as the deputy chief minister, bringing in two new faces for the post - multiple-term BJP MLAs Tarkishore Prasad and Renu Devi.

At one point of time, Kumar spotted his long-term deputy and asked him to come near him. The two walked together for some distance, much to the glee of the paparazzi, but their paths were different this time and they separated.

Mr Kumar and Sushil Modi's pair as CM and Deputy CM since 2005, barring a 20-month gap when Kumar was in alliance with the RJD, has been the hallmark of the ruling coalition in the state. — PTI

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**1st CORRIGENDUM NOTICE**  
The advertised tender notice No. 128-W/280/e-Tender Notice/NIT-22/ 2020-21 dated 28.10.2020 in which one item namely "Miscellaneous work at Tilak Bridge station in the section of SSE/W/NDLS/L under ADEN/NDLS" for Contract value of Rs. 25,32,891.35 and EMD of Rs. 50,700/- is scheduled to be opened on 23.11.2020 upto 15:00 Hrs has been deleted on administrative ground. No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT-22/2020-21/W-3 Dated: 16.11.2020 2558/20

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**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE**  
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

1	Name of work	Miscellaneous work at Tilak Bridge station in the section of SSE/W/NDLS/L under ADEN/NDLS.
2	Approx. cost of work	Rs. 25,32,891.35 (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety One and Thirty Five Paise only)
3	Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 50,700/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Seven Hundred Only)
4	Cost of tender document	Rs. 0/-
5	Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	10.12.2020 @15:00 Hrs.
6	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

\* The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for participating in the e-tender system. \* For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. \* No manual offers are acceptable. \* Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. No. 128-W/280/e-Tender Notice/ NIT/28/2020-21/W-3 Dated: 16.11.2020 2565/20

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**OPEN TENDER NOTICE**  
For and on behalf of President of India, Coaching Depot Officer, Northern Railway, Delhi invites "On line Expression of Interest" in prescribed tender format for following work from experienced and capable tenderers.

1.	NIT No.	CDO/DLT/NDLS/Hand Sanitizer/1/2020
2.	Name of Expression of Interest	Proposal for provision of hand sanitizer sachets on each snack table & centre table in all the coaches of 02 shatabdi Trains (02029/30 ASR STB & 02005/06/KL STB) between New Delhi to aforementioned stations for 03 months.
3.	Jurisdiction of work	New Delhi and Coach Care Centre, New Delhi DLT Complex
4.	Period of work	03 Months
5.	Availability of EOJ documents	Available on website <a href="http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in">www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in</a>
6.	Closing Date & Time of Tender	At 15.00 hrs. on 03.12.2020
7.	Date & Place of Opening Tender	03.12.2020 at Porta Cabin Mechanical Branch (Administrative Block) DRM Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi at 15.00 Hrs.

Note: Additional relevant information may be checked on the website i.e. [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in) No.: CDO/DLT/NDLS/Hand Sanitizer/1/2020 Dt. 13.11.2020 2555/2020

**Serving Customers with a Smile**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
This is notified for the information of passengers that the timings of the following Festival Special Trains will be revised as under :-

STATIONS	TRAIN No. 04431			
	Existing Time		Revised Time	
	ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
Anand Vihar (T.)	13:45	---	13:35	---

STATIONS	TRAIN No. 04443			
	Existing Time		Revised Time	
	ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
Anand Vihar (T.)	13:45	---	14:00	---

STATIONS	TRAIN No. 04493			
	Existing Time		Revised Time	
	ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
Anand Vihar (T.)	22:30	---	22:40	---

**04431 Saharsa Jn. -Anand Vihar (T.) Festival Special Train**

**04443 Raxaul Jn.-Anand Vihar (T.) Festival Special Train**

**04493 Saharsa Jn.-Anand Vihar (T.) Festival Special Train**

**Beware of Touts** Always Buy Train Tickets from Railway Counters/Authorised Railway Travel Agents only

Note: All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

Note : For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in)

Security Helpline No. 182 Integrated Helpline No. 139

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2561/2020



## SHORT TAKES

### LAST RITES OF MARTYRED ARMY JAWANS HELD

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, NOV. 16

Last rites of two jawans, who got killed in an ambush with Pakistan forces last week, were held at their native places in Maharashtra on Monday with full state honours. Bhushan Ramesh Rao Satai, who was killed during shelling by Pakistani troops in Jammu and Kashmir, was given a tearful farewell by his family members, relatives and officials in Nagpur. He was posted as Naik in the Maratha Light Infantry. The mortal remains of Satai (28) were transported to Nagpur on Sunday evening. Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh, energy minister Nitin Raut laid wreaths on the soldier's body at the Brigade of the Guards Regiment parade ground. Senior Army officers, public representatives and Nagpur administration officials also paid homage to Satai. Later, the body was taken to Katol where hundreds of locals attended the last rites of the jawan. "I am paying tributes to the martyrs on behalf of the Maharashtra government," Mr Deshmukh said. Satai, whose father is a labourer, joined the Army in 2011. On Friday, Pakistan indulged in heavy cross-border shelling along the Line of Control in which five security forces personnel and six civilians were killed.

### NEARLY 2L INDIAN STUDENTS CHOOSE U.S. FOR STUDIES

**New Delhi:** Nearly two lakh Indian students chose the United States as their destination to pursue higher education in the 2019-20 academic year, according to the Open Doors Report released by the US embassy on Monday. Indian students comprised nearly 20% of the over one million students from around the world, and the US has seen a steady rise in the number of undergraduate students from India, it stated. "Over the last 10 years, the number of Indians studying in the United States has roughly doubled, and we know why the US is the gold standard for higher education, providing practical application and experience that gives our graduates an advantage in the global economy," said minister counsellor for public affairs David Kennedy. To assist Indian students, the US department of state offers advising services to prospective students through seven EducationUSA advising centres throughout India — in New Delhi, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Ahmedabad and Mumbai. "Early next year, a second EducationUSA Center is opening in Hyderabad hosted by Y-Axis Foundation. All centres are staffed by EducationUSA advisors who offer accurate, comprehensive, and up-to-date information about opportunities to study in the United States" an official statement by the embassy said.

### MP COP'S SHOLAY SHOW ON DUTY GOES AWRY

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY  
BHOPAL, NOV. 16

An "overenthusiastic" cop in a Madhya Pradesh town sought to inject life into his patrols by enacting the role of iconic Gabbar Singh of the 1975 classic *Sholay*. But, his "show" has landed him in trouble with an officer serving him a showcause notice seeking an explanation on his style of patrolling. K.L. Dangi, Kalyanpur police incharge in Jhabua district, was seen in a video that has gone viral in social media, delivering dialogues of Gabbar Singh while patrolling in the town on November 15. "Kalyanpur se 50-50 km duri par jab bachcha rota hai to maa kehni hai chup ho ja beta nahin to Dangi aa jayega (When children cry even as far as 50 km from Kalyanpur, their mothers make them go to sleep by taking name of Dangi)," the cop was heard saying, paraphrasing the epic line from *Sholay*. "We have issued a showcause notice to him. It is the duty of a policeman to maintain law and order. It is not the proper way of doing duty. Action will be taken on the basis of the reply received from him," Jhabua district SP Ashutosh Gupta said on Monday.

### Heavy snowfall holds up CMs Yogi Adityanath, Trivendra Rawat in Kedarnath



Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath amidst heavy snowfall at Kedarnath Dham in Rudraprayag on Monday. Mr Adityanath and Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat were stuck at the Kedarnath shrine in Uttarakhand for over eight hours following heavy snowfall in the area. Due to the bad weather conditions, both have rescheduled their programme to visit Badrinath shrine for Tuesday. — PTI

## SC sends man jailed for Uddhav tweet to HC

Top court says HC can uphold rights; local court gives bail in one case

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
with agency inputs  
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI,  
NOV. 16

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea for bail of a man who was arrested from Gujarat for posting allegedly objectionable comments in his tweets against Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and his minister-son Aaditya.

A bench of Chief Justice S.A. Bobde and Justices A.S. Bopanna and V. Ramasubramanian asked the counsel for Sameer Thakkar to approach the Bombay HC with the plea saying that it can also uphold his fundamental rights.

"The High Court can also uphold your fundamental rights. It can also transfer the case and grant you bail. Then why are you coming under 32 (under Article 32 of the Constitution, writ pleas are filed in the Supreme Court). You please go to the High Court," the bench told senior advocate Mahesh Jethmalani who was appearing for Thakkar.

## SC issues notice on plea against arrest of journalist

**New Delhi, Nov. 16:** The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from the Uttar Pradesh government on a plea challenging the arrest of Kerala-based journalist Siddique Kappan on his way to Hathras where a young Dalit woman had died after allegedly being gang-raped.

The top court, which has now posted the plea of Kerala Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ) seeking bail for Kappan on November 20, asked the union as to why it did not

approach the Allahabad High Court seeking the same relief.

We are trying to discourage (Article) 32 petition (Writ petitions under Article 32 are directly filed before the top court). This is not a comment on the merits at all, said a bench of Chief Justice S. A. Bobde and Justices A. S. Bopanna and V. Ramasubramanian.

Issue notice returnable on November 20. In the meantime, as prayed for, the petitioner (KUWJ) is allowed to serve the Standing Counsel for the

respondents/State (Uttar Pradesh), the bench said in the order.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the journalists' body, sought bail for the scribe saying that there was nothing against the journalist in the FIR lodged at Mathura by Uttar Pradesh police.

The FIR has been filed under various provisions of the IPC and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) against four people having alleged links with the Popular Front of India, or PFI.

— PTI

### SC REFUSES TO ENTERTAIN PLEA SEEKING AS 'NULL AND VOID'

**New Delhi, Nov. 16:** The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea seeking to declare as null and void the election of those against whom charges have been framed for over a year for offences entailing punishment of five years and more.

A bench headed by Justice L. N. Rao said the petitioner can pursue remedies for implementation of earlier judgement delivered by the apex court, which had in 2018 left it to Parliament to make laws to ensure that persons facing serious criminal cases do not enter the political arena.

A five-judge Constitution bench had in September 2018 said that though criminalisation of politics is a "bitter manifest truth" which is a "termite" to the citadel of democracy, it cannot "usurp the power" of law-making which is vested with the legislature.

The bench, also comprising Justices Hemant Gupta and Ajay Rastogi, was on Monday hearing the plea filed by NGO Lok Prahar.

— PTI

## Lord Ayyappa devotees trek to Sabarimala

GILVESTER ASSARY  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
NOV.16

The famous Sabarimala temple opened for the annual Mandala Makaravilakku season on Monday morning.

Devotees, mainly from the neighbouring states, trekked up to the hill shrine while adhering to Covid-19 protocols including maintaining social distancing and wearing masks.

It is the first annual pilgrimage season at the hill temple after the Coronavirus outbreak.

The rituals began with head priest Kantaru Rajeevaru performing the Ashtadravya Maha Ganapathi Homam at the Sannidhanam. Though the shrine had opened on Sunday evening there were no special pujas. The devotees were allowed inside the temple complex only on Monday morning

which also marked the beginning of the 62-day long pilgrim season.

Priest A.K. Sudheer Namboothiri opened the doors of the sanctum sanctorum and lit the lamps in the presence of the chief priest.

Each day, only 1,000 pilgrims, who have booked through the virtual queue system, would be allowed to offer prayers. On Sundays, 2,000 people would be allowed for darshan and on Mandala pooja and Makaravilakku days 5,000 pilgrims would be permitted.

In view of the pandemic, the pilgrims have to carry Covid-19 negative certificates obtained 48 hours before they reach Nilakkal and Pamba base camps. Covid 19 kiosks have been opened at the base camps for testing. The pilgrims will not be allowed to stay at Sannidhanam or at temple premises overnight.



Devotees maintain social distance while standing in queues to offer prayers at Lord Ayyappa temple on the 1st day of Malayalam month of 'Vrischikam, at Sabarimala in Pathanamthitta' on Monday — PTI

## Major temples in Maha open after 8 months

BHAGWAN PARAB  
MUMBAI, NOV. 16

All major temples in Maharashtra were thronged by devotees as places of religious worship were reopened in the state on Monday after being shut for nearly eight months. That the reopening coincided with the auspicious occasion of Diwali 'Padwa' (Marathi New Year) further added to people's joy.

Shri Vitthal Rukhmini Mandir in Pandharpur, Saibaba Mandir in Shirdi, Tulja Bhawani Mandir in Tuljapur, Mahalaxmi Mandir and Jyotiba Devasthan in Kolhapur, Grishneshwar Mandir at Ellora in Aurangabad, Siddhivinayak Mandir and Haji Ali Dargah in Mumbai saw a steady rush of devotees throughout the day.

In Pandharpur, the Shri Vitthal Rukhmini Mandir was adorned with floral designs, which caught the eye of devotees. However, the temple authorities

decided to permit only 'Mukhdarshan' of Lord Vitthal and Rukhmini instead of regular practice of allowing devotees the darshan by touching the feet of idols.

Rameshwara Rao from Chennai along with his wife became the first devotees after eight months to seek the darshan of Lord Vitthal and Rukhmini. "I was fortunate that the Mandir was reopened just in time and I could take the blessings of the god," he said.

The Mahalaxmi Mandir and Shri Jyotiba Devasthan, two of the major temples in Kolhapur, saw a stream of devotees since the morning. Mahesh Jadhav, chairman of the Jyotiba Devasthan Committee, said, "Sterilisation and cleanliness was carried out in the temple in the morning before allowing devotees inside. In addition to this, the guidelines of using sanitiser, masks, social distancing are being followed strictly."



BJP workers celebrate outside the Siddhivinayak temple that was reopened for public in Mumbai on Monday. — PTI

## Man killed, several injured in Kanpur clash

**Kanpur (UP), Nov. 16:** A 25-year-old youth was killed and several injured here in a clash between two communities that erupted after a man was accidentally splashed with water, police said on Monday.

Taking note of the incident, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has instructed that the accused be booked under the stringent National Security Act (NSA), which allows preventive detention for up to a year.

Two policemen have

been removed and sent to the Police Lines for their alleged laxity.

Police personnel, including the Provincial Armed Constabulary, have been deployed in large numbers to keep tabs on the simmering tension at Chakeri locality after the incident late Sunday evening.

Four people, identified as Anjum (36); Mohammad Mohsin (27); Sarfraz Alam (23) and Meraj (21), all residents of Jajmau's Wajidpur, have been arrested, said Superintendent of Police (East) Raj Kumar

Agarwal. The SP said Pintu Nishad, 25, and his friend Sandeep left their homes in Wajidpur area and accidentally stepped on a water pouch lying on the road. The water splashed on Amaan, a resident from the same area, sparking a clash.

Hearing about the altercation, dozens of other locals reached the spot and pelted each other with stones, injuring Nishad and several others, he said.

The injured were taken to Lala Lajpat Rai (LLR)

Hospital where Nishad was declared brought dead, Agarwal added.

In a tweet, the Chief Minister's Office said, "Instructions have been issued to immediately arrest the accused and invoke the National Security Act against them. A financial assistance of ₹5 lakh from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund has been announced for the aggrieved family."

Under the NSA, one can be detained without a charge for up to 12 months if the authorities are satis-

fied that the person is a threat to national security or law and order.

Meanwhile, the Jajmau's police post in-charge and a constable have been removed for their alleged laxity and sent to the Police Lines, officials said.

An inquiry has also been instituted against the police personnel who were deployed with the police response vehicle (PRV) and were sent to the incident site. They allegedly did nothing and remained a mute spectator, said SP Agarwal.

— PTI

### STEEP | DECLINE

Country has registered a total of 88.45 lakh virus cases, with 1.3 lakh deaths

## India sees lowest daily Covid cases in 4 months

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
with agency inputs  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 16

With 30,548 new infections India's total Covid-19 cases so far reached to 88.45 lakh on Monday. The total number of active cases continue to decline steadily as out of the total figures, only 4.65 lakh are still under medical care while 82.49 lakh people have recovered. So far 1.30 lakh people have died to Coronavirus out of which 435 deaths were reported in the last 24 hours.

"Daily new cases numbering 30,548 is a historic

low that assumes significance given many countries in Europe and America are experiencing a continuous steep rise in daily new cases," union Health Ministry officials said.

They added that the number of active cases remained below 5 lakh for the sixth consecutive day and the national recovery rate is 93.27 per cent. The Covid-19 case fatality rate is 1.47 per cent.

Delhi, Kerala, and West Bengal continue to report a high number of cases even as Maharashtra that was once the epicentre of

● **THE PHASE-III** trials of Covaxin would involve 26,000 volunteers across 25 centres in India and it is being conducted in partnership with ICMR. It is the largest clinical trial conducted for a Covid-19 vaccine in India.

the virus is now easing with respite as cases have come down here below 3,000. The state has now reopened places of worship with adequate distancing measures. Daily fresh cases have also fallen below 2,000 in Tamil Nadu for the first

time since June.

Meanwhile, Hyderabad based Bharat Biotech said that its Covaxin is now undergoing phase-3 trials and the company is also working on another vaccine for Covid-19 which would be in the form of nasal drops and can be ready by next year.

The Phase-III trials of Covaxin would involve 26,000 volunteers across 25 centres in India and it is being conducted in partnership with ICMR.

It is the largest clinical trial conducted for a Covid-19 vaccine in India. Last month, the vaccine-

maker said it had successfully completed interim analysis of Phase-I and -II trials of the vaccine and is initiating Phase-III trials in 26,000 participants.

Covaxin is being developed by Bharat Biotech, in collaboration with the ICMR — National Institute of Virology (NIV). Bharat Biotech in September said it had entered into a licensing agreement with Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis for a novel 'chimpanzee adenovirus' (chimpanzee adenovirus), a single-dose intranasal vaccine for Covid-19.

### HARYANA GOVERNOR, MANISH TEWARI TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

**Chandigarh, Nov. 16:** Haryana Governor Satyadeo Narain Arya tested positive for Covid-19 on Monday and was admitted to a private hospital in Mohali in Punjab.

The 81-year-old Governor is currently admitted in the ICU, hospital sources said. "His condition is stable," a hospital official said. Haryana Chief Minister M. L. Khattar in a tweet wished Arya a speedy recovery.

Congress MP and former Union minister Manish Tewari on Monday said he has tested positive for Covid-19. Tewari got himself tested after running mild fever. "I have tested positive for Covid-19 today afternoon. I got up with mild fever around 2 am last night. Got myself tested first thing in the morning. Two parallel Tests. No other symptoms so far," the MP from Sri Anandpur Sahib said in a tweet. — PTI



THE ASIAN AGE

17 NOVEMBER 2020

As RCEP is born, India must tread cautiously

The world's largest trade bloc emerged on Sunday after 15 countries in East and Southeast Asia, and Australia signed a deal to open up their economies further to foster free trade. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which has been anchored by China, accounts for 29 per cent of the global economy in terms of its size, overshadowing similar arrangements in Europe and North America. However,

Nevertheless, staying away from the RCEP is also not a smart move because India would be an attractive investment destination for export-focused companies

expected India to adhere to these conditions without an assurance on opening up services sector, where Indian companies are far ahead, and allowing easy movement of labour under this deal, making the RCEP tilted heavily towards China.

After the signing of the deal, several member-countries of the RCEP wished India too joined the deal, which seeks to promote free trade in Asia. The interests of the current member-countries do not align any further. While it is a fact that India would lose out of accessing the largest market in the world, one must also try to understand if India - with the current level of industrialisation - can cash in on the RCEP. Currently, RCEP is nothing but ASEAN plus-5, which means China, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand and Australia and 10 countries of the ASEAN. Southeast Asian countries already have a free-trade agreement. But now three leaders in manufacturing - China, Japan and South Korea - and two agricultural and dairy majors - Australia and New Zealand - have joined the ASEAN's free trade zone. It is a win-win for all of them. While companies can choose to set up factories in smaller countries to access the world's largest market, China, Japan, and South Korea can compete to sell products. The Indian industry, however, does not have the inherent strength to compete with bigger players and may end up being a dumping ground.

Nevertheless, staying away from the RCEP is also not a smart move because India would be an attractive investment destination for export-focused companies. The government, therefore, should begin consultations on the reforms required to make the Indian industry as competitive and efficient as South Korea and Japan. If the government intends to double farmers' income, it should become more productive. It doesn't reflect well on India to be fearful of New Zealand's dairy products. It is high time the government nudges its industry and farming truly world-class and does whatever is required for that to happen.

Farewell to a legend

What does it take to become the best loved man of Bengali cinema? A formidable supply of talent, love for one's craft, a vast body of work, association with legends? Matinee idol looks that would floor a generation of college-goers? Or is it the fact that he represented the last of the bhadralok, a way of being rendered obsolete by the changing mores and aesthetic of the people of a nonetheless-declining state? Mentored by theatre actor Ahindra Choudhury and the icon, Sisir Kumar Bhaduri, the boy from Kolkata's Surya Sen Street got his big break when selected by Satyajit Ray for the titular role in *Apur Sansar*, the concluding part of Apu Trilogy based on Bibhutibhushan Bandopadhyay's *Pather Panchali*. Soumitra Chatterjee would go on to collaborate with Ray on some of his best acclaimed projects. He would play the ebullient Amal in Tagorean *Charulata* and the inscrutable Feluda of Ray's own detective series with equal ease. Straddling the world of arthouse and popular cinema with aplomb, a director's actor, he could be versatile, as the hardy Punjabi cab-driver of *Abhijaan*, the attractive imposter of Mrinal Sen's *Akash Kusum* or the swashbuckling villain in Tapan Sinha's history thriller *Jhinder Bandi*, setting the screen alight with the chemistry he shared with Sharmila Tagore, Aparna Sen and Madhabi Mukherjee. His ability to fit into the role in a way that offered his audiences identification at extraordinarily intimate levels was the quality that defined him. He also famously refused the Padma Shri on account of there being no safety net for film industry daily wagers. But recognition, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Padma Bhushan, Dadasaheb Phalke Award, Chevalier of Legion d'Honneur, would follow this gracious soul who confidently stuck to his genre, refusing offers from Bollywood, and choosing to return to the stage and poetry. A lifelong pursuit of the arts thus ended on Sunday. All around there is the sound of hearts shattering. The world of Bengali, nay international, cinema is poorer. Travel well, Apu.

THE ASIAN AGE

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Aakar Patel



Everything is looking bleak: Can Modi still bring change?

The BJP has won yet another election, and victory is attributed to the popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He is in the seventh year of his term and appears to have lost none of his attractiveness for the voter. There is no data available on this, of course, and elections across the subcontinent are won on the back of tribalism, organisation and money.

But let us assume that it is the personal attractiveness and credibility of the Prime Minister that has yet again taken the BJP through in Bihar. The question is — to what end does he want to keep winning? Power is held for a purpose — to be able to effect change. What change has Mr Modi used his power for?

On the economy, the numbers cannot be kept hidden. The rate of GDP growth has gone from eight to seven to six to five to four to three per cent over the last 12 quarters. Something sabotaged the economy just before January 2018 and today

is not the time to go again into it. The fact is that without Covid-19 and long before the lockdown, the Indian economy was wrecked. Hours after the Bihar election results were out, the RBI announced that in the second quarter, meaning July to September, India's economy would again contract, and we were in recession.

The government did not acknowledge this or respond to it. The Prime Minister muttered some more things about development, but his heart is not in it. Do you remember the last time he spoke about his world beating economic performance? It is because there is nothing to say. Bangladesh has overtaken India's per capita GDP. What more can be added to that?

As I am writing this, there is news that we have lost at least 11 more lives on the Line of Control in Kshmir. The media's response to this in India has been to claim that Pakistan has also lost 11 lives. It has become like a game, and if we are able to get enough of the other

side out then it is fine for us to suffer the losses we have. This is lunacy but it is the product of the way that Mr Modi has characterised relations with neighbours, as being a zero sum game. Meaning that their loss is our gain. But this is bogus. We gain nothing material by killing their people. We lose when our people are killed.

On the LAC, we are preparing to formalise the surrender that we have already effected on the ground. We have permanently been stopped from patrolling till Finger 8 in Ladakh and heaven alone knows what else has been given up amid the secrecy.

Mr Modi's refusal to acknowledge that the Chinese had intruded into and were holding ground that India had been previously patrolling was a clear signal to the other side. He has since stopped speaking on this subject. What is there to say? India has not even been given an explanation for why our leader thinks his friend Xi Jinping had launched his aggression. Our constitutional

recklessness in Jammu and Kashmir happened without any understanding of the international ramifications.

As one defence analyst has said, Mr Modi changed the status of Ladakh on the map, while Mr Xi changed it on the ground. So much for the 56 inches. Our clinging to Donald Trump has not paid off. His secretary of defence, who was promising an eternal military alliance, was fired this week.

What else is there? We could talk about Covid-19. We carry the second highest number of infected people in the world, the third highest number of dead. What role if any the government has had in controlling it or mitigating it is unknown. The lockdown appears to have had exactly the opposite effect that we were told it would have. We are still clocking over 40,000 cases a day and have no real control over the epidemic. Two-thirds of India's working women lost their jobs because of the lockdown. Reports have shown that the work participation

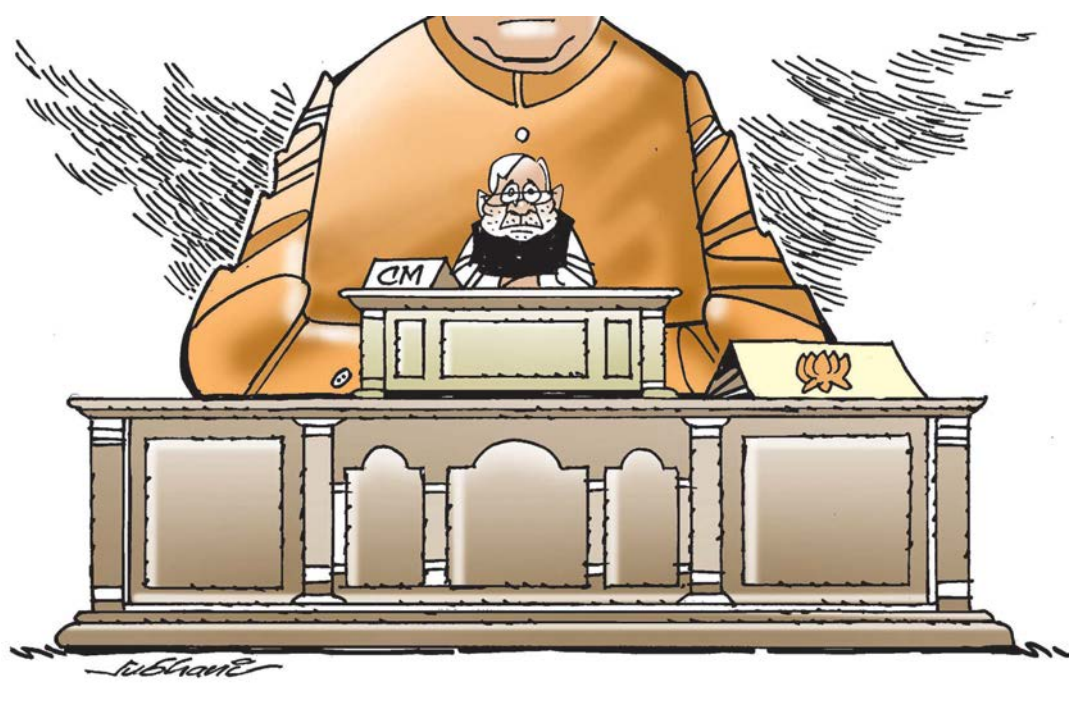
rate for women fell from an already low 9.15 per cent in December 2019 to just 5.8 per cent in August this year. For men, it is down from 67 per cent to 47 per cent. Most of India is not working. Have you heard Mr Modi talk about this? No. What is there to say?

The good thing is that we are in Year 7 of his reign. His words do not mean anything at this point. It is the numbers we must look at and the numbers are clear. If there is still support for Mr Modi among the population, it must be for something else, not his performance. There the record is quite clear.

Power is held to effect change. Mr Modi has shown himself incapable of effecting it in the positive sense. On the economy, on the border, on employment, on the epidemic. One wonders to what end he not only holds on to it but seeks to acquire more.

The writer is a columnist and a senior journalist

Subhani



RCEP shifts Indo-Pacific dynamics, blow to Delhi



K.C. Singh

While the entire world was focused on the American presidential election, the signing on November 15 of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) has significantly altered the Indo-Pacific strategic environment. With all 10 Asean members joining China and Japan, besides South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, a huge free trade bloc is born. With a combined \$26.2 trillion of GDP, one-third of the world's total, it will facilitate commerce among members by eliminating 90 per cent of tariffs.

Therefore, while US President-elect Joe Biden's path to office is now clear, despite the Trumpian Twitter tantrums, he faces a more complex scenario in the Indo-Pacific region. There is still some time before the RCEP is fully implemented as a certain number of Asean and non-Asean signatories must ratify it first. But any analysis of the implications of the Biden presidency simply cannot ignore this new development.

Multiple challenges await the next US President, at home and abroad. Overcoming the Covid-19 pandemic, with cases spiking due to the onset of winter and the lax observance of precautions, looms above all else, as indeed do its economic consequences. The American economy has shrunk, compared to a year earlier, by slightly over minus four per cent, as Britain's figure tops minus 10 per cent and the Eurozone at minus eight per cent. Canada and Japan fall in between those figures and that of the US. The Economist magazine writes that while the pandemic will fade by the end of 2012, the "tech surge will outlive

Mr Biden's presidency". These deeper changes are pitted against the desire of the liberal faction of the Democrats to favour manufacturing jobs and social goals. The US markets did not drop on the Biden-Harris victory as control of the Senate remains with the Republicans, seen as blocking the Democratic socio-economic agenda. This balance hinges on the fate of two Senate run-off contests in Georgia on January 5. If the Democrats win both, they will seize control of the Senate, the strength of both parties being tied at 50 each, giving the vice-president the casting vote. That could rile the US and even the Indian markets.

As regards the pandemic, Mr Biden's approach has emerged, despite Mr Trump not cooperating with his transition team. A group of experts has been formed to suggest a plan, including for vaccination of the populace, based on science and medical expertise rather than Trumpian evasion and half-truths. Mr Biden realises control of the pandemic is critical to reviving the economy and jobs. The Democrats want to hit the ground running after Mr Biden's inauguration on January 20.

As a global power, the US cannot ignore the foreign policy challenges. On China, Mr Trump's forthright criticism of predatory trade practices, theft of intellectual property and state capitalism led to trade sanctions to coerce Beijing to accept a more transparent rules-based system. The Covid-19 pandemic emanating from China and its delay in alerting the world has merely crystallised concerns into open hostility, now percolating down to the popular level. Thus, there is bipartisan consensus for maintaining the pressure on China. The Biden administration

Multiple challenges await the next US President, at home and abroad

may substitute open confrontation, which Henry Kissinger calls the two nations at the foothills of a new Cold War, with smarter containment strategies. The difficulty is that if the sanctions are rolled back, what does China offer as concessions to address America's economic and security concerns? Michele Flournoy, a frontrunner for the defence secretary's job, has advocated US defence readiness to have the capacity to sink the entire Chinese naval fleet in 72 hours!

There is also the technology competition symbolised by the US barring Huawei's access to top US semiconductors. Taiwan is a key component in US advances in cutting-edge semiconductor design and production. The continuing Chinese threats to Taiwan and the US dithering over defending it, in case China tries to annex it militarily, has created strategic vacuum. Some Chinese analysts argued that if China occupies Taiwan, as it has Hong Kong, Taiwan's famed chip producer TSMC would be a bonus.

The RCEP's signing by two components of the "Quad" — Australia and Japan — queers the US and Indian approach to the Indo-Pacific. Only weeks back this group was being projected as the skeleton of a new security architecture to contain China. It was hoped the Biden administration may review US withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which Japan had championed to balance Chinese trade influence in the Indo-Pacific. It exists in a modified form, minus the US, as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). It is possible the US and Japan may yet re-engage to discuss America's re-entry, but with the RCEP finalised China has first-mover advantage. In one swoop China has negated the hype over the de-coupling

from China. It also leaves India stranded, strategically and trade-wise, between its Quad partners and a China-dominated group, which has drawn away two of the Quad's four members. Moreover, for the new US administration, the Indo-Pacific may be a lower priority than rebuilding alliances ignored or abandoned by Mr Trump and healing rifts with nations like Germany and France.

The *Global Times*, the largely reliable English voice of Beijing, headlined an editorial: "Indo-Pacific strategy upholder India misses the bus of RCEP and long-term growth". India still has paths open to both joining the RCEP, albeit with diminished negotiating weight, or playing along with the US if its interest in CPTTP emerges. But in any case, all the bluster over Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI), that the Quad members were to create as an alternative to Chinese dominance of supply chains, now appears a non-starter.

Besides the fear of RCEP affecting Indian industry and farmers, including those in the dairy sector, Chinese obduracy in accepting full de-escalation at the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh has heightened Indian suspicions. Is it a coincidence that the Chinese intrusions followed India's unwillingness to join the RCEP in November 2019, and sponsoring alternative approaches like Quad Plus? With India's options now conditioned by the initiatives of others, New Delhi needs peace at home with farmers and in the region with neighbours. In any case, its majoritarian proclivities, with the West Bengal election approaching, can become an irritant in US-India ties just as China has outplayed it in the Indo-Pacific. In chess terms, it is not checkmate yet. But China controls the board with the better pieces.

The writer is a former secretary in the external affairs ministry. He tweets at @ambkcsingh.

LETTERS

US POLL TANGLE

The present political standpoint in the US has not been up to the mark even after the current election. The current voter fraud protests have really dented the image of the US. The time has come to clear the air about the election results in the United States. Besides this, one more good lesson that the US can learn now is to make future election process much more fool-proof. The recent Washington protests have shown that Trump supporters are serious and that they are ready to do anything. Legal tangles have become the order of the day worldwide. Therefore, the legal community should wake up to the current political situation and take bold steps to counteract the crisis.

D.P. Senthildurai  
Mumbai

RAPE CULTURE

IT IS absolutely shocking that two women from Tripura were allegedly raped by five people in Karimganj district of Assam when they were returning after meeting their ailing mother in a hospital. The culture of raping women both for personal gratification of persons involved or as a weapon of oppression is killing the public morale of the nation. Gang rapes and murder of the victims indicate that it is not lack of self control of an individual. It is an expression of cultural brutalisation of several layers of our society, the roots of which are in the present family, school, religious structures and civil society. It is called rapism because it has become a social ideological trend, particularly in India.

M.N. Alam  
Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh

CARELESS PEOPLE

IT IS disturbing to note that the ban on the use of firecrackers during Diwali enforced by National Green Tribunal was violated in several parts of the country. It is evident that even corona virus did not deter people from bursting firecrackers. Unless people and society accept their responsibility towards the environment, it is difficult to see a change.

Devendra Khurana  
Bhopal

Every Monday the best letter of the week wins ₹500. Email: asianage.letters@gmail.com.



## IN BRIEF EXTREMIST GOES ON TRIAL IN FRANCE

**Paris, Nov. 16:** An Islamic State operative goes on trial Monday in France on terror charges for swaggering bare-chested through a train in 2015 with an arsenal of weapons and shooting one passenger.

He was brought down by three American vacationers in an electrifying capture that Clint Eastwood turned into a Hollywood thriller. The scene five years ago on the fast train from Amsterdam to Paris is the focus of the month-long trial of Ayoub El Khazzani, with testimony expected from the two US servicemen and their friend, who have been hailed as heroes. Eastwood, who turned the drama on August 21, 2015 in "Car No. 12 into a movie "The 15:17 to Paris," has been also summoned to appear on November 23. It was unclear whether they would be present or testify by video. El Khazzani, a 31-year-old Moroccan boarded the train in Brussels armed to the hilt, authorities say.

## JETLINER HITS BROWN BEAR IN ALASKA

**Yakutat (US), Nov. 16:** An Alaska Airlines jetliner struck a brown bear while landing early Saturday evening, killing the animal and causing damage to the plane, officials said.

None of the passengers or crew members on board the plane were injured during the accident at the Yakutat Airport in southeast Alaska, *The Anchorage Daily News* reported. The Boeing 737-700 killed the brown bear sow, but a cub thought to be about 2 years old was uninjured, Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities spokesman Sam Dapevich said.

Airport crew members had cleared the runway about 10 minutes before the flight was expected to land, Dapevich said. The plane landed after dark and crews followed normal procedures for runway checks. The staff did not see signs of wildlife during the check, but the pilots spotted the two bears crossing the runway as the jet slowed after landing, Dapevich said.

"The nose gear missed the bears, but the captain felt an impact on the left side after the bears passed under the plane," Alaska Airlines said in a statement. The pilots saw the bear lying about 20 feet (6 metres) from the center of the runway as the plane taxied to a parking area just before 6:30 p.m., the airline said. It was not immediately clear how many passengers were on the flight. The plane departed from the town of Cordova.

## SPACEX SENDS 4 ASTRONAUTS TO SPACE STATION

**Cape Canaveral, Nov. 16:** SpaceX launched four astronauts to the International Space Station on the first full-fledged taxi flight for NASA by a private company. The Falcon rocket on Sunday thundered into the night from Kennedy Space Center with three Americans and one Japanese, the second crew to be launched by SpaceX.

The Dragon capsule on top — named Resilience by its crew in light of this year's many challenges, most notably COVID-19 — reached orbit nine minutes later. It is due to reach the space station late Monday and remain there until spring. "By working together through these difficult times, you've inspired the nation, the world, and in no small part the name of this incredible vehicle, Resilience," Commander Mike Hopkins said right before liftoff. Once reaching orbit, he radioed: "That was one heck of a ride." Sidelined by the Coronavirus himself, SpaceX founder and chief executive Elon Musk was forced to monitor the action from afar.

He tweeted that he "most likely" had a moderate case of Covid-19. NASA policy at Kennedy Space Center requires anyone testing positive for Coronavirus to quarantine and remain isolated. Sunday's launch follows by just a few months SpaceX's two-pilot test flight. It kicks off what NASA hopes will be a long series of crew rotations between the US and the space station, after years of delay. More people means more science research at the orbiting lab, according to officials. Cheers and applause erupted at SpaceX Mission Control in Hawthorne, California, after the capsule reached orbit and the first-stage booster landed on a floating platform in the Atlantic. Musk tweeted a single red heart. The flight to the space station — 27 1/2 hours door to door — should be entirely automated.

# Belgium's Janssen begins Covid-19 vaccine trial in UK

## Clinical trial to involve 6,000 volunteers across the country

**London, Nov. 16:** Belgium-headquartered global pharmaceutical company Janssen began a major new clinical trial of its potential vaccine against Covid-19 in the UK from Monday, which will involve 6,000 volunteers across the country. Recruitment into the Phase 3 study will complete in March 2021 and the trial will last for 12 months. It marks the third potential vaccine to enter clinical trials in the UK, alongside US biotech company Novavax and University of Oxford/AstraZeneca, whose studies remain ongoing.

"The start of further clinical trials in the UK is yet another step forward in the race to discover a safe and effective vaccine, and comes alongside recent news that we could be on the cusp of the first major breakthrough since the pandemic began," said UK Business Secretary Alok Sharma.

"While we are optimistic with the progress being made, there are no guarantees and it is possible there will be no one-size-fits-all vaccine. That is why it is absolutely vital that while our scientists are cracking on with the job, we continue to follow the guidance to control the virus, protect the NHS and save lives," he said. The UK volunteers will take part in the trial at 17 National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) sites, including in Southampton, Bristol, Cardiff, London Leicester, Sheffield, Manchester, Dundee and Belfast, according to the government's Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

It said the government has developed a portfolio of six different vaccine candidates and secured access to 350 million doses to date. Of this, 30 million doses of the Janssen vaccine could be made available to the UK if it is safe and effective by mid-2021.



Street artist Eme Freethinker works on one of his mural paintings on a segment of the Berlin wall (1961-1989) in Berlin's Mauerpark on Sunday. The still-standing segment of the so-called "rear wall", which used to prevent access for east Germans to the death strip, is a legal graffiti and street art space that has become an alternative to museums, many of which are closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Finding an effective vaccine with a good safety profile is a top priority in helping to protect us all more quickly against Covid-19. While the news of a potential vaccine is tremendously exciting, our ambition in the scientific community is to ensure we leave no stone unturned in the search for a solution to help end this pandemic," said Professor Saul Faust, Director of the NIHR Southampton Clinical Research Facility and Chief Investigator for the Janssen Phase 3 trial.

"All the vaccines that are being trialled work by generating immune responses to the same part of the coronavirus as the RNA vaccine that has announced some interim early results," he said.

The trial by Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies, part of Johnson & Johnson, is jointly funded by the UK government's Vaccine Taskforce to test the safety and effectiveness of a potential Covid-19 vaccine. Paul Stoffels, Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee and Chief Scientific Officer,

## Merkel, govts to assess lockdown

**Berlin, Nov. 16:** German Chancellor Angela Merkel will assess the effects of a nearly two-week-long partial lockdown with state governors in a video conference Monday.

Germany went into a partial lockdown at the beginning of November that included closing restaurants, cafes and cultural institutions, but left open schools and stores after virus figures spiked exponentially in October. The rise of new infections has since slowed down, but on Friday the country still registered a new record of 23,542 cases. On

Monday, 10,824 new cases were reported by the country's disease control center. However, virus figures are usually lower at the beginning of the week because there's less testing on weekends.

Merkel and the 16 state governors will begin their evaluation of the country's Coronavirus situation in the afternoon. Local media reported that possible new measures could include recommendations to further reduce social contacts and to cut school classes in half and have elementary school children wear masks. — AP

Johnson & Johnson, said: "We are delighted to be initiating our global Phase 3 trial in the UK to study the safety and efficacy of a two-dose regimen of our investigational Covid-19 vaccine candidate. "This

collaboration with UK researchers and the NIHR demonstrates our continued commitment to working together with partners around the world, and marks another positive step forward." — PTI

## PERU PRESIDENT RESIGNS, CRISIS GRIPS NATION

**Lima, Nov. 16:** Peru's interim president resigned Sunday as the nation plunged into its worst constitutional crisis in two decades following massive protests unleashed when Congress ousted the nation's popular leader.

In a short televised address, Manuel Merino said Congress acted within the law when he was sworn into office as chief of state Tuesday, despite protesters' allegations that legislators had staged a parliamentary coup. "I, like everyone, want what's best for our country," he said.

The politician agreed to step down after a night of unrest in which two young protesters were killed and half his Cabinet resigned. Peruvians cheered the decision, waving their nation's red and white flag on the streets. — AP

## SUGAR SCAM: FIA CASE AGAINST SHAHBAZ

**Islamabad, Nov. 16:** Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) on Monday won eight of 23 constituencies and was leading in one seat in the legislative assembly polls in Gilgit-Baltistan, prompting Opposition parties to dub the election as "stolen." India has slammed Pakistan for its decision to hold elections in Gilgit-Baltistan and said any action to alter the status of the militarily-occupied region has no legal basis.

Elections were held on 23 seats of the third legislative assembly on Sunday amidst tight security due to the threat of militancy. Polling on one seat was postponed after the death of one of the contestants. Unofficial results compiled by the various media outlets showed that PTI won at least 8 seats and was ahead in one, but it was still well short of majority to form the government. However, it was in a position to form the government as 6-7 independent candidates also won.

Geo TV reported that PTI won 8 seats, independent candidates 7, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) 3, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) 2, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JIU-F) and Majlis Wahdatul Muslimeen (MWM) 1 seat each. The official results were still not known as election authorities may take some time to announce the final outcome.

Both the Opposition parties PPP and PML-N have alleged poll rigging by the ruling PTI. Commenting on the unofficial results, PPP chief Bilawal Bhutto Zardari alleged that the "election was stolen". "Our candidates were asked to leave PPP and join PTI," Bilawal said while addressing a protest rally at Gilgit's DC Chowk against the alleged "rigging" in the elections. "The people of

Lahore, Nov. 16: Pakistan's top investigative body has registered an FIR against top Opposition leader Shahbaz Sharif, Prime Minister Imran Khan's friend and three others in a multi-billion sugar scam. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) registered the case on Sunday against Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) President Shahbaz Sharif, his sons-Hamza and Suleman, Prime Minister Khan's friend Jahangir Tareen and his son Ali Tareen under money laundering, forgery, criminal breach of trust and cheating of public shareholders. Tareen and his son are accused of defrauding and laundering Rs 4.35 billion in the case, while Shahbaz and his sons are facing similar charges amounting Rs 25 billion. The complaint comes days after the Lahore High Court struck down a case filed by the Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) with the FIA against Tareen's JDW Sugar Mills and Farooqi Pulp Mills and Shahbaz's Al-Arabia Sugar Mills. — PTI

this region will not allow you to steal their votes," he said.

PML-N also rejected the election results, saying the party would protest against them. "The people are being robbed of their rights," PML-N's secretary-general Ahsan Iqbal said, adding that independent candidates won against PTI candidates. "The success of the independent candidates means that the people have rejected the PTI," he added. — PTI

# China: RCEP is a milestone of great significance

**Beijing, Nov. 16:** China on Monday termed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement to create the world's biggest free trade bloc as a "milestone of great significance", while studies showed that the deal is more of a strategic significance to Beijing providing marginal economic impact.

Fifteen Asia-Pacific nations, including China, on Sunday signed the agreement. India, one of the leading consumer-driven markets in the region, pulled out of talks last year, concerned that the elimination of tariffs would open its markets to a flood of imports that could harm local producers. A declaration by the countries which have signed the RCEP agreement said that they can start negotiations with India for joining the pact once New Delhi submits a written request stating its intention for the same.

Analysts say that without India, the agreement would not have much relevance as it cannot provide a big market combining India and China, the most populous countries in the world. "After 8 years of negotiations, the RCEP was officially signed," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here while answering a question on the agreement.

"This means that the most promising agreement covering the largest population and economic volume was officially set and up. It's a milestone of great significance," he said. As Covid-19 continues to spread, unilateralism, protectionism are rising, he said, adding that the signing of the RCEP will be a strong boost to regional and global economic recovery.

"This shows strong support of all sides to multilateralism and free-trade, strong support to open and collective free trade regime. This is a show of support for collective

● **INDIA, ONE** of the leading consumer-driven markets in the region, pulled out of talks last year, concerned that the elimination of tariffs would open its markets to a flood of imports that could harm local producers.

efforts against common challenges," he said.

Meanwhile, studies show the benefits RCEP will not outweigh the negative impact of the long-running US trade war on China's economy even though it will make China's market much more integrated with the rest of Asia. However, analysts agree that the trade pact, which covers 30 per cent of the global economy, is far more strategically significant than providing a direct economic impact, Hong Kong-based *South China Morning Post* reported on Monday.

China may claim a symbolic victory in the signing of the world's biggest trade deal in the face of ongoing US disinterest in multilateralism, but the direct economic benefits will be marginal, the Post report said.

The trade deal, initiated by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2012 but often regarded as a China-led counterpart to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), covers nearly one-third of the world's population and GDP. However, while the RCEP adds incrementally to Chinese GDP, it will not be enough to cancel out the damage of the trade war with the US, research showed. In June, researchers at the Peterson Institute for International Economics found that RCEP, would add 0.4 per cent to China's real income by 2030, while the trade war would trim 1.1 per cent. — PTI

# Macron sees Donald's envoy

## TIME FOR TRUMP TO CONCEDE, SAYS OBAMA

**Paris, Nov. 16:** French President Emmanuel Macron faced the potentially uncomfortable position Monday of meeting US President Donald Trump's top diplomat, having already congratulated President-elect Joe Biden for his election victory.

Neither side said much in advance about US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's low-profile visit to Paris, the starting point of a seven-country tour of Europe and the Middle East. Macron's office described Pompeo's planned stop Monday at the presidential Elysee Palace as a "courtesy" visit.

No press conference was scheduled, seemingly ruling out the likelihood of journalists getting to ask Pompeo or Macron about their conflicting visions of the US election outcome. Pompeo has not accepted Trump's election defeat. Macron has already spoken by phone with Biden to congratulate him. Pompeo's trip is aimed at

**Washington, Nov. 16:** It's time for US President Donald Trump to concede to President-elect Joe Biden, as there is no scenario to reverse the outcome of the election, his predecessor Barack Obama has said. Trump, who is refusing to concede, has 232 electoral college votes. He has challenged the election results in various states including Pennsylvania, Nevada, Michigan, Georgia and Arizona. He had demanded a recount in Wisconsin.

In all these states, he alleged there were massive voters' fraud and electoral malpractice. Biden

has 306 of the 538 electoral college votes, well above the halfway mark of 270. "Absolutely," Obama told 60 Minutes of the CBS News in an interview aired Sunday when asked if in his view, it is time for Trump to concede. "Well, I mean, I think it was time for him to concede probably — the day after the election — or at the latest, two days after the election. When you look at the numbers objectively, Joe Biden will have won handily. There is no scenario in which any of those states would turn the other way, and certainly not enough to reverse the outcome of

the election," Obama said.

More than the courtesy of a concession, the Trump White House is declining to free up the usual funds and facilities for the incoming administration. Biden is not receiving secret national security briefings as Trump did when he was president-elect, he alleged. Asserting that a president is a public servant, Obama said that they are temporary occupants of the office, by design. "And when your time is up then it is your job to put the country first and think beyond your own ego," he said. — PTI

shoring up the priorities of Trump's outgoing administration.

From Paris, he was expected to travel to Turkey. The trip will also include visits to Israeli

settlements in the West Bank that have been avoided by previous secretaries of state. Before the scheduled meetings with Macron and his foreign minister, Pompeo laid a

bouquet of red, white and blue flowers at a memorial to victims of terrorism at a Paris landmark, the Hotel des Invalides. The ceremony lasted about a minute. — AP

## MALL | MOVE

### Kids will tell what they want for Christmas from six feet away

# Here comes Santa with mask, plexiglass

**New York, Nov. 16:** Santa Claus is coming to the mall — just don't try to sit on his lap. Despite the pandemic — and the fact that Santa's age and weight put him at high risk for severe illness from the Coronavirus — mall owners are going ahead with plans to bring him back this year. But they are doing all they can to keep the jolly old man safe, including banning kids from sitting on his knee, no matter if they've been naughty or nice. Kids will instead tell Santa what they want for Christmas from six feet away, and sometimes from behind a sheet of plexiglass. Santa and his visitors may need to wear a mask, even while posing for photos.

And some malls will put



Sydney Poulos, 8, gives Santa a fist bump through a transparent barrier at a Bass Pro Shop in Bridgeport.

faux gift boxes and other decorations in front of

Saint Nick to block kids from charging toward

him. Other safety measures include online reser-

ventions to cut down on lines, workers wiping down holiday-decorated sets, and hand sanitizer aplenty. Santa's hours are also getting cut to give him a break from crowds.

Macy's cancelled its in-person visits this year, saying it couldn't provide a safe environment for the more than 250,000 people that show up to see Kriss Kringle at its New York flagship store. But malls, which have struggled to attract shoppers for years, are not willing to kill a holiday tradition.

"You have to give them a reason to come or they'll stay home and shop online," says Michael Brown, who oversees the retail team at consulting firm Kearney.

— AP



quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	43,637.98	0.45
Nifty 50	12,780.25	0.47
S&P 500*	3,621.33	1.01
Dollar (₹)	74.61	0.04
Pound Sterling (₹)	98.19	0.21
Euro (₹)	88.11	0.04
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	50,425.241	0.47
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	44.39	1.61
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.878	-0.024
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.918	0.025

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

Power use grows 7.8% in first half of Nov.

Power consumption grew 7.8 per cent to 50.15 billion units (BU) in the first half of November this year, showing a rise in economic activities. Power consumption was recorded at 46.52 BU during Nov. 1-15 last year, shows power ministry data. For a full month in November last year, power consumption was 93.94 BU. After a gap of six months, power consumption had grown 4.4 per cent in September.

Munot to leave SBI Mutual Fund to head HDFC MF



HDFC Mutual Fund said its board has approved the appointment of Navneet Munot as its next managing director and chief executive officer. Munot, who was the chief investment officer of SBI Funds Management, will succeed the present MD Milind Barve, HDFC Mutual Fund said. In a separate statement, SBI Funds Management said Munot has decided to leave the organisation to pursue other opportunities.

Registration of startups at GeM doubles

The number of startups registered at public procurement portal GeM has more than doubled to 7,438 in the last one year and they are receiving government and PSU orders. The Government e-Marketplace was launched in August 2016 for online purchase of goods and services by central departments. "We now have 48,038 buyers, 7.42 lakh sellers with 2.42 lakh MSEs and 7,438 startups," GeM CEO Talleen Kumar said.

Equitas Bank offers 7% on women's SB a/c

Equitas Small Finance Bank (ESFB) has launched 'Eva' savings account for women offering 7 per cent interest. Eva tries to address the well-being of Indian women in every aspect such as health, wealth and prosperity. "Along with 7 per cent interest in savings account, it also offers free health check-up and unlimited tele-consultation with women doctors, gynaecologists and mental health experts," the bank said.

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RIL, Aramco, BP, Total all stay away Biggies keep off BPCL stake sale

New Delhi, Nov. 16: The government on Monday received 'multiple' bids for buying out its stake in India's second-biggest fuel retailer BPCL but Reliance Industries as well as supermajors Saudi Aramco, BP and Total did not make a bid. Tuhin Kanta Pandey, secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (Dipam), which is handling the strategic sale, tweeted that the transaction advisors (TAs) for the sale of government's 52.98 per cent stake in Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) have reported receiving "multiple expressions of interest."

"The transaction will move to the second stage after scrutiny by TA," he said. "Strategic disinvestment of BPCL progresses: Now moves to the second stage after multiple expressions of interest have been received," finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman also tweeted. Neither of them gave the number of bids received or the names of the bidders. Separately, four industry officials said three-four bids have been put in. Reliance Industries, which was considered a potential bidder as BPCL would have added a 22 per cent fuel market share to its fledgling retail business and made it the nation's number one oil refiner, did not put in an expression of interest



(EoI) at the close of the deadline on Monday. Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Saudi Aramco), which had been keen to enter the world's fastest-growing fuel market, too did not put in an EoI. UK's BP plc and Total of France—which have plans to foray into the Indian fuel market—had previously ruled themselves out of the BPCL race as they did not want to add oil refining assets when the world was moving away from liquid fuels. A clutch of private equity funds and/or pension funds are said to have put in an EoI. Russian energy giant Rosneft-led Nayara Energy, which operates a 20 million tonne oil refinery at Vadinar in Gujarat and also has 5,822 petrol pumps, was considered a potential bidder for BPCL but reports last month had indicated it was no longer keen. Abu Dhabi National Oil Co (Adnoc), which has ambitions for Indian mar-

M&M plans to revive BSA bike

SIDDHARTH PHILIP NOV. 16

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd is crafting plans to build a UK factory to resurrect the BSA motorcycle brand in a test case for whether Britain can attract companies post-Brexit. Mahindra, which bought the defunct marque in 2016, is scouting for a site to assemble the motorcycle, chairman Anand Mahindra said in an interview. Whether it goes ahead partly hinges on talks over government grants and a trade deal with the European Union, he said. "With Brexit, the UK government is going out of its way to give benefits, which actually goes toward filling that difference in viability," said Anupam Thareja, a managing partner at Phi Capital and co-founder of Mahindra's Classic Legends subsidiary. The classic-bike brand owner is adopting a wait-and-see approach to Brexit negotiations before giving the green light to BSA. The factory project would depend on tariff levels and the ease of moving both workers and products across borders, Thareja said. Making the bikes in the UK is key for the brand to maintain authenticity, says Mahindra. BSA started as a bicycle maker before crafting its first motorcycle over a century ago. It featured in the World War-II, when used by the British Army, but went bust in the 1970s. —Bloomberg

Just 5 mall projects see completion in 2020

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 16

As the business in malls has still not recouped to pre-Covid levels, mall development is moving at a snail's pace. The calendar year was supposed to see the launch of 54 new malls spanning over 22.2 million sq. ft, as per the pre-Covid estimates. However, just 5 malls covering 2.75 million sq. ft have been completed yet. These new malls have come up in Gurgaon, Delhi, Lucknow and Bengaluru, as per the data from Anarock Retail. The yet-to-recover business in malls has put the construction process on hold. Malls remained closed for a longer period even after the lock-down. As of August, malls were seeing 60 per cent sales of last year, though the footfalls were much lesser. However, malls are



expecting the festive season to take the sales to 80 per cent. "Since the shopping malls reopened across the country, the industry and mall developers noticed more serious buyers walking-in with a set agenda of what to buy. While the dwell time has decreased, however, the ticket size has increased drastically. During the Navratri and Diwali season, shopping malls across the country

reported an increase in footfalls on a week-on-week basis and witnessed a continued growth during the weekends. We are hoping to reach 80 per cent of sales on an average," said Amitabh Taneja, Chairman, Shopping Centres Association of India. Considering the slower pace at which mall development is taking place, many of the launches would be pushed to 2021. "Covid-19 added enormous pressure to the already delicately-poised Indian retail sector. The anticipated new mall supply was severely hit this year and most of it will spill over to 2021 and beyond. New completions have been deferred and leasing activity has been delayed," said Anuj Kejriwal, CEO and MD of Anarock Retail. However, even in 2021, only 14 new malls spread over 5.9 million sq ft are likely to get operational.

WPI inflation at 8-month high of 1.48%

FC BUREAU NEW DELHI, NOV.16

Driven by rising prices of vegetables and manufactured items such as vegetable oils, steel and basic metals, the wholesale price-based inflation went up to an eight-month high of 1.48 per cent in October, the data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry showed on Monday. This was the highest

level for the Wholesale Price Index inflation after February, when it was 2.26 per cent. The WPI inflation was at 1.32 per cent in September and zero per cent in October last year. "Some food article prices softened in October, while manufactured items witnessed hardening of prices in the same month. Food inflation in October stood at 6.37 per cent against 8.17 per cent in the previous month," the

release said. Similarly, the price rise in vegetables and potato remained high at 25.23 per cent and 107.70 per cent, respectively. "Inflation in non-food articles and minerals was higher at 2.85 per cent and 9.11 per cent, respectively. While, in the manufactured products category, inflation stood at 2.12 per cent in October, compared to 1.61 per cent in September," the data showed.

Take on risk, trust recovery in 2021: Morgan Stanley

JOANNA OSSINGER NOV. 16

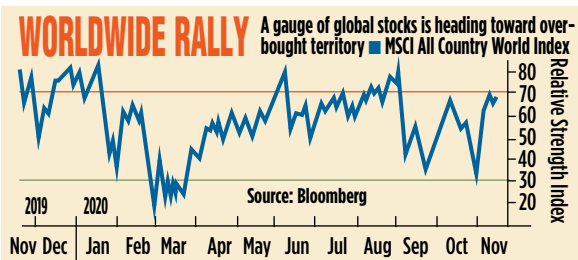
Morgan Stanley strategists said an expected "V-shaped" economic recovery, greater clarity on Covid-19 vaccines and continued policy support offer a favourable environment for stocks and credit next year. It has also cut its forecast for gold to \$1,825 an ounce on average for 2021 from a previous \$1,950 on the expected global economic recovery. In an outlook for 2021, a team including Andrew Sheets recommended investors overweight equities and corporate bonds against cash and government debt, and sell the US dollar. Volatility is set to decline, and investors should be "patient" in commodity markets, the strategists said. "This global recovery is sustainable, synchronous and supported by policy, following much of the 'normal' post-recession playbook," they wrote. "Keep the faith, trust the recovery." A gauge of global stocks headed toward a record on Monday amid optimism that the expected roll-out of vaccines and additional US fiscal stimulus will bolster the world economy. Still, sceptics argue the short-term out-

WORLD STOCKS HIT RECORD ON RECOVERY, VACCINE HOPES

CHUCK MIKOLAJCZAK NEW YORK, NOV. 16

A gauge of global stocks hit a record on Monday as the latest batch of positive data for a possible Covid-19 vaccine boosted sentiment, along with signs of economic recovery in Asia, while oil prices jumped. US stocks climbed, with the Dow Industrials nearing the 30,000 mark for the first time, thanks to news from pharma company Moderna saying its prospective vaccine was

94.5 per cent effective in preventing Covid-19. Cyclical names, which generally benefit the soonest as an economy recovers from a recession, led the way higher, with energy, industrial and financial sectors the top performing. The MSCI World Index of global shares, building on strong overnight gains in Asia's leading markets and a stronger open for most European bourses, extended gains after the Moderna announcement to hit a record.



look is challenging as nations resort to lockdowns to fight a resurgence in virus cases and lawmakers bicker over the size of US relief spending. Morgan Stanley joins JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Goldman Sachs Group Inc. in painting a

positive outlook for equities. JPMorgan strategist Marko Kolanovic said US election results create a bull case for markets, while David Kostin at Goldman Sachs expects society to normalise gradually next year. The Morgan Stanley team doesn't expect a

smooth path upwards and noted that significant challenges remain. Risks include a worse-than-expected Covid-19 winter wave, and a return to austerity in the longer term, according to the note. Investment calls in the report include: a base case for the S&P 500 to reach 3,900 by the end of 2021; 10-year US treasury yield at 1.45 per cent by the end of next year; the US Dollar Index to weaken about 4 per cent by the end of 2021; and preference for high-yield credit over investment grade and leveraged loans over high-yield bonds. —Bloomberg

Alrosa sees uncertain diamond market

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 16

Despite recording a year-on-year growth in October, diamond miner Alrosa is worried about an uncertainty in the market. Uncertainty puts pressure on Indian gems and jewellery exports, which has not even recovered in October. Alrosa had started seeing the first signs of recovery in the diamond market from mid-August when the Indian diamond polishing industry resumed imports after a four-month voluntary ban. The company saw growth in September and October. In October, the sales grew 3.6 per cent to \$310 million. The recovery was also led by end demand for jewelry as September demand in China and US grew 13 per cent and 14 per cent y-o-y respectively. However, Alrosa finds that it is "definitely too early to speak of the full recovery". The markets still face uncertainty caused by the pandemic's impact on the global economy and subsequent developments. The key indicator for the diamond industry will be upcoming Christmas and Chinese New Year retail sales," said



Jim Vimadalal, director, Indian Representative Office, Alrosa. While the festive goods are already on the way to the markets, any disruption due to the second wave of the pandemic can hit the Christmas and New Year sales. The second wave has already put Europe under restrictions and an uncertainty is looming large over the US. This uncertainty will put further pressure on the Indian gems and jewellery industry. Indian gems and jewellery exports were down even in September and October. While it recorded a dip of 27 per cent in September, the decline was 21 per cent in October. Cut and polished diamond sales were down 19.6 per cent in September and the category details are not yet out for October. According to trade circles, the October shipments were affected by the container availability issues as well.

DIGITAL STRATEGY HELPS MARUTI SELL OVER 200,000 CARS

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, NOV. 16

The digital revolution in selling cars is taking stronger root in India with social distancing becoming the new normal in a Covid-scarred world. Maruti Suzuki, India's biggest carmaker, on Monday said it has sold over two lakh cars through the online channel. The company, which initiated its online sales platform around two years back, said the digital channel now covers nearly 1,000 dealerships across the country. "Since introducing this new digital channel in 2018, we have witnessed a three times increase in digital enquiries and recorded sales of over 2 lakh units since April 2019," Shashank Srivastava, executive director (marketing & sales) at Maruti Suzuki India, said. This digital channel has helped to generate over 21 lakh customer enquiries as well, he pointed out. Citing the Google Auto Gear Shift India 2020 Report, he said nearly 95 per cent of new car sales in India are digitally influenced as the customers first research online and then buy at dealerships.

Ratification of RCEP trade deal may take years

JAMES PEARSON HANOI, NOV. 16

Fifteen Asia-Pacific economies signed what could become the world's largest free trade agreement in Hanoi on Sunday, covering nearly a third of the global population and about 30 per cent of its global gross domestic product.

Who has signed? RCEP includes China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and the 10 members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean): Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and

the Philippines. India was involved in early discussions but opted out last year over concerns related to cheap Chinese imports. Member states have said there is still room for India to join RCEP, however. Anyone can join RCEP 18 months after it comes into force but India, as one of the original negotiating partners, can join at any time once the deal comes into effect. What happens next? RCEP, signed on Sunday, must now be ratified before coming into effect, a process that will take months to start and years to complete.

According to copies of the 510-page, 20-chapter agreement uploaded to the foreign ministry websites of RCEP member states on Sunday, the deal must be ratified by at least six Asean countries and three non-Asean signatory countries before it can come into effect. East Asian rivalry Notably, RCEP marks the first time China, Japan and South Korea have been brought together under a single trade agreement—a process that has been otherwise marred by historical and diplomatic disputes. Last year, at the height of a trade dispute between

Japan and South Korea, which had its roots in a dispute stemming from Japan's wartime colonisation of the Korean peninsula, South Korean officials said Japanese trade restrictions violated the "spirit" of the RCEP. Japan may find significant benefits (with RCEP), as it now has preferential access to South Korea and China, which it did not have," said Deborah Elms of the Singapore-based Asian Trade Centre. When will it kick in?

RCEP provides some flexibility for less-developed members to implement the practical and legislative changes it requires. Cambodia and Laos, for example, have three to five years to upgrade customs procedures. Specifically which areas are open to tariff reductions under RCEP is complex and changes from country to country. Some states have listed what RCEP includes while others have listed what it does not. For countries which already have free trade agreements with each other, an added benefit of RCEP is that it creates a common set of rules of

origin, which will facilitate easier movement of goods between the 15 members. How does RCEP compare with CPTPP? The idea of RCEP hatched in 2012, was seen as a way for China, the region's biggest importer and exporter, to counter growing US influence in the Asia-Pacific. It gained momentum when Trump withdrew the United States from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in 2017. The TPP has since been renamed the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific

Partnership (CPTPP) and it includes seven RCEP members, but not the United States. RCEP focuses heavily on cutting tariffs and increasing market access but is seen as less comprehensive than the CPTPP. It also requires fewer political or economic concessions and has less emphasis on labour rights, environmental and intellectual property protections and dispute resolution mechanisms. RCEP's market size is nearly five times greater than that of the CPTPP, with almost double its annual trade value and combined GDP. —Reuters



## SHORT TAKES

## Kipruto charged with sex crime

**Nairobi, Kenya:** Olympic steeplechase champion Conseslus Kipruto of Kenya has been charged with having sexual intercourse with a 15-year-old girl and was released on bail Monday after pleading not guilty. Kipruto was charged with what is referred to as "defilement" in Kenyan law — sexual intercourse with a minor under the age of 18. Because of the girl's age, Kipruto faces at least 20 years in prison if convicted, according to Kenya's sexual offenses laws. The 25-year-old Kipruto, who is a policeman, was charged in a courthouse in Kapsabet. He was released on \$1,800 bail. Kipruto is alleged to have had intercourse with the girl on Oct. 20 and 21, according to the charge sheet, and was first arrested on Nov. 11. Kipruto won gold in the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the 2016 Olympics. — AP

## Five ISL clubs fail to secure license

**New Delhi:** Five Indian Super League clubs have failed to meet the AFC and national licensing criteria and will now have to either appeal against the decision or seek exemption from the AIFF in order to take part in the cash-rich event starting on Friday. Odisha FC, NorthEast United FC, Kerala Blasters, Hyderabad FC and new entrants Sporting Club East Bengal are the five clubs which were not handed licenses by the AIFF to be able to take part in AFC and national competitions this season. The five clubs which failed to secure licenses can either appeal to the Club Licensing Appeals Body of AIFF against the decision of the Club Licensing Committee (First Instance Body) within a stipulated time or can apply for an exemption to the Club Licensing Committee. — PTI

## Prajnesh loses US Challenger final

**Cary, US:** Indian Davis Cupper Prajnesh Gunneswaran squandered initial advantage to lose to Denis Kudla of USA in three sets in the final of the Atlantic Tire Championships here. The fourth seeded Indian lost 6-3, 3-6, 0-6 in the men's singles summit clash of the ATP Challenger event in one hour 33 minutes on Sunday. Prajnesh, ranked 146th, started on a bright note, putting up a dominant display to take the opening set of the tournament. However, the Indian southpaw was unable to keep the momentum going as the second-seeded American came back strongly in the next two sets to claim the title. — PTI

## Italy beat Poland, England bow out

**Rome:** Three years after an embarrassing failure to qualify for the World Cup, Italy are back in contention with the best in Europe. England, meanwhile, are already out of contention for the Nations League finals with one round of matches still to play. An Italy squad badly hit by the coronavirus still managed to beat Poland 2-0 on Sunday, putting the Azzurri in control of their group, while England were beaten 2-0 by top-ranked Belgium. Another win at Bosnia-Herzegovina on Wednesday will see Italy hosting the four-team finals in October — just a few months after hosting the opening game of the European Championship in Rome. — AP

## Live on TV

## CRICKET

**Big Bash League:** Sydney Sixers vs Brisbane Heat from 9 am; Sydney Thunder vs Melbourne Renegades from 1.35 pm on Sony Six, HD

## TENNIS

**ATP Finals:** Matches from 7.30 pm on Sony Ten 2, HD and 1.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Six, HD

## FOOTBALL

**UEFA Nations League:** France vs Sweden from 1.15 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 3; Spain vs Germany from 1.15 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 2; Croatia vs Portugal from 1.15 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 1

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## Covid threat to Test

## Paine in self-isolation after Corona outbreak in Adelaide

**Sydney, Nov. 16:** A fresh Coronavirus outbreak in Adelaide on Monday forced Australian players, including captain Tim Paine, into self-isolation but the country's cricket board asserted that the first Test against India here from December 17 will go ahead as scheduled.

A cluster of Covid-19 cases in Adelaide prompted other states like Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory to close their borders with South Australia and impose a 14-day hotel quarantine on all visitors from Adelaide from 11.59 pm on Monday.

"There is ongoing monitoring but that's the end of the story," a CA spokeswoman was quoted as saying by *Sydney Morning Herald* on the match which is will be a day-nighter.

The number of cases had crept up from four on Sunday to 17 on Monday.

The development has the potential to throw the Australian summer of cricket into chaos but CA insisted there is no reason to think next month's Test series opener against India — Day/Night Pink ball match — at the Adelaide Oval is in doubt.

The newspaper said CA is monitoring the fallout of the outbreak and its officials were in contact with key decision-makers in Adelaide.

Tasmanian health authorities have returnees from South Australia since November 9 to quarantine.

This meant that Paine, Matthew Wade and their team mates in the Tasmania squad, which recently completed the opening round of Sheffield Shield matches in South Australia, had to go into isolation.

The India squad and those Australians who took part in the Indian Premier League in the UAE are in a 14-day quarantine in Sydney since Thursday.

They will complete the isolation a day before the ODI series which begins on November 27 at the SCG. — PTI



Indian cricketers Ravindra Jadeja (from left), Umesh Yadav and Kuldeep Yadav jog during a practice session in Sydney on Sunday. — BCCI

## Australians to form 'barefoot circle' to support anti-racism

**Sydney, Nov. 16:**

Australian players will form a barefoot circle to acknowledge the culture of indigenous people before every series, starting with the ODI contest against India, said pacer Pat Cummins, who admitted that his team has not done enough to support anti-racism movement.

The Australian Test and ODI vice-captain said his team considered the move as the best way to begin addressing racism, both at home and around the world.

"We've decided to do the Barefoot Circle. We're going to look at doing it at the start of each series and it's a pretty easy decision for us. Not only as a sport, but we as people are absolutely against racism," Cummins was quoted as saying by *ESPNCricinfo*.

"We can probably put our hands up and say we haven't done enough in the past and we want to get better, so this is one small thing we're going to introduce this summer," he added.



In this file photo, West Indies players take a knee before the start of the third Test against England at Old Trafford in Manchester on July 24, 2020. — AP

Earlier this year, West Indies legend Michael Holding has criticised the Australian team for not taking a knee in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, during the limited overs series in England. — PTI

## In-form batsman K. L. Rahul spent considerable time perfecting his pull-shots with deliveries hurled from 18 yards during Monday's net session.

twitter by the BCCI, Rahul's senior teammate Ravichandran Ashwin was seen using a tennis racket and serving the stand-in white ball vice-captain with tennis balls aimed at his rib cage.

Rahul was trying to keep the pull shot down, an art his skipper Viat Kohli has mastered over the years, rolling his wrists.

There is a basic purpose of practising against tennis balls. From a shorter distance, the ball travels faster and it helps in making the reflexes quick.

Therefore when the leather ball is used, any

batsman will get a fraction of a second more from the 22 yards.

During the '80s and '90s before a tour of Australia or West Indies, the specialist batsmen were known to bat against wet tennis balls from 16 or 18

yards on cement wickets to get adjusted to the bounce.

With training modules undergoing a sea change, now the tennis rackets are used to add more pace to the light tennis balls.

Team's senior speedster Mohammed Shami posted a video on his personal twitter handle, where he was seen bowling with the pink kookaburra ball. Shami is a part of all three squads and it is a given that India will need his skills most during the four-Test series starting on December 17 with the day-night pink ball game in Adelaide. — PTI

## Nadal starts with comfortable win

**London, Nov. 16:** Rafael Nadal launched his bid for a first ATP Finals trophy in style on Sunday, taming in-form Andrey Rublev in straight sets in London.

The Spanish world number two, chasing the biggest prize missing from his glittering resume, barely broke sweat as he outclassed the Russian debutant 6-3, 6-4 at the empty O2 Arena.

Nadal, who last month equalled Roger Federer's record of 20 Grand Slams by winning the French Open, has won 86 titles but just one of those has come on an indoor hard court.

His record at the eight-man elite event pales in comparison with his main rivals. Federer, who is absent with injury.

Novak Djokovic produced a masterclass against Argentina's Diego Schwartzman on

Monday as he embarked on his campaign for a record-equaling sixth title.

The world number one wobbled at the start of the match against the diminutive eighth seed, making his debut at the elite eight-man event but recovered to win 6-3, 6-2.

The Serbian, 33, has enjoyed another sparkling season despite the coronavirus interruption, winning four titles including the Australian Open.

"Always the first match is very tricky," said Nadal. "Every match is difficult when you are playing against the best of the best so it's a positive start for me, very happy," he added.

Nadal has qualified for the ATP Finals for a record 16 consecutive years but has been forced to withdraw on six occasions. — AFP

## Dustin dazzles at the Masters

**Augusta (Georgia, USA), Nov. 16:** Nothing ever comes easily for Dustin Johnson in the majors, except for slipping into that Masters green jacket.

Johnson overcame a jittery start that conjured memories of past majors he failed to finish off. He turned that into a command performance, making sure this one-of-a-kind Masters with no fans also had no drama.

Not even close. Johnson tapped in for par on the 18th for a 4-under 68 to finish at 20-under 268, breaking by two shots the record set by Tiger Woods in 1997 and matched by Jordan Spieth in 2015.

His five-shot victory was the largest at the Masters since Woods won by 12 in his record-breaking win in 1997. All that was missing were the roars for any of his pivotal putts early and his birdie putts on the back nine that put it away.

The Masters, postponed from April because of the Covid-19 pandemic, was

forced to do without patrons for the first time. Johnson still received a warm reception coming up the 18th from club members and their wives, his partner, Paulina Gretzky, and a few champions.

Two-time champion Bubba Watson was there to congratulate him.

"I always dreamed of having one of those," Johnson said as he went to sign his card. "Now I got one."

Johnson's four-shot lead was reduced to one after five holes, and then he quickly restored control. Cameron Smith and Sungjae Im each shot 69 and were the only ones who really had a chance.

Smith got quite the consolation. He became the first player in Masters history to post all four rounds in the 60s, and all it got him was a silver medal.

Johnson became the 12th Masters champion to never trail after any round, and his closing 68 broke another record held by Woods. — AP

## PUCOVSKI UNLIKELY FOR OZ TEST TEAM

**Sydney, Nov. 16:** Australia great Adam Gilchrist believes that promising batsman Will Pucovski is set to miss out on making the side for the opening Test against India despite "strong reason" for his inclusion as the selectors seem reluctant to drop under-pressure Joe Burns. Gilchrist said Australia are likely to keep faith in the tried and tested combination of Burns and David Warner at the top of the order, despite Pucovski's rising credentials through consecutive double-centuries in the Sheffield Shield. — PTI

## CANCELLATION / PARTIAL CANCELLATION /SHORT TERMINATION/ SHORT ORIGATION /DIVERSION OF TRAINS

It is notified for the information of all concerned that Railways have decided to Cancel/Partially Cancel/Short Terminate/Short Originate/Divert following Passengers Special Trains/Festival Special Trains/Parcel Express Trains in view of the Kisan Agitation in Punjab:-

CANCELLATION OF MAIL / EXPRESS TRAINS	
Train No. & Name	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
02425/02426 New Delhi-Jammu Tawi-New Delhi Rajdhani Special	17 & 18.11.2020
02053/02054 Haridwar-Amritsar Jn.-Haridwar Express	18.11.2020
22439/22440 New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Vande Bharat	18 & 19.11.2020
02462 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Express	17 & 18.11.2020
02461 New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express	18 & 19.11.2020
02011/02012 New Delhi-Kalka-New Delhi Shatabdi Express	17 & 18.11.2020
02029/02030 Amritsar Jn.-New Delhi-Amritsar Jn. Swarna Shatabdi Express	17 & 18.11.2020
05211 Darbhanga Jn.-Amritsar Jn. Express	17 & 18.11.2020
05212 Amritsar Jn.-Darbhanga Jn. Express	19 & 20.11.2020

CANCELLATION OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS	
Train No. & Name	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
02422 Jammu Tawi-Ajmer Express	17 & 18.11.2020
02421 Ajmer-Jammu Tawi Express	18 & 19.11.2020
02231 Lucknow - Chandigarh Express	17 & 18.11.2020
02232 Chandigarh-Lucknow Express	18 & 19.11.2020
04888 Barmer - Rishikesh Express	upto 20.11.2020
04887 Rishikesh - Barmer Express	upto 21.11.2020
04519 Delhi Jn.-Bhathinda Express	upto 20.11.2020
04520 Bhathinda-Delhi Jn. Express	upto 20.11.2020
04401 New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express	upto 19.11.2020
04402 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - New Delhi Express	upto 20.11.2020
02471/02472 Shri Ganganagar - Delhi Jn. - Shri Ganganagar Express	upto 20.11.2020
09611 Ajmer - Amritsar Jn. Express	19.11.2020
09614 Amritsar Jn. - Ajmer Express	20.11.2020
09613 Ajmer - Amritsar Jn. Express	18.11.2020
09612 Amritsar Jn. - Ajmer Express	17 & 19.11.2020
02919 Dr. Ambedkar Nagar - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express	18.11.2020
02920 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - Dr. Ambedkar Nagar Express	20.11.2020
09805 Kota - Udhampur Express	18.11.2020
09806 Udhampur - Kota Express	19.11.2020
04624 Amritsar Jn. - Saharsa Jn. Express	18.11.2020
04623 Saharsa Jn. - Amritsar Jn. Express	19.11.2020
03255 Patliputra - Chandigarh Express	18.11.2020
03256 Chandigarh - Patliputra Express	19.11.2020
02331 Howrah Jn. - Jammu Tawi Express	17.11.2020
02332 Jammu Tawi - Howrah Jn. Express	19.11.2020
01449 Jabalpur - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express	17.11.2020
01450 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - Jabalpur Express	18.11.2020

PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF SPECIAL TRAINS			
Train No. & Name	Short Terminate at/ Short originate from	Partially Cancelled between Stations	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
02903 Golden Temple Mail	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	16 & 17.11.2020
02904 Golden Temple Mail	from Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	17 & 18.11.2020
02925 Bandra Terminus-Amritsar Special Express	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	16 & 17.11.2020
02926 Amritsar-Bandra Terminus Special Exp.	from Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	18 & 19.11.2020
02715 Sachkhand Express	at New Delhi	New Delhi-Amritsar	16 & 17.11.2020
02716 Sachkhand Express	from New Delhi	Amritsar-New Delhi	18 & 19.11.2020
03307 Dhanbad-Firozpur Exp.	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Firozpur	16 & 17.11.2020
03308 Firozpur-Dhanbad Exp.	from Ambala Cantt.	Firozpur-Ambala Cantt.	18 & 19.11.2020
04649/73 Jaynagar-Amritsar Saryu Yamuna Exp.	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	16 & 17.11.2020
04650/74 Amritsar-Jaynagar Saryu Yamuna Exp.	from Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	18 & 19.11.2020
02057 New Delhi - Una Himachal Janshatabdi	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt. - Una Himachal	17 & 18.11.2020
02058 Una Himachal - New Delhi Janshatabdi	from Ambala Cantt.	Una Himachal - Ambala Cantt.	18 & 19.11.2020
02237 Varanasi-Jammu Tawi Festival Special	at Saharanpur	Saharanpur-Jammu Tawi	17 & 18.11.2020
02238 Jammu Tawi-Varanasi Festival Special	from Saharanpur	Jammu Tawi-Saharanpur	18 & 19.11.2020
04654 Amritsar Jn.-New Jalpaiguri Suf Clone Spl.	from Saharanpur	Amritsar Jn.-Saharanpur	18.11.2020
02407 New Jalpaiguri - Amritsar Jn. Superfast	at Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar Jn.-Ambala Cantt.	18.11.2020
02357 Kolkata-Amritsar Jn. Special	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt. - Amritsar Jn.	17.11.2020
02358 Amritsar Jn.-Kolkata Special	from Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt. - Amritsar Jn.	19.11.2020
05933 Dibrugarh-Amritsar Jn. Special	at Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar Jn.-Ambala Cantt. -	17.11.2020
04651 Jaynagar-Amritsar Jn. Express Clone Special	at Delhi Jn.	Delhi Jn. - Amritsar Jn.	17.11.2020
04652 Amritsar Jn.-Jaynagar Express Clone Special	from Delhi Jn.	Amritsar Jn.-Delhi Jn.	18.11.2020
04131 Prayagraj Jn.-Udhampur Superfast Special	at Saharanpur	Saharanpur-Udhampur	17.11.2020
04132 Udhampur - Prayagraj Jn. Superfast Spl.	from Saharanpur	Udhampur-Saharanpur	18.11.2020
02355 Patna Jn.-Jammu Tawi Festival Special	at Saharanpur	Saharanpur-Jammu Tawi	17.11.2020
02356 Jammu Tawi-Patna Jn. Festival Special	from Saharanpur	Jammu Tawi-Saharanpur	18.11.2020
08237 Korbha-Amritsar Jn. Express Festival Special	at Meerut City	Meerut City-Amritsar Jn.	17 & 18.11.2020
08238 Amritsar Jn.-Korbha Express Festival Special	from Meerut City	Amritsar Jn.-Meerut City	19.11.2020
09717 Jaipur-Daulatpur Chouk Express	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt. - Daulatpur Chouk	17.11.2020
09718 Daulatpur Chouk-Jaipur Express	from Ambala Cantt.	Daulatpur Chouk-Ambala Cantt.	18.11.2020
08215 Durg-Jammu Tawi Festival Special	at New Delhi	New Delhi-Jammu Tawi	18.11.2020

PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF PARCEL SPECIAL TRAINS			
Train No. & Name	Short Terminate at/ Short originate from	Partially Cancelled between Stations	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
00901 Bandra(T)-Jammu Tawi	At Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Jammu Tawi	17.11.2020
00902 Jammu Tawi-Bandra(T)	From Ambala Cantt.	Jammu Tawi-Ambala Cantt.	19.11.2020

DIVERSION OF SPECIAL TRAINS		
Train No. & Name	Diverted Via	Date (from the Originating Station)
05909 Dibrugarh-Lalgarh Spl.	Rohtak-Bhiwani-Hisar-Hanumangarh	15 & 16.11.2020
05910 Lalgarh-Dibrugarh Spl.	Hanumangarh-Hisar-Bhiwani-Rohtak	17 & 18.11.2020

Note : For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in)

Security Helpline No. 182 Integrated Helpline No. 139



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