

IN BRIEF

2 dead in road crash in Greater Kailash

New Delhi: Two people, including an auto-rickshaw driver, were killed and one person got injured when a speeding car hit the three-wheeler in Greater Kailash, police said on Monday. The accident took place on Sunday on the BRT Road near the Chirag Delhi flyover, they said. Police reached the spot and found two vehicles — an SUV and an auto-rickshaw — in damaged condition, additional DCP (South) Parvinder Singh said. Three occupants of the auto-rickshaw were immediately shifted to a hospital. Vinod Kumar, the driver of the auto-rickshaw, a resident of Jasola, was declared brought dead at the AIIMS Trauma Centre, the officer said. Pankaj Kumar (35), a resident of Panchsheel Enclave, was also admitted to AIIMS Trauma Centre. Arun Sahu (45), also from Panchsheel Enclave, was taken to Pushpawati Singhania Research Institute at Sheikh Sarai, Phase-2, Singh said. Pankaj died during treatment on Monday, a senior police officer said. A case was registered at the GK-1 Police Station. Surender Sahlot (51), the accused driver of the offending vehicle and a resident of Fatehpur Beri, was apprehended, police said.

Case against 52-yr-old for duping investors

New Delhi: A 52-year-old man, who is a director of a realty company, was arrested for allegedly duping people after alluring them to invest in a proposed residential township project in Greater Noida, police said on Monday. Brij Bhushan Gupta, a resident of Sector-Chi-IV in Greater Noida, was arrested from Panchkula in Haryana, they said. Rajesh Gupta along with 22 others lodged a complaint saying that they were allured into investing in a proposed residential township project, Ryne, by M/s Primrose Infratech Pvt Ltd in Greater Noida's Chi-V sector, a senior police officer said. In July 2012, without requisite approvals, booking of flats started in an associate company, M/s Realcraft Buildtech Pvt Ltd, the officer said. The victims were promised that they would be given possession of developed flats, having world-class amenities, within 36 months, police said, adding that the complainants were told that requisite approvals for the project had been taken from government agencies concerned. — PTI

Tejashwi celebrates b'day ahead of results

Patna: RJD leader and chief ministerial candidate for the grand alliance in Bihar, Tejashwi Yadav on Monday celebrated his 31st birthday with simplicity and also urged party workers to avoid visiting his house to greet him. However, in few places in Patna hoardings and posters were erected to wish him on his birthday and projected him as the future chief minister of Bihar. His birthday falls a day ahead of the counting of Bihar assembly election results. With most of the exit polls predicting a landslide victory for the grand alliance, Tejashwi Yadav wanted to send out a message of restraint and simplicity by celebrating a quiet birthday. The grand alliance is projected to get more than 122 seats in the 243-member Bihar assembly in the exit polls. "It's the personal decision of Tejashwi Yadav to celebrate his birthday with simplicity. So the party humbly requests you (party workers) to avoid visiting his house to personally greet him. Be vigilant and remain in your areas for the counting on November 10", a message released by the RJD on the social media said.

20-yr-old student from Russia killed

Hyderabad: A 20-year-old MBBS woman student, pursuing her studies in Russia, died on Monday after the car driven by her male friend, allegedly in an inebriated state, crashed into a tree here, police said. The incident occurred at Gachibowli area in the afternoon, they said. The woman, into her third year MBBS in Russia, was shifted to a nearby hospital, but died without responding to treatment, they said. Her mother filed a police complaint, seeking action against the man, following which a case under relevant sections of the IPC and MV Act was registered, police added. — PTI

■ Aishwarya was found hanging at her house on November 2
LSR suicide case: Students, women's groups stage stir

New Delhi, Nov. 9: Students and women groups staged protests in Delhi on Monday, demanding justice for a student of the Lady Shri Ram (LSR) College for Women, who allegedly committed suicide last week over concerns of pursuing education in view of the poor financial conditions of her family.

Aishwarya, an IAS aspirant, was found hanging at her Shadnagar house in Telangana's Ranga Reddy district on November 2. In a suicide note purportedly written by her, the 19-year-old woman said she did not want to burden her parents with her educational expenses, police said.

While members of the Congress-affiliated National Students' Union of India (NSUI) protested outside the residence of Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', the Left-affiliated All India Students' Association (AISA)



Delhi Police officials detain National Students Union of India activists protesting outside the residence of Union education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank in New Delhi on Monday.

staged an agitation outside the Delhi University's Arts Faculty. According to the police, seven NSUI members were detained for a few hours and a case was registered against them under the Disaster Management Act. "Scholarships are to reward a student's academic achievement and educational prowess. Be it

while starting your career or studying in high school to grow new abilities, receiving a scholarship is a prominent achievement. The Indian education system begets issues in it. One of the major issues is the increase in the cost of college, school and university fees," NSUI national secretary Lokesh Chugh said. "The student from

Telangana committed suicide after being denied scholarship for over a year by the government. She had written to the administration about the problems she was facing but unfortunately, received no response from the authorities. This is just a recent example of how imperative scholarships are for students. When the government delays the provision of funds to students, it puts them and their families under immense pressure," he added.

LSR principal Suman Sharma, however, denied that the student had reached out to the college authorities.

"We have a counsellor at the college to help students if they are facing any challenges emotionally or mentally. However, nobody knew about her state of mind. It is unfortunate, we wish she had reached out either to her teachers or the counsellor or anybody in the college," she said. — PTI



A man rides a motorcyle amid low visibility due to smog in New Delhi Monday. — PTI

Delhi's air quality index 'severe' for 5th day in row

New Delhi, Nov. 9: The blanket of smog over Delhi thickened on Monday, reducing visibility in parts of the city to just 400 metres as the air quality remained "severe" for the fifth consecutive day. Government agencies and experts said calm wind was exacerbating the effect of stubble burning and a "quick recovery" is not possible unless the number of farm fires reduces drastically.

V K Soni, the head of the India Meteorological Department's environment research centre, said a major improvement in Delhi-NCR's air quality

was "highly unlikely" in the coming days. "The air quality is likely to be recorded in the upper end of the 'very poor' category on Diwali if we discount firecrackers emissions. If people burst crackers, pollution levels can increase to 'severe plus' category (meaning emergency level)," he said.

The National Green Tribunal on Monday imposed a total ban on sale or use of all kinds of firecrackers in the National Capital Region (NCR) from November 9 midnight to November 30 midnight, saying,

"Celebration by crackers is for happiness and not to celebrate deaths and diseases."

The city's air quality index (AQI) stood at 477, the highest since November 3 last year when it was 494, according to Central Pollution Control Board data. Its 24-hour average AQI was 416 on Sunday, 427 on Saturday, 406 on Friday and 450 on Thursday.

The neighbouring cities of Faridabad (456), Ghaziabad (482), Noida (477), Greater Noida (478), and Gurgaon (482) also recorded "severe" air quality. — PTI

BJP sees no threat to Shivraj govt

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY
BHOPAL, NOV. 9

Hours before the announcement of results for the crucial by-elections to 28 assembly constituencies in Madhya Pradesh, ruling BJP on Monday exuded confidence that there would be no threat to Shivraj government whatever may be the outcome of the polls.

The Opposition Congress which has claimed that the poll results would spring a surprise facilitating the party to return to power in the



Shivraj Singh Chouhan

state has however kept its card close to its chest over its future course of action.

State minister Aurobind Bhadouria told reporters that Shivraj government has already managed majority and there would be no threat to its stability

Delhi and Kerala highest contributors to Covid cases

India sees 45,903 new cases, 490 deaths in 24 hours

AGE CORRESPONDENTS
NEW DELHI/GUWAHATI/RAIPUR/THIRUVANATHAPURAM/BHUBANESHWAR/BENGALURU, NOV. 9

As India prepares to face a harsh winter, Delhi and Kerala are bracing to deal with a harsher Covid season as fresh cases in these two continue to rise alarmingly. West Bengal and Haryana too have started reporting higher cases even as Maharashtra and Telangana have some relief with lowering of new detections. India on Monday had 85.54 lakh total cases out of which 45,903 were detected in the last 24 hours. The total number of deaths is 1,26,611 with 490 new fatalities in the last 24 hours.

Delhi recorded over 70 fatalities due to Covid for the third consecutive day on Monday, taking the death toll to 7,060, while 5,023 fresh cases pushed the infection tally to over 4.4 lakh, a health department bulletin said.

With over 7,000 fresh cases now, Delhi is the new Covid epicentre of the country and Kerala, with close to 6,000 new daily cases, not far behind. Delhi chief minister said the national capital is going through the 'third wave' and it is estimated that the city may have about 10,000-15,000 cases daily by December end and early January. In Delhi, the number of patients under home isolation has seen a 50 per cent increase in the last two weeks,



A health worker collects swab samples for the Covid test in New Delhi on Monday. — PTI

while the containment zones have increased by over 32 per cent.

Meanwhile, Kerala recorded 3,593 new Covid cases on Monday, pushing the caseload to 4,89,702, while the toll climbed to 1,714 with new 22 fatalities, Health minister K.K. Shailaja said.

With close to 6,000 new cases, Kerala has been witnessing a big wave again with the arrival of non-resident Keralites from abroad. With contact cases increasing alarmingly, the test positivity rate in Kerala touched an all-time high of 17.32 per cent in October which was the highest in the country when the national rate was 5.93 per cent. Similarly, the growth of Covid positive cases in Kerala was 2.8 per cent compared to the national average of 0.9 per cent, taking the state beyond Maharashtra. At present, over 3.16 lakh people are under observation including 2.96 lakh under home/institutional quar-

antine. The state recorded the highest single-day spike so far on October 10 with 11,755 cases.

Madhya Pradesh, after witnessing a steady decline in cases for the past 38 days, has once again started recording a rise in fresh cases since November 2. The state had recorded the biggest one-day fresh cases of Covid-19 (2202) in the 3rd week of September and the lowest one-day new cases (632) in the last week of October. On November 8, 891 fresh cases were reported taking the tally of Covid-19 cases in the state. The active cases which witnessed a steady decline for the last 38 days till November 6 (7766) have also begun increasing since November 8 (7928). Similarly, the positivity rate which had peaked to 10.25 per cent in April-May, had declined to 2.1 per cent in the last week of October, has again increased to 3.1 per cent on November 8.

3 jawans hurt as mosquito repellent coil causes fire

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO
BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 9

Three jawans of the Odisha Special Armed Police (OSAP) on Sunday night suffered critical burns due to an accidental fire caused by mosquito repellent coils in Odisha's Bhadrak town.

According to reports, the armed police personnel were sleeping post their duty at the Puruna Bazar Police Station in Bhadrak town when the repellent coils they used to keep the mosquito away came in contact with some inflammable materials stored nearby.

The trio sustained severe burns and were rushed to the Bhadrak hospital. They are stated to be serious. Sources said the injured jawans Manoranjan Ghadei, Sangaram Tudu and Ganesh Nayak belong to the 5th Baripada Battalion of the Odisha Special Armed Police.

According to Puruna Bazar police, the mosquito nets used by the jawans were gutted in the fire.

Senior police officials visited the injured jawans in the hospital in the morning.

The jawans were shifted to Cuttack SCB Medical College and Hospital as their health condition deteriorated, said a senior police official.

Additional superintendent of Police (SP) Bikas Das informed, "We have registered a case under Indian Penal Code (IPC) 435, 336 to investigate this mishap."

PM, Chinese Prez to meet during virtual SCO summit

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will represent India at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of State meeting in Virtual format on Tuesday and is expected to deliver a 10 minute-long address, sources said.

The meeting will be chaired by Russian President Vladimir Putin during which PM Modi is expected to share screen space with Chinese President Xi Jinping, the first time it will be so since Sino-Indian military tensions began in the Ladakh sector. However, bilateral disputes between two member-nations cannot be discussed at the summit. The virtual summit on Tuesday will end with the adoption of the Moscow Declaration under the chairmanship of Russia.

The SCO is an eight-member predominantly Central Asian Grouping that comprises China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan,

Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan. Both India and Pakistan became SCO members in 2017. Sources said that apart from the eight Member States, the Heads of State of four Observer States of SCO — Iran, Afghanistan, Belarus and Mongolia will also participate. Sources said that the secretary-general of SCO and the Executive Director of the SCO Regional Anti-terrorism Structure (SCO RATS) will also make their interventions.

Sources said the SCO Summit of Heads of State is the main body of the organisation that sets forth the agenda and the main directions for the organisation for the next year. It deals with all the main areas of the activity of the organization including political, security, trade, economic and cultural. Every annual meeting of SCO Heads of State ends with a Summit Declaration which contains the joint position of Member States on issues of global and regional significance.

whatever may be the outcome of the by-elections.

"BJP has a strength of 107. Seven non-BJP members have already extended support to the Shivraj government. Another non-BJP MLA is going to support us. A Congress MLA has resigned taking the effective strength of 230-member MP assembly to 229.

Hence, we do not see any threat to the stability of the Shivraj government. On the other hand, Congress which has 87 MLAs needed to win all the 28 seats to fancy a chance of returning to

power", he added. He, however, said BJP was confident of winning a majority of the 28 seats that have gone to by-elections on November 3.

Congress veteran and former chief minister Kamal Nath returned here from Delhi on Monday after holding discussions with the AICC general secretary in-charge of MP Mukul Wasnik in the national capital on the future course of action by the party.

Mr Nath has however kept his cards close to his chest on his future strategy.

Tahsildar forces villagers to do sit ups for not wearing mask

AGE CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 9

A tahsildar in Odisha's Angul district has landed in soup allegedly for asking two farmers to do sit-ups for not wearing face masks properly. One of the farmers, on Monday, filed a complaint with the local Kishorenagar police station alleging deliberate physical torture and mental harassment by the bureaucrat. "Although we were

wearing face masks while returning home from our farmlands, the tahsildar asked us to stop and made us do sit-ups. We were shocked at his order and felt humiliated," Maguni Sahoo, the complainant farmer, said in the FIR.

The tahsildar, Dr Laxmi Prasad Sahoo, however, denied the charge. He said the two farmers were heavily drunk and they did the sit-ups voluntarily. "I never deal with farm-



A CCTV grab showing the farmers doing the sit ups. ers or common people this way. The two were

heavily drunk. One of them was not wearing mask while the other one was not putting it on properly.

"As soon as our Covid-19 checking team confronted them, they immediately held their ears voluntarily admitting their fault and did the sit-ups, most probably out of fear and to escape the fine prescribed under the state government's Covid-19 regulations," said the tahsildar.

Protesting the alleged harassment of the farmers, business establishments in Kishorenagar and Bamur towns in Angul district remained closed on Monday.

The businessmen demanded strong actions against the tahsildar.

As the matter snowballed into a major controversy, district collector Sidharth Shankar Swain ordered an administrative probe into it by sub-collector Lalit Behera.

SHORT TAKES

3 ex-PDP leaders join Cong in J&K

Jammu: Three senior PDP leaders, who recently resigned from the party over remarks of its president Mehbooba Mufti on the tri-colour, joined the Congress on Monday, ahead of the District Development Council (DDC) polls in Jammu and Kashmir. Former MP Tarlok Singh Bajwa, ex-MLC Ved Mahajan and former PDP state secretary Hussain Ali Waffa resigned from the party last month. They joined the Congress in the presence of the party's in-charge for Jammu and Kashmir affairs Rajni Patil, All India Congress Committee secretary Sudhir Sharma and Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief G A Mir, Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma said. Elections to DDCs will be held in eight phases from December 1 to December 24, according to a notification issued by the State Election Commission. — PTI

DMK chief Stalin writes to Kamala

Chennai: DMK president M.K. Stalin on Monday wrote to US vice-president elect Kamala Harris in Tamil recalling her links to Tamil Nadu and expressed confidence that she would bring more laurels to America during her tenure. Wishing and greeting her with 'Vanakkam,' Stalin said it was a matter of pride for the state's people that America's first woman vice-president has a link to Tamil Nadu as her mother hailed from the state. He said he chose to write in Tamil since it would bring more happiness to her, the mother tongue of her mother Shymala Gopalan Harris. Her victory has given the Dravidian movement a sense of confidence, which believed in an egalitarian society and gender equality, he said in the letter, a copy of which was also posted on his Facebook page. The DMK chief said Harris's victory and her outlook has proved that a woman with Tamil roots is qualified to govern even the USA. — PTI

7 killed, 5 hurt in MP road accident

Satna: Seven members of a family, including a child, were killed and five others injured when their jeep collided with a dumper-truck in Madhya Pradesh's Satna district on Monday morning, police said. The victims were returning to Rewa after taking part in a family programme in Panna, Additional Superintendent of Police Shailendra Kumar Jain said. The accident took place at around 8 am on Satna-Nagod road, about 20 km away from the district headquarters. Six people died on the spot while one person succumbed in hospital, the official said, adding that the deceased included a child and three women. The injured persons were admitted in a government hospital in Rewa, he said. The truck driver fled from the spot after the accident, he said. — PTI

NGT orders ban on crackers in NCR till Nov. 30

Continued from Page 1 pollution) under the orders of the authorities, the same will prevail". Even before Monday's order, many states, including Sikkim, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Delhi, had banned the sale and use of all kinds of firecrackers. If anyone in Delhi is caught bursting firecrackers in this period, they can be sentenced to a jail term of 18 months to six years, Delhi's environment minister Gopal Rai said. The NGT order also directs Central and state pollution control boards to regularly monitor compliance and compile air pollution data from November 9 to November 30, put it on their websites and "file a consolidated report". The NGT's order came on a petition seeking action against firecracker-caused air pollution, including green crackers, in the NCR at the time when the air quality is unsatisfactory -- the winter months starting with stubble burning in October -- with the potential effect of a severe impact on the coronavirus pandemic. The tribunal directed the chief secretaries and DGPs of all states and UTs to issue and circulate orders with appropriate enforcement guidelines to all district magistrates, police chiefs and state pollution control boards.

Assam: CID busts scam in scholarship for minorities

MANOJ ANAND
GUWAHATI, NOV. 9

The Crime Investigation Department (CID) of Assam police here on Monday busted a major racket of illegal siphoning of the Centrally funded pre-Matric scholarship meant for poor minority students by a nexus of school teachers, school staffs, middlemen, bank correspondents, and officials and arrested at least 21 accused including six school teachers in Assam.

Informing that Director Assam Minority Development Board Mahmood Hassan had lodged an FIR about the misappropriation of pre-Matric scholarship for the years 2018-19 and 2019-20, the Inspector General of Police (CID) Mr Surendra Kumar said that on the basis of evidence collected during investigation so far, 21 (twenty one) persons have been apprehended by CID with the support of local police of Goalpara, Darrang, Kamrup and Dhubri districts.

Pointing out that investigation has revealed that the nexus stole IDs and passwords to access the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) to dupe students, set up fake beneficiaries without the knowledge of the schools in Dhubri, Mr Kumar said that in Goalpara they found that scholarship was siphoned off with involvement of headmaster of at least three schools.

Informing that Customer Service Points of banks are also suspected to have been involved in generating the fake IDs, Mr Kumar said that they are looking into all other aspects of scam. He indicated that some more people would be arrested.

CBI may question former SP and SDM of Hathras in connection with the case Hathras gangrape: CBI to grill probing cops

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

The CBI, investigating the alleged gangrape and murder of a 19-year-old dalit woman in Hathras district in Uttar Pradesh, is all set to question at least 11 police officials of Boolgarhi village, who had initially investigated the case.

Sources in the agency

said, "The agency will soon issue summons to the state police officials, who had initially investigated the case, for questioning. At least 10 police officials will be questioned by the officials of the country's premier investigative agency". Besides, It is believed that the CBI may question former SP and SDM of Hathras in connection with the case. While Vikrant Vir

▶ **THE CBI RECENTLY** took over the investigation into the alleged gang rape and murder of 19-year-old dalit woman after registering a case. The case was registered by the CBI on the request of UP government

was the SP of Hathras, PP Meena was the Sub-divisional magistrate (SDM)

when the incident had taken place.

"It is suspected that state police officials failed to gather some crucial scientific evidences during the course of initial investigation into the matter", sources said adding this is the reason CBI wants to question them.

The CBI recently took over the investigation into the alleged gang rape and

murder of 19-year-old dalit woman after registering a case. The case was registered by the CBI on the request of UP government and further notification from Government of India. Earlier on September 14, an FIR was lodged on the complaint of the victim's brother with the local police station. The complainant had mentioned in the FIR that the accused tried to stran-

gle his sister in a millet field. Later the charges of murder and gang rape by four upper caste men were added in the FIR after the woman had later succumbed to her injuries during treatment at a Delhi hospital on September 29. The incident had led to massive protests by various political parties and organisations in Hathras and other parts of the country

MORE FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2020

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

04438/04437 Anand Vihar T.-Jaynagar- Anand Vihar T. Express Special					04 Trips
TRAIN NO. 04438		STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 04437	
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.
—	23:55	Anand Vihar T.		23:00	—
22:45	—	Jaynagar		—	01:35

Days of Run : 04438 from Anand Vihar T. on Sunday (15.11.2020) & Monday (16.11.2020) and 04437 from Jaynagar on Tuesday (17.11.2020) & Wednesday (18.11.2020)

Accommodation : Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

Stoppages: Kanpur Central, Allahabad Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara Jn., Patliputra Jn., Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Darbhanga Jn. & Madhubani stations.

04440/04439 Anand Vihar T.-Katihar- Anand Vihar T. Express Special					02 Trips
TRAIN NO. 04440		STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 04439	
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.
—	13:45	Anand Vihar T.		13:15	—
19:20	—	Katihar		—	06:00

Days of Run: 04440 from Anand Vihar T. on Friday (13.11.2020) and 04439 from Katihar on Sunday (15.11.2020)

Accommodation : Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

Stoppages: Aligarh Jn., Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Gonda Jn., Balrampur, Naugarh, Gorakhpur Jn., Siswa Bazar, Narkatiaganj Jn., Bettiah, Bapudham Motihari, Muzaffarpur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Khagaria Jn., Saharsa Jn., Dauram Madhpura, Banmankhi Jn. & Purnia Jn. stations.

04442/04441 Anand Vihar T.-Raxaul-Anand Vihar T. Express Special					02
					Trips
TRAIN NO. 04442		STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 04441	
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.
—	16:25	Anand Vihar T.		—	04:50
22:10	—	Raxaul		—	23:40

Days of Run : 04442 from Anand Vihar T. on Monday (16.11.2020) and 04441 from Raxaul on Tuesday (17.11.2020)

Accommodation : Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

Stoppages: Ghaziabad Jn., Pilkhuwa, Hapur Jn., Amroha, Moradabad Jn., Raja Ka Sahaspur Jn., Chandausi Jn., Aonla, Shahjehanpur, Hardoi, Alamnagar, Lucknow, Nihalgarh, Musafirkhana, Sultanpur Jn., Lambhua, Srikrishna Nagar, Jaunpur City, Varanasi Jn., Varanasi City, Aunrihar Jn., Nandganj, Ghazipur City, Yusufpur, Ballia, Suraimanpur, Chhapra, Dighwara, Pamanandpur, Sonpur, Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Runni Saidpur, Sitamarhi, Bairagnia & Ghorasahan stations.

04444/04443 Anand Vihar T.-Raxaul- Anand Vihar T. Express Special					02 Trips
TRAIN NO. 04444		STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 04443	
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.
—	20:45	Anand Vihar T.		13:45	—
15:30	—	Raxaul		—	18:00

Days of Run : 04444 from Anand Vihar T. on Sunday (15.11.2020) and 04443 from Raxaul on Monday (16.11.2020)

Accommodation : Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

Stoppages: Moradabad Jn., Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Lucknow, Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur Jn. & Narkatiaganj stations.

04446/04445 Anand Vihar T.-Saharsa- Anand Vihar T. Express Special				04 Trips	
TRAIN NO. 04446		STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 04445	
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.
—	18:05	Anand Vihar T.		—	23:50
20:15	—	Saharsa		—	23:15

Days of Run : 04446 from Anand Vihar T. on Sunday (15.11.2020) & Monday (16.11.2020) and 04445 from Saharsa on Monday (16.11.2020) & Tuesday (17.11.2020)

Accommodation : Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

Stoppages: Moradabad Jn., Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Sitapur Jn., Burhwal, Gonda Jn., Mankapur Jn., Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur Jn., Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Sonpur, Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Hasanpur Road, Khagaria Jn., Mansi Jn. & Simri Bakhtiyarpur stations.

04113/04114 Prayagraj-Dehradun-Prayagraj Express Special (Tri-Weekly)					26
TRAIN NO. 04113		STATIONS			TRAIN NO. 04114
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.
—	21:00	↓	Prayagraj	↑	07:40
13:10	—		Dehradun		14:30

Days of Run : 04113 from Prayagraj from 11.11.2020 to 09.12.2020 on every Monday, Wednesday & Friday and 04114 from Dehradun from 12.11.2020 to 10.12.2020 on every Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday.

Accommodation : First AC, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

Stoppages: Fatehpur, Kanpur Central, Etawah Jn., Tundla Jn., Aligarh Jn., Chandausi Jn., Moradabad Jn., Laksar Jn. & Haridwar stations.

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.

For any kind of information, passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

Beware of Touts Always buy your tickets from Railway Counters or authorised rail travel agents only.

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

04452/04451 New Delhi-Islampur-New Delhi Express Special					06 Trips
TRAIN NO. 04452		STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 04451	
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.
—	20:00	New Delhi		11:50	—
14:45	—	Islampur		—	15:30

Days of Run : 04452 from New Delhi on 13.11.2020, 15.11.2020 & 16.11.2020 (Friday, Sunday & Monday) and 04451 from Islampur on 14.11.2020, 16.11.2020 & 17.11.2020 (Saturday, Monday & Tuesday)

Accommodation : AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

Stoppages: Aligarh Jn., Tundla Jn., Firozabad, Shikohabad Jn., Etawah, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Vindhyachal, Mirzapur, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Zamania, Dildamagar Jn., Gahmar, Buxar, Dumraon, Bihiya, Ara Jn., Bihta, Danapur, Phulwarisari, Patna Jn., Rajendra Nagar, Patna Saheb, Fatuha Jn., Daniawan Bazar, Hilsa, & Ekangarsarai stations.

04454/04453 Anand Vihar T.- Sitamarhi- Anand Vihar T. Express Special					02 Trips
TRAIN NO. 04454		STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 04453	
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.
—	23:45	Anand Vihar T.		20:15	—
21:15	—	Sitamarhi		—	23:35

Days of Run : 04454 from Anand Vihar T. on 15.11.2020 (Sunday) and 04453 from Sitamarhi on 16.11.2020 (Monday)

Accommodation : AC 3 Tier & Sleeper.

Stoppages: Moradabad Jn., Bareilly, Lucknow, Gorakhpur Jn., Chhapra, Hajipur Jn. & Muzaffarpur Jn. stations.

04456/04455 Anand Vihar T.- Bhagalpur- Anand Vihar T. Express Special					04 Trips
TRAIN NO. 04456		STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 04455	
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.
—	23:55	Anand Vihar T.		22:30	—
21:40	—	Bhagalpur		—	00:20

Days of Run : 04456 from Anand Vihar T. on 13.11.2020 & 17.11.2020 (Friday & Tuesday) and 04455 from Bhagalpur on 15.11.2020 & 19.11.2020 (Sunday & Thursday)

Accommodation : Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

Stoppages: Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Patna Jn., Mokameh Jn., Kiul Jn. & Jamalpur Jn. stations.

04458/04457 New Delhi- Patna-New Delhi Express Special					02 Trips
TRAIN NO. 04458		STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 04457	
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.
—	21:00	New Delhi		18:15	—
15:30	—	Patna		—	23:00

Days of Run : 04458 from New Delhi on 13.11.2020 (Friday) and 04457 from Patna on 14.11.2020 (Saturday)

Accommodation : AC 2 Tier & AC 3 Tier.

Stoppages: Moradabad Jn., Bareilly, Lucknow, Varanasi Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn. stations.

04460/04459 New Delhi- Patna-New Delhi Express Special					02 Trips	
TRAIN NO. 04460		STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 04459		
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.	
—	20:55	New Delhi		—	06:30	
11:30	—	Patna		—	14:30	

Days of Run : 04460 from New Delhi on 12.11.2020 (Thursday) and 04459 from Patna on 13.11.2020 (Friday)

Accommodation : AC 2 Tier & AC 3 Tier.

Stoppages: Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn. & Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn. stations.

04462/04461 Anand Vihar T.- Darbhanga- Anand Vihar T. Express Special				02 Trips	
TRAIN NO. 04462		STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 04461	
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.
—	20:20	Anand Vihar T.		19:30	—
18:00	—	Darbhanga		—	21:00

Days of Run : 04462 from Anand Vihar T. on 12.11.2020 (Thursday) and 04461 from Darbhanga on 13.11.2020 (Friday)

Accommodation : Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

Stoppages: Moradabad Jn., Bareilly, Lucknow, Gorakhpur Jn., Chhapra, Muzaffarpur Jn. & Samastipur Jn. stations.

04464/04463 Anand Vihar T. Saharsa - Anand Vihar T. Express Special					02 Trips
TRAIN NO. 04464		STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 04463	
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.
—	17:10	Anand Vihar T.		22:30	—
18:15	—	Saharsa		—	21:15

Days of Run : 04464 from Anand Vihar T. on 12.11.2020 (Thursday) and 04463 from Saharsa on 13.11.2020 (Friday)

Accommodation : Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

Stoppages: Moradabad Jn., Bareilly, Sitapur Jn., Gorakhpur Jn., Chhapra, Muzaffarpur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Barauni Jn., Khagaria Jn. & Simri Bakhtiyarpur stations.

04466/04465 Delhi Jn.- Varanasi-Delhi Jn.				02	
Express Special				Trips	
TRAIN NO. 04466		STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 04465	
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.
—	22:50	↓	Delhi Jn.	↑	06:15
12:50	—	↓	Varanasi	↑	15:35

Days of Run : 04466 from Delhi Jn. on 12.11.2020 (Thursday) and 04465 from Varanasi on 13.11.2020 (Friday)

Accommodation : First AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

Stoppages: Ghaziabad Jn., Moradabad Jn., Bareilly, Lucknow, Sultanpur Jn. stations.

NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER NOTICE						
No. 30-Elect-5T-Chg-2020-21				Dated: 09.11.2020		
Sr.DEE/Chg/DLI office tender notice for the following work due for opening on 10.11.2020 at 15:01 hrs. is cancelled due to tender would be invited through Gem.						
S. No.	Tender No.	Description of work	Tender Document Cost by online	Contact Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Period of Completion
1.	30-Elect-5T- Chg-2020-21	Hiring of Multi Utility Vehicle for attending, breakdowns, inspections and collection/ purchase of light/petty material for Electrical Coaching Depots of Delhi Division for three years	Rs. 3,540/-	Rs. 20,30,400/-	Rs. 40,600/-	36 Months
						2480/20
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE						

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	42,597.43	1.68
Nifty 50	12,461.05	1.61
S&P 500*	3,609.74	2.86
Dollar (₹)	74.14	0.08
Pound Sterling (₹)	97.47	0.07
Euro (₹)	88.07	-0.23
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	52,183,277	0.53
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	42.59	3.14
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.876	0.005
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.930	0.110

* As of 8:30 PM IST

RBI restrictions on Equitas Small Fin. Bank lifted

Equitas Holdings said the RBI has lifted the restrictions imposed on its small finance bank subsidiary in September last year. The RBI lifted the restrictions on Equitas Small Finance Bank (ESFB) subsequent to the listing of its equity shares, Equitas Holdings said in a BSE filing. The RBI had restricted ESFB from opening new branches and froze the remuneration of MD&CEO at the existing level.

15th Finance Commission submits report



The 15th Finance Commission submitted its recommendations on the ratio in which taxes are to be divided between the Centre and states over the next five years. The panel, headed by former bureaucrat N. K. Singh, submitted its report titled 'Finance Commission in Covid Times' to President Ram Nath Kovind. Its recommendations for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 haven't been disclosed as the report is yet to be tabled in Parliament.

Builders seek watchdog to bust cement cartels

The Builders' Association of India (BAI) has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to constitute a regulatory authority for the cement sector to curb "cartelisation and undue profiteering". In the letter, BAI has demanded that the Cement Regulatory Authority should be constituted. Its president Mu Moahan said such an authority will prevent manufacturers from "indulging in unethical trade practices."

Apparel exporters launch virtual exhibition

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPCC) has launched a virtual platform to exhibit garments round the year. Brands and buyers from across the world can visit the virtual fair and place orders. "Holding international exhibitions has become difficult due to travel restrictions. To overcome this, we have set up a virtual platform to exhibit our products 24x7, 365 days a year," AEPCC chairman A. Sakthivel said.

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Investors richer by ₹2.07 lakh crore Sensex and Nifty scale new peaks

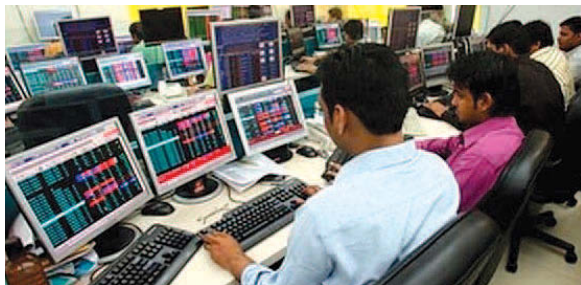
RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, NOV. 9

The market surged to a new all-time high, surpassing the January 20 peaks, amid strong global and domestic cues as well as sentiments turning bullish ahead of Diwali, an auspicious time to make new investments.

The Sensex closed 704 points higher at 42,597 after touching an intra-day high of 42,645.33 and the Nifty-50 at 12,461 was up 197 points after reaching a new high of 12,474.05 in the sixth straight session of gains for the bulls.

The BSE market capitalisation soared to Rs 165.67 lakh crore, making investors richer by over Rs 2.07 lakh crore. However, the broader market underperformed, with BSE Mid-cap Index gaining 1.01 per cent and BSE Small-cap Index rising 0.57 per cent, against 1.68 per cent jump in the Sensex and 1.61 per cent rise in the Nifty-50.

Hemang Jani, head-equity strategist, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said, "Both Nifty and Sensex finally managed to cross Jan. 20 high levels on the back of strong global cues and positive Q2 results by corporates. There is an expectation of more flows into emerging markets due to weakness in the US dollar and that is reflecting in the strong performance across emerging markets. We expect the Indian markets to remain strong as the major event (US elections) is out of the way and



OIL SOARS ON VACCINE, SUPPLY HOPES

London, Nov. 9: Oil jumped by almost 10 per cent on Monday for its biggest daily gain in more than six months after Pfizer announced promising results for its Covid-19 vaccine candidate and Saudi Arabia said an Opec+ oil output deal could be adjusted to balance the market.

Brent crude was up \$3.37, or 8.5 per cent to \$42.82 a barrel at 1402 GMT, while US West Texas Intermediate crude was up \$3.54, or 9.5 per cent, at \$40.68. Both contracts rose more than \$4 earlier in the session. "Asset prices move

faster than the real economy, and oil and other risk assets are reacting positively today to the Pfizer vaccine news," said BNP Paribas analyst Harry Tchilinguirian.

Pfizer said its experimental vaccine was more than 90 per cent effective in preventing Covid-19, based on initial data.

"In the eyes of traders, a vaccine will help ensure no future lockdowns are needed and will bring people back to the streets, allowing road and air transport to recover," said Rystad Energy's Bjornar Tonhaugen. — Reuters

earnings recovery is becoming stronger."

Heavy buying by foreign portfolio investors continued for the third consecutive session; they were net buyers by Rs 4,548.39 crore. The rupee ended at 74.17 to the dollar against 74.20 on Friday.

According to Japanese brokerage Nomura, "For

India, November started on a positive note led by higher power demand and improving mobility data. The moderation in India's pandemic curve, ongoing lockdown relaxations and festive demand and if this trend persists over coming weeks, November monthly data could improve over October."

Equity MFs see over ₹2,725 crore outflow

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, NOV. 9

The mutual fund industry's assets under management rose 5.10 per cent to Rs 28.22 lakh in October from Rs 26.85 lakh crore in September, as per monthly data released by industry body Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi).

Most debt fund categories witnessed inflows with cumulative inflows reaching over Rs 1.10 lakh crore.

Equity-oriented schemes witnessed outflows of Rs 2,725 crore while hybrid schemes, which also have equity exposure, witnessed outflows of Rs 1,682 crore on the back of record gains in the equity market.

Other ETFs (exchange traded funds) witnessed outflows of over Rs 2,661 crore due to profit booking on sharp gains in Sensex and Nifty-50.

Gold ETFs saw inflows which was more than four times higher at over Rs 384 crore compared to Rs 90.90 crore inflows in September while fund of funds investing overseas saw inflows worth Rs 338 crore.

"Equity-oriented mutual

funds witnessed net outflows for the fourth month in a row, and the pace of net outflow shot up from the previous month. During the month of October, the segment witnessed a net outflow of Rs 2,725 crore, which is significantly higher than the net outflow of Rs 734.4 crore witnessed in the month of September. Since July, equity-oriented mutual funds have witnessed a net outflow of Rs 9,939.3 crore," said Himanshu Srivastava, associate director-manager research, Morningstar India.

"Except for sectoral / thematic funds and large & mid capFund, all the other equity categories witnessed net outflows during the month. The sectoral / thematic fund category has seen the launch of new funds which garnered good traction from investors," Srivastava said.

The multi-cap category witnessed net outflow for the fifth month in a row and was the worst hit as new regulations mandate minimum investments in mid-cap and small-cap stocks and reduction in exposure to large-caps.

TCS TO ACQUIRE POSTBANK SYSTEMS FROM DEUTSCHE BANK

New Delhi, Nov. 9: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Monday said it will acquire 100 per cent shares of Postbank Systems AG (PBS) from Deutsche Bank AG.

PBS has been the internal IT provider for Postbank AG, a subsidiary of Deutsche Bank, catering for the German retail banking market. PBS has about 1,500 employees across nine locations in Germany.

The transaction will see the employees of PBS become a part of the Mumbai-based company.

In a regulatory filing, TCS said "100 per cent of the shares will be acquired by TCS Netherlands BV (a subsidiary of TCS) and the "estimated transaction value at a symbolic 1 euro".

The transaction is subject to both parties finalising agreements, besides regulatory approvals.

Headquartered in Bonn, PBS' services include infrastructure operations, application operations and management and development. — PTI

Huge stimulus needed to offset loss of working hours

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 9

The country lost 5,948 crore working hours due to the lock-down restrictions in the last three quarters. An additional direct fiscal stimulus, of the size of 3-5 per cent of GDP, might be required to offset the lost hours, says an SBI analysis.

Going by the International Labour Organisation's calculation of the working hours lost and the size of the fiscal stimulus required, SBI Ecwrap, a State Bank of India research publication, found that the country had lost a cumulative 5,948 crore working hours in the March, June and September quarters.

The maximum hours lost was in the June quarter when the lockdown was the most severe, found the analysis, which has taken Q3 FY20 as the baseline.

Further, using the ILO methodology, SBI Research found that the direct fiscal stimulus of around 3 per cent of GDP provided by India, equals 2,206 crore working hours.

So an additional direct fiscal stimulus to the size of 3-5 per cent of GDP might be required to offset the gap between the equivalent fiscal stimulus hours and the loss in hours, the report said.

Single premium plans drive life insurance growth in Oct.

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, NOV. 9

As business activity has started unlocking, life insurance companies have witnessed an improvement in new business.

The sector continued to report positive growth in October 2020 for the fourth straight month after witnessing a year-on-year drop in first year premiums in Q1 FY21. First year premiums of life insurers grew by 32 per cent last month to Rs 22,776 crore compared with Rs 17,272 crore in October 2019, driven by growth in individual business.

Single premium policies (primarily investment-oriented) have accounted for the growth of premiums in October. If these policies were removed from the analysis, then the overall first-year premiums would have witnessed a decline.

The life insurance sector returned to positive growth in their first year premium collection as business has picked up after the reopening of the economy, which has been severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The sector reported an increase of 3 per cent in first year premium to Rs 1.47 lakh crore in year to date (YTD) October FY21 from Rs 1.43 lakh crore YTD October FY20.

But the overall sum assured declined by 7.4 per cent from Rs 25.5 lakh crore in YTD October to Rs 23.6 lakh crore in YTD October FY21.

Life Insurance Corporation of India,



which continues to focus on individual single premium policies and less profitable group business, grew by 36 per cent in October this year to Rs 15,548 crore and by 2 per cent during the seven months ending October 2020 to Rs 103,566 crore.

While private companies reported a growth of 5.5 per cent in YTD October FY21 versus 19.4 per cent in YTD October FY20. Individual single premiums grew by 243.7 per cent in October 2020 versus a decline of 38.8 per cent in October 2019. These policies have grown by 35.6 per cent in YTD October FY21 versus a rise of 29.8 per cent in YTD October FY20, driven by the current interest rate scenario.

"The life insurance business has witnessed a fall in Q1FY21 due to the lockdown and business disruption. However growth has returned to the industry in October 2020," said Care Ratings.

CCI to probe Google Pay conduct

New Delhi, Nov. 9: The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Monday ordered a detailed probe against internet giant Google for alleged unfair business practices with respect to Google Pay as well as Google Play's payment system.

Google Pay is a digital payments platform while Google Play is the app store on its Android ecosystem. "... the Commission is of

the prima facie view that the Opposite Parties have contravened various provisions of Section 4 of the Act... These aspects warrant a detailed investigation," it said in a 39-page order.

The watchdog has ordered a detailed probe by its Director General (DG), which is the investigation arm, for alleged anti-competitive practices with respect to Google Pay.

Section 4 of the Competition Act pertains to abuse of dominant market position. The regulator says prima facie it is of the view that the "conduct of Google amounts to imposition of unfair and discriminatory condition, denial of market access for competing apps of Google Pay and leveraging on the part of Google, in terms of different provisions of Section 4(2) of the Act." —PTI

October vehicle retail remain in the red despite festivities

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, NOV 9

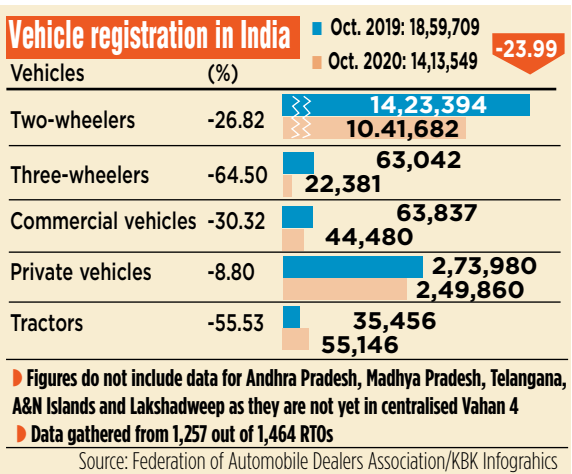
As India enters the last leg of festivities, even though customer walk-ins have improved, healthy conversions are yet to happen.

Except for tractors, sales of two-three-wheelers and passenger vehicles and commercial vehicles were in the red in October; the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations, or Fada, said on Monday.

Fada said passenger vehicle retail sales dipped 9 per cent at 2,49,860 units in October compared to year-ago sales of 2,73,980 units.

However, top automakers, such as Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai, Tata Motors, Kia Motor, Mahindra, Honda Cars, Volkswagen, Toyota and MG Motor among others, had shipped 17.31 per cent more passenger vehicles to 3,33,842 cars last month from factory gates to dealerships anticipating high demand ahead of the festive season.

Total automobile retail registered a 5.11 per cent growth over the preceding month in October but



declined 24 per cent year-on-year as the festivals of Navratri and Diwali, when demand usually peaks in the Indian market, were split between October and November this year unlike last year when both the festivals were in October.

According to Fada, two-wheeler sales were down by 26.8 per cent, year-on-year. Commercial vehicle and three-wheeler sales declined by 30.3 per cent and 64.5 per cent, respectively.

However, the dream run for tractor makers contin-

ued as registrations improved by 55.5 per cent year-on-year.

"October continues to see positive momentum on a monthly basis but on a yearly basis the negative slide continues to increase," Vinkesh Gulati, president at Fada said.

"The 9-day Navratri period witnessed robust vehicle registrations but could not save October from going into the red as compared to last year when both Navratri and Diwali were in the same month," he pointed out.

MCKINSEY | REPORT Output could be doubled by enhancing product quality, scale of operation

11 sectors can take Indian manufacturing ahead

FC BUREAU HYDERABAD, NOV. 9

Even while the government has been focusing on improving ease of doing business, the Indian manufacturing sector could more than double its output by merely improving its product quality and ramping up scale in 11 sectors.

The 11 sectors, according to the McKinsey report, have strong potential to operate in international markets, power economic growth, and provide long-term employment and skill pathways for millions.

The sectors are vehicle and vehicle components, capital goods and machine tools, pharmaceuticals, chemicals and allied prod-

ucts, agriculture and food, metals and basic materials, apparel and textiles, furniture, leather and rubber, electronics and semiconductors, aerospace and defence, and renewable energy.

The report by Rajat Dhawan and Suvojoy Sengupta of McKinsey claims that India is one of the countries which could reap the benefits of the new trend among companies to reconfigure their sourcing and manufacturing footprints in the wake of disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in China.

They, however, aver that some nations, including India, are not yet ready to take full advantage of these shifts.

SECTORS IDENTIFIED

- Vehicle & components
- Capital goods & machine tools
- Pharma, chemicals & allied products
- Agriculture & food
- Metals & basic materials
- Apparel & textiles
- Furniture, leather & rubber
- Electronics & semiconductors
- Aerospace & defence
- Renewable energy



"To become globally competitive, India's manufacturing value chains must lift their productivity in GVA output per full-time-equivalent worker-closer to global standards. They have a long way to go in this regard: their

labour productivity and capital productivity are both low," the report argued.

Compared with India, the report claims, manufacturing productivity in Indonesia is twice as high; in China and South Korea,

productivity is four times higher. For example, South Korea's electronics manufacturing sector is 18 times more productive than India's.

Indian companies, the authors argued, also need to improve their manufacturing processes and adopt automation. "By investing in analytics, reskilling, and upskilling, Indian manufacturers could accelerate the capture of many of these gains."

"With these reforms, and complementary actions by manufacturing companies, we estimate that the 11 value chains could more than double their GDP contribution to \$500 billion in seven years while powering extensive

job creation at a time when the COVID-19 crisis has pushed millions below the poverty line," the report claimed.

Currently, the manufacturing sector contributes around 17 per cent of the country gross domestic product (GDP) or \$397.14 billion.

There is nothing much that the government needs to do for these companies to succeed. According to McKinsey, the government will have to do just one thing: Creating a stable framework of time-bound and conditional localisation incentives to entice global companies to set up operations in India, either independently or with a local partner.

TALK SHOW APP 'STEREO' TO JOIN SOCIAL MEDIA WAVE

BEN STUPPLES NOV. 9

Andrey Andreev pocketed at least \$1.5 billion from Blackstone Group Inc after agreeing last year to sell his stake in the firm behind some of the world's most popular dating apps, including Bumble.

He's already moved on to his next act: Stereo, an audio-centric app that allows people to host, listen to and participate in live talk shows from their phones. Andreev and his team in London and Los Angeles plan on rolling out a full version globally this week after recently launching it in the US.

"Ninety-nine per cent of the vision behind the app is now there," Andreev, 46, said in a telephone interview.

Andreev is betting he can shift the social media landscape with his latest venture. His audio-focused form of social media won't contain real-life images. Instead, users create personalised avatars for their Stereo profiles. Those who have signed up so far include comedian Jeff Ross, a frequent participant of Comedy Central's televised celebrity roasts. Users who attract the most listeners to their broadcasts can make as much as \$25,000.

"It's all about your conversation, your voice, your thoughts and what you share with the people listening," Andreev said. "It's nothing to do with visual. You don't have to worry about your appearance."

Stereo is one of several projects Andreev is working on after leaving MagicLab—as the firm was formerly known—earlier this year with a team of 20 employees as a part of the deal with Blackstone. The PE giant valued the company at about \$3 billion when it bought a majority stake. — Bloomberg

THE ASIAN AGE

10 NOVEMBER 2020

Govt needs to rethink cut in military pension

The proposal emanating last week from the defence ministry's department of military affairs, that is from the office of the Chief of Defence Staff, to cut pensions from several categories of personnel of the Army, Navy and Air Force, doesn't seem to be thought through. In its present form, what it has done is to possibly create grounds for grievance-building across the three services. This is not what its authors may have intended.

The proposal creates a strong disincentive for those seeking premature retirement for officers, junior commissioned officers (JCOs) and other ranks in the logistics, technical and medical services, covering the medical corps, ordnance corps, services corps and the military engineering service. Without these, the fighting jawan on the border, the air warrior in the skies and the soldiers of the combat branches of the Navy, cannot take one step forward.

Those who wish to sign off after even 25 years of commendable service will have half their pension cut, so draconian is the concept. To get full pension, premature release applicants must serve a full 35 years. How is that for "premature" retirement?

Such a procedure does not exist in the civil service at the Centre or the state level, and this makes the idea discriminatory, besides constituting a ground for breeding anxiety and dissatisfaction among even those military personnel who might not be directly affected.

In the Navy and the IAF, which use more technology to be what they are, suspicion of the terms of service may run deeper and could, arguably, act as a strong disincentive for young men and women with technical skills from joining the armed forces, which well-educated Indians anyway avoid, preferring better paid opportunities in civilian life.

We are already in the phase of thinking of theatre commands, instead of the present organisational structure, and integrated defence forces by pooling the assets and resources of the three branches of the military. None of this is possible without a buoyant, optimistic and overhauled and modernised services structure, ethos and environment.

It can be argued that the teeth-to-tail ratio can be improved by happily letting go those who wish to depart, keeping a smaller and fighting trim younger force, and enhancing expenditure manifold on technological scaling up and tending to a revolution in military affairs with greater devotion, much like what China achieved more than two decades ago.

The pension payout is less than salary payout, especially at the more serious levels. So, let people leave. Why should the government grudge them a few years of better paying working life in the civilian sector, besides keeping their regular pension? As for filling the services' requirements, it may be better to hire fresh, young, optimistic, personnel with improved incentives.

The present proposal fundamentally derives from cutting corners — to save funds since the defence budget is lower than previously and much less than China's or Pakistan's. This deserves to be raised (along with education and health). The time for tinkering is gone. Salaries and pensions, along with a technology upgrade and organisational restructuring, must be done on the strength of new contour lines which are yet to be drawn. That must be the first priority of the CDS, not fiddling with pension schemes.

UAE shows the way

The world is applauding the United Arab Emirates for its milestone reforms that aim to consolidate the rule of law, signal its commitment to tolerance and safeguard women's rights. The most significant are the ones that make it permissible for citizens above 14 to cohabit and mandatory for honour killings to be prosecuted as murders. Alcohol consumption is no longer a crime and suicides no longer punishable. Non-Emiratis may use the laws of their home countries in deciding inheritance. Good Samaritans causing inadvertent harm may not be prosecuted under the new laws. The guiding principle of these changes, which mark the UAE's 50th anniversary as a nation, is that, unless an act constitutes harm to others or their interests as protected by the law, it will not be criminal.

Notably, however, these reforms aren't the result of a power shift. They are market driven and arrived riding on the back of economic concerns. As weaker demand amid lockdowns took its toll on crude oil prices, the UAE felt the need to promote itself as a tourist- and investor-friendly destination. Even earlier, the expat-populated UAE maintained a cosmopolitan lifestyle at the governance level, not effecting the more extreme punishments that it retained on paper. It may even have taken its cue from Saudi Arabia that, in turn, was pushed to the backfoot by an exodus of atheists and women, before announcing piecemeal liberal measures to contain it. That again shines hope. But the real challenges — reforms in the areas of guardianship laws and freedom of movement of Muslim women — demands for which have been raised in Saudi Arabia and which might find a resonance in certain milieus in UAE — remain.

The message that goes out to the world is this — personal and civil laws need not be rigid and can move with the times. It applies equally to all secular, diverse and multicultural nations, such as India. It is a good example for others to follow.

THE ASIAN AGE

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Maleeha Lodhi



What America's post-Trump foreign policy might look like

Never have Americans seen an election in their recent history quite like the 2020 presidential contest. Never has the world watched with such concern the political tensions, bitter rhetoric and legal fights that marked the turbulent run-up to the election. The close race kept people on edge for days following the election as votes were counted in the crucial battleground states.

The American people chose Joe Biden to lead their country in what has been described as "an election of a lifetime" which will have "decade-defining consequences". This has come as a relief to many people in America and beyond. For the international community, the overarching question is how the new occupant of the White House will change American foreign policy in the post-Trump era.

To begin with, Mr Biden will be preoccupied with managing domestic challenges with the pandemic still wreaking havoc across the country, polarisation undermining

national cohesion and racial tensions waiting to be seriously addressed. Uniting a deeply divided country will undoubtedly be his first order of business. As he reiterated after the election: "I will govern as an American President. There will be no red states and blue states. Just the United States of America."

The outcome of the congressional election too will present a challenge as the Senate is likely to remain in Republican control. This will pose formidable problems of divided government and legislative gridlock. Mr Biden will be obliged to deal with an unfriendly Senate which will make governance difficult while his pledge to heal a divided nation will require vigorous efforts.

That Mr Trump got more popular votes now than in 2016 indicates how widespread support remains for "Trumpism". If Mr Trump continues to play an active political role this could further complicate Mr Biden's task.

But as a course correction is also needed in America's relations with the world this will not wait for the domestic agenda to be tackled. Some argue that this is where Mr Biden may have a less constrained hand. What then is a Biden presidency likely to do? The selection of his foreign policy team will be an early pointer to the foreign policy he will pursue.

As someone with rich experience in foreign policy, Mr Biden is expected to follow a more traditional approach fundamentally different from Mr Trump's unpredictable and whimsical policies pursued at great detriment to America's global standing. In contrast to Mr Trump's intensely unilateral "America First" policy, Mr Biden would seek to restore his country's multilateralist credentials.

In broad brush terms a Biden administration is likely to see the revival of a more stable foreign policy, renewal of commitment to multilateralism, reaffirmation of ties

with allies, reversal of Mr Trump's abandonment of the Iran nuclear deal, re-engagement with key international institutions, a return to the Paris climate agreement and recommitment to alliances, especially Nato.

On Afghanistan and the US commitment to withdraw its remaining forces, Mr Biden's policy will not differ much from Mr Trump's. He has long been a critic of America's prolonged military engagement and as vice-president had opposed the military surge President Barack Obama ordered in 2009. Asked in an interview earlier this year what he would do if the Taliban ended up in power, he said: (I have) "zero responsibility. The responsibility I have is to protect America's national interest and not put our women and men in harm's way to try to solve every single problem in the world by the use of force".

A significant departure from Mr Trump's policy would be re-entering the Iran nuclear deal. Mr Biden

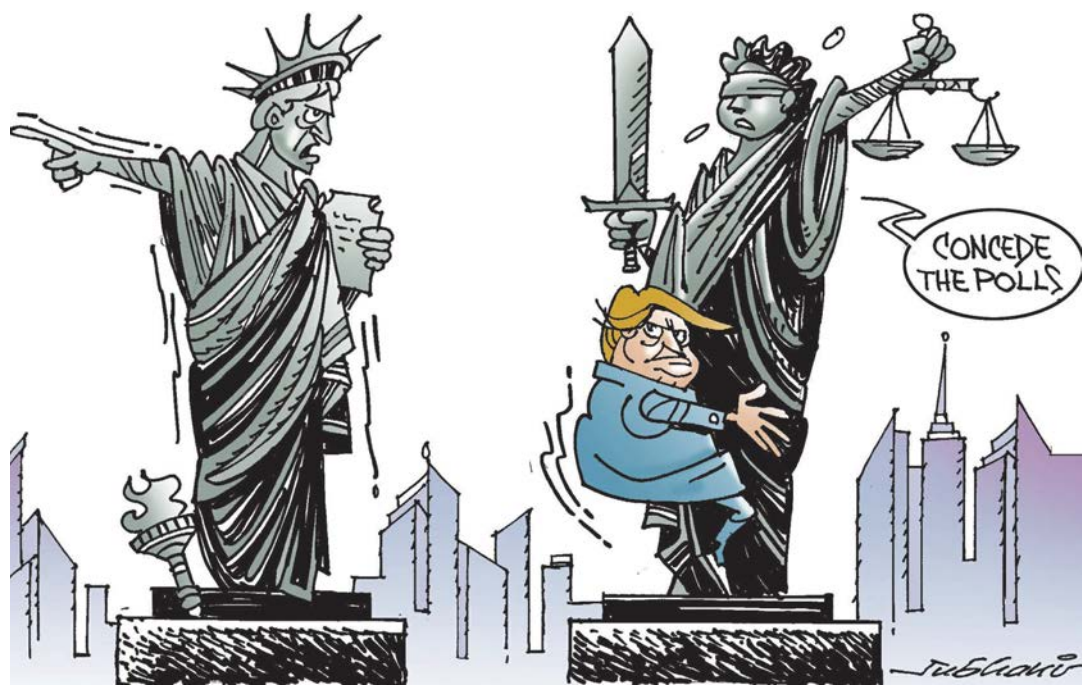
has repeatedly asserted he would re-commit to JCPOA if Iran complied and seek to strengthen it with partners. He believes this would help to re-establish US credibility. In the Middle East, it remains an open question how Mr Biden's frequent criticism of Saudi Arabia would translate into policy. His support for Israel will continue to be firm.

The biggest foreign policy challenge will remain America's relations with China. Predictability and stability in US foreign policy would be the most important change from the Trump years. But it is the home front where bitter discord and divisions have made the country virtually ungovernable that will receive the greatest attention from the next President.

The writer is a former Pakistan ambassador to the UN and the United States

By arrangement with Dawn

Subhani



Why presidential system might not suit India well



Sunanda K. Datta-Ray

Reflections

Donald Trump's eccentricities and extravagances do not in themselves constitute a convincing argument against any system of presidential governance. But a system that allowed its chief executive to ride roughshod over public concerns, substitute populist slogans for well-considered policy decisions and undermine established institutions while encouraging slander and libel against political adversaries can only be catastrophic for democracy.

To heal the wounds of the last four years and, as he puts it, erase the divide between "red" states and "blue" states to uphold only the "United States" must be President-elect Joe Biden's first task. His huge majority, particularly in the popular vote, is obviously an enormous asset. So is his running mate, Kamala Devi Harris, now the vice-president-elect, whose gender and ethnicity make her of historic importance.

But the additional support that President Trump attracted this time, proving the opinion polls wrong, confirms that he is by no means a spent force politically. Millions of Americans worship at the altar of brute force that he is thought to represent; and many world leaders secretly aspire to the methods and priorities that made the US President such a sinister authoritarian figure of formidable power.

It may be revealing that Prime Ministers Narendra Modi, Boris Johnson and Benjamin Netanyahu and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia were probably Mr Trump's best friends among international politicians. Mr Johnson was even called his "visible and emotional clone". But it's not only the end

product that excites comment. The unique US electoral college system ensures that whichever candidate gets the most votes in a few key swing states, including Florida and Pennsylvania, ends up winning the White House. Mr Trump himself lost the popular vote by nearly three million ballots to Democrat candidate Hillary Clinton in 2016, and yet ended up reaching the presidency.

Underlying these and other peculiarities is the fact that the American system — like the French — is really a form of disguised absolute monarchy. France's Bourbon heir, the Comte de Chambord, would have been crowned King in the 1870s if only he had not insisted on replacing the tricolour, adopted during the French Revolution of 1789, with the white Bourbon lily or fleur-de-lis. He even rejected a compromise whereby the fleur-de-lis would be the King's personal standard while the tricolour remained the national flag. The already finalised monarchical constitution had to be hastily adapted to republican requirements.

American monarchism centres on a profound misunderstanding of the role of England's King George III. Believing they had defeated the all-powerful British sovereign in the War of Independence, the Americans sought to model their presidency on the Crown. What Congress didn't realise

To heal the wounds of the last four years and erase the divide between 'red' states and 'blue' states to uphold only the 'United States' must be Mr Biden's first task

Jawaharlal Nehru was as much an elective monarch as any French or American President, but he respected the institutions he had helped to create

that in demanding that "His Highness the Lord Protector and President of the United States of America" should be styled "His Elective Majesty" and be surrounded by the "Splendor and Majesty" (sic) of Europe's royal courts was that George III had no formal constitutional power. His informal influence, although considerable, resulted from a mix of patronage, persuasion and manipulation.

That sounds rather like the operational style of the Trump administration which often seemed to blur the dividing lines between politics and private business, with the President's threatening rhetoric on China contrasting with reports of his little-known undeclared bank account there. The erratic dismissal of one presidential adviser after another, the alienation of weaker neighbours like Canada and Mexico, the mismanagement of the coronavirus pandemic and inability to handle the impact of technology on jobs or the challenge of climate change have helped to diminish the United States on the world stage. So has indifference to the treatment of African Americans and the bullying tactics of neo-fascist gangs across the country.

Mr Trump probably still hopes that the US Supreme Court's 6-3 conservative majority — the result of presidential appointments such as that of Amy Coney Barrett as a judge just days before the election — will ultimately overturn the voters' mandate and reward him with the second tenure of which he, claiming to be the recipient of more than 71 million votes, feels he has

been unjustly robbed.

It took five weeks in 2004 for George W. Bush to establish his right to the presidency. If the system were replicated in India — and every presidential election in the US revives the old debate against the parliamentary system — it might take anything up to 50 years. In fact, such disputes would swamp the electoral process in unending litigation. Many Americans felt in 2004 that the system had treated vice-president Al Gore, who also got a majority of the popular vote and had the better moral claim, shabbily. If legal and constitutional channels were closed, that feeling would explode in India in bloodshed — that is if the ranks of Indian politicians could produce an Al Gore ready to sacrifice ambition to propriety.

The American system has much to commend it. It respects federalism. It sanctions greater accountability. It separates the executive from the legislative process. It provides for direct elections. A series of checks and balances ensures operational fairness. But it evolved out of the American experience; it reflects the American Dream. It does not have to pamper castes, put down communities, and devise sophisticated means of promoting majority interests without provoking allegations of partisanship.

Jawaharlal Nehru was as much an elective monarch as any French or American President, but he respected the institutions he had helped to create. Indira Gandhi continues to be severely castigated for bending institutions to her will but must be given the credit for shying away from contemplated constitutional changes when reminded of the Supreme Court's views on the basic features of India's democracy. India and the world are watching Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Ultimately, it is not the Constitution that is at fault but the men and women who operate it. It is the singer, not the song.

The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author

LETTERS

MIGHTY INEFFICIENT

Despite the presence of both a "blue wave" and a "red wave", the final outcome came down to the wire, and hinged on narrow margins in a handful of swing states. These circumstances have fuelled anger over the lack of direct representation and raised questions surrounding the viability of the institution, the electoral college. It renders the popular vote insufficient to determine the victor. President-elect Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, the first woman, black, and Indian-American Vice-President-elect, in their victory speeches offered messages of reconciliation. We welcome them to office but are also bemused as to the electoral system in the mighty States.

C.K. Subramaniam
Navi Mumbai

SHAH'S SALVO

I AM unable to understand the words of Union home minister Amit Shah. He claims that "Bengal has to choose between dynastic politics and development". These are nothing but words used to befool the people of West Bengal. Given the bleak economic scenario, people are now alert to the inefficiency of the saffron party.

M.N. Alam

Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh

NO PRIOR NOTICE

SOME GOVERNMENTS have banned the use of crackers to avoid air pollution, particularly during the pandemic. The decision is good but the intimation could have been given at least a month before Diwali. Many small shopkeepers have bought crackers from factories for selling. Retailers were already incurring losses due to the lockdown. Since Diwali is one of the biggest festivals in India, strategic planning should have been done in the past months.

Neha Jamal
Chandigarh

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IN BRIEF

AUSTRIA RAIDS
HAMAS, MUSLIM
BROTHERHOOD

Vienna, Nov. 9: Investigators in several Austrian regions carried out raids early Monday on people and organisations suspected of supporting the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas groups, prosecutors said.

Authorities said there was no link between Monday's action against suspected Islamic radicals and the attack in Vienna a week ago in which an assailant described as a supporter of the Islamic State group fatally shot four people before being shot and killed by police.

Prosecutors in Graz said over 70 people are under investigation in the new case and 60 properties, including apartments and offices, were searched, the Austria Press Agency reported.

Thirty people were taken in for questioning. Prosecutors said they are looking into suspicions of terror financing, criminal organization and money laundering among other offences. They said the raids resulted from more than a year of investigations.

SUICIDE CAR
BOMBER KILLS
FOUR IN KABUL

Kabul, Nov. 9: A suicide car bomber in Afghanistan killed at least four people and wounded 40 in an attack on a police base in the country's southern Kandahar province, a provincial official said Monday.

Paramedics still searched the rubble of homes destroyed by the blast hours after the attack late Sunday night in the province's Maiwand district, said Mohammad Ashraf Nadery, the provincial director of Kandahar's public health department.

He said those wounded included both soldiers and civilians.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, though suspicion immediately fell on the Taliban. Kandahar long has been a stronghold for the militants since the 2001 US-led invasion following the Sept. 11 attacks masterminded by al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, whom the Taliban hosted at the time. Violence has soared in Afghanistan in recent months, even as the Taliban and government negotiators hold peace talks in Qatar.

The two sides have made little progress and attacks continue despite warnings from the US that continued violence could derail the talks. Under a February agreement signed with the US, the Taliban have committed to fighting militancy and those who threaten the US in Afghanistan, specifically the Islamic State group and al-Qaida. Earlier this month, Islamic State militants stormed Kabul University, sparking an hours-long gunbattle that killed 22 people.

ERDOGAN'S
SON-IN-LAW
QUITS FM POST

Ankara, Nov. 9: Turkey's finance minister and son-in-law to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced his resignation on social media Sunday.

Berat Albayrak said on Instagram that he was stepping down from his post for health reasons and would spend more time with his family. Albayrak, 42, was appointed minister of finance and treasury in July 2018, having previously been energy minister for nearly three years.

His resignation follows the dismissal over the weekend of central bank chief Murat Uysal and his replacement by former Finance Minister Naci Agbal. "I decided not to continue my duty as a minister after five years in office due to health problems," Albayrak said.

"I will spend time with my mother, father, wife and children, whom I have neglected for many years out of necessity and who have never spared me their support."

The resignation was confirmed by officials at the Finance Ministry, broadcaster HaberTurk reported, although it was unclear if it would be accepted by Erdogan. In April, Interior Minister Suleyman Soyulu resigned on Twitter, only to withdraw the announcement within hours after Erdogan refused to accept it. Albayrak, who has four children with Erdogan's daughter Esra, has presided over a rough period in the Turkish economy.

The country was recovering from a currency crisis in 2018 when the deadly Coronavirus pandemic struck and Albayrak's stewardship came under much criticism.

Russia, China will not greet
Biden till poll result official

Brazil, Turkey, Mexico leaders are also yet to congratulate US President-elect

Moscow, Nov. 9: Russian President Vladimir Putin won't congratulate President-elect Joe Biden until legal challenges to the US election are resolved and the result is official, the Kremlin announced Monday.

Putin is one of a handful of world leaders who have not commented on Biden's victory, which was called by major news organisations on Saturday. But President Donald Trump's team has promised legal action in the coming days and refused to concede his loss, while alleging large-scale voter fraud, so far without proof. When Trump won in 2016, Putin was prompt in offering congratulations — but Trump's challenger in that election, Hillary Clinton, also conceded the day after the vote.

Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Monday that this year is different. "Obviously, you can see that certain legal procedures are coming there, which were announced by the incumbent president — therefore this situation is different, so we consider it correct to wait for the official announcement," he said.

The leaders of China, Brazil and Turkey also are holdouts in offering congratulations. And Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador also said he would wait to comment until the legal challenges over the vote were resolved. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin on Monday offered a similar explanation of why President Xi Jinping has stayed silent. "We understand the presidential election result will be determined following US laws and procedures," he said. Peskov suggested that when the time comes, a congratulations message from Putin would come with all the expected protocol. "I remind you that Vladimir Putin said more than once that he will respect any choice of American people, and will be ready to work with any chosen president of the United States," he said.

For now, Putin's holding back allows a delay in addressing that fraught question of how to improve relations. Although Russian politicians widely lauded Trump's election in 2016, expecting him to make good on his



Aung San Suu Kyi

SUU KYI'S PARTY
CLAIMS MAJORITY
IN MYANMAR

Yangon, Nov. 9: Myanmar's ruling National League for Democracy party claimed Monday that it has won enough seats in Parliament to constitute an absolute majority and retain power. It made the claim even though the state Union Election Commission has not yet completed releasing results from Sunday's election.

"I can now confirm that we're now securing more than 322 seats," said Monywa Aung Shin, a spokesperson for the NLD information committee. There are 642 seats in Parliament.

There were no reliable official figures available on voter turnout, and the Union Election Commission had earlier said that it might take as long as a week to release full results. A victory by the NLD had been widely expected, though it had been speculated that its deterioration of relations with ethnic minority-based parties, with whom it had cooperated in the last election in 2015, might cut its totals.



Supporters of US President-elect Joe Biden rally at Black Lives Matter plaza near the White House in Washington on Sunday. Joyous celebrations erupted in Washington after Joe Biden was declared winner of the US presidency, as several people poured into the streets of the US capital — some of them chanting, cheering and singing in front of the White House.

promises of improving relations, his administration disappointed Moscow by enacting sanctions, expelling scores of Russian diplomats in the wake of the poisoning of double agent Sergei Skripal and authorising lethal weapons sales to Ukraine.

But Russia is characteristically wary of Democratic US administrations because they tend to be more forward about criticizing Russia on human rights and democracy issues. Biden, in a 2011 trip to Russia while vice president, epitomized that approach in a speech at Moscow State University, the country's most prestigious higher education institute. "Don't compromise on the basic elements of democracy. You need not make that Faustian bargain," he told students.

Tackling the Covid-19 pandemic, economic crisis, systemic racism and climate change are the top priorities for the Biden administration, according to his transition team, as President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris gear up for building back everything "better than ever".

Following a tense week of vote tallying, Democratic presidential candidate

Biden, 77, on Saturday won the state of Pennsylvania and vaulted ahead in the race to become the next president of the United States. Biden's win in the key battleground state put him over the threshold of 270 electoral votes, cutting off all avenues for his opponent, incumbent Republican President Donald Trump.

As Biden's vice president, Harris, 56, will make history in myriad ways, becoming the first woman — and the first woman of colour — to occupy the office. The Biden team updated its website to showcase four policy areas the incoming administration will prioritise: Covid-19, economic recovery, racial equity and climate change. "We aren't just going to rebuild what has worked in the past. This is our opportunity to build back better than ever," said the Biden-Harris transition team on Sunday, giving details of the priorities for the next administration which will be inaugurated on January 20, 2021.

"President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris are confronting a pandemic, an economic crisis, calls for racial justice, and climate change.

The team being assembled will meet these challenges on Day One," the campaign said. Once sworn into office, Biden and Harris will provide the much-needed national leadership to tackle the pandemic and begin our nation's recovery, it said.

The mandate of the transition team is to put in place the infrastructure that can ensure a smooth transition from the outgoing administration and efficiently run the administration on day one. Observing that the American people deserve an urgent, robust, and professional response to the growing public health and economic crisis caused by the Coronavirus outbreak, the team said that Biden believes that the federal government must act swiftly and aggressively to help protect and support the families, small businesses, first responders, and caregivers essential to help them face this challenge.

The Biden-Harris administration will always listen to science, ensure public health decisions are informed by public health professionals and promote trust, transparency, common purpose, and accountability in the government, it said. — Agencies

ELECTION WAS
FUNDAMENTALLY
FAIR, SAYS BUSH

Washington, Nov. 9: Former Republican US president George W. Bush has said that the American people can have confidence that the 2020 presidential election was "fundamentally fair, its integrity will be upheld, and its outcome is clear".

Bush, however, also said that outgoing President Donald Trump has the right to request recounts and pursue legal challenges, with any unresolved issues to be "properly adjudicated." In a statement after speaking to President-elect Joe Biden over phone, Bush said he extended his warm congratulations to Biden and thanked him for "the patriotic message" in his address.

Bush, 74, who was the US president from 2001 to 2009, said that while he and the Democrat leader have political differences, he knows Biden "to be good man who has won his opportunity to lead and unify our country." — PTI

Worldwide virus
tally crosses 5 cr,
with 12 L deaths

Boston, Nov. 9: The Coronavirus has hit another sobering milestone: more than 50 million positive cases worldwide since the pandemic began.

Johns Hopkins University's Coronavirus tracker reported more than 50.2 million Covid-19 cases globally as of Sunday. There have been more than 1.2 million deaths from the disease worldwide since the pandemic started. The US, with about 4% of the world's population, represents almost a fifth of all reported cases. The country has had more than 9.8 million cases and more than 237,000 deaths from the virus since the pandemic started, according to Johns Hopkins University's data.

Coronavirus cases and deaths also continue to soar in the US, as they are in many countries. The US reported more than 126,000 positive cases and more than 1,000 deaths from Covid-19 on Saturday, according to the university. — AP

Murthy named co-chair of
Joe virus task-force

Washington, Nov. 9: Indian-American physician Dr Vivek Murthy on Monday was named one of the three co-chairs of the Covid-19 task-force that will guide President-elect Joe Biden on dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic that has claimed over 236,000 lives in the country. Dr Murthy, 43, a former US Surgeon General, along with two other co-chairs — Dr David Kessler and Dr Marcella Nunez-Smith — would lead a team of leading public health experts who will advise Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris on the deadly virus. The US is currently the world's worst-hit nation from the pandemic.

"Dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic is one of the most important battles our administration will face, and I

POLL NIGHT PARTY
POINTS TO DON'S
CAVALIER ATTITUDE

Washington, Nov. 9: It was supposed to be a scene of celebration. Instead, the Trump campaign's election night watch party in the White House East Room has become another symbol of President Donald Trump's cavalier attitude toward a virus that is ripping across the nation and infecting more than 100,000 people a day.

Polls suggest that attitude was a serious drag on the president's reelection bid as voters chose to deny Trump a second term in favour of his Democratic rival, now President-Elect Joe Biden. And the party — with few masks and no social distancing — is now under additional scrutiny after the president's chief of staff, Mark Meadows, became the latest top White House official to contract the virus, which has now killed more than 237,000 people in the US alone. The White House has repeatedly refused to say who else has tested positive, even as the virus continues to spread. — AP

will be informed by science and by experts," Biden said.

New cases are rising in at least 40 states, with more than 9.3 million total infections and more than 236,000 deaths, a media release announcing the Covid-19 Advisory Board said. "The Advisory Board will help shape my approach to managing the surge in reported infections; ensuring vaccines are safe, effective, and distributed efficiently, equitably, and free; and protecting at-risk populations," he said. — PTI



The empty courtyard of a closed school in Athens. Greek middle and high school students stayed at home on Monday under the confinement measures in Greece, and took their first online classes despite internet connection difficulties, on the first day of the return of distance education in the hope to stem the Covid-19 pandemic. — AFP

UK, EU push for
Brexit trade deal

London, Nov. 9: Negotiators from Britain and the European Union were meeting Monday to seek a breakthrough in gridlocked trade talks, with just days until a deadline to strike a post-Brexit deal.

EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier is due to meet his British counterpart, David Frost, in London, after both sides warned there is little time to

bridge big differences between them. Barnier tweeted that he was "Happy to be back in London today, redoubling our efforts to reach agreement on the future (EU-U.K.) partnership." Although PM Boris Johnson said Sunday that a deal is "there to be done" before the two sides' mid-November deadline, obstacles remain. — AP

Pak media mogul gets bail after 8
months in three-decade-old case

Islamabad, Nov. 9: Pakistan's Supreme Court on Monday granted bail to the owner of the country's leading media house, the Jang Group, after eight months he was arrested in a three decades-old land allotment case. Mir Shakilur Rehman, the owner of Jang Group of Newspapers, which includes Geo TV, was arrested on March 12 by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in the eastern city of Lahore in a case related to a land he allegedly acquired illegally in the tenure of then chief minister of Punjab, Nawaz Sharif, 34 years ago.

The court granted Rehman bail against a surety bond of Rs 10 million. The Lahore High Court had earlier denied bail to Rehman, after which he had appealed in the Supreme Court. The NAB alleged that Rehman was given 54 plots of land in Lahore's Jauhar Town phase-II by then Punjab chief minister Sharif in 1986 in violation of the relevant laws.

However, after hearing the argument, the top court accepted the bail application. Rehman's arrest was widely condemned by rights bodies and media groups and those linked with his media outlets had been regularly protesting against the prolonged detention. They alleged that he was a victim of Prime Minister Imran Khan's vendetta. — PTI

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Christian girl sent
to shelter home

Islamabad, Nov. 9: A Pakistani high court on Monday sent a minor Christian girl to a shelter home after she was allegedly converted to Islam and married to a Muslim man. Arzoo, 13 who is a resident of Karachi's Railway Colony, went missing on October 13 and later it was found that she married Syed Ali Azhar, a 45-year-old Muslim man, after converting to Islam, according to the First Information Report registered by the girl's father.

A division bench headed by Justice KK Agha in the Sindh High Court, where the case was being heard, ordered the provincial health secretary to constitute a special medical board to determine Arzoo's age. The board informed the SHC on Monday that the girl is between 14 to 15 years of age. According to the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) record, she is 13 years old. — PTI

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WARRIORS | REMEMBERED 2.5-million volunteer force was largest in history, says Johnson

UK honours WW-II British Indian Army

London, Nov. 9: UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has paid a special tribute to the British Indian Army, the largest volunteer force in history that was put together to fight on the frontiers of the Second World War, for their immense contribution to the victory of the Allied Forces against Nazi Germany. In a message for the Remember Together campaign, set up to honour the millions of Commonwealth troops who

joined the war effort as part of the then British Empire, Johnson said it was important to "remember their sacrifice and celebrate their achievement".

"In every theatre of the Second World War, volunteers from India, Africa and the Caribbean made an immense contribution to victory," said Johnson, in a statement to coincide with the annual Armistice Day commemoration this week for war martyrs. "The British Indian Army

mobilised 2.5 million personnel and became the largest volunteer force in history," Johnson said.

"When Britain embarked on the liberation of South-East Asia, assembling nearly a million troops in the 14th Army, the great majority of the soldiers in this magnificent unit came from India and Africa. Volunteers from as far away as Sierra Leone and Nigeria helped to release Myanmar from Japanese occupation," the

UK prime minister noted. "All of these courageous people chose to fight for freedom under the British flag. Their service helped to defeat a terrible evil and allow millions to live in peace and prosperity," he said. The Remember Together campaign, a joint initiative by the Royal British Legion and British Future as part of the Together Coalition, has been campaigning for greater efforts to commemorate, teach and docu-

ment the service of soldiers from Commonwealth nations in the Second World War.

The Remember Together initiative seeks to address that imbalance, ensuring that the service and sacrifice of all those who fought are commemorated and helping to make remembrance feel relevant and inclusive to people of all creeds and colours in Britain today," the campaign said in a statement. Opposition Labour Party

Leader, Sir Keir Starmer, also commended the bravery of the Indian troops ahead of Armistice Day, which is commemorated annually on November 11 — the date in 1918 which marked the end of the First World War.

"We will never forget the bravery of the 1.5 million Indian soldiers that fought in the British Army in the trenches of World War I, or the allies we stood shoulder to shoulder," he said. — PTI

IN BRIEF

RUSSIAN OIL PIPELINE ON FIRE IN SIBERIA

Moscow, Nov. 9: A pipeline at an oilfield operated by a subsidiary of Gazpromneft, the oil arm of Russian gas producer Gazprom, burst and caught fire early on Saturday, the energy ministry said.

The incident occurred at the Ety-Purovskoe oilfield in the Yamal-Nenets region of western Siberia.

No one was hurt and workers were in the process of shutting down the oil wells there, the ministry said.

JAPAN AIMS AT ZERO EMISSION TARGET BY 2050

Tokyo, Nov. 9: Japan's government will next week pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, Nikkei reported.

The goal will be announced by new Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga in a speech to lawmakers, and will include specific measures including promoting renewable energy, Nikkei here said.

Japan has been criticized for its heavy use of coal-fired power generation and is the only G7 nation still building coal plants at home.

REFINERS IN JAPAN FOR CLEAN ENERGY

Tokyo, Nov. 9: Japanese oil refiners may accelerate efforts to make cleaner fuels such as hydrogen if the government sets a more ambitious goal to achieve zero emissions by 2050, the head of the Petroleum Association of Japan (PAJ) said while addressing reporters.

PAJ President Tsutomu Sugimori also told a news conference that Japan's kerosene output by refiners and an inventory build by users and dealers are on track in October to meet winter demand, adding that whether or not Japan needs to import kerosene this winter will depend on temperatures.

CHINA EYES EMISSION TRADING PLAN

Beijing, Nov. 9: China is targeting the launch of a nationwide emissions trading scheme during the period from 2021 to 2025, the top climate official said, signalling another delay to the long-awaited carbon trading platform.

Technical problems and concerns over the accuracy and transparency of emissions data have dogged the system, whose first phase, covering the power sector, had been expected to launch this year.

"The (2021-2025) 14th five-year plan is a big development period for the establishment of carbon trading," Li Gao, head of the climate change office at the ecology and environment ministry, told a briefing.

The national trading system was originally pledged by President Xi Jinping ahead of the Paris climate accord in 2015.

PUTIN TELLS OFFICIALS TO ACT ON CLIMATE

Moscow, Nov. 9: President Vladimir Putin has signed a decree ordering the Russian government to work towards meeting the 2015 Paris Agreement to fight climate change, but disappointed activists by setting a goal they said would allow emissions to rise.

Russia, the world's fourth-largest emitter of greenhouse gases, has previously signalled its acceptance of the accord, though green groups have criticised Moscow for shunning compulsory targets for companies backed with fines.

Climate change poses a serious challenge for Russia, whose economy relies heavily on oil and gas production, as well as mining. Some of that infrastructure is built on permafrost, which is vulnerable to rising temperatures.

In a decree published on Wednesday, a public holiday in Russia, Putin, who has cast himself as a defender of the environment, formally ordered the government to work towards a cut in greenhouse gas emissions.

He asked them to aim for a reduction, by 2030, of up to 30% below emission levels in 1990, a year when emissions were in freefall prior to the Soviet collapse. Green groups and analysts said the goal was far too modest.



A man crosses the street during heavy rain and wind as tropical storm Eta approaches south of Florida, in Miami, Florida on Sunday.

— AFP

Flooded, now South Florida braces for Storm Eta's wrath

Closes beaches, Covid testing sites, shuts down public transportation

Fort Lauderdale (US), Nov. 9: Florida closed beaches and Covid testing sites, shut down public transportation and ordered some evacuations Sunday as Tropical Storm Eta took aim, bringing heavy rains to already flooded city streets after leaving scores of dead and over 100 missing in Mexico and Central America.

Eta made landfall late Sunday on Lower Matecumbe Key, Florida, an area already drenched from more than 14 inches (0.35 metres) of rain last month. Eta could dump an additional 6 to 12 inches (0.15 to 0.3 metres), forecasters said.

"In some areas, the water isn't pumping out as fast as it's coming in," warned Miami Dade Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz. Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez said he

was in frequent contact with county water officials about the struggle to drain the flooded waters, which has stalled vehicles, whitewashed some intersections and even crept into some homes.

On Sunday night, authorities in Lauderdale, Florida, responded to a report of a car that had driven into a canal. Photos taken by fire units on the scene about 30 miles (48 kilometres) north of Miami showed rescuers searching high waters near a parking lot.

Firefighters pulled one person from a car and took the patient to a hospital in critical condition, according to a statement from Lauderdale Fire's public information officer. Responders were continuing to search for others.

The US National Hurricane Center in Miami declared hurricane and storm surge warnings for the Keys from Ocean Reef to the Dry Tortugas, including Florida Bay. Eta had maximum sustained

winds of 65 mph (100 kph) on Sunday night and was centered about 30 miles (45 kilometres) east-northeast of Marathon, Florida, and 70 miles (115 kilometres) east-northeast of Key West.

winds of 65 mph (100 kph) on Sunday night and was centered about 30 miles (45 kilometres) east-northeast of Marathon, Florida, and 70 miles (115 kilometres) east-northeast of Key West. It was moving west-northwest at 14 mph (22 kph). In the Florida Keys, the mayor ordered mandatory evacuations for mobile home parks, campgrounds and RV parks and those in low-lying areas.

Several schools districts closed, saying the roads were already too flooded and the winds could be too gusty for buses to transport students. Several shelters also opened in

Miami and the Florida Keys. "Please take this storm seriously," urged Palm Beach County Emergency Management Director Bill Johnson. "Please don't drive through flooded roadways."

The storm swelled rivers and flooded coastal zones in Cuba, where 25,000 had been evacuated. But there were no reports of deaths. Authorities in Guatemala on Sunday raised the known death toll there to 27 from 15 and said more than 100 were missing, many of them in the landslide in San Cristobal Verapaz. At least 20 people also were reported dead in southern Mexico and local officials in Honduras reported 21 dead, though the national disaster agency had confirmed only eight.

Eta initially hit Nicaragua as a Category 4 hurricane, and authorities from Panama to Mexico were still surveying the damages following days of torrential rains during the week. In Guatemala, sea-

rch teams first had to overcome multiple landslides and deep mud just to reach the site where officials have estimated some 150 homes were devastated. In the worst-hit village, Quejá, at least five bodies have been pulled from the mud.

The Indigenous community of about 1,200 residents consisted of simple homes of wood and tin roofs clinging to the mountainside. Rescue workers used a helicopter to evacuate survivor Emilio Caal, who said he lost as many as 40 family members and relatives. Caal, 65, suffered a dislocated shoulder when the landslide sent rocks, trees and earth hurtling onto the home where he was about to sit down to lunch with his wife and grandchildren.

Caal said he was blown several yards (meters) by the force of the slide, and that none of the others were able to get out. "My wife is dead, my grandchildren are dead," said Caal from a nearby hospital. — AP

NSW's \$23 billion energy roadmap in renewables push

Sydney, Nov. 9: Australia's New South Wales (NSW) state said on Monday it would shift toward renewable energy from coal and aimed to lure A\$32 billion (\$23.3 billion) of private investment into the sector in the next decade.

Australia's most populous state said it would cut red tape and speed up approvals for businesses to invest in renewable energy projects, with four of its five coal-fired power plants expected to close in the next 15 years.

The plans would create close to 10,000 jobs and aimed to bring 12 gigawatts (GW) of wind and solar power and 2 GW of storage, such as pumped hydro, online by 2030, state Energy Minister Matt Kean said in a statement. The opposition Labor Party said it would support the plans although they came "after a decade of delay".

Most Australian states support greater use of renewable energy but the

federal government has refused to match other developed countries in setting a target for net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Instead, Canberra says zero emissions will be reached some time after 2050.

Australia is so far well short of meeting its Paris accord target of cutting carbon emissions by 26% to 28% from 2005 levels by 2030.

US president-elect Joe Biden could encourage Australia to meet its emissions targets, the Australian Industry Group said, as he has said his administration will rejoin the Paris climate deal and aim to achieve zero emissions by 2050.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Biden's election would not change Australia's climate policies. "Australia will always set its policies based on Australia's national interests," Morrison told reporters in Canberra. — Reuters

Company climate plans: UN envoy for investor votes

London, Nov. 9: United Nations envoy Mark Carney backed a push to make companies give investors an annual vote on their climate change strategies, saying on Monday that might prove more effective than "overly prescriptive" regulation.

Carney, who took a U.N. climate finance role after stepping down as Bank of England governor in March, said investors could have an automatic advisory vote on a company's plans to cut greenhouse emissions, in the same way they have a say on pay.

"Rather than have authorities be overly prescriptive on plans, it may be desirable to have investors have a say on transition," Carney told a conference on climate finance in London.

"This would establish a critical link between responsibility, accountability and sustainability," he added.

Last month, Spanish airports operator Aena AENA.MC became the first company to give shareholders an annual vote on its climate plans following pressure from billionaire investor Chris Hohn, founder of the TCI activist hedge fund.

Shareholders backed Aena's plan, which include ensuring that airports in its network will be energy self-sufficient - largely using solar - and carbon neutral by 2026.

Backers of such votes believe they can help ensure that companies take their climate commitments seriously, and hope they will increasingly become the norm.

Carney was speaking at the start of a three-day Green Horizon summit in London, designed to mobilise the financial sector in the run-up to a U.N. climate change conference due to take place in Glasgow in late 2021.

— Reuters

BRAZIL CARBON EMISSIONS ROSE 9.6% IN 2019

Brasilia, Nov. 9: Brazil's carbon emissions increased by 9.6% in 2019 mainly due to higher deforestation in the Amazon during the first year of President Jair Bolsonaro's government, a report said.

The data indicates that Brazil will fail to meet its carbon emission targets for this year and is moving away from its 2025 target. Brazil emitted 2.175 billion tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e) in 2019, according to SEEG, the most comprehensive study on the topic in the country.

In 2018, CO2 emissions had reached 1.98 billion tonnes, with was 0.3% more than in 2017.

Brazil had managed to reduce emissions from 2004 through 2012, but the new data confirms that this trend has been reversed despite the voluntary targets agreed to before the 2009 Copenhagen climate summit. Those targets were then set into Brazilian law and became binding for the government.

"We are dangerously going in the wrong direction," said Tasso Azevedo, a climate expert who coordinates the SEEG study. "Since regulation of the national climate law in 2010, Brazil has increased by 28% the amount of greenhouse gases it discharges into the air annually, instead of reducing it," he said.

The growth of emissions in 2019 was driven by sky-rocketing deforestation in the Amazon, which accounted for 44% of Brazil's total CO2e emissions. — Reuters

EU's offshore wind energy set to go up

Brussels, Nov. 9: The European Union is considering a plan to increase its offshore wind energy capacity five-fold this decade and 25-fold by 2050, as it seeks to become climate neutral by mid-century, according to a draft policy.

The 27-nation EU, which is already home to 42% of the world's offshore wind capacity, says the technology now produces clean power at a lower price than any fossil fuel-based source. A draft of the European Commission's strategy for offshore renewable energy, seen by Reuters and due to be published on Nov. 18, says the bloc should aim for 60 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind by 2030 and

300GW by 2050. Its current capacity is 12GW.

The draft also includes a goal of 60GW of wave and tidal energy by 2050.

"The Commission said it did not comment on draft documents, which can change before publication. "Going for 300GW of wind and 60GW of ocean energy by 2050 means a massive change of scale for the sector in less than 30 years, at a speed that has no equivalent in any other energy technologies in the past," the draft said.

Meeting the goals would require 789 billion euros (\$937.10 billion) in investment and a revamp of countries' current policies. — Reuters

Rich nations fund climate goal

Brussels, Nov. 9: Wealthy countries have ramped up financing to help developing countries cut carbon emissions and cope with the impact of climate change, although it is unclear if they will meet their goal of \$100 billion this year.

In its annual update on climate finance for developing countries, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) said donor governments contributed \$78.9 billion in 2018, the latest year for which data are available. This was an 11% increase from \$71.2 billion in 2017.

The funds include loans, grants and a small amount of equity, plus private investments which public bodies helped mobilise.

● **THE ORGANISATION for Economic Co-operation and Development said donor governments contributed \$78.9 billion in 2018, the latest year for which data are available. This was an 11% increase from \$71.2 billion in 2017, it said in its annual update.**

Developed countries agreed at the United Nations in 2009 to together contribute \$100 billion each year by 2020 in climate finance to poorer countries, many of whom are grappling with rising seas, storms and droughts made worse by climate change.

The \$100 billion goal remains within reach, the

OECD said, even though mobilised private finance, which totalled \$14.6 billion in 2018, hardly increased from 2017-2018.

"That means they'd need more public finance to meet that target," said Simon Buckle, head of the OECD's climate change division. "That's not impossible, based on this trend."

With the coronavirus pandemic upending investments this year, the OECD said data were not yet available on how the pandemic has affected climate finance.

"Developed countries haven't yet delivered on their promise, both in terms of quantity and quality," said Mohamed Adow, director of Nairobi-based think-tank Power

Shift Africa.

Adow urged developed countries to increase support for "climate adaptation" — such as defences against wilder weather, or methods to adapt farming practices during droughts and floods.

Only a fifth of global contributions went on adaptation last year, while most support focussed on cutting greenhouse gas emissions in developing countries.

The European Union and its member countries are, taken together, the biggest provider of climate finance to developing countries.

The EU said last week it also increased such contributions in 2019, to 21.9 billion euros.

— Reuters

BOOSTING EFFORTS

Population declines due to dwindling fish stocks, climate change

Researchers plan African penguins' new colony

Cape Town, Nov. 9: South African researchers plan to release scores of abandoned, hand-reared African penguin chicks at the Western Cape's De Hoop nature reserve, boosting efforts to start a new breeding colony of the seabirds at risk of extinction.

The only penguin that breeds in Africa, it was once South Africa's most abundant seabird.

But the population plunged to around 13,000 breeding pairs last year, from more than 1 million pairs in the 1920s, when their eggs started to be harvested for human consumption, government data shows.

● **THE ONLY penguin that breeds in Africa, it was once South Africa's most abundant seabird. But the population plunged to around 13,000 breeding pairs last year, from more than 1 million pairs in the 1920s, when their eggs started to be harvested for human consumption, government data shows.**

Researchers have since January 2019 deployed dummy penguins that emit the distinctive call of the birds to try to entice them onshore at De Hoop, 230 km (140 miles) south-



east of Cape Town. However success has

been limited. They now plan to release

around 50 juvenile birds each year for several years, starting in early 2021, to try to establish a breeding colony at De Hoop, a protected site.

A couple of months ago when I was at the site, I saw a juvenile penguin within 10 metres of the shore, said Christina Hagen, who leads the project. "Unfortunately, it didn't come ashore."

Hagen said hand-reared chicks were normally released into existing colonies, such as those at former apartheid prison Robben Island or at Boulders beach, a tourist attraction.

De Hoop had good fishing waters critical to a

new colony, Hagen said, and had been settled briefly by penguins in the mid-2000s, but deserted by the seabirds when leopards started preying on them.

Found at nesting sites only in South Africa and Namibia, the decline of natural African penguin populations has been attributed mainly to dwindling fish stocks, including anchovy and sardines, and worsened by climate change.

"It is hard to say if they'll actually go extinct, but it is a real possibility and we are doing all that we can to prevent that," said Hagen.

— Reuters

SHORT TAKES

City hold Reds, Villa stun Arsenal

London: Kevin De Bruyne missed a penalty as Manchester City squandered the chance to close the gap on Liverpool on Sunday while Tottenham's Harry Kane celebrated joining the Premier League's 150 club. A win at the Etihad would have taken the Reds to the summit but the battle between the two dominant powers of recent seasons ended 1-1.

That meant Leicester clung onto top spot after leapfrogging Spurs, who beat West Brom 1-0, after a 1-0 win of their own at home to Wolves. In the late evening kick-off, Aston Villa hammered Arsenal 3-0, condemning Mikel Arteta's men to their fourth defeat in six league games.

Aston Villa, who climbed to sixth place after their win against Arsenal, went ahead at the Emirates when Bukayo Saka turned into his own net. Two goals from Ollie Watkins in the second half put the game beyond Arsenal, leaving Arteta disappointed with his team's showing. — AFP

Ibrahimovic grabs point for AC Milan

Milan: Zlatan Ibrahimovic missed a penalty before scoring a late equaliser as Serie A leaders AC Milan salvaged a point in a 2-2 Serie A draw against Hellas Verona on Sunday to let rivals Juventus and Inter Milan off the hook after both were held 1-1 in earlier games. Stefano Pioli's side are top of Serie A with a two-point advantage on second-placed Sassuolo, who were held to a goalless draw against Udinese on Friday. Champions Juventus drop to fifth, four points behind the leaders after Lazio's Felipe Caicedo scored five minutes into injury time to cancel out Cristiano Ronaldo's first-half goal.

Inter Milan and Atalanta also shared the spoils in Bergamo after Aleksey Miranchuk scored on his first Serie A start for the hosts to cancel out Lautaro Martinez's header. — AFP

Lille suffer first defeat of season

Paris: Ligue 1's last unbeaten run was ended on Sunday when Lille followed up their midweek triumph over AC Milan with a 3-2 defeat at Brest, while Lyon downed local rivals Saint Etienne 2-1. Lille remain second in the French top-flight five points behind Paris Saint-Germain and one above Rennes after suffering their first loss since February.

The team that thumped Milan 3-0 at the San Siro on Thursday failed to leave enough in the tank to see off Brittany outfit Brest, who had lost three in a row. Ronael Pierre-Gabriel got his first professional goal with a header for the opener on 15 minutes and Brest raced to a 3-0 lead before half-time with goals from Romain Perraud and Irvin Cardona. — AFP

Bradl bags more points for Honda

Valencia, Spain: A wet and wild first weekend comes to an end in Valencia as Stefan Bradl walks away with more points while Alex Marquez shows top-ten potential again. Sunday in Valencia got off to a busy start on a dry circuit, the Repsol Honda Team working to refine their dry race setup in just 20 minutes after a weekend of running in the wet. When the lights went out, Alex Marquez once again got off the line well, charging ahead to gain positions in the opening corners. Within just a lap the rookie was inside the top ten, battling first with Jack Miller and then with Dovizioso as he made his way forward. From his best grid position of the year, Stefan adapted to the conditions and changes in the front tyre, resulting in a 12th place finish, securing back-to-back points for the first time in 2020.

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Final — Mumbai Indians vs Delhi Capitals from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

Women's Big Bash League: Melbourne Stars vs Adelaide Strikers from 9 am; Melbourne Renegades vs. Hobart Hurricanes from 1.35 pm on Sony Six, HD

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MI charged up for DC

First timers Delhi stand between Mumbai and 5th IPL title

Dubai, Nov. 9: The unmatched legacy and hegemony created by the 'galacticos' of Mumbai Indians will be thoroughly challenged by a young Mumbaikar Shreyas Iyer, who will lead a passionate-but-unpredictable Delhi Capitals in a cracker of an Indian Premier League final here on Tuesday.

After 52 days of the most closely-contested and widely-watched edition played on alien land in the backdrop of the raging Covid-19 pandemic, the BCCI can pat itself for pulling off a near flawless tournament that gave people a chance to withdraw from prime time negativity that dominated the air space.

And now, it's the coronation time with IPL's most successful skipper Rohit Sharma itching to win his fifth title amid a stormy couple of weeks.

On the other hand, the Capitals, a team that had flattered to deceive for a dozen editions, will finally realise their potential on the grand stage of T20 cricket.

There hasn't been too many editions where the two most deserving teams squared off in a summit clash unlike this edition where Mumbai reached the finals winning 10 out of their 15 games while Capitals, despite a slump, managed to triumph in nine out of their 16 games. There haven't been too many teams that have shown the flair and balance of Mumbai Indians, an envy for any opposition.

Sample this scary piece of statistic and one can gauge the might of Mumbai. In all, their players have hit 130 sixes compared to Capitals' 84.

Quinton de Kock's panache has a foil in Rohit Sharma's style although proving a point to all and sundry about his hamstring injury would also be on the Indian's mind.

— PTI



Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma (left) and his Delhi Capitals counterpart Shreyas Iyer pose with the Indian Premier League trophy. — BCCI

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL:
● Matches: 27 ● Mumbai: 15 ● Delhi: 12

MEETING IN 2020

- Mumbai Indians beat Delhi Capitals by 5 wickets in Abu Dhabi.
- Mumbai defeated Delhi by 9 wickets in Dubai
- Mumbai beat Delhi by 57 runs in Dubai (Qualifier 1).

FOR THE RECORD

- Delhi Capitals entered the final for the first time while defending Champions Mumbai Indians will play in the final for the sixth time.
- Kagiso Rabada with 29 wickets at an average of 17.79 in 15 innings of as many matches, is the highest wicket-taker in this IPL.

— S. PERVEZ QAISER

IYER RELISHES MAKING IPL FINAL

Abu Dhabi, Nov. 9: Delhi Capitals skipper Shreyas Iyer says qualifying for a maiden IPL final is "best feeling ever" after a roller-coaster journey in which his team has peaked at just the right time.

Delhi Capitals beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 17 runs on Sunday to reach the final.

"(It's) Best feeling ever. Journey has been a roller-coaster. The emotions keep going high and low, so you can't have the same set of

routines. Have to keep chopping and changing," Iyer said at the post-match presentation.

"Hoping that in the next game as well, against MI the biggest team, we're able to play freely."

Iyer lauded the collective effort that carried the side through to the summit clash.

"End of the day we stuck together as a family. Very happy with the effort every individual has put in," he added. — PTI

SHAME WE COULD NOT MAKE FINAL, SAYS WILLIAMSON

Abu Dhabi, Nov. 9: It's a "shame" that Sunrisers Hyderabad could not make the IPL final, feels top batsman Kane Williamson but asserted that the side can take pride in its remarkable fightback to make the play-offs after the early struggle in the tournament.

Williamson's counter-attacking 67 went in vain as Delhi Capitals made it to their maiden IPL final on Sunday.

"Delhi is a very good side. They have been trying to find the rhythm to their play like we were and we managed to for a little period of time. Delhi was able to put it together against us and they played very well," Williamson said during the post-match press conference.

"It's a real shame not to make the finals but I think, particularly in the last three weeks, the guys can be proud of how they played." — PTI

Sweet 16 for Trailblazers

Mandhana and Co. won by 16 runs in T20 Challenge final

Sharjah, Nov. 9: Trailblazers defended a modest 118 with a brilliant bowling display to topple two-time champions Supernovas by 16 runs and win their maiden Women's T20 Challenge trophy here on Monday.

The summit clash turned out to be a low-scoring affair and it was not the best advert for women's cricket with strokeplay proving to be extremely difficult on a slow surface.

Barring Trailblazers Smriti Mandhana (68 off 49), the batswomen from either side struggled to get going.

In response to Trailblazers' 118 for eight, Supernovas could only manage 102 for seven.

Bangladesh star Salma Khatun (3/18) eclipsed Radha Yadav's (5/16) sensational five-wicket haul to fashion a comprehensive win for her team.



Trailblazers captain Smriti Mandhana en route to her 68 against Supernovas in the final of the Women's T20 Challenge at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Monday. — BCCI

Nonetheless, it was a welcome return to the field for Indian players who were out of action since March due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

With the dew around, pitches have played better in the second half of the IPL but Supernovas

found it tough from the word go on a slow surface. After their spinners did well to restrict Trailblazers to a modest total, Supernovas were at the receiving end with left-arm spinners Sophie Ecclestone (1/26) and Rajeshwari Gayakwad

keeping things tight. — PTI

Brief Scores: Trailblazers 118/8 in 20 overs (Smriti Mandhana 68; Radha Yadav 5/16) bt Supernovas 102/7 in 20 overs (Harmanpreet Kaur 30; Salma Khatun 3/18, Deepti Sharma 2/9).

BCCI, IPL teams lack coordination on injury issues



Hemant Kenkre
Silly Point

Even as the Indian Premier League (IPL) culminates with a clash between first time finalists Delhi Capitals (DC) and tournament favourites Mumbai Indians (MI), reports of injuries to few Indian players are a big reason for worry. In a few days from now, the Indian team will embark on their tour of Australia where they will play Twenty20 and One Day (ODI) Internationals apart from a four-Test series that is an ongoing part of the World Championship of cricket.

The latest in the list of the injured lot, picked in the extended Indian squad, is leg spinner Varun Chakravarthi who made his mark in the IPL with a stellar show for Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR). The 29-year old Tamil Nadu bowler has a labrum tear in his shoulder which allows him to bowl but not to throw the ball while fielding.

A few days before the news of Chakravarthi's injury became known, wicket-keeper Wriddhiman Saha sat out of the last two matches of

Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) due to a hamstring tear which makes him a doubtful starter for the Australian Test series. Not a stranger to debilitations, Saha (in the past) came back from India's tour of South Africa in 2018 after injuring his hamstring and had missed the last edition of the IPL due to a thumb injury.

The hamstring problem also affected Rohit Sharma who was not picked by the Indian selectors for the tour along with Ishant Sharma (rib-cage muscle tear) and Bhuvaneshwar Kumar (thigh muscle injury). While Saha, Ishant and Kumar sat out of the IPL once their injuries were diagnosed, Rohit took the field to lead his team after resting for a few matches in the IPL. In Chakravarthi's case, it is learnt that he was carrying the injury for a while and aggravated it by continuing to play in the tournament.

As one looks back in time an evident pattern emerges of many Indian cricketers who pick up injuries while appearing in the IPL or continue to hide existing ones and keep playing till the damage goes out of control. It is here that the coordination between the various franchisees of the IPL and the BCCI comes into the picture. Acquiring an injury is accepted as a part and parcel of the game and there is a standard operating procedure in place, set by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to deal with injury management.

During the IPL, monitoring the fitness of the players comes under the purview of the physiother-

apists of the franchisees who are to report issues (if any) to their counterpart in the BCCI to take further action. While the cases of Ishant, Kumar and Rohit were duly reported to the BCCI by the respective franchisees, Chakravarthi's injury was reported by KKR after their IPL campaign ended. The fact that he was carrying an injury was kept from the BCCI and the Indian selectors who picked him for the Australian tour.

The story continued when Rohit who was left out of all the squads for the Aussie tour, as was recommended by the BCCI physio, continued to play for MI casting doubts on the process of injury management.

He continued appearances for his franchise, inspite of gentle advice of

Virat to go on paternity leave

New Delhi, Nov. 9: India captain Virat Kohli was on Monday granted paternity leave by the BCCI after the first Test against Australia next month, while his limited-overs' deputy Rohit Sharma was added to the red-ball squad after being initially left out due to a hamstring injury.

Kohli will miss three Test matches in Australia to be with his actor wife Anushka Sharma as the couple welcomes its first child in early January.

"...Mr Virat Kohli had informed the BCCI about his plans to return to India after the first Test in Adelaide. The BCCI has granted paternity leave to the Indian captain. He will return after the first Test against Australia in Adelaide," Board secretary Jay Shah stated in a press release.

The centrally-contracted players are eligible for paternity leave and Rohit had availed it during the 2018 tour of Australia.

India's tour of Australia comprises three ODIs, as many T20 Internationals and four Tests. The series begins November 27. The Tests start on December 17 in Adelaide.

Kohli will miss the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne (December 26-30), New Year's Test in Sydney (January 7-11) and the final game at the Gabba (January 15-19).

Cricket Australia, which is already facing a lot of heat from the broadcasters Seven Network, would be worried as the Indian captain is a massive draw and his absence could severely impact the advertisement market.

Shah also gave an update on Rohit's fitness and said he will miss the ODI and T20 series.

Starc opens up about living in bio-bubbles

Melbourne, Nov. 9: Australian pace spearhead Mitchell Starc has become the latest cricketer to raise concerns over the mental well-being of players staying in a bio-bubble as he feels it is "not sustainable" to live in such restrictions for a prolonged period.

In a world scarred by Covid-19 pandemic, cricket is currently being organised in bio-bubbles and the situation is unlikely to change anytime soon.

"It's not a sustainable lifestyle," Starc was quoted as saying by cricket.com.au.

"You're living in a hotel room with zero outside contact. Some guys haven't seen families or their kids for a long time, for those guys in the IPL."

While the cricketers competing in the IPL have been in a bio-secure bubble in UAE since August, many will have to enter another bio-secure arrangement when they represent their respective national teams in the upcoming events.

The Indian team will leave for its long tour Down Under after the IPL final on Tuesday, along with few Australian cricketers such as Steve Smith, Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and David Warner, who were part of

REVISED SQUADS

T20I squad: Virat Kohli (Captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Mayank Agarwal, KL Rahul (vice-captain and wicket-keeper), Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Hardik Pandya, Sanju Samson (wicket-keeper), Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Shami, Navdeep Saini, Deepak Chahar, T Natarajan.

ODI squad: Virat Kohli (Captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Shubman Gill, KL Rahul (vice-captain & wicket-keeper), Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Hardik Pandya, Mayank Agarwal, Ravindra Jadeja, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Shami, Navdeep Saini, Shardul Thakur, Sanju Samson (wicket-keeper).

Test squad: Virat Kohli (Captain), Rohit Sharma, Mayank Agarwal, Prithvi Shaw, KL Rahul, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane (vice-captain), Hanuma Vihari, Shubman Gill, Wriddhiman Saha (wicket-keeper), Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Shami, Umesh Yadav, Navdeep Saini, Kuldeep Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja, R. Ashwin, Mohd Siraj.

"The BCCI Medical Team has been monitoring Rohit Sharma's fitness and has briefed All-India Senior Selection Committee on the same.

"In consultation with Sharma, it has been decided to rest him for the ODIs and T20Is in Australia to regain full fitness and he has been included in India's Test squad for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy." — PTI



Mitchell Starc

various IPL franchises.

Among others, England players will be touring South-Africa for six white-ball matches in less than a fortnight after the IPL, while West Indies players have to depart for New Zealand for another assignment.

"It's tough going we get to play cricket, (so) we can't complain too much but in terms of wellbeing of players, staff and officials, how long can you stay in hubs for?," Starc questioned the model. — PTI