



PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION



RETURN OF
MODERATION?



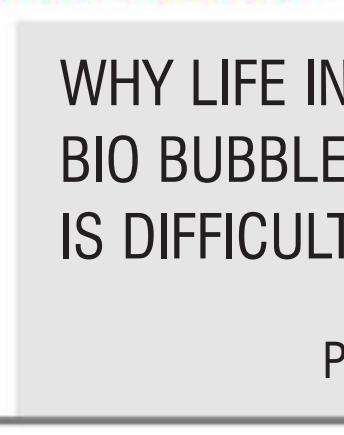
'ELECTED J&K
GOVERNMENT IN
DUE COURSE'

P6



SUU KYI'S PARTY
EXPECTED TO WIN
MYANMAR ELECTION

P11



WHY LIFE IN
BIO BUBBLE
IS DIFFICULT

P12

WEATHER

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

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 91%	Min: 39%
TEMPERATURE	
Max: 30.9°C (+2)	Min: 11.2°C (-4)
SUN RISES	SUN SETS
06:38 hrs	17:32 hrs
MOON RISES	MOON SETS
22:55 hrs	13:04 hrs

THUMBNAILS



During an 'SMS' - sanitisation, mask, and social distancing - campaign for public awareness on safety measures against Covid, organised by the New Delhi district administration, in the Capital on Friday.

DEEPAK

Shah gives Bengal wake-up call for new era: Union Home minister Amit Shah on Friday asked West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee to come out with a white paper on the political killings in the state and wondered why the state government has not sent the statistics of crime to the National Crime Record Bureau. Stating that the Citizenship Amendment Act will be implemented, Shah said the law is in place and it is the commitment of the Union government.

WhatsApp payments service: WhatsApp on Friday said it was rolling out its payments services in India after receiving nod from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). On Thursday, NPCI, which runs the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) used for real-time payments between peers or at merchants' end while making purchases, allowed WhatsApp to start its payments service in the country in a "graded" manner, starting with a maximum registered user base of 20 million in UPI.

P8

Active Covid cases remain below 6L for 8th day

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 6 NOVEMBER

India's Covid-19 caseload went past 84 lakh, while the number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 77.65 lakh, pushing the national recovery rate to 92.32 per cent, according to Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday.

India's total coronavirus cases mounted to 84,11,724 with 47,638 new infections being reported in a day, while the death toll climbed to 1,24,985 with 670 new fatalities, data updated at 8 a.m. showed.

A total 77,65,966 people have recuperated from Covid-19 so far, pushing the national recovery rate to 92.32 per cent, while the case fatality rate stands at 1.49 per cent. The number of active cases of Covid-19 remained below 6

Delhi logs 7,178 new virus cases, its highest spike

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 6 NOVEMBER

Delhi today recorded over 7,000 new coronavirus infections (Covid-19) for the first time, which pushed its caseload to about 4.24 lakh, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

The national capital today logged 7,178 fresh Covid cases - its highest single-day spike - which were detected out of 58,860 tests conducted the previous day. The city's Covid positivity rate was

lakh for the eighth consecutive day.

There are 5,20,773 active cases of coronavirus infection

reported to be 12.19 per cent.

The total number of coronavirus infections climbed to 4,23,831 in the city. There were 39,722 active cases now, the health bulletin said. Delhi recorded 64 fresh Covid fatalities that pushed its coronavirus toll to 6,833, the bulletin stated.

The city's Covid recovery rate came down further to 89.01 percent. The national capital had yesterday reported 6,715 coronavirus infections, which were identified when 52,294 tests were conducted.

in the country as on date, which comprises 6.19 per cent of the total caseload, data stated.

FACT FILE

TOTAL CASES
84,11,724
ACTIVE CASES
5,20,773
NEW CASES
47,638
NEW RECOVERIES
54,127
TOTAL DEATHS
1,24,985

UNION HEALTH MINISTRY FIGURES AS OF 8.00 A.M.
FRIDAY 06 NOVEMBER 2020

PIB

Distribution of EVMS and polling materials to polling officials from one of the distribution centres set up for the Phase III of the ongoing Bihar Assembly election. In Muzaffarpur on Friday.

PIB

Owaisi's party and the RJD much to the glee of Nitish Kumar who has now returned to the BJP camp. "Literate Muslims supported Owaisi since they know supporting the AIMIM will mean helping the BJP. The general Muslims supported Owaisi last time since it was a by-elec-

tion but this time, the main issue is the formation of the Grand Alliance government," commented a resident from Kshanganj.

The poll contest remained largely between the NDA and the Grand Alliance in the first two phases. But in the final phase, many players are working hard to get a share of the electoral pie. The fist among them is AIMIM chief Owaisi who is working to spread party footprints in Seemanchal area having a sizeable Muslim population.

Yet, Owaisi has emerged as a dominant force in the region. Similarly, Pappu Yadav who heads the Progressive Democratic Alliance wields clout in the Kosi and Purnia zone. Especially, he holds sway over the Yadav and extremely backward caste voters in districts like Madhepura, Saharsa, Supaul and Purnia.

He already has represented Madhepura and Purnia Lok Sabha seats many times in the past while his wife Ranjita Ranjan has represented Supaul seat in the parliament.

Again, the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) headed by Chirag Paswan is trying to make the contest triangular in some districts like Samastipur, Vaishali, and Saharsa.

Out of them, Samastipur and Vaishali are already represented by LJP in the Lok Sabha. It is worth mentioning here that the LJP has gone solo this time but what's more interesting, it has fielded candidates mainly against the JD-U.

In the last Assembly polls, the Grand Alliance which then comprised Nitish Kumar's JD-U, RJD of Lalu Prasad and the Congress had emerged victorious in 54 seats out of the total 78 going to polls in the last phase.

But the equation has changed entirely this time with Nitish Kumar now returning to the NDA. It's to be seen how the voters react this time.

It is said Kumar's declaration that this was his "last election" is only aimed at winning the sympathy of the voters annoyed with his frequent flip-flops in his political stand.

DRONE PILOTS



DCGA-approved Drone Pilot from Redbird aviation, India's first batch of drone pilots ready for operations in the country. In the Capital on Friday.

DEEPAK

No bail yet for Goswami, HC hearing to continue

MUMBAI, 6 NOVEMBER

There was no immediate relief for Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami, arrested in a 2018 abetment of suicide case, on Friday as the hearing on his interim bail plea before the Bombay High Court remained incomplete.

The court on Saturday will continue to hear his petition seeking interim bail and challenging his arrest in connection with the suicide of architect-interior designer Anvay Naik and his mother.

Goswami was arrested in the case by Alibaug police in neighbouring Raigad district on Wednesday, and a magistrate's court there remanded him in judicial custody till 18 November.

A division bench of Justices S S Shinde and M S Karnik heard arguments by his lawyers Harish Salve and Aabid Ponda on Friday, but said the hearing will continue on Saturday for paucity of time. "We will assemble for this matter tomorrow at noon. Since regular court work will not be there tomorrow, we can hear this matter at length," the HC said.

The bench noted that the normal practice when seeking bail is to first approach the concerned lower court magistrate or sessions court - and move the high court if bail is refused. To this, Salve said section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) gives the high court special powers to hear bail pleas. "His (Goswami's) liberty is at stake," Salve said. Advocate Ponda said a bail application was filed on the day of the arrest but was later withdrawn.

Third and final phase of Bihar Assembly elections today

MANOJ CHAURASIA
PATNA, 6 NOVEMBER

The battle for ballots in the third and final phase of voting has turned very interesting with the focus shifting to the Muslim-dominated zones of Bihar, and the two key political alliances - opposition Grand Alliance and the ruling NDA trying hard to get support of Muslim and Hindu voters respectively amidst strong bids by Asaduddin Owaisi to strengthen his foothold in the state.

In the last two phases, the poll contest remained largely between the NDA and the Grand Alliance but in the last phase, many players are working hard to get a share in the electoral pie. The fist among them is AIMIM president Owaisi who is working to

spread his party footprints in the Seemanchal or border region having considerable Muslim population.

Bolstered by his party victory from Kishanganj Assembly seat during by-polls held last year, Owaisi's party has now fielded 19 candidates in the Muslim-dominated Seemanchal region having a total of 24 Assembly seats.

In a bid to win support of his community, Owaisi has been frequently raising the issues of the citizenship Bill, NRC and poverty among the Muslim community.

His rallies are drawing good crowds. A split in Muslim votes could, thus, obviously spoil the poll prospects of RJD which also banks on the support of minority voters. The Muslim community now remains divided between



Owaisi's party and the RJD much to the glee of Nitish Kumar who has now returned to the BJP camp. "Literate Muslims supported Owaisi last time since it was a by-election but this time, the main issue is the formation of the Grand Alliance government," commented a resident from Kshanganj.

Yet, Owaisi has emerged as a dominant force in the region. Similarly, Pappu Yadav who heads the Progressive Democratic Alliance wields clout in the Kosi and Purnia zone. Especially, he holds sway over the Yadav and extremely backward caste voters in districts like Madhepura, Saharsa, Supaul and Purnia.

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Even though our death rate is more in comparison to other states, Goa is the only state which records 100 per cent births and deaths

PRAMOD SAWANT
GOA CHIEF MINISTER

Farm fires: Delhi forms panel to assess impact of Pusa solution

AAP govt sets up Pusa Bio-decomposer Impact Assessment Committee comprising MLAs, officials & scientists; Rai warns that those found violating ban on crackers could be fined up to Rs 1 lakh

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 6 NOVEMBER

Delhi environment minister Gopal Rai today said the AAP-led Delhi government has formed a 15-member Pusa Bio-decomposer Impact Assessment Committee comprising MLAs, officials and scientists to ascertain the effectiveness of the Pusa Institute's solution, which had been sprinkled on some farmlands in the national capital in a bid to curb stubble burning.

Rai said the share of stubble burning — mainly in the neighbouring states like Punjab, Haryana and UP — in Delhi's air pollution rose to 42 per cent yesterday, the maximum so far this season.

There is pollution due to local sources as well, but emissions from stubble burning and firecrackers make the situation worse in Delhi, he said.

The minister pointed out that the Delhi government yesterday announced a blanket



ban on firecrackers from November 7 to November 30, considering the spike in the number of new Covid cases amid worsening air pollution levels.

"We have notified the ban and called a meeting on Monday to discuss an action plan to ensure implementation of the curbs on firecrackers," he said. On Monday, Delhi

Police, the divisional commissioners and environment department officials will meet to form the SOP (standard operating procedure) on the implementation of the ban.

Rai also said that those violating the ban on crackers could be fined up to Rs 1 lakh by the administration.

Till now the Delhi government has received about 2,300 complaints through the "Green Delhi" app and officials have solved about 1,346 complaints and that from the coming Monday all teams of the environment department will directly visit the spots of complaints.

He said: "Non-Basmati rice farming takes place in Delhi on around 2000 acres of land and till now we have sprinkled the Pusa bio-decomposer on 1800 acres. The remaining areas will be covered soon. We started sprinkling the bio-decomposer on 13 October and now we have witnessed that 90-95 per cent stubble got converted to manure."

Rai further said, "We have sprinkled the anti-stubble solution across the city. To study its impact, we are setting up a 15-member committee named Pusa Bio-decomposer Impact

Assessment Committee. The committee will have as its members five MLAs (Sharad Chauhan from Narela, Jai Bhagwan from Bawana, Dharampal Lakhra from Mundka, Gulab Singh Yadav from Matiala and BS Joon from Bijwasan), senior officials from the agriculture department and scientists of the Pusa Institute."

The minister added that "The committee will submit its assessment report within seven days and after getting the report we will submit the outcome to the Supreme Court, where the hearing on the matter of pollution is going on. On behalf of the Delhi government, I also welcome the expert commission set up by the Central government under MM Kutty to monitor the air pollution issue. Around 44 per cent of Delhi's pollution is due to the stubble burning in the neighbouring states. We believe the commission will approve of this technique of converting stubble to manure."

Like earlier two Covid-19 waves in Delhi, third one will end soon: CM



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal inaugurates the redevelopment of Rohtak Road, in the Capital on Friday.

DEEPAK

Audit of 7 DU colleges shows financial irregularities; they blamed govt for cash crunch: Sisodia

PTI

NEW DELHI, 6 NOVEMBER

A special audit of seven Delhi University colleges funded by the Delhi government has revealed serious financial irregularities and violation of UGC norms, showing that despite having surplus funds the salaries of staff have not been released. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said on Friday.

Sisodia, who is also Delhi's Education Minister, said the government is exploring legal proceedings on the basis of the audit, which was conducted following repeated allegations by the colleges that the city gov-

ernment was withholding funds.

"After receiving complaints of mismanagement of funds, we sanctioned a special audit to examine the fund expenditure of five colleges funded by the Delhi government. Despite their resistance to the audit, it is clear that these colleges have been grossly mismanaging funds, as shown by the report of the audit," Sisodia said at a press conference.

"The special audit, when initiated, was obstructed by the colleges by matters of resisting to show their accounts books to the audit officers. The books were only shown when the High Court intervened. Two

major issues have emerged in the audit - unauthorised payments by the college and surplus funds being stashed by the colleges," he added.

The colleges that were audited on the order of the high court

are Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College, Keshav Mahavidyalaya (29.84 crores), Shaheed Sukhdev College (16.52 crores), Bhagini Nivedita College (17.23 crores), and Maharishi Valmiki college (10.64 crores).

There was no response

from principals of the seven colleges on the issue.

Sisodia said despite increasing the funds of these colleges, they kept showing a deficit. After corroboration with the audit report, it's clear these colleges have been in violation of UGC norms and have been misappropriating the funds.

The irregularities pointed out in the audit include pay-

ment of teaching and non-teaching staff against the posts that did not have sanction of the Directorate of Higher Education, hiring of security guards and housekeeping staff in violation of GFR, purchase of computers and other hardware without following financial norms, and hiring of cars without following financial norms and not furnishing attendance records of such people.

"The money spent by colleges was unauthorized, without seeking any approval from the Delhi Government as the colleges continued to make illegal payments. Paying salaries of Rs 40,000 to security guards

is a clear violation of this as standard pay is between 15,000-20,000. These inflated salaries imply this was done to hide their own misappropriation," he said. Sisodia further said despite receiving the funds from the Delhi government, the colleges continued to stash their surplus funds.

"Any source of earning, and the total income received by the college from fees has to be declared to Delhi Government. However, these colleges violated this pattern of assistance as large undeclared incomes in their accounts have been found by the auditors, which were never declared to the Delhi Government," he added.

tional flights," Kejriwal said.

On the issue of air pollution, he said Delhi's air quality remains good from January till mid-October but worsens afterwards due to stubble burning in neighbouring states like Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Delhi has provided an alternative in the form of a chemical developed by the Pusa Institute that converts stubble into manure. Next year there should not be any excuse by Punjab, Haryana and UP and their stubble burning should stop, Kejriwal said.

After inaugurating a PWD project to strengthen Rohtak Road in Mundka, the CM urged people to properly wear face masks, pointing out that it is the best protection against Covid.

"Till there is a vaccine for corona, consider face masks as the vaccine. These are the biggest protection against Covid-19 infection. We need to promote wearing face masks as a movement," Kejriwal said.

He recently said that Delhi was currently facing the third Covid wave.

Today, he said that the people of Delhi have already grappled with the first two coronavirus waves and helped in controlling them.

"In this third wave, I'm extremely hopeful that Delhiites will continue to provide their support as always and it will come to an end soon," he said.

Citing the arrival of 32,000 Indians from virus-hit countries in March as well people coming from different parts of the country to the national capital, the CM noted that Delhi has faced a tough situation.

"Delhi did not start at zero in terms of the number of Covid cases, Delhi started at thousands owing to the lack of aggressive testing of people who flew in through international flights," he said.

The CM said the Delhi government has previously also completed various projects well before time and at a lesser cost, and the time and cost-saving model will be replicated in this project as well.

The total cost of this redevelopment project is Rs 25 crore, and it will be carried out with the use of the latest cold-milling technology in which the upper layer of the road will be recycled and reused, said a PWD engineer.

The road was first constructed in 2011 and was to be redeveloped in 2016. However, the project has now been taken by the Delhi government from the Centre as the National Highways Authority did not sanction funds for it, said a government statement.

The trial court had recently refused to grant time to the police to obtain funds' sanction to provide to the accused hard copies of the voluminous charge sheet filed in a case, saying they were supposed to act promptly.

It had on October 9 directed the police to file fresh copies of the charge sheet after it was informed that they had "inadvertently" put a document containing the details of some protected witnesses in the copies supplied to the accused booked under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the case.

The Special Cell of the Delhi Police had charge sheeted 15 accused under the provisions of stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in connection with the violence that erupted in the northeast parts of the national capital in February this year.

They have been charged for allegedly being part of a larger conspiracy in the riots.

JNU student Sharjeel Imam and former JNU student leader Umar Khalid have also been arrested under the anti-terror law in the case but not charged yet.

Communal violence had broken out in northeast Delhi on February 24 after clashes between citizenship law supporters and protesters spiralled out of control, leaving at least 53 people dead and around 200 injured.

Classified

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE COURT OF
SH. DHEERAJ MITTAL
ARC/ACI/CC/

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

Petition No. SC-57/2020

Vijay Kumar Sharma & Anr.
Versus State & Anr.

—(Petitioner)

FOR SUCCESSION
CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIA
AN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925

To All concerned,

Whereas in the abovementioned petition, the applicant/petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debt and securities any person having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the deceased Late Maiti Sisodia, wife late G. S. Sisodia died on Dt. 07-07-2011 at Max Devi Heart & Vascular Institute, 2, Press Enclave Road, Saket, New Delhi. Are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned in writing to the Sealed Court, to be standing in the name of deceased.

Whereas the 18-02-2021 at 10 O'Clock in the forenoon has been fixed for hearing and the application notice is hereby given to all concerned.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on 26-10-2020.

ARC/ACI/CJA
Patiala House Courts,
New Delhi.

Seal of the Court

PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Shri Patti Ram, s/o Late Ram Sumer, A/-260, Vijay Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi-110085, has severed all his relations connection with his daughter namely Meena, as the married with her own choice and acting adverse to the interest of my client. My client has debarred/disown her from all his movable and immovable properties. She is residing in her matrimonial home. She is not to be responsible for her acts and demands any one any dealing with her own risk and responsibility.

Murari Choudhary
Advocats

Enrol No. D-383-A/96

Delhi High Court

Ch/Seat No. 9 Opp. Delhi

Bar Office

Western Wing

Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-54

1 & 3, Urquhart Square
Kolkata-70006
Applications are invited
for the post of Laboratory
Attendant (Group-D) - in
Scottish Church College,
Kolkata. For details
please visit: www.
scottischchurch.ac.in

I, BASANTI Devi, spouse of
No.-07098274A Rank-
Havildar, late Kamal Ranjan
Bhowmik, residing at Vill.:
Barasat, P.O.: Haripukuria,
P.S.: Haringhata, Dist.:
Nadia (West Bengal) have
changed my name from
"Basanti Devi" to "Basanti
Bhowmik", vide affidavit
04.11.2020 before 1st Class
2nd Court Judicial
Magistrate Kalyani, Nadia.
Affidavit Number 3645
declared above.

The Statesman
KOLKATA
Statesman House,
4, Chowringhee Square
Kolkata-700 001
Tel: (033) 41071700
Fax: (033) 2212-6181 / 7107-1780
Email: thestatesman@vsnl.com
statesmandisplay@gmail.com
thestatesmandclassified@gmail.com

DELHI
Statesman House,
148, Barakhamra Road,
New Delhi-110 001
Tel: (011) 2331 5911

Ishan House (2nd floor)
90, Sector II, NOIDA,
UP 201 301
Tel: (0120) 4171421

Email:
delhi@thestatesman@gmail.com
delhi@thestatesmangroup.com

BHUBANESWAR
Plot 3A, Zone B, Sector A, Mancheswar
Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751
010.
Tel: (0674) 2558060/61/62/ 25586371,
Telefax: 0674-2558061
Email:
bhubeswar@thestatesmangroup.com
statesmanbsr@gmail.com

SILIGURI
13A, Dabgram Industrial Growth
Centre,
P.O. Satellite Township,
Siliguri-734015
Tel: 2568615, 2568063 and 2568787.
Fax: (0353) 2568296.

LUCKNOW
2/2, Butler Palace (Near Jopling Road),
Lucknow-226 001,
Ph.: (0522) 2206705
Email:
delhi@thestatesman@gmail.com
lucknow@thestatesmangroup.com

RANCHI
11C, Road#1, Ashoknagar, Ranchi - 83
002
Fax: (0651) 2247054
Email:
delhi@thestatesman@gmail.com
ranchi@thestatesmangroup.com

SHIMLA
Cabin No. 305, P. C. Chambers
Near Jodha Niwas
The Mall Shimla-171001, H.P.

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

KEEP COVID AT BAY



During an 'SMS' (sanitisation, mask and social distancing) campaign for creating public awareness about the Covid safety protocols, organised by the New Delhi district administration. In the Capital on Friday.

DEEPAK

The Delhi High Court Friday said it will hear next week, a plea by Delhi Police challenging a trial court's order directing it to provide to the accused hard copies of the voluminous charge sheet filed in a case related to the north east Delhi riots in February.

Justice Suresh Kumar Kait listed the petition for hearing on November 11 as the Additional Solicitor General who had to argue the matter was not available during the day.

The police have sought to set aside trial court's September 21 and October 21 orders, directing the investigating agency to supply the physical copy of the charge sheet along with documents to the accused persons without appreciating the submissions made on behalf of the State.

The trial court has issued a mechanical order dated September 21, 2020 directing supply of physical copy of charge sheet ignoring

the submissions of the State as also the legal provisions.

The trial court allowed the application under Section 2

The Delhi Jal Board, which used to run in profit before the Kejriwal government came to power; has become a centre of huge economic losses

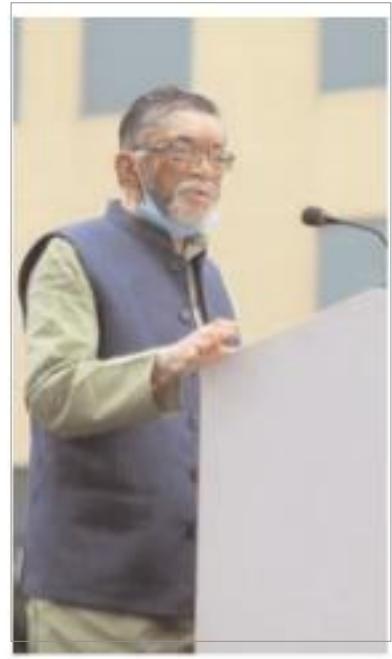


ADESH GUPTA
DELHI BJP PRESIDENT

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY 07 NOVEMBER 2020

03

THUMBNAILS



Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar inaugurates electronics major VVDN Technologies' new SMT facility and Mechanical Tooling Park-II at Manesar, Haryana on Friday. SNS

2,267 fresh Covid cases, 21 more fatalities in Haryana: Haryana on Friday reported 2,267 fresh novel coronavirus cases that included the biggest single-day spike of 704 infections in Gurgaon district, according to the state health department's daily bulletin. With these fresh cases, the state's total caseload increased to 1,78,413. PTI

473 new Covid cases in Uttarakhand, 9 deaths: Nine more people died from the novel coronavirus in Uttarakhand, taking the toll to 1,056 on Friday, while the number of infections rose to 64,538 with 473 more cases, the Health Department said. There are 3,736 active cases of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), while 59,227 people have recovered and 519 migrated, according to a health bulletin. PTI

Jai Ram launches website of Atal Medical & Research University

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 6 NOVEMBER

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Friday launched the website of Atal Medical and Research University, Mandi, through video conferencing from Shimla.

The Chief Minister said that this University was established on 23 June by the Himachal Pradesh University of Health Sciences Act, 2017 and was named Atal Medical and Research University as a mark of respect to the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2019.

He said that the main objective of setting up this University is to provide quality health care and education, to produce the best health care personnel, provide a single platform for health educationists of the state and to improve and standardize health education in the process of teaching, learning and evaluation system.

Thakur said that the University aimed at establishing uniformity in standards of education in all faculties of Health Sciences including

Delhi's air quality remains 'severe' for second day

A large number of Punjab farm fires cause Capital air to turn 'severe'; Delhi's adjoining cities including Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Noida, and Gurugram also log 'very poor' to 'severe' air quality

PTI
NEW DELHI, 6 NOVEMBER

The national capital's air quality remained "severe" for the second consecutive day on Friday, while government agencies said it is likely to improve slightly.

Experts said while meteorological conditions were moderately favourable for dispersion of pollutants, a very high number of farm fires in Punjab was the primary reason for the severe air quality on Friday.

The city's 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) stood at 406. On Thursday, the AQI was 450, the highest since November 15 last year, when it was 458.

The neighbouring cities of Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida and Gurugram also recorded "very poor" to "severe" air quality. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".

PM10 levels in Delhi-NCR stood at 435 microgram per cubic meter (g/m³) at 6 pm, according to CPCB data. PM10 levels below 100 g/m³ are considered safe in India.

PM10 is particulate matter with a diameter of 10 micrometers and is inhalable



Poor visibility due to smog in the Capital on Friday.

jab (around 5,100) remained very high on Thursday and it is likely to impact the air quality of Delhi-NCR and other parts of northwest India.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, SAFAR, said the share of stubble burning in Delhi's PM2.5 pollution was estimated at 21 per cent on Friday. It was 42 per cent on Thursday, the maximum this season so far.

Last year, the stubble contribution to Delhi's pollution had peaked to 44 per cent on November 1, according to SAFAR data.

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

According to a doctor at the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, intake of every 22 micrograms per cubic metre of polluted air is equivalent to smoking a cigarette.

With Delhi witnessing a spike in the number of new COVID-19 cases amid worsening pollution levels, the Delhi government on Thursday announced a blanket ban on firecrackers from November 7 to November 30. Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said those violating the ban on firecrackers can be fined up to Rs 1 lakh by the administration.

into the lungs. These particles include dust, pollen and mold spores.

The levels of PM2.5 finer particles which can even enter the bloodstream were 242 g/m³ at 6 pm. PM2.5 levels up to 60 g/m³ are considered safe.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the maximum wind speed was 10 kilometres per

hour on Friday and the minimum temperature 11.2 degrees Celsius. Calm winds and low temperatures trap pollutants close to the ground, while favourable wind speed helps in their dispersion.

V K Soni, the head of IMD's environment monitoring research centre, said, the air quality was in the "very poor" category on Friday morning. It entered the

"severe" zone again by evening, with a very large number of farm fires over Punjab being the primary reason.

He said the boundary layer wind direction was northwesterly, favourable for the transport of pollutants from farm fires to Delhi-NCR.

The Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi said the farm fire count in Pun-

ness Council on 26 June, 2020 and had detailed discussions with delegates regarding investment opportunities in the industrial sector.

The Chief Minister said that the state government had successfully organized 'Global Investors Meet' at Dharamshala in November, 2019 to attract more investments in various fields like tourism, power, health, industries, Information Tech-

nology etc.

He said that as many as 256 MoUs worth Rs. 17541 crore were signed in the tourism sector alone.

Thakur said that Himachal Pradesh has emerged a strong contender for setting up of 'Bulk Drug and Medical Device Park' in the State.

He said that several American companies were already engaged in production of formulation drugs in the state. He urged the US Ambassador to motivate Bulk Drug and Medical Device Companies of the United States to invest in the State.

The State was also emerging as an 'Industrial Hub' of the Country and US companies can play a major role by investing in electrical and power equipment to make Himachal Pradesh a pioneer State in this sector, he added.

The Chief Minister said that bilateral relations between India and USA have further strengthened during the tenure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. US Ambassador to India Kenneth I Juster said that India and the US shared strong cultural and trade relations for decades together. He said that he would help in showcasing the huge potential available in Himachal Pradesh for investment.

U'khand BJP MLA tenders apology after his audio clip attacking ABVP goes viral

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN, 6 NOVEMBER

The ruling Uttarakhand BJP's controversial MLA Kunwar Pranab Singh Champion continues to make waves. This time the Khanpur legislator is back in news for a viral audio clip, in which he is purportedly scolding a college student and even attacking the RSS' students wing Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP).

As the audio became viral on social media, MLA Champion immediately issued a clarification as a damage control measure.

The controversial legislator was expelled from the BJP last year after a video, in which he was shown to be accusing highlanders, became viral on social media. The party then also took action against him due to his rift with Jhabreda MLA Deshraj Karanwal.

As the audio became viral on social media, MLA Champion immediately issued a clarification as a damage control measure.

In his clarification issued on Friday, Kunwar Pranab



Singh Champion says, "About the latest incident, I want to clarify that our intention was not to accuse the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, but to act against opposition parties like BSP and Congress. If I have hurt the sentiments of any party worker I apologise for the inconvenience caused."

In the latest three-minute-thirty second audio, the Khanpur legislator is purportedly scolding a student leader from a government college (Laksar). Using harsh words, Champion says in the audio clip, "I was behind starting new classes in your college; despite this you are giving credit for this to others on your Facebook post."

Champion became offended after an ABVP member made a post about the new classes starting in their college on social media. The Facebook post gives credit for the new academic development in the college to the agitation of the students. The MLA adds in the clip, "I will take credit for the work which I have done!"

After the audio became viral, Champion was on the defensive and issued his clarification.

The Khanpur legislator sensed the danger as his suspension from the BJP was revoked recently and since he was going after the ABVP and their members.

HP entrepreneur develops apple cider vinegar with Nauni varsity's tech

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 6 NOVEMBER

An apple cider vinegar production technology, standardised by Himachal Pradesh's Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry (UHF), Nauni, would soon find its way to the market.

Under the transfer of technology initiative started by the university, a Jubbal based food enterprise has come out with an apple cider vinegar developed on the university technology.

The vinegar, developed by Hilly Foods, a company based at Sandbar in Jubbal, has been developed as a fast and effective alternative to the traditional methods of producing vinegar.

The product was recently launched by UHF Vice-Chancellor Dr Parvinder Kaushal at the university campus. Entrepreneur and proprietor of Hilly Foods, BS Rawat, who had ventured into vinegar manufacturing

developed by Dr Rakesh Sharma and Dr VK Joshi, present and former scientists of the Department of Food Science & Technology (FST) under a DST sponsored project. The technology was transferred to Hilly Foods, under a non-exclusive license agreement in 2018.

The company has used the university's technology to manufacture the cider vinegar along with acknowledging the university technology on its product label.

The production of apple cider vinegar can be taken as an alternative approach for the complete utilization of culled apples and improving the livelihood of the farming community in the state.

Unlike the traditional methods, which are slow and result in poor quality vinegar, the university's technology has managed to overcome the problems. The scientists of the university solved the issues by optimizing various factors involved in the production of vinegar as well as base wine.

HP to develop Shikari Devi temple as major attraction for tourists

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 6 NOVEMBER

Famous Shikari Devi temple in Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh would be developed as a major attraction for tourists and devotees but at the same time the pristine environment would be conserved.

This was stated by HP Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur while presiding over the meeting of senior officers of the State Government and Shikari Devi Temple Committee here on Friday.

The Chief Minister said that proper stairs from Kangri to temple are being constructed by locally available black slates. He said that till date about 6.2 lakh have been spent on construction of over 230 meter stairs. He said that adequate provision of funds would be made to ensure construction of stairs as well as railing.

He said that beautification of the temple premises would also be carried out by developing a park and recreation sites.

He said the Government would also consider constructing additional accommodation in the Forest Rest House. He said that the existing rest house would also be maintained properly.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

RUNNING OF FULLY RESERVED "FESTIVAL SPECIAL" TRAINS BY RAILWAYS TO ACCOMMODATE DEEPAWALI AND CHHATH PUJA RUSH

KIND ATTENTION: RAIL PASSENGERS

The Festival Special Trains shall run fully reserved

Only the reserved class accommodation (both berths & seats) will be available in Festival Special Trains

The passengers are requested to get the reservation of berths/seats done beforehand

Passengers having reserved tickets will only be allowed to enter the platform to board the train

As part of the Northern Railway's additional measures, all stations and trains will be adequately manned to check passengers without ticket

Security Helpline No. 182 Integrated Helpline No. 139

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NORTHERN RAILWAY Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in "SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

US Ambassador meets Himachal CM



Jai Ram says US companies may invest in development of ski slopes in Chanshal valley



UP has become a "laboratory" for electricity meters which have been found to run many times faster than they should

CONGRESS LEADER PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA

DEMANDING THAT THE RATE OF POWER FOR FARMERS BE HALVED

i
ndia

THUMBNAILS



Indian potter makes diya (earthen lamps) ahead of Diwali in the Capital on Friday.

SNS

500 cops Covid infected: Uttar Pradesh Police has begun training its personnel on how to deal with Covid-19 infected criminals, as 500 policemen have tested positive for the disease while seven have died so far in the state, a senior police official said. Additional Director General of Uttar Pradesh Police 112, Aseem Arun said, "Police personnel have been instructed that if they apprehend any criminal or a suspect or ask someone to stop for a search, they should assume that he may be a Covid-19 patient."

PTI

Chh'garh starts preparation for Covid vaccination drive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
RAIPUR, 6 NOVEMBER

The Chhattisgarh government has initiated the process of creating a database of health workers from state-run and private health facilities for vaccination once an antigen for Covid-19 is available, an official.

Deo said the state has made adequate arrangements for storage and maintenance of vaccine once it is made available and supplied. As many as 530 cold chain points are currently operational and 80 new ones are being set up for safekeeping of vaccine.

A new walk-in-cooler facility is being arranged for the purpose, the official quoted the minister as saying.

At present, the total retention capacity of vaccines in the state is 1,05,000 litre which is 60,000 litre more than the required capacity, Deo said.

Anganwadi centres, schools, panchayat buildings to be used as vaccination sites

Anganwadi centres, schools, panchayat buildings and other such setups would be used extensively in addition to healthcare facilities as vaccination sites in the anti-coronavirus inoculation drive which would be monitored by the Union health ministry's digital platform and would involve sending SMSes and generating a QR code after each jab to track the beneficiaries.

The exercise has been started following the Centres directive to states to constitute committees for coordination and overseeing Covid-19 vaccination drive, he said. A State Task Force Committee has been constituted for inter-department coordination for the Covid-19 vaccination drive, he said.

As per instructions of the Central government, a database of healthcare personnel from government and private healthcare institutions is being prepared.

They would get top priority for immunisation against coronavirus," he said. However, inclusion of names in the database does not mean that they will be compulsorily vaccinated as the final decision in this regard will be taken by the Centre, the official said.

Health minister TS Singh

TN BJP chief Murugan tries to go on *Vel yatra* defying ban

PTI
CHENNAI, 6 NOVEMBER

The BJP's Tamil Nadu unit chief L Murugan was on Friday detained at Tiruttani near here by police when he tried to embark on a statewide 'Vel Yatra', defying a ban.

The Saffron party's top state leader said the yatra was to 'expose' the DMK which was allegedly behind the 'Karuppar Kootam', a YouTube channel, that had reportedly denigrated "Kanda Sashti Kavacham", a spiritual hymn in praise of Lord Muruga.

Amid chants of 'Vetri vel' and 'Veera Vel', when Murugan, clad in saffron tried to start the yatra in his custom made van from Tiruttani, he was held along with scores of BJP workers.

Union Minister of state for Home, G Kishan Reddy visited Tiruttani to offer worship at the temple and Murugan called on him at a hotel before he was detained. Asked on BJP's attempt to go on yatra, CM K Palaniswami said in Nilgiris district that law will take its own course.

Minister's commitment that India's vaccine production and delivery capacity will be used to help all humanity in fighting this crisis. India will also help interested countries in enhancing their cold chain and storage capacities for the delivery of vaccines," he added.

On India's response to the pandemic, he said that due to increase in testing numbers, contact tracing, effective isolation protocol, efficient use of hospital beds, increased availability of medical equipment, testing kits and sustained public awareness campaign, the country's recovery rate was now 91.96 per cent and the case fatality rate has dropped to 1.49 per cent.

To give a flavour of India's robust and resilient progress in vaccine development and in the trial process, he said the government planned to take a delegation of resident ambassadors for a tour of India's vaccine and diagnostic facilities in Pune soon.

India ready to help countries in vaccine

Foreign Secy says, several countries have approached India for vaccine supply

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 6 NOVEMBER

India today briefed the heads of diplomatic missions and international organisations in New Delhi on its response to Covid, informing them that the country was on track on the development and trial of vaccines to fight pandemic.

"We are exploring the possibility of conducting phase III trials in a few of our partner countries. We are also looking forward to research collaboration in the field of vaccine development. Based on willingness, we may also go for joint production of vaccines in some countries," Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said at the meeting, also attended by Dr V.K. Paul, Member (Health), Niti Aayog and Chairman of national expert group on vaccine administration of Covid-19 (NEGVAC); Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan, Principal Scientific Advisor to the govern-



ment of India; and Rajesh Bhushan, Health Secretary.

India conveyed to several countries that it will use its strength in vaccine production and delivery to help humanity in fighting the coronavirus crisis.

He said India has already conducted online training sessions for nearly 90 participants from eight neigh-

bouring countries to develop capacity in clinical trials and clinical practices. Based on the demand, India could conduct more such training courses. Shringla told ambassadors and high commissioners that several countries have been approaching India for receiving vaccine supply.

"I reiterate our Prime

TENDER

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Office of the Executive Engineer Shimla Division No. III, HPPWD Shimla-3.
Web: www.hppwd.gov.in Email: ee-sm3-hp@nic.in Phone/ Fax No.: 0177-2652832.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed item rate tenders on form No. 6&8 are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Shimla Division No. III, HPPWD. Shimla-3 on behalf of the Governor of H.P. for the following works from the eligible Contractors/Firms enlisted in HPPWD, so as to reach in his office on or before 3-12-2020 up to 10.30 A.M. and will be opened on the same day at 11.00 A.M. in the presence of the intending Contractors/Firms or their authorized representatives. The tender form can be had from his office against cash payment (non-refundable) on any working day up to 4.00 P.M. on 2-12-2020 and the application for issue of tender form shall be received up to 4.00 P.M. on 1-12-2020.					
The earnest money in the shape of National Saving Certificate/Time deposit account/saving account in any of the post office in HP, duly pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer, Shimla Division No-II must accompany with the application form for the tender offer. Conditional tender and the tender received without earnest money will summarily be rejected. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject the tender without assigning any reason there to. Other conditions are applicable as perform No. 6&8. The offer shall remain open for 90 days.					
Terms & Conditions:-					
1. The contractor/firm shall have his GST No. and attested copy of the same be attached with the application for issue of tender form. 2. The contractor/firm should attach attested copy of registration/renewal. 3. Copy of PAN card be attached with the application form.					
4208/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK					
Name of work	Estimated Cost	Earnest money	Time No	Form	Cost of form
1 S/R to MBBS Girls Hostel at Blessington Estate Lakker Bazar Shimla(SH:- Balance work of P/F pre-painted sheet roofing with steel work for covered path from Revoli gate to MBSS Girls Hostel).	Rs.4,96,551/-	Rs.9,940/-	One Month	6&8	350/-
2 S/R to Dist:- police control room at Jakhoo Shimla(SH:- P/F Cupboards chhaja, tiles, frames in 1st floor & repair of toilet in G.F.).	Rs.1,71,122/-	Rs.3,430/-	One Month	6&8	350/-
3 S/R to type-III Qtrs. of block No.28 sector-III New Shimla(SH:- Renovation of Set No.640 & 641 etc.)	Rs.1,54,962/-	Rs.3,100/-	One Month	6&8	350/-
4 S/R to type-II, block No.2 of Set no.2 set occupied by Sh. Om prakash at Raj Bhawan Shimla(SH:- Renovation of kitchen toilet and dining hall & p/f shutters welded mesh painting and distemping i/c sanitary fittings etc.).	Rs.1,91,219/-	Rs.3,830/-	One Month	6&8	350/-
5 S/R to Nursing Girls Hostel building at IGMC Shimla(SH:- C/O toilet for staff by providing fabricated structures brick work sanitary work and pre-painted sheet roofing etc.).	Rs.1,55,301/-	Rs.3,110/-	One Month	6&8	350/-
6 S/R to Nursing Girls Hostel building at IGMC Shimla(SH:- C/O toilet for staff by providing fabricated structures brick work sanitary work and pre-painted sheet roofing etc.).	Rs.1,61,246/-	Rs.3,230/-	One Month	6&8	350/-
7 S/R to Nursing Girls Hostel building at IGMC Shimla(SH:-P/F fencing back side of block-A).	Rs.2,62,125/-	Rs.5,250/-	One Month	6&8	350/-
8 S/R to type-II Qtrs. block N/Jb:2 Set No.6 & 7 at Raj Bhawan Shimla(SH:- P/F cupboards door frames shutters tiles painting and distemping i/c sanitary fittings etc.).	Rs.2,55,040/-	Rs.5,110/-	One Month	6&8	350/-
9 S/R to block-E at IGMC Shimla(SH:- P/F two way scrub Covid-19 OT room in block-E).	Rs.1,52,000/-	Rs.3,040/-	One Month	6&8	350/-

Sealed item rate tenders on form No. 6 & 8 are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Division, HP.PWD. Seraj at Janjehli Distt. Mandi (HP) on behalf of the Governor of H.P. for the following works from registered contractors in HP.PWD (B&R) in appropriate class 'C' and 'D' so as to reach in this office on 28.11.2020 upto 10.30 A.M. and will be opened on the same day at 11.00 A.M. in the presence of contractors or their authorised representative who wish to be present at that time. The application for obtaining the tender form will be received on 26.11.2020 between 11.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M. The tender form can be had from this office against cash payment (Non-refundable) on 27.11.2020 between 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM.

The earnest money in the shape of National Saving Certificate/Time Deposit Account/ Saving Account of the Post office in Himachal Pradesh duly pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer, Division, HP.PWD. Seraj at Janjehli Distt. Mandi H.P. must accompany with the tender form. Ambiguous/ Telegraphically/conditional tenders or tender by FAX shall not be entertained/considered in any case. The tenders without earnest money shall summarily be rejected. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 90 days. The Executive Engineer, Division, HP.PWD. Seraj at Janjehli reserve the right to reject/accept any offer of tender without assigning any reasons.

Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Cost of Tender	Eligible class of Contractor
1 R/R Damage to Nauna to Sudharani road Km 0/000 to 14/000 (SH:- C/o R/Wall at RD 6/370 to 6/392)	4,20,213/-	350/-	Class D & C	
2 R/R Damage Thachi to DVOR road Km 0/000 to 4/950 (SH:- C/o R/Wall at RD 0/170 to 0/178)	1,01,502/-	350/-	Class D & C	
3 R/R Damage Ball Thachi road Km 0/000 to 25/000 (SH:- C/o R/Wall at RD 23/510 to 23/520)	3,41,710/-	350/-	Class D & C	
4 R/R Damage Keldhar to Chhati road Km 0/000 to 32/000 (SH:- C/o R/Wall at RD 25/940 to 25/955)	1,12,288/-	350/-	Class D & C	
5 Missing CD on Mahudhar to Nalawagi road Km 0/000 to 4/300 (SH:- C/o 900 mm dia Hume pipe culvert at RD 0/030)	1,37,891/-	350/-	Class D & C	
6 Missing CD on Mahudhar to Nalawagi road Km 0/000 to 4/300 (SH:- C/o 900 mm dia Hume pipe culvert at RD 0/0860)	1,37,804/-	350/-	Class D & C	
7 R/R Damage Ball Thachi road Km 0/000 to 25/000 (SH:- C/o B/Wall at RD 10/800 to 10/820)	1,51,655/-	350/-	Class D & C	
8 C/o road from Chauni Chalout Gada Gaon village Duga 0/000 to 3/400 (SH:- P/L interlocking paver in Chauni Bazar in 0/000 to 1/180) Under SCP	4,79,857/-	350/-	Class D & C	
9 C/o road from Chauni Chalout Gada Gaon village Duga 0/000 to 3/400 (SH:- P/L interlocking paver in Chauni Bazar in 0/000 to 1/180) Under SCP	4,84,526/-	10000/-	350/-	Class D & C
10 C/o road from Chauni Chalout Gada Gaon village Duga 0/000 to 3/400 (SH:- P/L Kharanja soling and CC flooring in pavement 0/125 to 3/295 & 3/295 to 3/465) Under SCP	3,95,596/-	8000/-	350/-	Class D & C
11 C/o road from Leh to Keoli Km 0/000 to 3/000 (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtr width in Km 0/000 to 0/225) Under SCP	4,96,200/-	10000/-	350/-	Class D & C
12 C/o road from Leh to Keoli Km 0/000 to 3/000 (SH:- F/C 5/7 mtr width in Km 0/225 to 0/525) Under SCP	4,98,526/-	10000/-	350/-	Class D & C
13 C/o Link road from Bagla via Damod Khad (Param ka Gharat) village Thanar GP Gudah Km 0/0 to 2/400 (S.H:- ROFD in Km 0/0 to 0/610) (under SCP)	4,98,000/-	10000/-	350/-	Class D & C
14 C/o Link road from Bagla via Damod Khad (Param ka Gharat) village Thanar GP Gudah Km 0/0 to 2/400 (S.H:- ROFD in Km 0/610 to 1/240) (under SCP)	4,96,500/-	10000/-	350/-	Class D & C
15 C/o Link road from Bagla via Damod Khad (Param ka Gharat) village Thanar GP Gudah Km 0/0 to 2/400 (S.H:- ROFD in Km 1/240 to 1/855) (under SCP)	4,97,000/-	10000/-	350/-	Class D & C
16 C/o Link road from Bagla via Damod Khad (Param ka Gharat) village Thanar GP Gudah Km 0/0 to 2/400 (S.H:- ROFD in Km 1/855 to 2/400) (under				

We have discussed it....the government will soon be issuing an order to this effect



KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER B S YEDIYURAPPA
ON ISSUING ORDER BANNING THE USE OF FIRECRACKERS

THUMBNAILS



Smog engulfs the national Capital on Friday. PTI

Indian & Chinese military hold stand-off talks

The eighth round of military talks in yet another attempt to break impasse over their protracted military stand-off at eastern Ladakh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 6 NOVEMBER

India and China today held the eighth round of military talks in yet another attempt to break the impasse over their protracted military stand-off at eastern Ladakh that has dealt a body blow to bilateral ties.

The talks began at 09:30 a.m. this morning at Chushul on the Indian side of the LAC.

The Indian side was led by Lt Gen PGK Menon, who took over as the head of the Indian Army's Leh-based 14 Corps.

The Indian team also included senior diplomat Naveen Sinha, who is in charge of the China desk at the external affairs ministry.

The talks were of great importance in view of China's reluctance to retreat from some of the friction points in line with agreements reached between the two sides as part of the disengagement and de-escalation process.

Beijing, in fact, has been insisting that Indian soldiers withdraw from some of the key heights they occupied in recent months to keep a watch on the movement of Chinese troops on the other side of the LAC.

Covid cases in Maharashtra: With the addition of 640 new Covid-19 cases, the tally in the Maharashtra's Thane district has reached 2,14,402, an official said on Friday. Among the major cities in the district, Kalyan has recorded 50,632 cases so far, followed by Thane with 47,543 and Navi Mumbai with 45,143, the official added. PTI

Three held in attempt to murder case: Three men, including the district president of Bharatiya Janata Kisan Union (BJKU), were arrested here in connection with an attempt to murder case, police said on Friday. PTI



Smog engulfs the national Capital on Friday. PTI

Covid cases in Maharashtra: With the addition of 640 new Covid-19 cases, the tally in the Maharashtra's Thane district has reached 2,14,402, an official said on Friday. Among the major cities in the district, Kalyan has recorded 50,632 cases so far, followed by Thane with 47,543 and Navi Mumbai with 45,143, the official added. PTI

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2 Pak terrorists killed in encounter

JAMMU, 6 NOVEMBER

Two Pakistani terrorists of the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) were killed and an injured local terrorist surrendered on Friday before the security forces during an encounter at Lalpora Chatlam in Pampore.

A joint cordon and search operation was launched on Thursday evening by the Police, 50RR of the Army and 110Bn CRPF after the terrorists indiscriminately fired injuring two civilians. SNS

TENDER

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (RSO), Northern Railway, Delhi Division, New Delhi invites 'E-Tender' in prescribed tender form for the following work:

Name of the work with its location	Comprehensive Housekeeping and other allied works at HNZM Old & New Running Room for the period of two years.
Approx. Tender Value	₹2,71,00,944/- (Excluding GST)
E.M.D.	₹2,85,500/-
Date and Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	15.00 hrs. on 04.12.2020
Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in
Tender Notice No.: 230-Elect-RSO-08-HK Dated : 05.11.2020	2457/20
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

The Chief Administrative Officer/Constit.-II/Northern Railway, Kashmere Gate, Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Two Packet System for the under noted work:-

1. Mode of Tender	E-Tender (Two Packet)
2. Tender Notice No.	74-W/3/2/437/WALKO Dated 05.11.2020
3. Full name of work	Shahganj-Akbarpur Section: Miscellaneous works such as construction of platform works, duty huts at level crossings & other allied works between Shahganj (excluding) and Akbarpur (excluding) and construction of LHS by Air pushing methodology between Jaunpur and Akbarpur section in connection with "Proposed Doubling of Jaunpur-Akbarpur" of Lucknow Division on Northern Railway.
4. Approx. cost	Rs. 49.84 crores
5. Completion period	24 (Twenty four) Months
6. Earnest money amount	Rs. 26,42,100/- only
7. Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. Website	Tender documents will be available on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 09.11.2020 to 01.12.2020 upto 11.30 hrs.
8. Last date/time of upload of tenders	01.12.2020 upto 11.30 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS web site w.e.f. 16.11.2020 to 01.12.2020
9. Date and time of opening of tender	01.12.2020 at 11.30 hours (immediately after close of uploading of tender (D2). In case of two packet system, Financial bids of the eligible tenderers would be opened subsequently on the date & time to be notified later on.
	2455/20
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS & WILDLIFE A-BLOCK 2nd FLOOR, VIKAS BHAWAN, I.P. ESTATE, NEW DELHI-110002

PUBLIC

Concretization around trees is harmful for root aeration and also for percolation of water. It could lead to untimely death of the tree. It is, therefore, brought to the notice of all Govt. Departments under GNCTD, Municipal Agencies, Corporations, Cantonment board, autonomous bodies, all departments & agencies of Government of India, State Governments and General Public that concretization of trees not only damages the tree, but also is an offence under Section 8 of Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994, and also amounts to violation of Hon'ble NGT's orders.

The area within 1 (one) meter radius of the trunk of trees should be left de-concreted around the base of the tree while constructing the pavements or roads to facilitate percolation of water to the roots. The area should be leveled with soil and grass may be planted, if need be.

All Civic Agencies, Govt. Departments, RWAs & individuals may please ensure removal of all the sign boards, names, advertisements, any kind of boards or signages, electric wires and high tension cables etc, placed on trees within their jurisdiction/ control failing which, a suitable penalty as per rules shall be imposed upon them for causing damage to trees. The person/ agency/ firm/ company etc whose advertisement or bill board etc is found on the trees shall also be prosecuted and/ or a suitable penalty as per rules shall be imposed upon him.

De-concretization should be done around trees which are already concretized, manually without the use of JCB machines etc so that the roots of trees are not damaged. During fresh construction of roads/ pavements, the Govt. Departments may add a fresh clatter in their tender documents that an area within at least 1 (one) meter radius of the trunk of trees shall be left de-concretized/ soil filled.

(Nisheeth Saxena)
Conservator of Forests

We have discussed it....the government will soon be issuing an order to this effect

KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER B S YEDIYURAPPA
ON ISSUING ORDER BANNING THE USE OF FIRECRACKERS

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY 07 NOVEMBER 2020

Indian & Chinese military hold stand-off talks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 6 NOVEMBER

The talks were of great importance in view of China's reluctance to retreat from some of the friction points in line with agreements reached between the two sides as part of the disengagement and de-escalation process

yesterday that India was prepared for any sacrifice to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of unilateralism and aggression.

The two sides have, meanwhile, prepared themselves for a long haul at the LAC given the fact that the temperatures in Ladakh will plummet to many degrees below zero in the weeks ahead.

India has procured winter clothing for its military personnel posted in the region from the US and Russia.

India's objective continues to be to see that the "uneasy calm", which has been in place since early September, is preserved.

(REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE)

Govt yet to take call on China's entry into 5G: Bhalla



tion on participation of Chinese telecom players in India's 5G trials.

The home secretary said unless India gets a substitute, the existing facilities cannot be closed down abruptly.

"Unless we have a substitute available, we just can't switch off and say that this will not be allowed. But the government can definitely make special safeguards and ensure the safety and security of the country's communication network."

"On 5G, the government in any case has not taken any call. Discussions are still on...when it will be allowed and who are the people to be allowed. Point is very valid. The penetration of existing telecom hardware and software is too extensive," he said at the Diamond Jubilee webinar organised by National Defence College.

He was replying to a ques-

equipment and the number two smartphone producer, over concerns of security and Washington has been putting pressure on other countries to restrict the operations of the Chinese telecom firm.

India, however, is yet to take a call on whether it intends to place curbs on Huawei or allow the Chinese telecom equipment maker to participate in the upcoming 5G trials.

Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad had earlier said India has its security issues over allowing Huawei to participate in the upcoming 5G trials.

"We will take a firm view on it. There are also security issues...it is not only a matter of technology, as regard their participation in 5G is concerned...Participation of 5G is not conditional upon the trial being started. Whether a particular company is allowed to participate or not, is a complex question, including security issues," he had said.

(REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE)

2 Pak terrorists killed in encounter

JAMMU, 6 NOVEMBER

Two Pakistani terrorists of the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) were killed and an injured local terrorist surrendered on Friday before the security forces during an encounter at Lalpora Chatlam in Pampore.

A joint cordon and search operation was launched on Thursday evening by the Police, 50RR of the Army and 110Bn CRPF after the terrorists indiscriminately fired injuring two civilians. SNS

TENDER

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (RSO), Northern Railway, Delhi Division, New Delhi invites 'E-Tender' in prescribed tender form for the following work:

Name of the work with its location	Comprehensive Housekeeping and other allied works at HNZM Old & New Running Room for the period of two years.
Approx. Tender Value	₹2,71,00,944/- (Excluding GST)
E.M.D.	₹2,85,500/-
Date and Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	15.00 hrs. on 04.12.2020
Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

The Chief Administrative Officer/Constit.-II/Northern Railway, Kashmere Gate, Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Two Packet System for the under noted work:-

1. Mode of Tender	E-Tender (Two Packet)
2. Tender Notice No.	74-W/3/2/437/WALKO Dated 05.11.2020
3. Full name of work	Shahganj-Akbarpur Section: Miscellaneous works such as construction of platform works, duty huts at level crossings & other allied works between Shahganj (excluding) and Akbarpur (excluding) and construction of LHS by Air pushing methodology between Jaunpur and Akbarpur section in connection with "Proposed Doubling of Jaunpur-Akbarpur" of Lucknow Division on Northern Railway.
4. Approx. cost	Rs. 49.84 crores
5. Completion period	24 (Twenty four) Months
6. Earnest money amount	Rs. 26,42,100/- only
7. Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. Website	Tender documents will be available on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 09.11.2020 to 01.12.2020 upto 11.30 hrs.
8. Last date/time of upload of tenders	01.12.2020 upto 11.30 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS web site w.e.f. 16.11.2020 to 01.12.2020
9. Date and time of opening of tender	01.12.2020 at 11.30 hours (immediately after close of uploading of tender (D2). In case of two packet system, Financial bids of the eligible tenderers would be opened subsequently on the date & time to be notified later on.
	2455/20
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GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS & WILDLIFE A-BLOCK 2nd FLOOR, VIKAS BHAWAN, I.P. ESTATE, NEW DELHI-110002

PUBLIC

Concretization around trees is harmful for root aeration and also for percolation of water. It could lead to untimely death of the tree. It is, therefore, brought to the notice of all Govt. Departments under GNCTD, Municipal Agencies, Corporations, Cantonment board, autonomous bodies, all departments & agencies of Government of India, State Governments and General Public that concretization of trees not only damages the tree, but also is an offence under Section 8 of Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994, and also amounts to violation of Hon'ble NGT's orders.

The area within 1 (one) meter radius of the

Message to Beijing

There is considerable merit in the call made by the World Medical Association, a confederation of national medical associations representing some 10 million physicians, to allow Taiwan to attend the crucial annual meeting of the World Health Organisation to be held next week to discuss global responses to the coronavirus epidemic. The only obstacle to this participation is the opposition of Beijing, which sees no place for Taiwan at the high table. But keeping aside China's ego on the question of Taiwan, which it calls a renegade territory, there are several good reasons for the world to find a place for Taiwan, even if it is as an observer. For one, countries around the world have a lot to learn from Taiwan, which has managed the public health emergency remarkably well, reporting just 573 cases and seven deaths in its population of 23 million. Secondly, the people of Taiwan cannot be left out of a global response mechanism, which will be the primary objective of the assembly. The World Medical Association has written to WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus to say, "The Covid-19 pandemic is proof that cooperation for and with all health care systems in the world is necessary. We believe it is both cynical and counterproductive to continue excluding the health representatives from Taiwan from participating in the World Health Assembly." WHO had faced intense criticism for having appeared to kowtow to China in its initial response to the virus, saying first that there was no evidence of human-to-human transmission and in February claiming that there was no need to interfere with international travel and trade movements. By the time WHO corrected itself, the virus had travelled from Wuhan to different parts of the world. While WHO may claim it is bound by the decision of the United Nations which expelled Taiwan from its membership, the fact is that it was represented at the World Health Assembly until 2016. China raised an objection to its participation after the election of President Tsai Ing-Wen who does not accept Beijing's one-China claim. But neither Taiwan, nor the rest of the world can accept China's veto in a matter concerning public health.

Over a dozen countries have already proposed a discussion on Taiwan's participation at the health assembly. If more countries, including India, summon up the courage to do what would essentially be the right thing, the world including China could benefit from Taiwan's experience. But, of course, that is not how Beijing would view things. In recent weeks, it has been extremely belligerent in its actions towards Taiwan, repeatedly using its Air Force to make threatening moves and last month, allegedly allowing its officials to engage in a physical attack at Taiwan's national day event in Fiji. While tiny Taiwan has repeatedly called for a global defence against China's expansionist moves, the response has largely been lukewarm. Perhaps the health assembly is the right platform for the world to send a strong message to Beijing.

Unscripted entertainment

To say that Roget's Thesaurus lists an impressive array of synonyms for laughter would be to state the obvious. But there are occasions in life when the obvious can seem rather overwhelming, as when Board of Control for Cricket in India president Sourav Ganguly said that Rohit Sharma's injury called for monitoring and the batsman, then back in action in the Indian Premier League in West Asia, let it be known that he was, well, fine and dandy. That was when Sharma's Mumbai Indians lost to Sunrisers Hyderabad without him doing much to compel widespread adulation. But the crucial point was that he had come back from whatever he had been afflicted with all right and was taking the bull by the horns in right earnest. Here was the proof that an unscripted story too could be a blockbuster. Whether or not Sharma will be deemed bull-headed for his enthusiasm is a separate matter ~ one that is just as important as inevitable questions about the franchise captain being pressured to play when his career could be at risk ~ but how one hand of the BCCI did not know what the other was up to was quite clear for all to see.

Hence, the laughter. There, of course, are those who, for good reason, will detect a certain cerebral inadequacy in the quality of the leadership that the bumbling, plodding institution had to take in its stride but the way the split-screen development unfolded suggested something unique. If ever all the nuances of each of the options in the English writer's famous academic aid for as simple a thing as a laugh seemed to cry competitively out for instant use, here was the opportunity. Few board chiefs have suffered an embarrassment that can match this, and few players, even if unwittingly, have so graphically illustrated the administration-dressing-room divide in a putative family which is always striving to live up to the pretence that God is in his heaven and all is right with the world. The farce will duly be moved on from, with a well-known string of apologists popping up to clarify that it all was okay and perfectly understandable but the fundamental question that Sunil Gavaskar voiced on seeing Sharma in the Mumbai Indians' nets after being shelved by India's senior selectors ~ how the one could be squared with the other and what the fan was to make of it ~ should ring in the BCCI's ears quite as disconcertingly as the public laughter.

Chances are situations akin to this will recur, given the BCCI's unacknowledged functional principle of secrecy. It deigns to speak only when what it says serves its own purpose. That implies that what doesn't stay hidden. That the board cannot hit upon better ways of conducting the game even when a former national captain is leading it hardly glorifies either it or its leader.

Return of Moderation?

In an unprecedentedly wounded, polarised and fearful environment, the likes of Jacinda Ardern offer a voice of reassurance, honesty and simplicity that differentiates her template from the 'Superhero' stardom, bluster and theatrics of most 'nationalistic' leaders who adopt a more aggressive tenor and posture



In the last decade, voices of political moderation were in retreat and the nativist, exclusivist and far-right passions had stormed the corridors of power, globally. Partly driven by the demonstrated ineptness, corruption and enfeeblement of the ruling liberal democrats, the opposite end of right-wingers unleashed a counter campaign of promises, disinformation and hatred.

As lazy lies and accompanying promises travel faster than truth, the citizenry was seduced by extremist rhetoric that connected, aroused and inflamed subliminal fears and suspicions of proverbial 'others'. The addition of toxic nationalism in political jargon also afforded the spin of auto-denigrating the moderates as impotent, 'sold out', and even, anti-nationals. Across continents, globalisation of nationalism legitimised bigotry, bore protectionism and revisionism.

Caught in the frenzy of 'correcting history', the citizenry readily allowed the relegation of progressive agendas, scientific temper and made a mockery of the constitutional spirit of participative democracies, which spiritually disdains supremacism and majoritarianism. Nearly a decade into this global project, the world is no better, cleaner or safer than what it was earlier ~ only societies have become angrier, intolerant and polarised, like never. Yet the minority of moderate, liberal and democratic voices struggled to reassert their ideological model, as uber-nationalistic governments upped the ante to deny that political space. However, political news filtering in from the very-down-south, New Zealand, may just offer a glimmer of hope to see the return of moderation, restraint and constitutional morality.

Like the Indian experiment in democracy, New Zealand's politics are also designed on the Westminster template. It has had an inspiring journey with a

model that is acknowledged as 'Full Democracy' in the Democracy Index by the Economist (India is rated as a 'Flawed Democracy') and is amongst the most transparent and corruption-free political cultures.

Like India, it too prides and envisages itself as a 'moral', progressive and global role model amongst participative democracies. It has been ranked just under the liberal haven of Scandinavia, with Sweden, Norway and Iceland at the top of the global charts. But the tectonic shifts in the mood of global politics has certainly impacted the traditionally gentle politics of Scandinavia, as the surge of populist, far-right and even neo-Nazi parties, suggests.

Like in New Zealand, immigration is a very sensitive, divisive and invoked issue that polarises public perception ~ herein, the anti-'other' sentiment has steadily dominated politics and emotions. In conformity to global trends, the right-wing parties in Scandinavia had recorded impressive gains and all eyes were now on the national elections in New Zealand, to see if one amongst the last bastions of political moderation, would succumb too. In the fray was the irrepressible progressive Jacinda Ardern versus her conservative opponent, Judith Collins.

Winning her Labour Party's biggest mandate in 50 years, Jacinda swam against the global tide ~ her preferred phraseology had been words like 'kindness', 'empathy' and 'generosity'. More importantly, she carried the traditional New Zealander ethos of progressive policies and did not surrender to populism of 'muscularity' that had also gripped

neighbouring Australia. Her humanity and clarity of thought was predicated on science-based and fact-based leadership on global concerns like Covid pandemic, climate change, immigration and even, terrorism.

Jacinda stoutly refused to pander to the lowest instincts. It was calculated risk to persist with tonality of inclusivity, dignity and compassion in these polarised times, and the flag-bearer of liberal and moderate politics,

won the day. True to her liberal politics of 'consensus building', the thumping landslide notwithstanding, Jacinda kept her doors open for like-minded parties like the Green Party, which is arithmetically not required to form a new government.

In an unprecedentedly wounded, polarised and fearful environment, the likes of Jacinda offer a voice of reassurance, honesty and simplicity that differentiates her template from the 'Superhero' stardom, bluster and theatrics of most 'nationalistic' leaders who adopt a more aggressive tenor and posture.

Jacinda's swift move of banning assault weapons, 'reaching out' and healing the nation with kindness, defeated the lazy and false notions of equating kindness with indecisiveness or weakness.

Her moderation, liberality and secularity defeated the political extremism, divisiveness and hateful rhetoric of the likes of 'strongmen' like Donald Trump, Jair Bolsonaro etc.

Oceans away, elections in another 'immigrant' haven of the United States will further validate if indeed the antithesis of Jacinda's politics i.e. Donald Trump, wins the day or the alternative

option of Joe Biden, who promises a more restorative and inclusive 'battle for the soul of the nation', prevails. The beacon of hope lit brightly in the politics of New Zealand could just morph into a decisive global turn for the return of gentler, collegial and progressive politics, should the more unifying spell of Joe Biden win.

On the comparable parameter of 'deaths per million', the figure for the United States is a staggering 726, as against just 5 for New Zealand. Yet, Donald Trump had shockingly stated, "This woman wanted to get re-elected, so she decided to go after the coronavirus and beat it." He then added incredulously, "This woman is a disgrace!"

The other shining example of rationality, moderate and progressive politics in Continental Europe i.e. Germany's Angela Merkel, who too steered Germany admirably in the Covid crisis, was called 'stupid', 'loser' etc., by the incorrigible Trump. Other illiberal, intolerant and nationalistic 'strongmen' like Vladimir Putin or Recep Erdogan have fared worse than even Donald Trump, on Covid.

Even supposed 'clones' of Trump like Britain's Boris Johnson are said to be secretly hoping that his narcissistic tenure ends so that there is a revival of Barack Obama's plan to sign the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

It is true that the electoral mandate of New Zealand is only 'green-shoots' at this stage, but the imminently possible defeat of Trump in United States could signal a far more sure, compelling and persuasive introspection of political leadership, globally.

The liberal-democrats or moderates had deservedly lost out in the last few decades, but the experience with nationalistic politics has only brought further insanity. Now all eyes on Capitol Hill, Washington DC.

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIA NEWS NETWORK

ASIAN VOICES

National strategy to solve aging problem

The biggest demographic problem China is facing now is the aging population, which will create new challenges and opportunities for socioeconomic development. No wonder the documents including the communiqué and suggestions released after the conclusion of the Fifth Plenum of the 19th Communist Party of China Central Committee said China will devise a national strategy to deal with the aging population problem.

By the end of 2019, the number of people aged 60 or above in China was 254 million, or 18.1 percent of the total population.

And the number is expected to increase to 500 million, about 35-36 percent of the total population, in the middle of this century, making China one of the world's most aged societies. If China's rapidly aging population maintains the same pace of growth through different stages of socioeconomic development, addressing the problem will become a severe challenge for the authorities.

In November 2019, the top authorities issued a document explaining how China will address the aging society problem in the medium to long term, which will serve as the country's national strategy in the new era.

CHINADAILY

According to the document, which lays out strategic targets for different stages of development, China will initially establish an institutional framework to tackle the aging society problem up to 2022, make the institutional arrangements more scientific and efficient by 2035, and improve them on the way to building a modern socialist country.

The document makes clear China's strategic goals in dealing with the aging population problem on different fronts, including institutional base, wealth reserve, manpower, science and technology backup, products and services, social environment, and socioeconomic development.

The fifth plenum said China will take measures to increase people's income level, strengthen the employment policy, build a high-quality education system, improve the social security system, promote the construction of a healthy society, and augment social governance using innovative means.

It also said the national strategy will be used to address the aging population problem. First, measures will be taken to realize the goal of economic transformation, and increase the wealth reserve to deal with the graying population. The best way to

IN MEMORIAM

TARAT A. N. and RENUKA (30-10-2007) — Of Agartala/ Shillong / Sylhet. Babu (Dada, Dadubhai). May the Almighty Rest your Soul in Peace. Fondly remembered in silent tears by children, their spouses and grandchildren in India and abroad.

MOURNING KRISHNAN

SIR, The passing away of legendary violinist Tripunithura Narayanaikay Krishnan at the age of 92 in Chennai on Monday left a big void in the world of music.

The violin entered the world of Carnatic music less than 200 years ago. If this Western musical instrument has since become an integral part of this essentially South Indian tradition of Indian classical music, some of the credit goes to Krishnan, who was recipient of the Padma Bhushan (1992) and Padma Shri (1973). Violinists Lalgudi Jayaraman and MS Gopalakrishnan were his peers.

This trio, of course, was carrying forward a tradition that had started with Dwaram Venkataswamy Naidu and T Chowdhury, who had won over music aficionados with their brilliance in the early part of the 20th century. Last year was one of Krishnan's more memorable performances, as he played the Christmas carol "Jingle Bells" during a concert to the accompaniment of the mridangam and the veena.

Yours, etc., S S Paul, Nadia, 4 November.

court would consider an adjustment or set off of the amount awarded in the previous proceeding.

As a matter of fact, all sub divisional courts in West Bengal follow this practice, but the courts only differ while fixing the quantum of interim maintenance.

What percentage of income of the opposite party would be awarded for interim and permanent maintenance has become

the issue.

However, interim maintenance can always be denied if the applicant fails either to prove the incidents of neglect or refuses to respond to the good gesture of the opposite party without any cogent ground. This is imperative in order to stop abusing Section 125 (2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Yours, etc., Arun Gupta, Kolkata, 5 November.

Kargil-Leh region needs a boost

SIR, This refers to the news item "Khadi projects boost employment in Kargil-Leh" (*The Statesman*, 4 November). It is a matter of great delight that the inhabitants of Kargil-Leh will be benefited through a self-sustainable project such as this. Let me highlight a few important points in this context.

It is unpleasant but true that we think of the people of the Kargil-Leh region, which is plagued by severe weather, only when it comes to a military action in the

region. The inhabitants of the region are hard-working, honest and simple. They do not get the benefits people in other parts of the country do.

Despite India's development in telecommunications, they suffer owing to lack of proper transmission facility. They deal with inclement weather most of the year. They are accustomed to a proxy-war situation and bear the impact of terrorism initiated by the neighbouring country. We are proud

that they nurture their children, maintain cultural and cottage arts and initiate an entertainment via dance and song as much as possible. The finest thing is their attitude towards the motherland. They are dedicated Indians and extend all sorts of help and assistance to military, para-military and civilian work forces in the region.

With the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium enterprises taking the initiative and the Khadi & Village Industries Commission managing projects that create jobs, the inhabitants of the region will be benefited.

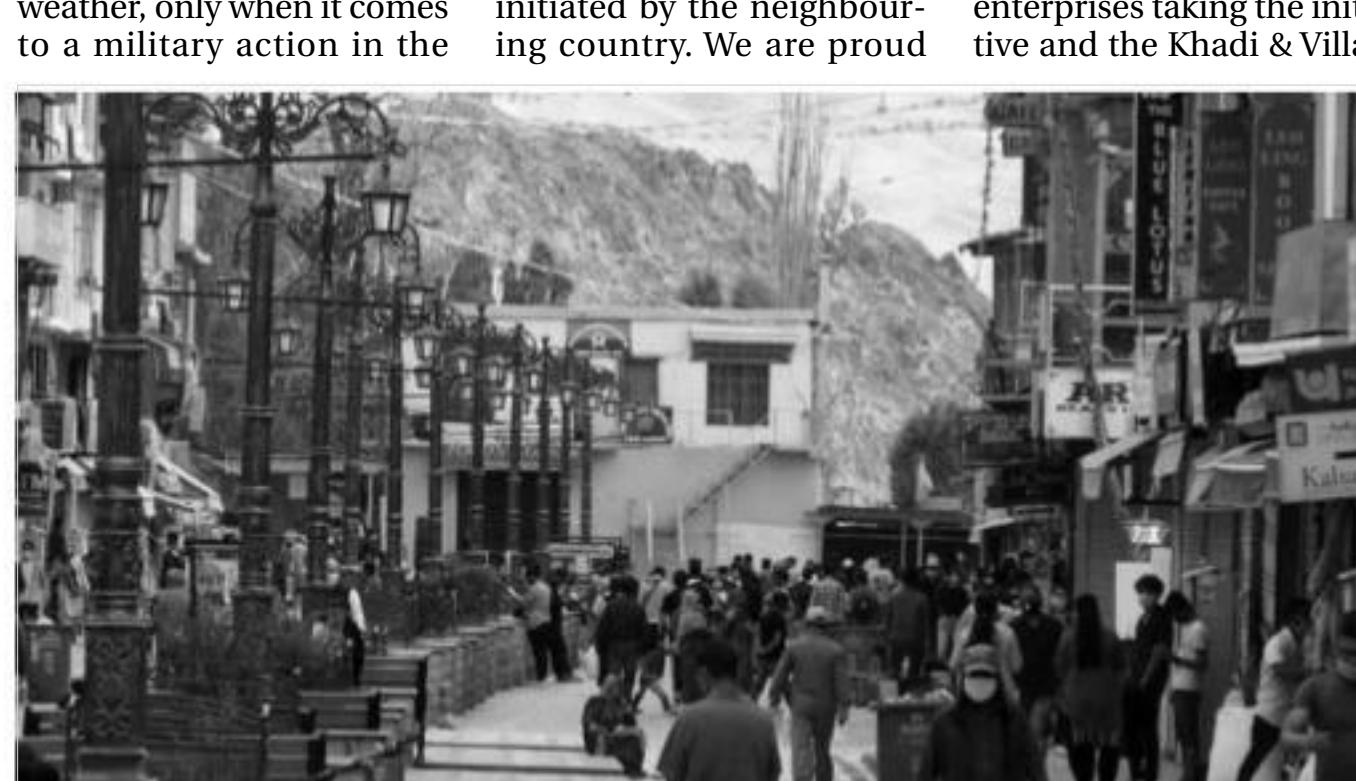
Kargil and Leh are economically disadvantaged regions. It is wonderful to see the smile of the people of the beautiful Himalayan region. The government of India should also extend facilities like drinking water, health education etc, and create a special cell to ensure the proper implementation of schemes.

Yours, etc., Indrani Guha, Kolkata, 4 November.

MAINTENANCE

SIR, This refers to your news item "SC lays down guidelines for payment of maintenance in matrimonial cases" (5 November).

The apex court has done a commendable job by setting down some guidelines in the matter of fixing the quantum of interim maintenance and the date from which maintenance is to be awarded. The top court also directed that in case of successive claims for maintenance, the concerned



'Elected J&K govt. in due course'

MANMOHAN VAIDYA, Sah Sarkaryawah (joint general secretary) of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), holds a doctorate in radiochemistry (a branch of nuclear chemistry) from Nagpur University. He was a lecturer before becoming an RSS pracharak in 1983. Since then Vaidya has handled various responsibilities in the RSS and prior to his appointment as Sah Sarkaryawah in 2018, he was Akhil Bharatiya Prachar Pramukh (all India in-charge of media relations) of the RSS. He is a voracious reader and knows several languages including Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Bengali and English. In an email interview with RAMAN PANDIT, Vaidya replied to a range of questions on various issues. Excerpts:

Q. The Ayodhya issue is over. Is the RSS planning an Ayodhya-type campaign with regard to Kashi and Mathura too?

A. The main work of RSS is to build character in order to awaken, unite and organise the entire society for the nation and that is what it will continue to do. In special circumstances, it got involved in the Ayodhya movement and that commitment is now over.

Q. In the context of Amit Shah's Hindi Diwas speech, CPM leader Sitaram Yechury said, "RSS ideology is one nation, one language and one culture." Your comments?

A. Sitaram Yechury will have to decolonise his mind in order to understand the cultural concept of Rashtra in Bharat. Here, people make the Rashtra (nation) and not the state. Our spirituality-based integral and holistic view of life connects all Bharatiyas, irrespective of languages, castes and ways of worship, with one identity. Some people describe Bharat as a country of diverse cultures. But the apt description of Bharat is a country with a culture that celebrates diversity. Shri Gurjot Singh had made it clear that "every language in Bharat is a national language. But we need a link language. This should be a Bharatiya language and since the language that the majority of people of Bharat speak and understand is Hindi, Hindi can be our link language".

Q. How do you respond to the



Opposition's charge that the RSS and the BJP only seek Jammu and Kashmir's land but don't care about its people?

A. For us both the people and land are equally important. Articles 370 and 35A were a hindrance in the holistic development of the populace of the region and deprived them of the benefits and provisions availed of by the rest of the country. We debated the pros and cons of the Articles throughout the country and found that the only outcomes of these discriminatory provisions are dynastic corruption, separatism and terrorism. The abrogation will bring accountability through RTI Act and Lokayukta and encourage effective governance. This decision has put women at par with men in regard to choosing their life partners. It has removed the injustice suffered by 25,000 Gorkhas living in the state for generations and 40,000 families of West Pakistan refugees. Valmikis, who

belong to the Scheduled Castes, were brought to work as sweepers from Punjab in year 1957. None of them, however educated, was entitled to do any job other than as sweepers. Leaders of Muslim scheduled caste tribes and OBCs had come to RSS office in Jammu after 5th August 2019 to express their pleasure and gratitude for the benefits they would now avail. Are these not people? In due course, following an electoral process, the government of the people of Jammu and Kashmir will be established.

Q. The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) grants citizenship on religious lines. Is it right in a multi-religious country like ours?

A. The CAA has nothing to do with the citizen of Bharat. It seeks to reform the process for providing the citizenship to people from other countries.

The amendment is meant for the religiously discriminated minorities of

three countries. These countries, besides being Muslim majority countries and Muslim religious (theocratic) states, also have a history of perpetrating atrocities against minorities. These minorities will be benefited by this CAA. This was the promise given to them by the founding fathers of Bharat at the time of partition and independence. The CAA makes good this promise without taking away the process available to people from all over the world, from all religions, to apply for Indian citizenship via the existing process.

Q. Are you satisfied with Assam's NRC (National Register of Citizens) exercise?

A. Assam's NRC process is on hold and incomplete. We, as a country, need the NRC. But we should make a distinction between refugees coming to Bharat because of continuous religious discrimination and infiltrators. It's the

job of the government to devise a just and effective system that protects refugees and detects infiltrators.

Q. The RSS says that all Indians are Hindus. How could Muslims and Christians accept this?

A. 99.99 per cent of Muslims and Christians living in Bharat are Hindu converts and have therefore, inherited Bharat's rich cultural and spiritual heritage. Part of this legacy is the belief that Acharya Vinoba Bhave summed up as — "salvation through this way only is non-Hindu and salvation through this way also is Hindu". As the Muslims and Christians living in Bharat are part of this tradition, they are culturally and spiritually Hindus. In the way that Muslim majority country of Indonesia continues its connection to the heritage of Ram and Garuda, Muslims and Christians living in India still connect with the rich spiritual heritage of Bharat. In RSS we have many Swayamsevaks who adhere to Christianity or Islam as a religion and still are Hindus. We, being Hindu, do not believe in conversions and hence they continue to follow their religion.

Q. The country continues to reel under the Covid-19 pandemic. What's the RSS' assessment of the Narendra Modi government's handling of the pandemic so far?

A. Statistical evidence shows that the Covid-19 pandemic is receding. Given the population and diversity of Bharat, the central government has done pretty well in dealing with the pandemic. Despite the risk of infection, government machinery, security forces, and medical and safai workers have worked relentlessly and some have lost their lives too. Moreover, people everywhere, by and large, have been supportive of the government measures. Bharat has a well-knit social fabric independent of state. This social network also responded positively in support of the government measures and attended to emergencies. RSS swayamsevaks have also been on the forefront. 4,80,000 swayamsevaks were active at 85,701 places; 1 crore 10 lakh families were given ration kits, 7 crore 11 lakh food packets and 63 lakh masks were distributed to the needy, 13 lakh migrant workers were provided with food, shelter and medicine, and 40,000 units blood was donated.

OCCASIONAL NOTE

There are fears of growing unemployment at Home, according to a London journal, and these fears are confirmed by a statement which the Premier has made showing that, although a high level of employment has been maintained and in some cases even improved, there are indications, nevertheless, that during the coming winter unemployment will exceed the seasonal scale. Mr. Lloyd George stated that the Government are giving serious consideration to the whole situation, including the cases of unemployed ex-service men. It is satisfactory that the Government are taking the matter in hand betimes, and assuredly the case of the ex-service men is one that should be adequately dealt with at all costs. It is almost inevitable that the inflated and artificial prosperity of the period immediately preceding the war should be followed by lean years, and it is possible that the apprehensions felt for the coming winter may presage the beginning of this reaction. In that case the steadiness and endurance of the British character will pass through another ordeal, from which it will emerge triumphant if, discarding the wild preaching of extremists, the workers take their stand upon the sound principles of legitimate trade unionism, with full confidence and co-operation between employers and employed and the utmost encouragement for the development of new enterprise and new means of employment.

MADRAS MILL LOCKOUT

A bulletin issued by the Madras Labour Union with regard to the lockout in Buckingham Mills states that, today is the sixteenth day of the lockout. On Monday two notices, one in English and the other in Tamil, were put up on the gates of the mills. With reference to the disturbance which led to the closing of the mill after October 20 notice is hereby given that all weavers on the roll on October 20 are dismissed. The management is open to receive applications for employment from weavers previously employed, and provided a sufficient number are engaged today. The mill will be re-opened on Tuesday November 2. Weavers who are re-engaged will be reinstated in their interests in the gratuity fund provided they work peacefully and satisfactorily during the whole of the year 1921.

NEW SCHOOL IDEA AT MUSSOORIE

Laying the foundation stone for the new school for European and Anglo-Indian boys and girls at Vincent Hall, Mussoorie, Colonel J.H. Beer gave a history of the many schools that have been established in Mussoorie from time to time. Mr. G.F. Enoch, Secretary of the School Fund, gave an explanation of what he described as the Vincent Hill School idea. He held that the old order in education must pass for a more practical idea. In the old order too much stress was put on the memory, so overtaxing this faculty to the neglect of others. In the new order, every boy or girl, irrespective of the financial standing of their parents, would learn by practical example.

SIR CHIMANLAL SETALVAD

Interviewed by a representative of the Associated Press regarding the present political situation in India Sir Chimanlal Setalvad referred to the breaking up of Mrs. Besant's lecture on Thursday, and said it was fully expected, as a threat had been openly given the previous day that Thursday's meeting would be made impossible. There was an overwhelming number of people who resented such tactics and wanted to hear Mrs. Besant, but they rightly refused to follow the example of the rowdy element and bring about a conflict. Sir Chimanlal, continuing, said he was very glad of the exhibition the non-cooperators made of themselves, for it conclusively demonstrated the certain dangers and disastrous consequences of the non-cooperation propaganda. I have no doubt the non-cooperation programme will lead the country into disaster.

Lessons from a Neanderthal past

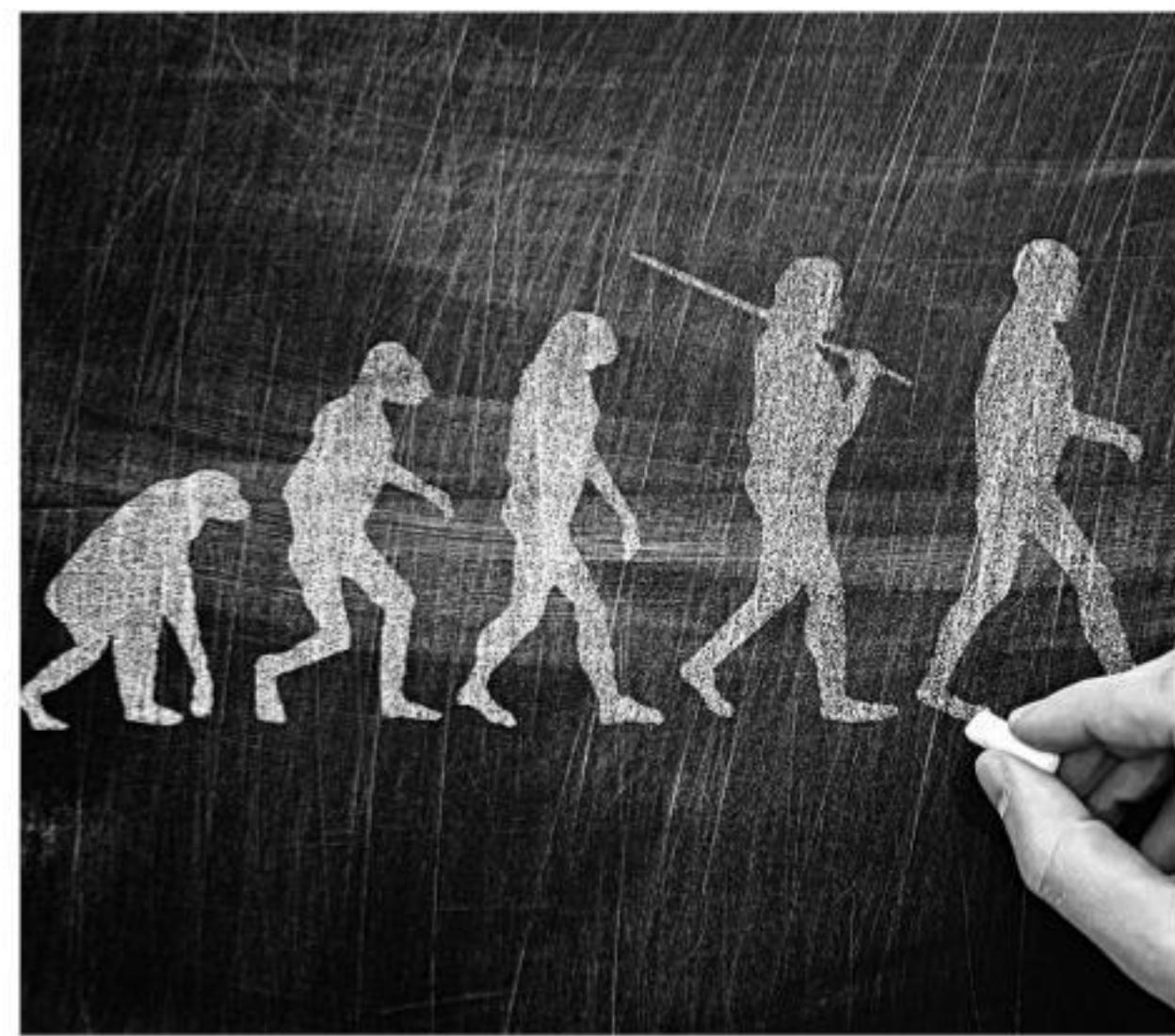
RAFIA ZAKARIA

There are some things that are nearly impossible to imagine. Once, at a museum, I had the opportunity to hold in my hand a prehistoric stone tool. Rendered smooth, likely from frequent use, the portion of the tool that was supposed to be held even had grooves for fingers. The other portion was sharpened to a point. That tool I had held for just a moment, and in whose grip my hand fit, was over 45,000 years old. It was from a time that is considered relatively recent in palaeontology, the field that deals regularly with periods spanning thousands and even millions of years.

The tool that I held belonged to the Neanderthal, the variety of upright human that did not win the evolutionary battle to become the dominant species of human that was to survive and dominate.

Those of us alive today are descended from Homo sapiens. However, recent research in the field of palaeontology finds that many of us have genetic make-ups that include DNA from a competing set of upright human species: the Neanderthals. Researchers like Rebecca Wragg Sykes, author of the book *Kindred: Neanderthal Life, Love, Death and Art*, argue that the two species, Neanderthal and Homo sapiens, overlapped around the same time, towards the end of the time of the Neanderthals, between 400,000 to 450,000 years ago, and that they intermixed and produced children with mixed DNA.

Neanderthals, like Denisovans, were thus human cousins whose DNA



was, in evolutionary terms, deemed less worthy of surviving. In the past few decades, Wragg Sykes and other palaeontologists or Neanderthal archaeologists have found skeletons, homes and objects from that era that reveal a lot more about these human cousins. Unlike popular culture would have us believe, Neanderthals were not stupid, walking around with clubs ready to beat each other up. Their brains and skulls were bigger, and they

processed sensory information in a very different way.

For example, Neanderthal eye sockets were much larger, allowing them to take in more light, which could then be processed by their brains. This would have made them more photosensitive to light — a fact that reveals that they could see better than we can, even with very little light.

Then there is the matter of the differences in our brains: Neanderthal

brains, while larger, had a smaller frontal cortex, the part of our brain that deals with social life and social relations. They were also smaller than Homo sapiens, weighing about 85 kilograms but having very muscular bodies, which allowed them to traverse greater distances and kill very large game such as woolly mammoths and sabre tooth tigers with spears that they could throw at the animals in order to bring them down.

It is particularly interesting for me to read about the Neanderthals in our present moment. It is difficult during hard times to dig out of the misery of the present. There is plenty of it to go around at the moment; months and months have passed since the coronavirus began its ravaging rout all over the globe. There are no new therapeutics, and, at least not yet, no new vaccines. There is, however, plenty of news about a second wave making its way around Europe and the United States, and ultimately and eventually everywhere else.

Naturally, such circumstances underscore the fragility of human life. Even as we witness an avalanche of sickness and death, even as the world's pre-eminent scientists work at finding something that will work, we are helpless against one single new virus.

The sturdy survival of humans and their cousins like the Denisovans and the Neanderthals provides some solace in this moment. It allows us to focus on a history so very long, measured in hundreds of thousands of years, that our eight months of seclusion and suffering do not seem terribly long or even particularly notable given the vast panorama of life on Earth.

Neanderthals lived for 250,000

years before Homo sapiens came along. Evidence of their existence fades around 28,000 years ago. All humans that live outside Africa have traces of Neanderthal DNA along with their Homo sapiens DNA, and some individual humans have been found who have up to 20 per cent of Neanderthal DNA.

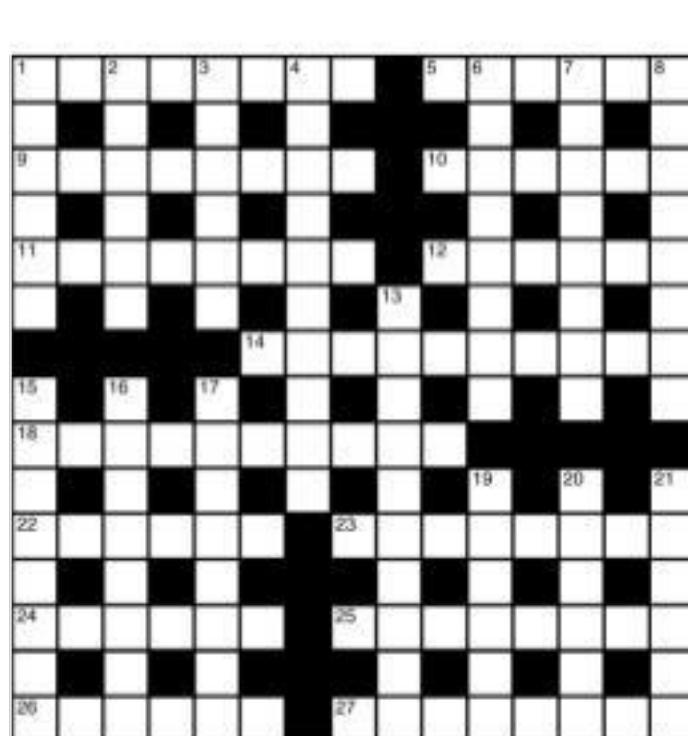
When history is considered on the scale of the fatal meeting between Neanderthals and Homo sapiens, the beginnings of Neanderthal and Homo sapiens lives, then our entire sphere of existence seems like a small blip on the radar.

There are possibilities of liberation in this knowledge; it feels like an urging to not take things terribly seriously, understand the relative irrelevance of the individual human or even humans over a few hundred years.

Evolutionarily speaking, there have not been many changes in the way we were when we were Homo sapiens, meeting up and making pair bonds with the Neanderthals; we have the same hands, feet, eyes and most other things. Change, of course, is inevitable, and the turmoil of the past year points to transformations coming our way; the nature of this change, the scope of it, is likely to be minuscule.

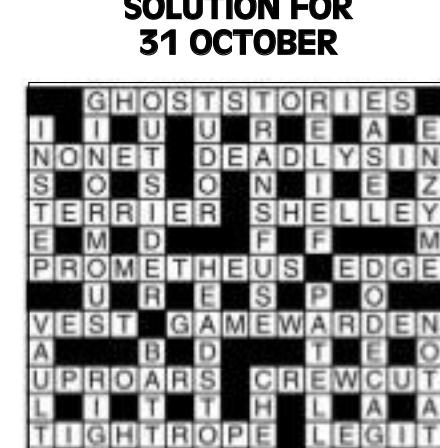
Humans have endured so much — the history of the man who hunted for his family, the prehistoric woman who loved her baby so much that she buried him with toys and wrappings — and go back hundreds of thousands of years. The varnish of culture and of political conundrums and the ever-contagious coronavirus may be pressing and evolving, but no one will remember them even a paltry five or ten thousand years from today.

Dawn/ANN.



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

SOLUTION FOR 31 OCTOBER



ACROSS

- 1 Revisited Sumerian land (8)
- 5 British gangster stole capital from Panama (6)
- 9 Organised religions? I dispensed with such restraints (3-5)
- 10 Fish European Parliament rejected as a food item (6)
- 11 Napoleon of crime affected by opinion pollsters (8)
- 12 Letter-writer makes typo oddly when entering his other name (2,4)
- 14 A swimmer smoked something to divert the attention (3,7)
- 18 They're starting on about going to Mars (10)
- 22 Article written by US woman

DOWN

- 23 Party that's popular in China could get to rule (8)
- 24 King raced around racecourse (6)
- 25 Parsons maybe going commando when preaching (8)
- 26 Poet laureate on the wagon train finally crosses Delaware (6)
- 27 Ordinary song (8)
- 1 Young lady wanting head, veiled in part (6)
- 2 Consider changing gear en route (6)
- 3 Marilyn once bared all? That's 27 (6)
- 4 Underground cave men dig path up (4,3,3)

- 6 A saucy virgin doesn't open mouth (8)
- 7 A youngest son from African country going round block (8)
- 8 The number whose logarithm is y produces a contradiction (8)
- 13 Sad song writer has kebab brought over during this time (10)
- 15 Maiden I whipped is in spanking condition (8)
- 16 Folksy peer not fully involved in government (8)
- 19 English saint shaves head inside (6)
- 20 Had trouble with each rising flower (6)
- 21 Skilled in metrical patterns? (6)

NO 28127

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

Gold bonds price: The issue price for the sovereign gold bonds has been fixed at Rs 5,177 per gram of gold, the Reserve Bank of India said in a statement on Friday. The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2020-21-Series VIII will be opened for subscription from 9 to 13 November 2020. It further said the government, in consultation with the RBI, has decided to offer a discount of Rs 50 per gram to those investors applying online and the payment against the application is made through digital mode.

PTI

Onion supply: Co-operative Nafed on Friday said it has finalised bidders and issued orders for timely supply of 15,000 tons of imported onions, which will help boost domestic availability and check price rise. Since the imported onions will be delivered at port cities, state governments have been asked to indent their quantity for faster dispatch of the commodity, it said.

PTI

NTPC plant: NTPC on Friday said the second 880 MW unit of the Lala thermal power plant Stage-I in Chhattisgarh will be commercially operational from midnight tonight. With this unit, the 1,600 MW (800 MW X 2) Lala project Stage-I would be fully commercially operational. In September last year, the 800 MW first unit of the project was made commercially operational.

PTI

Vim launches campaign: Dishwashing brand Vim by Hindustan Unilever launched 'Vim What A Player' campaign that aims to break the stereotype in dishwashing. The brand looks at the Covid-19 impetus of male participation in household chores as an opportunity to break the age-old stereotype around dishwashing with this campaign. The brand has roped in cricketer Virinder Sehwag as the protagonist in this campaign, said a Press release statement.

SNS

Samsung: Samsung on Friday announced discounts up to 60 per cent and cash-back offers of up to 12.5 per cent on select products for consumers shopping online from Samsung's online store ~Samsung.com~ this festive season. Consumers shopping from Samsung.com will also enjoy 2-3 day superfast delivery of products to their doorsteps across 16,000 PIN codes in the country, it said.

SNS

Cipla Health: Mamapert, a specialist pregnancy care brand of Cipla Health Ltd, launched its mother care range of products like intimate wash, soothing nipple cream, stretch mark cream, legs relaxing gel, breast firming gel and rapid pregnancy detection kit, says a Press release statement.

SNS

Credit card: SBI Card and Paytm have joined hands to launch India's next generation credit cards. Available in two variants ~Paytm SBI Card and Paytm SBI Card Select~ the product has been launched on the Visa platform, according to a Press release.

SNS

Reduce EV cost, forgo profit initially: Gadkari to auto cos

India has full potential to emerge as a global hub for electric vehicles by 2025, says the minister

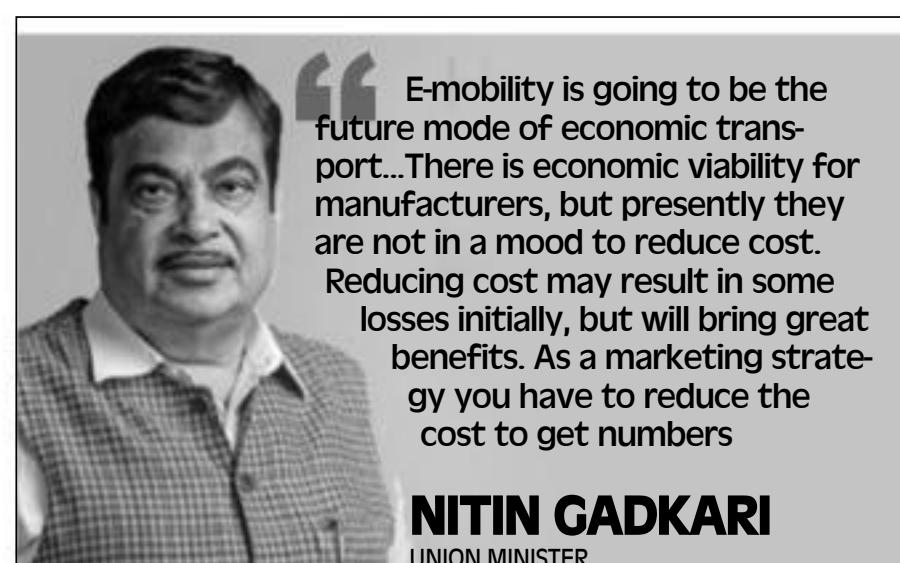
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 6 NOVEMBER

Asserting that India has full potential to emerge as a global hub for electric vehicles by 2025, Union minister Nitin Gadkari today asked automobile manufacturers to reduce cost and forego profit initially to capture market and fuel growth.

Once the market picks up, there will not be any looking back, road, transport and highways and MSMs minister Gadkari said, promising all support to manufacturers in the initiative aimed at cutting India's huge import costs of crude and arresting pollution.

The minister said he is scheduled to make an hour-long presentation on EVs before the Chief Justice of India post-Diwali. He was addressing a virtual "Electric Mobility Conference 2020 - The Spark Revolution in India" by industry body Ficci.

"E-mobility is going to be the future mode of economic transport... There is economic viability for the commodity, it eco-



E-mobility is going to be the future mode of economic transport... There is economic viability for manufacturers, but presently they are not in a mood to reduce cost. Reducing cost may result in some losses initially, but will bring great benefits. As a marketing strategy you have to reduce the cost to get numbers

NITIN GADKARI
UNION MINISTER

nomic viability for manufacturers, but presently they are not in a mood to reduce cost. Reducing cost may result in some losses initially, but will bring great benefits. As a marketing strategy you have to reduce the cost to get numbers."

Gadkari said he is also said to become the largest EV producer in the world in the next five years.

However, Indian manufacturers prefer to wait and watch and are late in participating in any global competition.

"Now is the time to harbour the ambition to become num-

ber one... the raw material is available, power rates are reducing... you have a win-win situation," he told car makers.

He also cautioned them to not be entangled in bureaucratic tangles.

Globally automobile companies have introduced several innovations in the segment, he said.

The minister admitted that significant EV-specific concerns persist like on batteries, charging, and driving range that prevent a large-scale consumer pull, but these issues being addressed

rapidly. He expressed concerns over the fact that India needs to import oil to cover over 80 per cent of its transport fuel, saying import of crude is a big economic problem.

"Air pollution is a million-dollar problem. We need to find an integrated approach to it. Transport sector alone was responsible for 18 per cent energy demand and 70 per cent of it was met through imported crude oil," Gadkari said.

Terming EVs as a solution to it, he said 22 new green expressways are planned, including Bangalore-Chennai, which will be completed in three years.

"Air pollution is a crucial issue," the minister said, adding in 2019, three million new cars were registered, which resulted in huge petrol and diesel burden.

He said the government is committed to provide all help to EV makers and 100 per cent GST subsidy has already been offered.

He exhorted people to come forward to use such

vehicles for rental or personal use to promote and support the EV industry.

India has to develop a particular set of capabilities which are conducive to sustainable mobility for accelerated adoption of EVs, the minister said, adding the emphasis of the EV policy is to establish technological and manufacturing leadership in the economy segment of the market.

The extensive use of small vehicles such as two-wheelers, three-wheelers gives greater opportunities to manufacture these vehicles in the EV segment.

One challenge for the wide usage of EV technology is the affordability of batteries with efficient technology, but has seen enormous technological advancement in recent years, in both improving battery performance and reducing cost.

"Starting today, people across India will be able to send money through WhatsApp. This secure payments experience makes transferring money just as easy as sending a message. People can safely send money to a family member or share the cost

of goods from a distance without having to exchange cash in person or going to a local bank," WhatsApp said in a blogpost.

It added that the payments feature has been designed in partnership with NPCI using UPI, an India-first, real-time payment system that enables transactions with over 160 supported banks.

In June this year, WhatsApp had launched "WhatsApp Pay" in Brazil - making it the first country where the service was widely rolled out.

In India, WhatsApp - which counts India as its biggest market with over 400 million users - will compete with players like Paytm, Google Pay, Walmart-owned PhonePe and Amazon Pay.

"Payments (service) on WhatsApp is now available for people on the latest version of the iPhone and Android app... We're excited to join India's campaign to increase the ease and use of digital payments, which is helping expand financial inclusion in India," it said, adding that users will need to have a bank account and debit card in India to send money through the platform in India.

WhatsApp rolls out payments service

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 6 NOVEMBER

WhatsApp today said it was rolling out its payments services in India after receiving nod from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

In 2018, the Facebook-owned company had started testing its UPI-based payments service in India, which allows users to utilise the messaging platform to send and receive money. The testing was limited to about a million users as it waited for regulatory approvals to come in.

On Thursday, NPCI, which runs the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) used for real-time payments between peers or at merchants' end while making purchases, allowed WhatsApp to start its payments service in the country in a "graded" manner, starting with a maximum registered user base of 20 million in UPI.

"Starting today, people across India will be able to send money through WhatsApp. This secure payments experience makes transferring money just as easy as sending a message. People can safely send money to a family member or share the cost

Need to modify regulations for NBFCs: RBI Dy governor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 6 NOVEMBER

Asserting the need to recalibrate regulations for shadow banking sector, Reserve Bank deputy governor M Rajeshwar Rao today said NBFCs with significant externalities and which contribute substantially to systemic risks must be identified and subjected to a higher degree of regulation.

"One can also argue that the design of prudential regulatory framework for such NBFCs can be comparable with banks so that beyond a point of criticality to systemic risks, such NBFCs should have incentives either to convert into a commercial bank or scale down their network externalities within the financial system," he said.

Observing that NBFCs currently enjoy great degree of regulatory arbitrage vis-a-vis banks, he said, these entities can contribute to build-up of systemic risks because of the regulatory arbitrage enjoyed by them and hence there is a need to recalibrate the regulations.

"We could perhaps consider a graded regulatory framework for NBFCs, calibrated in relation to their contribution to systemic significance," he said.

Talking about microfinance sector, Rao said, the share of NBFCs-MFIs (micro-finance institutions) in the overall microfinance sector has come down to a little over 30 percent as several large MFIs have converted into small finance banks.

"Today we are in a situation where the regulatory rigour is applicable only to a small part of the microfinance sector. There is a need to re-prioritise the regulatory tools in the microfinance sector so that our regulations are activity-based rather than entity-based," he said.

"(As) we move towards digital transaction... we expect that the temptation for deal-

Digitisation will help in making better assessment of GDP: FM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 6 NOVEMBER

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman today said increased digitisation will help in making better assessment of the country's economic growth and nudged tax practitioners to suggest their clients to shift towards digital modes of payments.

She said the government, irrespective of the party in power, tries to widen the tax net and at the same time, lower the tax burden in its pursuit of revenue collection, and tax practitioners can play a critical role in this by ensuring timely compliance by taxpayers.

"If each of these transactions are brought into some kind of monitorable network, your GDP calculation can be closer to the actual strength of Indian economy," Sitharaman added.

She also said tax practitioners today are the most important component, because they educate the tax assessee, counsel them, tell them about the best ways of handling their tax liabilities, and help them plan it in such a way that what is due comes from an honest taxpayer in time. "What you (tax practitioners) can tell them (assessee) is by more and more digitisation, you help the country have better assessment of what its gross domestic product is.

She said India's gross domestic product (GDP) will remain "underestimated" if commercial transactions do not come under monitorable radar.

"Interest income increased to Rs 4,363 crore from Rs 4,276 crore a year ago.

There was a substantial improvement in bank's asset quality as the gross non-performing assets (NPAs) plunged to 13.04 per cent of the gross advances as of 30 September 2020 from 20 per cent at the end of September 2019.

In value terms, gross NPAs or bad loans fell to Rs 17,659.63 crore as against Rs 28,673.95 crore a year ago.

Net NPAs reduced to 4.30 per cent (Rs 5,290.60 crore) from 9.84 per cent (Rs 12,507.97 crore) a year ago.

the government continuously keeps doing, wanting to reduce burden and bring more people in the tax net. The government alone cannot do the job," she said.

Sitharaman added that tax practitioners' role comes to play there. "As a result, they are the biggest critical role players in revenue generation of the government."

She also said since tax practitioners come in between the government and the tax assessee, they have a critical role to play in promoting "in-time compliance".

The government, she said, has taken a lot of steps to make sure taxation becomes a simplified exercise and the burden on citizens is reduced, both for compliance and payment of tax.

CESC registers ₹371 cr profit in Jul-Sep qtr

NEW DELHI, 6 NOVEMBER

CESC Ltd today reported a marginal rise in its consolidated net profit at Rs 371 crore for the quarter ended September.

The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 366 crore in the corresponding period of last year, a BSE filing said. Total income of the company stood at Rs 3,010 crore in the quarter under consideration compared to Rs 3,049 crore in the same period a year ago.

The group is primarily engaged in generation and distribution of electricity and does not operate in any other significant reportable segment.

Considering power supply being an essential service, management believes that there is not much of an impact likely due to this pandemic on the business of the group except some lower demand and its consequential impact on supply and collection from consumers, which are believed to be temporary in nature, the filing said.

Sensex near record peak, rupee jumps 28 paise

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 6 NOVEMBER

Rising for the fifth straight session, equity benchmark the Sensex rallied 553 points and closed at a nearly 10-month high today, tracking gains in index heavyweights Reliance Industries and HDFC twins amid largely positive global market sentiment.

The 30-share BSE index ended 552.90 points or 1.34 per cent higher at 41,893.06 points, while the broader NSE Nifty surged 143.25 points or 1.18 per cent to 12,263.55 points.

The regulator also said that Investor Grievance Redressal Committee (IGRC) would not dispose the complaint citing lack of information and complexity of the case. Besides, expenses of IGRC will be borne by the respective stock exchange and no fees would be charged.

Credit card: SBI Card and Paytm have joined hands to launch India's next generation credit cards. Available in two variants ~Paytm SBI Card and Paytm SBI Card Select~ the product has been launched on the Visa platform, according to a Press release.

pack, surging 3.78 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finserv, IndusInd Bank, HDFC twins and Kotak Bank.

On the other hand, Maruti, Bharti Airtel, Asian Paints, UltraTech Cement and Nestle India were among the laggards.

According to Hemant Kanawala, head-equity, Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance, Indian markets rallied in sync with its global peers, putting to the backburner the uncertainties in the US Presidential election. They delivered a broad-based performance, with both the Nifty and Nifty mid-cap indices returning 1.5 per cent over the last week.

On 14 January, the Sensex had closed at a record peak of 41,952.63 points.

Reliance Industries was the top gainer in the Sensex

BSE INDEX JUMPS 553 PTS

► On 14 January, the Sensex had closed at a record peak of 41,952.63 points.
► The rupee strengthened for the second straight



day and settled 28 paise higher at 74.08 against the US dollar

consumer durables indices rallied up to 3.16 per cent, while telecom, healthcare and FMCG fell up to 0.92 per cent.

Broader mid-cap and small-cap indices rose up to 0.54 per cent.

Positive global sentiment from the US election, expec-

tation of Fed open market operation and improving economic activities have added optimism in the market, said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services.

Markets have surged consistently over the week, and Indian benchmark indices have continued their strong momentum supported by a good set of quarterly numbers and strong foreign fund inflow, he noted.

Democratic leader Joe Biden appeared to be a step away from winning the US presidential election as the latest count of votes from a handful of battleground states indicated that the re-election chances of incumbent Republican President Donald Trump are getting slim by

the hour.

By late Thursday night, Biden - who bagged 253 seats as against Trump's 213 - appeared to be nearing the magical figure of 270 out of the 538 electoral college votes.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai ended in the red, while Hong Kong, Seoul and Tokyo closed with gains.

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

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 1.93 per cent lower at \$40.14 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors remained net buyers in the capital market as they purchased shares worth Rs 5,368.31 crore on Thursday, according to provisional

Why did Mr Shah not visit Hathras where a Dalit girl was raped and her body was burned without the consent of her family members.



TMC RAJYA SABHA MP SUKHENDU SHEKHAR ROY
AFTER SHAH SAID BENGAL TOPS THE CHART IN POLITICAL KILLINGS

The Statesman
NEW DELHI SATURDAY 07 NOVEMBER 2020

09

Covid: Schools in Odisha to remain shut till 31 Dec

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 6 NOVEMBER

Grapping with a Hamletian dilemma over re-opening of schools, the Odisha government ended its flip-flop to announce today that schools will remain closed till the year end.

With apprehension of a second wave of COVID-19, the government decided not to reopen schools till 31 December.

The decision was taken by the School and Mass Education department after a meeting with stakeholders including

parents' associations and teachers.

It's pertinent to note here that the Special Relief Commissioner on 1 November had accorded sanction to the School and Mass Education (SME) department to start the process of reopening schools for Class 9 to 12 in a graded manner after November 15. The SME department was to take a final call.

Significantly, the government had earlier announced that schools will reopen after 16 November.

The neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, where schools were reopened in November, is wit-

nessing the disturbing trend of students and teachers getting infected with coronavirus. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has already expressed apprehension of a second wave of the pandemic next month. Though the current daily infection rate is on a decline, possible spike in infection in the coming days cannot be ruled out. Therefore, it has been decided to keep the school reopening issue on hold', said School and Mass Education Minister Sameer Ranjan Dash.

The safety of students is of paramount importance. There is involved - students, teachers and parents and the views of the stake-

holders prompted us to take the decision, he added. To compensate for the loss of classroom teaching, the online mode of teaching will continue across the state, he said.

Teachers association leaders welcomed the decision. They also pointed out the poor infrastructure vis-à-vis social distancing, vacancy of teachers etc as a major impediment.

It may, however, be noted that the online classes have failed to yield the desired result mainly due to poor internet connectivity in remote areas.

An estimated 22 lakh out of 60 lakh students were found to

have access to online classes. The number further slumped with the resumption of economic activities in the unlock phases.

The parents returned to the workplace with the families' only smart phones with their wards deprived of the online classes.

The government was forced to take recourse to radio medium of classroom teaching for students from classes one to eight. While in some cases, people were unable to procure smartphone sets due to job loss due to pandemic, poor internet connectivity also hindered the online mode of studies.

IPL betting racket busted, 6 held in Odisha

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 6 NOVEMBER

Odisha police on Friday claimed to have busted an Indian Premier League (IPL) betting racket in Belpahar town in Jharsuguda district.

The arrested persons were held while operating bets in the first playoff match between Mumbai Indians and Delhi capital yesterday night. A laptop, two tablets, 20 mobile phones, Rs 1.01 lakh cash besides luxury car was seized from their possessions, police said. The registers with details of bets placed were seized. The accused persons, booked under Indian Penal Code sections 420/34, Odisha prevention of gambling act, the prize chits and money circulation scheme (banning) act, 1978, were later remanded to judicial custody.

Former BJD MLA quits party

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BALASORE, 6 NOVEMBER

The suspended former BJD MLA Jibon Pradip Dash today resigned from the party.

Dash, a three term MLA, had been suspended from the party on charges of anti-party activity yesterday.

Talking to media persons today, Dash said he was shocked to receive the suspension order from the party without a prior show cause notice.

He however went on to thank CM Naveen Patnaik for providing him with an opportunity to serve the people of Balasore. I will continue to work for the people, he said.

It is pertinent to note that the bypoll to Balasore Assembly seat was held on 3 November. Dash had been denied the ticket. There were allegations that he had worked against the party candidate and likely to join the BJP.

ULB's in Odisha fail to promote PM SVA Nidhi scheme

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 6 NOVEMBER

Urban local bodies have utterly failed to mobilise street vendors to avail special micro credit facility and provide affordable working capital loan to street vendors.

The very fact that street vendors in the state capital recently staged a demonstration in front of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation office demanding assistance, permanent shops against eviction underlined the failure of

the PM SVA Nidhi programme.

Hit hard by the pandemic related lockdown and shutdown, the street vendors are in distress. Many of the street food vendors had switched to selling vegetables and other essentials during the period and survived. With the unlocking of the economic activity, they want to get back to their original street side businesses. The lockdown period had prompted the government agencies to step up road widening and other such activity. This led to displacement of the vendors at

several places.

Rehabilitation, restoration and financial assistance has been the persistent demand of the street vendors. Many of them are completely ignorant of the PM SVA Nidhi scheme. The state government has acknowledged that "most of the urban local bodies have not taken adequate steps to mobilise street vendors to avail Special Micro Credit Facility for Providing affordable Working Capital loan to Street Vendors to resume their livelihood that have been adversely affected due to COVID 19 lock down".

Submission of loan applications is lagging far behind, stated the government in its letter to all ULBs. It provided a penalty list and called for expeditious sanction after due verification of eligible street vendors. The union government has listed out the need for sensitizing Common Service Centres at ULB level to facilitate vendors to apply for loan, instruct the concerned bankers located at different locations to expedite the process and hold meetings with bankers at the district level.

Officials visit Suktel project site, face protests

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BALANGIR, 6 NOVEMBER

A official team led by engineer-in-chief Rathavisa the Lower Suktel project site today after a gap of two years when the work had been stalled.

The officers did face opposition from villagers who raised slogans demanding rehabilitation and compensation before resumption of construction work.

They were led by Upendra Sahu of the outfit formed by the displaced people.

The visit comes following a demand by several sections including veteran Bolangir MLA Narasingha Mishra and former MP Kalikesh Singh Deo that

work on the much delayed project should resume.

The official team held a review meeting with district officers led by the collector Chanchal Rana. A special officer will be appointed to deal with the compensation and rehabilitation related issues, informed the officials here.

It may be recalled that work at the project site had started in the year 2013. It was stalled due to opposition by villagers.

In the period the government has spent over Rs 1400 crore for the project including compensation money. The villagers are demanding revised compensation and rehabilitation under the land acquisition act of 2013.

CMAS chief in Odisha gets bail after 6 yrs

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KORAPUT, 6 NOVEMBER

Nachika Linga, president of Chasi Mulia Adivasi Sangh (CMAS) of Narayanpatna in Koraput district of Odisha was released on bail from the Circle Jail today.

Linga was arrested in November 2014 with 45 cases against him. He was also suspected to have links with the naxals.

While he was cleared in as many as 44 cases, the case of attack on Narayanpatna police station in 2009 was pending even after 6 years of being in jail.

However with the intervention of the Supreme Court which had asked the High Court to see that he was given bail at

the earliest the process of his release on bail had gained momentum.

The sub divisional judicial magistrate at Koraput granted a conditional bail for Mr. Linga, Bidyadhar Sahu, APP said. He was given bail against two bailers and Rs. 50,000/- cash.

Further he was asked not to leave Koraput district without permission of the court Sahu

added. Linga thanked all his well-wishers. Social activist Prafulla Samantra said that the bail was the first victory for the peaceful activities in the public interest that was carried out by Nachika Linga.

The CMAS was fighting for land rights for tribals and ban on liquor, noted Samantra. Villagers gathered at the jail to greet Nachika today.

Man-elephant Conflict: 54 human lives lost in six months

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 6 NOVEMBER

In the latest outbreak of man-elephant conflict, two persons were trampled to death by wild elephants in separate incidents in Mayurbhanj and Sundargarh districts in Odisha, taking the human casualty in man-elephant conflicts to 54 since April this year.

Besides the human fatalities, over 100 people have been wounded since the past six months by the rampaging elephants in several parts of Odisha.



The next kin of the bereaved family is being covered except financial aid of Rs 4 lakh each as per rule prescribed for human death due to attack protected animals, said forest officials.

Currently Odisha is home to 1976 elephants in 37 forest divisions, identified as elephants' habitation corridors.

The elephant population in the state is marked by gender imbalance with 1092 females, 344 males. The gender of the rest is yet to be ascertained.

In 2019-20, as many as 115 human casualties were reported while 132 people were injured due to man-elephant conflict. Retaliatory attack by people with electric fences, live wire poaching, poaching for ivory has taken a heavy toll of elephant lives too.

High-flying ATM looters arrested in Vizag

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 6 NOVEMBER

Two interstate criminals, who used to fly to the country's major cities and loot ATM cash kiosks were arrested today by Visakhapatnam police in Andhra Pradesh.

The two used to travel by air, stay in posh hotels and lead a lavish lifestyle, said the police. The two were based in Bangalore and frequently flew to Hyderabad, Delhi, Chandigarh and other cities.

On 10 October, decamped with Rs 27 lakh after breaking open the Punjab Nation-

al Bank (PNB) PNB ATM at Infocity area of Bhubaneswar. They arrived in the city on 5 October, purchased a gas cutter and a second hand two Wheeler to conduct recce of unmanned ATM's before committing the crime and taking a flight to Delhi the next day.

From Delhi they moved around Chandigarh before reaching Andhra Pradesh and targeting another ATM in Visakhapatnam.

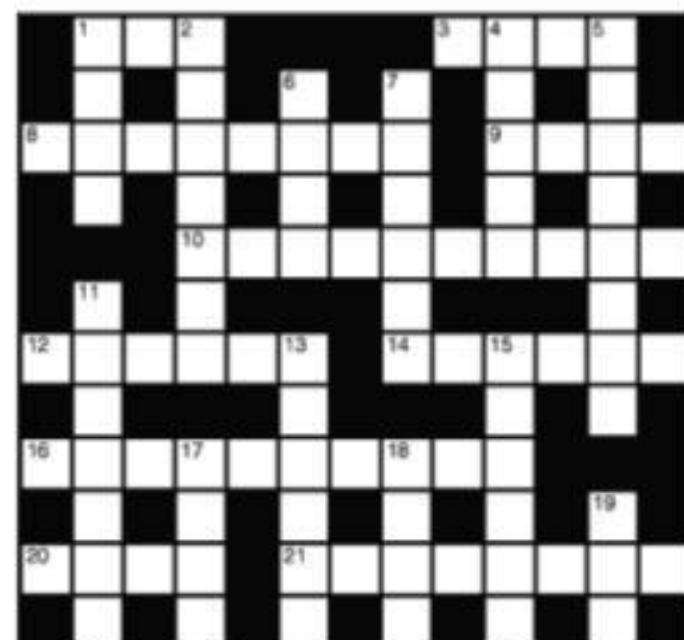
The duo, identified as Samarjoy Singh and Zafar Sadiq belong to Punjab and Kerala respectively. They used gas cutters, wore helmets and

sub-inspector and an assistant sub-inspector of the Mahila police station were found guilty of gross negligence in duty and intimidating the complainant by the High Court.

The arrested criminals who are being brought under remand to Bhubaneswar for furthering the investigation used to travel by air. Besides successfully committing ATM loot in Bhubaneswar and Visakhapatnam, they had looted ATMs in Hyderabad and Bangalore, senior officials on Commissionerate police here said.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Wages (3), 3 Vocalise musically (4), 8 Surpass (8), 9 Mouth tissue (4), 10 Expectant woman (6-2-2), 12 Horse chestnut (Informal) (6), 14 Garment (1-5), 16 Skin inflammation (10), 20 Defeat in sport (4), 21 In a tremulous state (8), 22 Challenge (4), 23 Information (Informal) (3).

DOWN 1 Stopper (4), 2 Face veil (7), 4 Piece of cast metal (5), 5 Pheasant, for example (4-4), 6 Grime (4), 7 Bind (6), 11 Predicted (8), 13 Customary observance (6), 15 Key word in social media (7), 17 Skinflint (5), 18 Cause to incline (4), 19 Hammer part (4).

DOWN

10 Careless, 12 Prefect, 14 Assume, 15 Basic, 17 Ahead, 18 Foil.

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

2258622, 22585007
Punjab Roadways 23867842, Port 011-25671580; Terminal I-B 25671576, Palam Road 25671579, 18001803838

Rajasthan Roadways 23864470, #U.P. Roadways 23868709

JET AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 39841111

EMIRATES Flight Inquiry and Reservation 33773377

AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 18001801407

INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513165, Call Center 091090138388, Reservation 23466263 (City)

25656421/5656431 Reservation 41528181

Air France Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23466262 (City)

Kuwait Airways Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23354373

FLIGHT INQUIRY

ISBT (General Inquiry): 23868336, 23865181

Haryana Roadways 23861262, Himachal Roadways 23717473, 23325320

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

ISBT (General Inquiry): 23868336, 23865181

Haryana Roadways 23861262, Himachal Roadways 23717473, 23325320

FIVE RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

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CARAWAY RACK 1 = 65 RACK 2 = 64 RACK 3 = 61 RACK 4 = 67 J



Democracy is sometimes messy and requires a little patience. But that patience has been rewarded now for more than 240 years with a system of governance that has been the envy of the world.

DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JOE BIDEN
ON DELAYED ELECTION RESULTS

WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	29°C	25°C
HONG KONG	26°C	20°C
TOKYO	18°C	12°C
LONDON	17°C	9°C
DUBAI	30°C	25°C
SAN FRANCISCO	13°C	04°C
NEW YORK	10°C	07°C
MOSCOW	16°C	09°C

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

THUMBNAILS



A woman wearing a face mask walks in front of the Tower Bridge in London, Britain, on Friday. AP

Guatemala landslides:

Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei said Thursday that a water-soaked mountainside in the central part of the country had slid onto the town of San Cristobal Verapaz, burying homes and leaving at least 25 dead. Two other slides in Huehuetenango had killed at least 12 more, he said. AP

Marijuana illegal in NZ : New Zealand won't be legalising marijuana after the final votes counted Friday in a referendum failed to overturn the result from election night although it got close. The referendum to legalise the drug ended up with 48 % support and 51 % against. AP

New Alzheimer's drug : One of the biggest drug decisions in decades is looming as US regulators consider whether to approve the first medicine that's claimed to slow mental decline from Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of dementia. AP

Light at the end of month-long lockdown tunnel: UK PM

LONDON, 6 NOVEMBER

The four weeks of coronavirus lockdown imposed in England until December 2 will be enough to make a real impact and there is light at the end of that tunnel for as normal a Christmas as possible, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said.

Addressing a briefing from Downing Street on Thursday, the first day of England's latest stay-at-home lockdown, Johnson was asked of the chances of having to extend the lockdown if the surge in coronavirus infections is not brought under control. He admitted that many people were "anxious, weary and quite frankly fed up with the very mention of this virus" but stressed that the tough new measures are time-limited. "The advice I've received suggests that four weeks is enough for these measures to make a real impact, Johnson said.

"So these rules will expire and on December 2 we plan to move back to a tiered system. There is light at the end of the tunnel," he said.

Pubs, bars, restaurants and all non-essential shops are now closed across England as part of the latest shutdown. People have also been told to stay at home except for when attending school, college, university or work, for medical reasons or when going food shopping. Johnson referred to the latest statistics to point out the severity of the second wave as there were now 12,320 patients in hospitals, with 1,142 patients on mechanical ventilators.

He announced a further 15 million pounds would be given to councils to offer safe accommodation for people sleeping rough or at risk of becoming homeless during second lockdown. AP

Partisan poll watchers emerge as a flashpoint in battle over ballots

In Nevada's most populous county, officials said poll watchers were allowed in designated areas

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 6 NOVEMBER

Election officials in key battleground states pushed back on claims by the Trump campaign that Republican poll watchers were being improperly denied access to observe the counting of ballots, saying that rules were being followed and they were committed to transparency.

Tasked this year with monitoring a record number of mail ballots, partisan poll watchers are designated by a political party or campaign to report any concerns they may have. With a few reports of overly aggressive poll watchers, election officials on Thursday said they were carefully balancing access with the need to minimise disruptions.

"There were certainly a lot of eyes on the process in every absentee counting board all across our state," said Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, a Democrat and the state's top election official. "I'm proud of how transparent and secure our process has been. I know that the truth is on our side here."

Poll watchers have been a central element of legal battles that have erupted in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Nevada. While counting was largely finished in Michigan, the work continued on Thursday in Pennsylvania and Nevada where a narrow margin separated President Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger, Joe Biden.

Monitoring polling places and election offices is allowed in most states, but rules vary and there are certain limits to avoid any harassment or intimidation. Monitors are not allowed to interfere with the conduct of the election and are typically required to register in advance with the local election office.

In Nevada's most populous county, officials said poll watchers were allowed in designated areas, told to comply with social distancing and mask requirements and required to be escorted by county representatives. When they sign in, they have to agree to follow the rules that are guided by statute. If they don't follow the rules...

Indian-American supporters of Trump, Biden clash over leaders' policies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW YORK, 6 NOVEMBER

A South Asian support group for Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden has slammed President Donald Trump for tearing apart communities and failing to denounce white supremacy while a strong Indian-American supporter of Trump said he has united minority communities, views that highlighted a clash between Indian-Americans over policies of the two leaders.

Jay Kansara, former director of Director of Government Relations at the Hindu American Foundation and a Trump supporter said that Trump has done very well with Hispanic voters even though the Democrats are still trying to claim victory in states such as Michigan and Wisconsin.

He said this is an indication that the Democrats have simply not accepted the reality that Trump actually united minority communities - African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans.

Kansara was part of a discussion during a virtual post-election political analysis hosted by leading nonprofit Indian diaspora organisation Indiaspora'.

Responding strongly to Kansara's assertion, National Director of South Asians for Biden Neha Dewan said,

they will be removed from the location, said Joe Gloria, the chief elections official in Clark County, which includes Las Vegas. The Trump campaign had sought to halt the counting of mail ballots in the county, saying observers were being kept too far away to be able to see if signatures matched voter registration records.

With the issues that have been reported regarding the election, we are now more than ever concerned with the lack of transparency in observing and challenging possible



Supporters of US President Donald Trump protesting in Phoenix, Arizona, on Friday. AGENCE

I think we might be living in different countries when Kansara says that Trump really united the minority communities. "Because I think that probably may be the first that I've heard. Our community certainly has been torn apart with the Muslim ban, the spike in hate crimes in our communities. So I'm not sure where the unity part of that comes in. I must have been sleeping over the last four years, Dewan said. She added that she "cannot really think of anything" that Trump has done for "our community."

That's the part that we've really been hearing from our community. Our community has been suffering from COVID-19, whether it's people on the frontline or small businesses that have suffered as a result of it.

And that's just not it. Immigrants who are here legally and want to have a shot at life and all of a sudden (Trump) is suspending H-1B applications.

Kansara, holding up a placard that read 'Indian Voices For Trump', said he had voted for President Barack Obama twice but could not vote for Hillary Clinton because I knew the damage that she had inflicted on the world as Secretary of State, and I knew the damage that Biden had done as Vice President.

He asserted that Trump has actually had the back of minority communities such as Asian-Americans and added that the President stands for equity in education and equal opportunity.

names and addresses.

Balloots without this information could be challenged or disqualified, but city officials said state election law allows poll watchers only to observe the work and not audit it.

Pennsylvania Secretary of State Kathy Boockvar defended the process as open. In Pennsylvania, every candidate and every political party is allowed to have an authorized representative in the room observing the process, Boockvar said in an interview with CNN.

Networks cut away from Trump's WH address

NEW YORK, 6 NOVEMBER

ABC, CBS and NBC all cut away from President Donald Trump as he spoke from the White House to make an unfounded accusation that the presidential election was being stolen from him.

Trump on Thursday tried to commandeer the nation's airwaves at a time when the evening newscasts are shown on the East Coast, after a day when the slow drip of vote counting revealed his leads in Pennsylvania and Georgia dwindling.

MSNBC's Brian Williams also interrupted the president. Fox News Channel and CNN aired the president's full address, after which CNN's Anderson Cooper said Trump was like an obese turtle on his back, flailing in the hot sun realising his time was over.

Network personalities had sharply criticised Trump after his angry, middle-of-the-night speech following Election Day but airdred that talk in full. Trump was more subdued on Thursday, yet offered a litany of complaints about suppression polls, mail-in voting and fraud that he never specified.

We have to interrupt here, because the president has made a number of false statements, including the notion that there has been fraudulent voting, said NBC's Lester Holt. There has been no evidence of that.

CNN analysts David Axelrod and Van Jones both said they were angered by Trump's attacks on authorities in Detroit and Philadelphia, suggesting they amounted to racism. On Fox News Channel, commentators Bill Bennett and Byron York said that just because Trump did not allege specific instances of irregularities doesn't mean there haven't been any. But the president and his lawyers need to present evidence, they said. AP

HUMDINGER



The White House is seen behind posters reading "Loser" the day after the 2020 U.S. presidential election in Washington. AGENCE

Fb bans big Stop the Steal group: Facebook on Thursday banned a large group called Stop the Steal that supporters of President Donald Trump were using to organise protests against the presidential vote count. Some members had called for violence, while many falsely claimed that Democrats are stealing the election from Republicans. Though the group amassed more than 350,000 members before Facebook took it down, it was just one of several smaller groups that popped up as vote counting extended for days in several battleground states.

2020 US presidential election generated highest voter turnout rate in 120 years: The 2020 US presidential election has recorded the highest voter turnout in 120 years, a prominent electoral expert has said.

According to preliminary estimates of the US Election Project, a nonpartisan site that tracks voting, an estimated 239 million people were eligible to vote this year, of which nearly 160 million exercised their right to franchise. The figure is likely to be updated in the coming weeks. The November 3 election saw a record voter turnout of 66.9 per cent, which is the highest turnout rate since 1900. The 1900 election had recorded 73.7% voter turnout, it said. In 2016, US had registered 56 % voter turnout, while it was 58 % in 2008.

Minnesota and Maine, as per the US Election Project, this year had the highest turnout of 79.2 per cent each, followed by Iowa at 78.6 per cent. Maine and Iowa was won by President Donald Trump and Minnesota by his Democratic rival Joe Biden. Other States which polled more than 70 per cent voter turnout were Colorado (77.1%), Connecticut (71.1%), Delaware (70.8%), Florida (72.9%), Maryland (72.2%), Massachusetts (73.4 per cent), Michigan (73.5%) and Montana (72.3%). Arkansas recorded the lowest turnout of 56.1 , as per the preliminary estimates. The Time magazine said the above-average voter turnout in 2020 is noteworthy as the US usually has some of the worst turnout rates in the world.

Counties with worst virus surges overwhelmingly voted Trump: US voters went to the polls starkly divided on how they see President Donald Trump's response to the coronavirus pandemic, with a surprising twist: In places where the virus is most rampant now, Trump enjoyed enormous support. An Associated Press analysis reveals that in 376 counties with the highest number of new cases per capita, the overwhelming majority 93 % of those counties went for Trump, a rate above other less severely hit areas. Most were rural areas in the Dakotas, Montana, Nebraska, Wisconsin, and Iowa. Taking note of the contrast, state health officials are pausing for a moment of introspection. Even as they worry about rising numbers of hospitalisations and deaths, they hope to reframe their messages and aim for a reset on public sentiment now that the election is over.

OUTRAGE



Demonstrators gather in Black Lives Matter Plaza while waiting for election results, on Friday in Washington. AP

Election exposes America's 'perilous' divides

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK, 6 NOVEMBER

Presidential elections can be revealing moments that convey the wishes of the American people to the next wave of elected officials. So far, the big reveal in the contest between President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden is the extent of the cavernous divide between Republican and Democratic America, one that defines the nation, no matter which candidate ultimately wins.

Voters from both parties turned out in droves to pick the next president, but as they did so, they found little agreement about what that president should do. Democrats and Republicans prioritised different issues, lived in different communities and even voted on different kinds of ballots. Whoever emerges

as the winner, that division ensures that the next president will face significant gridlock in Congress, skepticism about the integrity of the vote and an agitated electorate increasingly divided by race, education and geography. Even the vote count itself threatens to further split Americans.

Two days after polls closed, neither Trump nor Biden has earned the 270 electoral votes needed to win the president-

cy. The Republican incumbent is encouraging his supporters to protest outside counting locations still sorting through mail ballots — the method of voting preferred by many Democrats — while pursuing an aggressive legal strategy that could lead to further delays.

"Except for the Civil War, I don't think we've lived through any time as perilous as this in terms of the divisions," said historian Barbara Perry, the

director of presidential studies at the University of Virginia's Miller Center.

Even after the 2000 election, when the Supreme Court ultimately intervened on Republican George W. Bush's behalf, Democrat Al Gore quickly conceded and congressional leaders found areas of agreement on Capitol Hill.

"To come out of something like this, you need to have a leader who can lead and will follow," Perry said. "I just don't see willing followers on either side."

The yawning divides will threaten the next president's ability to manage multiple crises. Daily coronavirus infections set a record this week, the economy is struggling to recover from the pandemic and many Americans are pressing for a reckoning on racial injustices. Trump and Biden voters, however, express strikingly different views on those chal-

lenges, according to AP Vote-Cast, a broad survey of the electorate.

Biden voters overwhelming say they want the federal government to prioritize limiting the spread of the virus, even if that means further damage to the economy. But most Trump voters preferred an approach that focused on the economy.

About half of Trump voters also called the economy and jobs the top issue facing the nation, while only 1 in 10 Biden voters named it most important.

On race and justice issues, Biden voters almost universally said racism is a serious problem in U.S. society and in policing. But only a slim majority of Trump voters, who are overwhelmingly white, called racism a serious problem. Biden has tried to bridge this gap, often appealing to a sense of national unity and the "soul" of America.

Horrified by deadly attacks, French Muslims protect church

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PARIS, 6 NOVEMBER

As a French-born Muslim, Elyazid Benferhat's stomach turned when he heard about a deadly Islamic extremist attack on a church in Nice. Then he decided to act.

A self-described man of peace and pragmatism, Benferhat and a friend gathered a group of young Muslim men to stand guard outside their town's cathedral for the All Saints' holiday weekend, to symbolically protect it and show solidarity with Catholic churchgoers.

Parishioners at the 13th-century church in the southern town of Lodeve were deeply touched. The parish priest said their gesture gave

German police raid homes of people linked to Vienna attacker

BERLIN, 6 NOVEMBER

German police have raided the homes and businesses of four people linked to the Islamic State sympathiser who carried out a deadly attack in Vienna this week.

Federal police said Friday that officers, including members of the anti-terrorism unit GSG9, searched premises in Osnabrueck, Kassel and Pinneberg county.

debate on free expression an act of unbelievable, unprecedented cruelty. Then when three people

were killed last Thursday in the Notre Dame Basilica in Nice, Benferhat said he was so sickened that he wanted to do

something so that everyone wakes up. Benferhat, who works for French oil company Total and coaches at a local football club, talked to a Muslim friend who was in Nice that day, and we had this idea. We needed to do something beyond paying homage to the victims. We said, we will protect churches ourselves. They recruited volunteers among their friends and guarded the church that night and again for Sunday Mass.

He said they also coordinated with local police, after France's government promised to increase security at sensitive religious sites. It's very good, these young people who are against violence, the cathedral's priest, the Rev. Luis Iniguez, told the AP. When

the small-town gesture drew national attention, and with it, online invective from some far-right voices.

But Benferhat said the response has been 90 per cent positive. His group is considering how to take the idea forward, and would



We must knock down completely this virus variant

DENMARK PRIME MINISTER METTE FREDERIKSEN

NORTH DENMARK IN LOCKDOWN OVER MUTATED MINK CORONAVIRUS FEAR

The Statesman

11

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY 07 NOVEMBER 2020

Suu Kyi's party expected to win Myanmar election

There are about 37 million registered voters, though turnout is expected to suffer because of a recent surge in coronavirus cases

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BANGKOK, 6 NOVEMBER

Myanmar's citizens go to the polls Sunday in an effort to sustain the fledgling democracy they helped install just five years ago.

There are about 37 million registered voters, though turnout is expected to suffer because of a recent surge in coronavirus cases.

In 2015, excitement was high over the opportunity to end more than five decades of army-directed rule.

The National League of Democracy party of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi roared to a landslide election victory, and she became her country's leader after many hard years at the forefront of a non-violent struggle against military dictatorships that won

international admiration. This year, her party is expected to again top the polls, but some critics feel her administration has failed to embrace democratic principles.

Chances for real reform were always dicey, as the 2008 constitution drafted under the military assures it of enough seats in parliament to block charter changes. Key ministries are also under the control of the military.

Critics accuse 75-year-old Suu Kyi and her party of being more concerned about entrenching itself in power than encouraging a broad-based democracy.

This time, neither Aung San Suu Kyi nor her party is bringing democracy to Myanmar. Instead, they are trying to bring in a one-party democracy system, charged Khin Zaw Win, director of the Tam-



Supporters of the National League for Democracy party take part in a campaign rally with a cut-out portrait of State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi on the outskirts of Yangon, Myanmar on 25 October.

of conniving with Suu Kyi's ruling party by cancelling voting in some areas where parties critical of the government were certain to win seats. The Union Election Commission insisted the voting was cancelled because of armed conflict with ethnic guerrillas in those areas.

The decision was one of several points criticised this past week by Thomas Andrews, the UN special rapporteur for human rights in Myanmar.

Buddhist-majority Myanmar, he said, would not be able to hold free and fair elections as long as ... the right to vote is denied based on race, ethnicity or religion, as it is with the Rohingya.

Long-standing prejudice against the Muslim Rohingya minority, whom many consider to have immigrated illegally from South Asia even though their families have lived in

Myanmar for generations, has deprived most of them of the rights of citizenship.

Western friends of Myanmar were shocked at the brutal 2017 counter-insurgency campaign by Myanmar's army that drove about 740,000 Rohingya to flee into neighbouring Bangladesh, drawing accusations of genocide.

It also sent Suu Kyi's reputation with Western admirers into a tailspin when she failed to restrain the security forces. But for most people in Myanmar, the Rohingya are not an issue in the election.

Andrews also said opposition political parties claim they are denied access to state media and their messages have been censored for criticizing government policies.

Measures to control the coronavirus severely restricted traditional large-scale cam-

paigning by all parties, but Suu Kyi benefits from frequent reports in state media about the carrying out her official duties, and from her regular updates about fighting the coronavirus streamed on her Facebook page.

Her administration had already been criticised by free speech advocates. It scrapped some censorship and licensing laws, but aggressively employs defamation and telecommunications laws against journalists and activists critical of the government and the military.

Failure of much-touted plans to reconcile with the country's fractious ethnic minorities is another dent in Suu Kyi's reputation.

Ethnic minority groups, mainly in border areas, have for decades been engaged in on-again, off-again armed

struggle for autonomy. Ethnic political parties in 2015 worked out tactical agreements with the NLD to ensure victory against the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party, the main challenger to Suu Kyi's party.

This year, disappointed with Suu Kyi's failure to seal a deal expanding their political rights, they will be pushing only their own candidates.

Nevertheless, Suu Kyi remains the country's most popular political figure by far.

I think it is really the personal support, even love, that many people have for Aung San Suu Kyi herself, almost irrespective of how the government administration performs, how the economy performs and so on, Yangon-based political analyst Richard Horsey said of her appeal.

Vatican sanctions cardinal in Poland cited in sex abuse case

The Vatican's embassy in Poland said Gulbinowicz (97), retired archbishop of Wroclaw, has been forbidden from using his bishop's insignia and participating in any religious celebrations or public events.

WARSAW, 6 NOVEMBER

The Vatican has imposed sanctions on a prominent Polish cardinal, retired Archbishop Henryk Gulbinowicz, after he was accused of sexually abusing a seminarian and of covering up abuse in another case.

The Vatican's embassy in Poland said Friday that Gulbinowicz, the 97-year-old retired archbishop of Wroclaw, has been forbidden from using his bishop's insignia and participating in any religious celebrations or public events. The once well-respected cardinal has also been denied the right to have a cathedral burial service or to be buried in a cathedral.

He is the latest Polish prelate to be sanctioned after a Vatican-mandated investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct. The reckoning has rocked the Catholic hierarchy in the predominantly Roman Catholic Poland, where the clergy have long been held in high esteem and St. John Paul II, the Polish pope, remains a figure of national pride.

The embassy's statement said the decisions were taken following an investigation into accusations made against Gulbinowicz and other allegations concerning his behavior.

Last year, criminal prosecutors in Wroclaw opened an investigation into allegations against Gulbinowicz of sexual abuse of a seminarian, but they dropped the case because too much time had passed.

Gulbinowicz was also cited in a recent video documentary in Poland about predator priests and coverup efforts.

Nagorno-Karabakh says its two largest cities under fierce attack

AGENCIES

TBILISI, 6 NOVEMBER



Three residents of Nagorno-Karabakh's largest city were killed during overnight shelling by Azeri forces, the enclave's ethnic Armenian-controlled Emergency and Rescue Service said on Friday, as the battle for control of its major settlements intensified. Azerbaijan denied the reports of shelling in Stepanakert. Two independent observers said fighting appeared to be moving deeper into the enclave, with Azeri troops stepping up attacks on its biggest two cities.

At least 1,000 people - and possibly many more - have died in nearly six weeks of fighting in and around Nagorno-Karabakh, a mountainous enclave internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan but populated and controlled by ethnic Armenians.

The conflict has underlined the influence of Turkey, an ally of Azerbaijan, in a former Soviet region long dominated by Moscow, which has a defence pact with Armenia. It also threatens the security of Azeri oil and gas pipelines.

The Nagorno-Karabakh Emergency and Rescue Service said residential buildings and public infrastructure in Stepanakert had been targeted. It said that the three people killed had been inside the same house.

Three sources working in Stepanakert said that the city - known in Azerbaijan as

Hankendi - had come under heavy shelling late on Thursday. Shushi, 15 km to the south and the enclave's second-largest city, had also come under bombardment overnight and several houses were on fire, the Emergency and Rescue Service said. The city is of strategic importance to both sides. Azerbaijan's defence ministry said combat operations continued overnight along all major sections of the front line. It said that "multiple attempts" to attack Shushi were repelled.

Olesya Vartanyan, Crisis Group's Tbilisi-based senior analyst for the South Caucasus, said that fighting near Shushi had "been intensifying during the last week, with more face-to-face clashes closer to the town".

"The side that controls Shushi automatically gains control over Stepanakert," she said. "Even if Baku decides to stop the war after taking Shushi, this will still significantly decrease the chance of ethnic Armenians returning to their homes in Stepanakert."

The Nagorno-Karabakh defence ministry says 1,177 of its troops have been killed. Azerbaijan does not disclose its military casualties, while Russia has estimated 5,000 deaths on both sides.

China launches 13 satellites

BEIJING, 6 NOVEMBER

China on Friday successfully sent 13 satellites, including 10 from Argentina, into the orbit in what was stated to be the biggest launch of foreign satellites by the country that could fetch hundreds of millions of dollars to the communist nation.

The satellites, including 10 commercial remote sensing satellites developed by Argentinian company Satellogic, blasted off atop a Long March-6 carrier rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre, Xinhua news agency reported.

"People who survived the war perceive danger differently. Often, if they are not hungry, cold or have mortars exploding over their heads, they do not feel they are in danger," said Majstorovic, who works for Mensana, a non-governmental mental health group in Sarajevo.

It has made them prone to "downplaying the threat, to behaving less responsibly than they should," Majstorovic said. "It is not at all a healthy mechanism for adapting to a world threatened by an invisible virus."

Remizija Setic, a clinical psychologist, said he, too, sees war survivors "recklessly" downplaying the risks of the virus.

But he also has patients who are suffering from heightened anxiety because some aspects of living through this pandemic are reminiscent of the war: being trapped indoors, seeing public spaces as dangerous, concern over getting food and separation from family and friends.

China accuses ETIM, which is entrenched in Uighur Mus-

MORE PROTECTION



Bucharest: Member of medical staff hold banners, one reading "Respect the right to a survivors' pension" during a protest outside the government headquarters, demanding better protective equipment against the Covid infection and the increasing of staff numbers in the state medical services in Bucharest, Romania, on Friday. Romania registered all time highs for the third day running of new COVID-19 infected people in the last 24 hours.

Ethiopian PM defends military Ops in Tigray

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NAIROBI, KENYA, 6 NOVEMBER

Ethiopia's prime minister on Friday defended military operations against the country's well-armed Tigray region after accusing its government of a deadly attack on a military base this week, asserting that months of patiently trying to resolve differences have "failed" because of the leadership's "criminal hubris and intransigence."

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed appeared to close the door on dialogue, which some experts and diplomats say is desperately needed. He asserted that the "large-scale law enforcement operation" has "clear, limited and achievable objectives: to restore the rule of law and the constitutional order." He described the region's leadership as "fugitives from justice... using the civilian population as human shields."

The northern Tigray region was increasingly cut off as Ethiopia's civil aviation authority said airports in the regional capital, Mekele, along with the regional cities of Shire, Axum and Humera were

"closed for any services." And in Sudan, the acting governor of Kassala province said its border with northern Ethiopia has closed "until further notice" due to the tensions, the Sudan News Agency reported.

Alarm has grown as one of Africa's most powerful and populous countries nears civil war, which experts say would be catastrophic and destabilizing for the Horn of Africa. It was not clear who was taking the lead on any mediation; the African Union, based in Ethiopia, has not

issued a statement.

Aid groups warned a humanitarian disaster is in the making if the fighting continues, with the Covid pandemic just one of several crises.

Communications remained almost completely cut off in Tigray. They disappeared around the time that Abiy early Wednesday announced the military's move in response to an alleged deadly attack by Tigray People's Liberation Front fighters on a military base. That attack was "the last straw," Abiy said.

Nobel Peace Prize awardee now facing his greatest test as the TPLF, which dominated Ethiopia's government before he took office in 2018, has pushed back while feeling marginalized.

Both sides issued strong statements Thursday. Ethiopia's army said it was deploying troops from around the country to Tigray, and the Tigray leader alleged that fighter jets had bombed parts of the regional capital. "We are ready to be martyrs," he said. Casualties have been reported on both sides.

At least one fighter jet flew overhead but there was no confirmation it dropped bombs, a source in Ethiopia said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media about the issue. Thursday saw heavy fighting and shelling, the source said, and roads to Tigray were closed.

A command post established by the federal government on Tigray said Friday that public meetings and moving in groups of more than four people were not allowed, and no one aside from law enforcement could bear arms.

China slams US for delisting Xinjiang's ETIM as terrorist outfit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BEIJING, 6 NOVEMBER

China on Friday sharply criticised the US for delisting Xinjiang's separatist militant outfit East Turkistan Islamic Movement from its list of terrorist organisations, saying it reflected Washington's "double standards" on fighting global terrorism.

In a major policy shift on November 5, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo lifted the ban on East Turkistan Islamic Movement from its list of terrorist organisations, saying it reflected Washington's "double standards" on fighting global terrorism.

Since last year, China has been under severe international criticism including from the UN and western countries over allegations that it is holding over a million people, mostly ethnic Uighurs, in internment camps in Xinjiang, in a bid to wean them away from religious extremism.

The resource-rich Xinjiang province is home to Turkic speaking Uighur Muslims.



An ethnic Uighur man holds his grandson as he sits outside his house in an area waiting development by authorities on 28 June, 2017 in the old town of Kashgar, in the far western Xinjiang province, China.

which calls itself a separatist outfit, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here on Friday that China deplores and rejects US decision.

The ETIM is a UN Security Council listed terrorist organisation and is recognised as such by the international community, he said.

Wang said that the ETIM has long been engaging in violent terrorist activities, causing massive casualties and property loss and posing a grave threat to the security and stability in China, the region and the world.

Fighting ETIM is an international consensus and an important part of the international counter-terrorism fight. The US was a co-sponsor of the listing of the ETIM in the UN in 1267 committee

and now it is flip-flopping on its position, he said.

This once again shows those in power at Washington has double standards on counter-terrorism and has ugly two-faced approach to terrorist organisations. Terrorist organisations are terrorist organisations, he said.

The US should correct its mistake and do not whitewash terrorist organisations and do not soft-pedal on international counter-terrorism cooperation, Wang added.

Last year, China released a rare documentary showing for the first time some of the deadly attacks conducted by the ETIM in Xinjiang, justifying the massive crackdown and detention of thousands of Uighur Muslims in the restive province amidst mounting international criticism.



IN PRAISE OF PERFECTION

Shenzhen head coach Jordi Cruyff (photo, left) has heaped praise on the Chinese Super League's "perfect" 2020 season, which he reckons can serve as a blueprint for other countries amid the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. "The world is facing this problem and the organiser did a great job," Cruyff told the media.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Maradona's health: Maradona will remain in hospital for some more days because of complications following brain surgery to remove a blood clot, his doctor said. "We saw that in the post-operative phase Diego had episodes of confusion," Dr Leopoldo Luque said.

Ronaldo picked: Cristiano Ronaldo was on Thursday named in the Portugal squad to play a friendly against Andorra and Nations League matches against France and Croatia. The five-time Ballon d'Or winner tested positive for coronavirus on 13 October.

Nadal rises: Top-seeded Rafael Nadal stayed on course for an elusive first title at the Paris Masters after beating Jordan Thompson 6-1, 7-6 (3) to reach the quarter-finals. Nadal has won 86 career titles but lost his only final at the Bercy Indoor Arena in Paris 13 years ago.

Fifa's plan: Aiming to open player agents to more scrutiny, Fifa said it wanted to publish lists of their clients and how they had earned fees that were worth \$650 million last year. The move is in a draft code it has worked on since 2017, but has been resisted.



Purple cap: Mumbai Indians' Jasprit Bumrah has taken the Purple cap from Kagiso Rabada following his menacing spell of fast bowling which helped the defending champions thrash Delhi Capitals to enter the final of the ongoing Indian Premier League.

Morkel moves: Proteas' paceman Morne Morkel on Friday signed on for the Big Bash League, but as a local hire rather than international after becoming an Australian resident. He moved to Australia in 2018 to live with his sports broadcaster wife and children.

Big Bash: Australia's Big Bash League has been pushed back a week, but organisers confirmed it would be played in multiple cities with state borders reopening after coronavirus shutdowns. The 10th season of the tournament will start on 10 December.



Houston Open: Michael Thompson birdied his final hole to earn a share of the early first-round clubhouse lead at the Houston Open on Thursday while Jordan Spieth wasted a good start with a back-nine collapse in the tournament before next week's Masters.

Positive test: Archer Himani Malik, who is in a national camp at Pune's Army Sports Institute, has tested positive for the coronavirus. In a statement, the Sports Authority of India said that the archers in the camp had been put through tests upon arrival.

Games scandal: The Sports Authority of India has requested the Uttar Pradesh director-general of police and the Agra magistrate to lodge a first information report and take immediate action relevant to a "huge fraud" in the name of the Khelo India Games.

IANS

'Life in bio-secure bubble can be difficult'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI, 6 NOVEMBER

India skipper Virat Kohli (in photo) says that "repetitive" bio-bubble experience can be mentally tough on cricketers and the length of tours will have to be considered accordingly if playing in a protected environment becomes the norm in a world scarred by Covid-19.

The Indian team go on a long tour of Australia right after the Indian Premier League, moving into one bio-bubble from another.

"It's repetitive, it's not as tough when the group of guys is amazing, which we have," Kohli told his franchise Royal Challengers Bangalore's YouTube channel, referring to his time in the IPL's bio-secure environment.

"Everyone part of that bio-bubble is really nice, the vibe has been so good. That's precisely why we've enjoyed playing together, just enjoyed our time in the bubble as well. But it does get difficult at times because it's repetitive."

Most squad members are in the IPL and have been in the United Arab Emirates since

August. The Australia tour will stretch to the New Year, leaving the players on the road for more than four months, with little link to the outside world.

Cricket is being organised only in bio-bubbles amid the pandemic and the situation is unlikely to change anytime soon. Kohli said that the scheduling had to factor in the mental fatigue a bio-bubble could cause.

"These things will have to be considered, like the length of a tournament or series one is going to play in and what mental impact it will have on the players to stay in a similar environment for 80 days and do anything different. Or, have the space to just go and see one's family or small things like that. These things have to be thought of seriously. At the end of the day, you want the players to be in the best state mentally, based on how they're feeling. Those conversations should take place seriously."

India play three One-Day Internationals, three Twenty20 Internationals and four Tests Down Under. They return for another full series against England and that too will be held in a protected environment.



The "bubble fatigue" has already forced star Australian players like Steve Smith and David Warner, who are in the IPL, to rule themselves out of the Big Bash League back home.

England paceman Sam Curran, who is with Chennai Super Kings, last week said that players might have to pick the games they would play in the event of back-to-back series in a bio-bubble.

"It can be tough - if you're in all three formats, you're obviously travelling to different bubbles, not being able to spend time with family, loved ones, things like that," Curran told Sky Sports.

"I know speaking to the other England players that it is tricky. You look at the tours coming up and there's going to be a big schedule for all-format players. Some guys, I'm sure,

will have to pull out at different stages. Some guys react to it differently: there are days when you're struggling and days when you feel like you're coping okay."

Rajasthan Royals pacer Jofra Archer is "counting his days" to go home from the UAE.

Australia warned

Former skipper Steve Waugh has

urged Australia not to get into a war of words with Kohli during the four-Test home series as it might end up providing some "extramotivation" not just to him but also to his teammates.

Border-Gavaskar Trophy matches will begin with a day-night encounter at the Adelaide Oval on 17 December, followed by Tests at the Melbourne (26 December), Sydney (7 January) and Gabba (15 January). The tour will begin with three ODIs starting on 27 November.

"Sledging is not going to worry Kohli, it doesn't work against great players and you're better off leaving those guys alone," Waugh said.

"I think any extra motivation will make them dig in more and get more runs. So you're better off not saying much to him."

Australia captain Tim Paine and his men were involved in a spat with Kohli during India's previous tour of Australia which ended with the visitors registering their first Test series (2-1) win Down Under.

Former skipper Michael Clarke later claimed that Australia had "sucked up" to Kohli

in order to land fat deals with IPL franchises, a charge rejected by Paine.

Steve Smith was serving out a ball-tampering ban the last time India toured Australia.

"(Kohli) is a world-class player, he would wanna be the batsman of the series. Last time, he and Smith came up against each other in India, Smith really dominated with three hundreds and Kohli didn't get many."

That would be at the back of his mind that last time he was outscored by Steve Smith," Waugh said, adding: "So he will want to score a lot of runs and if he does, India will have a great chance of winning."

During Australia's tour of India in 2016-17, Smith posted three hundreds in the four-Test series which the visitors lost 1-2. Waugh says that Kohli is now much more in control as a player and would be keen to lead the team to a series win abroad.

"He has definitely matured, he was always excitable on the field, maybe a little not in control. But now he is totally in control and now he has got the team playing in his mode," the former batsman said.

As good as it gets, says Mumbai Indians skipper

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI, 6 NOVEMBER



A jubilant Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma said his team had produced an "absolutely perfect" performance to make the Indian Premier League final with a 57-run decimation of Delhi Capitals in the tournament's first "Qualifier" here last night.

Mumbai hit up 200/5, thanks to half-centuries by Suryakumar Yadav (in photo), Ishan Kishan and some late hitting by Hardik Pandya.

"Surya is someone who is very positive and clear in his thought process on how he wants to bat and we back his skills and thought process. And every time he has come in to bat, if an early wicket has fallen, he has taken the pressure away from the team and the batter that he is batting with," said Sharma.

Boult suffered a groin injury but the Mumbai skipper said that he was looking good and would play in the final on 10 November.

"I have not personally seen him, but he is said to be all right. It was just that we needed to take some precaution because we were in a good position when that happened after his two overs, so he went in. It looks okay to me, he should be okay for the final," Sharma said.

According to him, Boult has been crucial for the team with the new ball.

"We know what quality Trentham has and he has come here, and not disappointed any one of us. He has just come out and backed his skills, and that has rewarded him magnificently," said Sharma.

He also praised all-rounder Hardik Pandya for his superb shots.

"He came and started playing his shots which came off really well, some superb shots against a quality attack, so (that) shows the kind of form he is in," he said.

Sharma also said there had been various factors considered while handing the new ball to Jasprit Bumrah, adjudged Man of the Match.

"When you have bowlers like that, it makes life very easy for the captain," he said.

Delhi Capitals head coach Ricky Ponting said that his bowlers had been "miles off" in the death overs and they would have to "dig deep" as a team to make the IPL final.

Delhi will get another shot on Sunday at making the title clash.

"It was mainly the execution through our first few overs, the first over went for 15-16, so you are on the backfoot pretty much straightaway there. We did fight our way back into the game. We crawled our way back, so we were hoping for a 170 total, which might have been in our ballpark," Ponting said.

Ningombam replaces Ahmad as Hockey India president

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, 6 NOVEMBER

the first President from the North East region to head HI.

He held the position of "officiating president" after Ahmad tendered his resignation in July citing personal and family commitments. He later accused the ministry of working with malafide intent by asking him to resign.

The Sports Ministry had asked Ahmad to step down, declaring his 2018 election as violative of the national sports code's tenure guidelines and thus directed the federation to conduct fresh election for the post of president.

Ahmad, however, remains in the federation after being elected unopposed, Ningombam becomes

Supernovas face confident Trailblazers in must-win clash

SHARJAH, 6 NOVEMBER

Defending champions Supernovas will have to get past an upbeat Trailblazers here on Saturday to stay alive in the Women's T20 Challenge.

Brimming with confidence after a crushing win over Velocity on Thursday, the Smriti Mandhana-led Trailblazers will aim for another win to finish with two victories and enter the final on November 9 with momentum behind them.

They will be up against Supernovas, a team smarting from defeat in the tournament opener against Velocity. Another loss would knock Supernovas out of the tournament.

Trailblazers came up with a stellar bowling performance to bundle out Velocity for 47 with England's left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone, the world No.1 T20 bowler, returning impressive figures of 4 for 9 in 3.1 overs.

Mandhana will be hoping that the bowlers continue the good work against a strong Supernovas line-up led by Harmanpreet Kaur.

The southpaw will be aiming to showcase her skills and expect her batting unit to step up in a crunch encounter.

Supernovas need a win and that will bring the netrun-rate into play and possibly eliminate Velocity who have a negative NRR (-1.869). Velocity, on their part, will hope Supernovas lose allowing them to advance to the summit clash.

Kaur, the Indian T20 captain, will look to build on her performance in the tournament opener and hope Sri Lankan Chamari Atapattu continues her good form.

Supernovas appeared to have the match under control before Sushma Verma and Sune Luus took it away from them as the bowlers crumbled under pressure.

Sindhu is fit



NEW DELHI, 6 NOVEMBER

Gunners rally to win, easy for Tottenham

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an open goal from close range, but they went ahead in the 62nd minute when Willock pulled the ball across and Sheriff Sinyan shanked it into his own net.

Defender Sead Kolasinac missed a glorious chance for Arsenal, hoofing the ball over

Willock to score. Arsenal top Group B on a maximum nine points from three games, three ahead of Molde. Rapid Vienna, who beat Irish side Dundalk 4-3 ear-

lier in the evening, are third on three points.

Harry Kane bagged his 200th goal for Tottenham Hotspur as they breezed to a 3-1 victory away to Bulgarian side Ludogorets in Europa League Group J on Thursday.

After being criticised by manager Jose Mourinho for last week's listless 1-0 defeat by Royal Antwerp, Tottenham were far sharper as they dominated the first half with Kane and Lucas Moura both on target.

Kane headed in Mourinho's corner after 13 minutes to reach another milestone for the club in his 300th appearance. He then linked with Gareth Bale before laying on an easy finish for Moura in the 33rd minute.

Kane was rested for the second half and Claudio Beauvue halved the deficit with a goal for the hosts four minutes after

the interval but Giovani Lo Celso restored Tottenham's two-goal cushion after a assist by substitute Son Heung-min.

Tottenham have six points from three games, level with Antwerp who face LASK later on Thursday.

Other results: H. Beer-Sheva 2, Bayer Leverkusen 4; Lech Poznan 3, Standard Liege 1; Benfica 3, Rangers 3; Slavia Praha 3, Nice 2; PAOK 4, PSV 1; Real Sociedad 1, AZ Alkmaar 0; Roma 5, CFR Cluj 0; Rijeka 1, Napoli 2; AC Omonia 0, Granada 2; Rapid Wien 4, Dundalk 3; Sivasspor 2, Qarabag FK 0; Villarreal 4, M. Tel-Aviv 0; Antwerp 0, LASK 1; Dinamo Zagreb 1, Wolfsburg 0; Feyenoord 3, CSKA Moscow 1; Leicester City 4, Braga 0; Milan 0, Lille 3; Young Boys 3, CSKA Sofia 0; Hoffenheim 5, Liberec 0; Crvena zvezda 2, Gent 1; Celtic 1, Sparta Prague 4.