



HC refuses interim bail to Arnab, asks him to move lower court

Page 10



Sensex, Nifty soar to lifetime highs following hopes of U.S. stimulus

Page 12



Kohli to miss last three Tests of Australia tour, Rohit included

Page 14



Mumbai Indians to take on Delhi Capitals for IPL honours

Page 13

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NEARBY



Byelections: Counting of votes today

BENGALURU
The votes polled in the byelections to Sira and Rajarajeshwari Nagar Assembly constituencies will be counted on Tuesday and the results should be known by noon.

KARNATAKA ▶ PAGE 4

Govt. says celebrities, leaders have been fined

BENGALURU
After being questioned about the non-imposition of fines on celebrities and political leaders for not wearing mask in public places, the State government on Monday told the High Court of Karnataka that the police had, on November 7, collected fines of ₹250 each from several of those who had violated the COVID-19 norms during rallies and poll campaigning.

KARNATAKA ▶ PAGE 4

DKS demands judicial probe into prof's death

BENGALURU
Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D.K. Shivakumar has demanded a judicial probe by a retired Karnataka High Court judge into the death of retired Bangalore University professor Dr. N.S. Ashok Kumar. He claimed there was information that the professor was a victim of corruption.

BENGALURU ▶ PAGE 2

COVID-19 vaccine could be 90% effective, claims Pfizer

It may apply for emergency use nod in the U.S.

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK

Pharma major Pfizer said on Monday that an early peek at the data on its coronavirus vaccine suggests the shots may be a robust 90% effective at preventing COVID-19.

The finding puts the company on track to apply later this month for emergency-use approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The announcement, less than a week after a presidential election that was seen as a referendum on President Donald Trump's handling of the crisis, was a rare and major piece of encouraging news lately in the battle against COVID-19 that has



Ray of hope: A patient enrolled in Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial receiving a shot. ■ FILE PHOTO

killed more than 1.2 million people worldwide, including almost a quarter-million in the U.S. alone. Pharmaceutical companies and various

countries are in a global race to develop a vaccine against the virus.

"We're in a position potentially to be able to offer some hope," Dr. Bill Gruber, Pfizer's senior vice-president of clinical development, said.

Monday's announcement doesn't mean a vaccine is imminent. This interim analysis, from an independent data monitoring board, looked at 94 infections recorded so far in a study that has enrolled nearly 44,000 people in the U.S. and five other countries.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8
CELEBRATE WITH CAUTION, SAYS VARDHAN ▶ PAGE 10

Finance Commission submits report with separate section on finances of States

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The 15th Finance Commission said it had taken the unique requirements of each State on board and come up with State-specific considerations in its report, which was submitted to President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday.

Apart from its main recommendation on devolution of funds between the Centre and the States for the

period 2021-22 to 2025-26, the Commission addressed all its unique terms of reference, such as considering a new non-lapsable fund for financing national security and defence spending and offering performance incentives to the States that deliver on reforms.

Apart from the main report, uniquely titled *Finance Commission in Covid Times*, the 15th Finance Commission presented two

volumes as part of its submissions.

The first one focuses on the state of the Centre's finances, with an in-depth scrutiny of the key departments, the medium-term challenges facing the Centre and a road map for the future. The other volume is dedicated to the States, with the finances of each analysed in great depth.

The panel has come up with State-specific consider-

ations to address the key challenges that individual States face, as per a statement issued by the Commission after a meeting with the President.

Commission chairman N.K. Singh was accompanied by members Ajay Nayyar Jha, Anoop Singh, Ashok Lahiri and Ramesh Chand for the report's submission to the President.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Festive ready



Going strong: The 89-year-old Srikanth Parades, one of the few surviving traditional potters, arranging terracotta lamps and pots to bake them in a kiln ahead of Deepavali at Kummar Veedhi in Visakhapatnam on Monday. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

SOP for colleges out; students, staff to produce COVID-19 negative report to attend classes

Educational institutions can extend teaching hours, if necessary; colleges told to map the closest PHCs

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

College students who wish to attend physical classes from November 17 will have to mandatorily submit a COVID-19 negative report.

The State government on Monday issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that will have to be followed by degree colleges and universities.

The SOP states that both students and staff will have to undergo RT-PCR test three days prior to attending the classes. Students will be allowed only if they submit a negative report.

Colleges have been told to map the closest primary

health centres so that the students and staff can get tested for free. Only 50% of the students will be allowed to attend classes per shift.

Educational institutions have also been told that they can extend the teaching hours if required.

While this has been slammed by student organisations who want the colleges to conduct only limited classes, department officials said that this extension was allowed if colleges wanted to conduct classes in shifts.

A representative should be chosen from each class who should be vested with the responsibility of moni-

toring the symptoms of all students, the SOP says.

Canteens, libraries shut
Colleges and universities have been told that the library and canteens should remain closed and students will have to bring food and drinking water from home.

The SOP says those attending offline classes will have to get consent from their parents and wear mask. In case of online classes, institutions should provide contact classes to clear doubts.

Lecturers have also been asked to provide syllabus to students a month in advance via Telegram, What-

sApp, or email.

All students exclusively of postgraduate and final year who attend online or offline classes can stay in hostels located on campus or off campus.

"We have started online classes from September 1, and till now have finished around 60% of the syllabus and the remaining has to get over in the remaining time. We have to concentrate on practical labs. Even if students come to campus, we can manage. We don't have any issues to conduct classes by following all SOPs," said Nataraj A.G., principal, AMC College of Engineering.

Sadasiv Gowda, principal, Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering, Mysuru, added: "The SOP is quite clear and is implementable. It gives importance to final year students for offline classes besides continuation of online classes for them. However, for lower years, provision for contact classes is made along with online classes. If all the hostel residents turn up for the offline classes it would create a serious problem to implement SOP in hostels. Another challenge I foresee is maintaining social distance by students within the campus but outside classrooms."

NGT links firecracker sales to air quality

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Monday directed that there would be a total ban on sale or use of all kinds of firecrackers between November 10 and 30 in all cities and towns across the country, where the average ambient air quality in November fell under the 'poor' and above category.

A Bench, headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, also directed that in places where ambient air quality fell under the 'moderate' or below category, only green crackers be permitted for sale and timings for bursting them would be restricted to two hours.

The panel specified that data from November 2019 would be used to ascertain

NGT order names Bengaluru among 'non-attainment' cities

Officials say it is difficult to measure average ambient air quality of city as monitoring stations are set up across Bengaluru

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Bengaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, and Hubballi-Dharwad are cities and towns in the State that have been deemed as "non-attainment cities" by the National Green Tribunal (NGT). Such cities are defined as ones where the air quality, as per the records maintained by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), is polluted beyond the prescribed National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

The NGT, which put out an order on Monday directing cities and towns where the average ambient air quality in November fell under 'moderate' or below category to allow only green firecrackers, has also said that the tribunal might have to consider issuing directions

to prohibit the use of firecrackers during the period if the air quality is beyond the threshold.

The order mentions that bursting green crackers may be allowed for two hours during Deepavali. The NGT has specified that data from November 2019 should be considered to ascertain the average ambient air quality. The order also states that if the States do not specify the timings for use of green crackers, the timings would be from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Deepavali.

The Karnataka government, in an order dated November 6, had issued guidelines for the sale and bursting of only green firecrackers during Deepavali. However, the government had not specified any timings.

Though the Chief Secre-

tary and the Forest and Environment Minister were unavailable for comment, officials in Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) said that various parts of the city generally record 'moderate' air quality and ascertaining the average for the whole city would be difficult as monitoring stations were set up across Bengaluru. Areas in the city, including City Railway Station, Silk Board, and Hebbal, generally record "mod-

erate ambient air quality", an official said.

"However, generally we can say that the city is between satisfactory and moderate and has probably never gone beyond the moderate category," the official said, adding that as the State government had already allowed only green crackers, only the direction on timings needed to be clarified. The Air Quality Index (AQI) is identified through graded measures in six ranges and categories: 0-50 is good; 51-100 is satisfactory; 101-200 is moderate; 201-300 is poor; 301-400 is very poor; and above 401 is severe.

According to data from Manual Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations in Bengaluru for November 2019, obtained from 13 stations,

five reported 'moderate' ambient air quality (AMCO Batteries, Mysuru Road; Arvind Motors Pvt. Ltd., Peenya Industrial Area; TERI premise, Domlur; Banaswadi police station, Banaswadi; and SKR Building, K.R. Circle).

However, though Central Silk Board and ITPL fell under 'satisfactory', their index values were 100 and 99, respectively.

An expert working in the field of air quality said there were two methods of measuring AQI. "One is through the Manual Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations, where data is obtained frequently, and the other is through the Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations, where data is obtained on real-time basis. Hence, the measures might not be the same in both."



Smoke emerging from burning garbage near Gali Anjaneya Temple on Mysuru Road on Monday. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

RERA-K for online allocation of cases

Authority says this will eliminate the possibility of partiality

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Amidst allegations from sections of homebuyers of weak implementation of the RERA Act, the Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Karnataka (RERA-K) is preparing to put in place an online system of allocation of cases, which, it says, will result in impartial allotment of cases.

RERA-K Secretary K.S. Latha Kumari told *The Hindu*, "Some people raise questions about the Chairman allotting cases manually. Now we are developing a software where case allocation will be done online and on rotational basis to benches without any human intervention. This will be allotted as and when cases come to the available benches. This will mean impartial allotment. It has already been developed, but it has to be clubbed with our existing complaint model. It should

be put in place in another two to three weeks."

The authority put out a notification in November about the constitution of four benches, in addition to the existing three-member authority. "Considering the number of pendency of complaints, a decision has been taken to create additional benches under Section 81 to delegate powers of the authority under the RERA Act on the chairman and members separately by creating the benches," the notification signed by Ms. Latha Kumari said.

Pending cases

There are over 2,000 pending cases with the authority, she said, and disposal of cases under the old arrangement was time-consuming. Creation of additional benches will ensure speedy disposal of cases, she added.

Meanwhile, the Forum for

People's Collective Efforts, an NGO formerly known as the 'Fight for RERA' movement, has written to the Chief Secretary of the Karnataka government requesting a meeting to discuss the functioning of RERA-K. In the letter, they have alleged that RERA Act implementation has not been tracked or reviewed since 2017, when it was first implemented.

"The functioning of RERA-K has reached new lows and differences have cropped up among members of the authority, impacting the very purpose of the Act," they have alleged, adding that there is "no protection for homebuyers."

However, the RERA-K Secretary has denied all allegations. Ms. Latha Kumari said the authority is functioning as per rules and regulations. "Administratively, RERA-K is one of the best in the country," she added.

Meanwhile, the Forum for

Power cut

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

There will be no power supply from 10 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. in the areas serviced by Jayadeva, Sarakki and RBI sub-stations from November 11 to November 13. The areas that will be affected are:

November 11: Jayadeva F-II feeder, Mico BTM Layout II Stage, F-I2 Puttenhalli;

November 12: Sarakki F-24 and F15 feeders, Jayadeva F-9;

November 13: Jayadeva F-10 feeder.

"However, neither did his name figure in the final list of appointees nor did he get back his money, pushing him to the brink. This is very sad," Mr. Shiyakumar alleged.

"Prof. Ashok Kumar may have left behind a note saying no one is responsible for his death, but the circumstances clearly point to how he was victimised and trapped by corruption."

"There has to be an impartial probe to uncover those involved in this corruption scandal, including the middlemen and those part of the government who have taken money from this professor. It may uncover a larger corruption scandal," he said.

**Government of India
Department of Atomic Energy
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
Technical Services Division
North Site, Trombay, Mumbai-85**

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

The Chief Engineer, Technical Services Division, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, North Site, BARC, Trombay, Mumbai - 400 085, on behalf of the President of India invites online item rate tenders on two bid system for following work :-

NIT No. BARC/TSD/177/2020-21, Name of work – Supply, installation, testing and commissioning (SITC) of chilled water piping from New Engineering Hall-09 to CFB Building, North site, BARC, Trombay, Mumbai 400 085. Estimated cost - ₹2,70,00,000/-; Earnest Money - ₹5,40,000/-; Period of completion – 18 months; Last date and time of submission of bid – 27.12.2020 (23:59 Hrs).

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the Website www.tenderwizard.com/DAE or www.barc.gov.in.

Changes if any, in the above scheduled date etc. will be notified only in the website www.tenderwizard.com/DAE.

Contact for assistance / clarifications 24x7 @ 9969395522 Shri Rudresh,

e-mail: rudresh.tenderwizard@gmail.com

State road transport corporations seek ₹634 crore to pay salaries till December

They need additional ₹3,803 crore to pay pending bills, repay loans, PF, etc.

SUCHITH KIDIOOR

BENGALURU

Citing poor response for their services, the four State road transport corporations (SRTCs) have again approached the government seeking funds to pay salaries.

Over 1.25 lakh employees of the SRTCs are yet to receive salaries for October. In their request to the government, the corporations have expressed inability to pay salaries till December and sought financial help of around ₹634 crore.

The KSRTC has sought ₹202 crore, BMTC needs ₹181 crore, NWKRTC ₹130 crore and NEKRTC ₹120 crore.

They have also informed the government about pending bills amounting to ₹2,234 crore towards fuel cost, store purchase, retired employees' benefits and PF. There is pending loan payment of ₹1,569 crore towards banks and financial institutions, and borrowing a fresh loan has become a hurdle, they have said.

The State government had sanctioned ₹1,499 crore for payment of salaries from April to September.

Inadequate revenue

The SRTCs have said that it will take more time to see revenue return to pre-COVID-19 levels. "The number of commuters remains low. Due to various factors, such as closure of schools and colleges, restrictions on public gatherings and work from home, ridership has not yet picked up. We have been making all efforts to con-



Due to various factors, such as closure of schools and colleges, restrictions on public gatherings and work from home, corporations are reporting lack of patronage for their services. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

FUNDS CRUNCH



■ Over 1.25 lakh employees of RTCS are yet to receive salaries for October

■ RTCS have sought ₹634 crore

■ Additional ₹2,234 crore is due towards fuel cost, store purchase, retired employees' benefits, PF

■ Amount due to banks and financial institutions is ₹1,569 crore

■ Government had sanctioned ₹1,499 crore for salaries from April to September

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AN OFFICIAL

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Timings	
BENGALURU	
TUESDAY, NOV. 10	
RISE 06:16	SET 17:51
RISE 01:18	SET 14:09
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11	
RISE 06:17	SET 17:51
RISE 02:15	SET 14:54
THURSDAY, NOV. 12	
RISE 06:17	SET 17:51
RISE 03:12	SET 15:40

Bengaluru Weather	
max	min
Tumakuru	29 21
Mysuru	30 22
Bengaluru	29 20

Bengaluru Today
28°C A comfortable morning. The afternoon would remain warm and humid. The sky will be partly cloudy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C A comfortable morning. The afternoon will be humid. A partly cloudy sky over the city.

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THE HINDU
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DPI mulls over reopening high school classes in December

It is likely to begin if COVID-19 cases continue to remain low over next two weeks

TANU KULKARNI
BENGALURU

With a dip in the number of COVID-19 cases reported across the State over the past few weeks, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is mulling over reopening high school classes in December.

Classes for second pre-university and class 10 students are likely to be conducted in the first week of December if the number of COVID-19 cases reported every day continue to remain low over the next two weeks. The department has already drafted SOPs that need to be followed once schools and PU colleges reopen. ■ FILE PHOTO



The Department of Public Instruction has already drafted SOPs that need to be followed once schools and PU colleges reopen. ■ FILE PHOTO

late on Monday evening.

However, senior officials in the department said they were keen on starting classes for high school students as several States had reopened schools.

"We are carefully monitoring the situation in States where schools have reopened. We want to learn lessons from them and ensure that we take appropriate measures to ensure the safety of children," a senior official said.

H.K. Manjunath, president of the Karnataka State

High School Associate Masters' Association, said that they had told the department that if they would reopen schools, they should start only with one grade.

"We have told them to start class 10 on a trial basis for a fortnight and later take a call on whether classes 8 and 9 should be conducted as well," he said.

D. Shashi Kumar, General Secretary of Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka, said that they had

informed the government that they can take a call on when schools would reopen and they would abide by it. "We have told the government that they will have to conduct free testing for the students and staff from time to time and also ensure that students and staff are given free medical treatment if they test positive," he said. He said that besides releasing the SOP, they also wanted the government to provide clarity on what the protocol should be if a student or staff is tested positive.

In addition to that, he said that the association has told the government that the choice of whether classes should be held in shifts or on alternate days should be left to the prerogative of the school managements.

The Ministry of Education too last week wrote to all States and Union Territories that opening of schools was inevitable and had suggested that a rigorous protocol be followed.

Three-day Krishi Mela to begin on November 11

It will be a low-key event owing to the pandemic

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The University of Agricultural Sciences-Bangalore (UAS-B) will hold a three-day Krishi mela from November 11 to 13. This year, in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the mela will be a low-key affair.

It will be held both physically on the GKVK campus and will be digitally available on website, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp, and Zoom.

Only 200 farmers will be allowed at a time and face mask as well as social distancing is a must for those visiting the mela. Similarly, only those in the age group of 18 to 60 will be allowed.

Speaking to presspersons here on Monday, UAS-B Vice-Chancellor S. Rajendra Prasad said three new varieties of crops - groundnut GKVK-27, cowpea KC-8, and forage cowpea MFC 09 03 (MFC-3) - will be released, and there will be a demon-



Preparations for Krishi Mela 2020 under way on GKVK campus in Bengaluru on Monday. ■ SUDHAKARA JAIN

stration on the recently released 17 new agricultural technologies.

Farmers can get solutions to their agricultural problems physically and through zoom meetings from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. live telecast on demonstration plots and stalls from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. through social media.

The UAS-B has set up 25 stalls for agriculture exhibition while the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research will put up one stall. This time, there will be no private agricultural stalls, Dr. Prasad said.

The UAS-B will present six State-level awards and 17 dis-

trict-level awards to innovative farmers, and awards will also be given to young farmers (94 men and women) at the taluk level.

Dr. Prasad said A.K. Singh, Deputy Director General (Extension) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, will inaugurate the event at 11 a.m. on November 11. The State-level awards will be presented on November 13.

Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers D.V. Sadananda Gowda will be chief guest at the valedictory programme.

For details, visit www.krishmila2020uasb.com.

Less than 1,000 cases reported in Bengaluru

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

After several months, the number of COVID-19 cases reported in the city was less than 1,000. As many as 978 positive cases were reported in Bengaluru on Monday.

Meanwhile, the number of positive cases reported in the State was 1,963. This is the first time in several months that the cases have fallen below 2,000.

However, this is also because number of tests conducted on Sunday had dipped. Only 84,965 tests were conducted on Sunday. The positivity rate for the day however stood at 2.31%.

With this, the total number of positive cases reported in Karnataka stands at 8.48 lakh and

COVID-19 update

Number of positive cases reported in Bengaluru Urban on November 9	978
Total cases	3,50,305
Active cases	18,395
Discharged	3,27,948
Deaths	3,961+1*
* One person died of other causes	
Source: Department of Health and Family Welfare	

with 2,686 discharges on Sunday, and a total numbers of discharges at 8.04 lakh. The recovery rate stands at 94.7%.

Meanwhile, as many as 19 COVID-19 deaths were reported on Sunday, taking the total number of deaths to 11,410.

BET seeks policy for maintenance of lakes

NGO has asked the State government to allocate adequate resources

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Environment Trust (BET) has urged the State government and the Monitoring Committee, appointed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to oversee the rejuvenation and protection of Bellandur, Varthur and Agara lakes, to come up with lake specific maintenance policy at the earliest by clearly documenting the execution of maintenance activities along with adequate resources, including the budget.

The interim direction by the Honourable High Court clearly states that the State government is required to set aside resources for the rehabilitation and maintenance of lakes as part of its budgetary exercise. The monitoring committee must ensure compliance of that order and get the necessary funds and resources for maintenance of Bellandur, Varthur and Agara lakes for the next 10 years at least," a document by the Trust

stated. The document, with 31 points and titled 'Citizen's Agenda for Bellandur/Varthur Catchment', by the BET has also been submitted to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), Karnataka State Pollution

Control Board (KSPCB) and the Urban Development Department (UDD).

According to the BET, one of the many reasons why the lakes were in a state of neglect and pollution was because of the conspicuous absence of maintenance activities. "The one-time rejuvenated lakes are falling into a state of neglect due to lack of maintenance. Agara lake (in the Bellandur lake catchment) was rejuvenated by BDA in 2004, but fell into a state of neglect and severe pollution, following which it was rejuvenated again in 2018-19."

BET has asked for preparation of treated waste water utilisation plan for Bellandur and Varthur lakes catchment area "with a very clear policy decision to use the treated waste water to maintain the lakes of Bengaluru up to its brim."

Terminating the one time rejuvenation by the BDA a "complete mess", the document says, "Its ad-hoc, piecemeal and impractical nature of work has worsened pollution of the lake bed and resulted in infructuous expenses... In terms of silt disposal, an astounding 77% of the desilting cost (i.e. ₹31 crore) is allocated for disposal of silt to a quarry 25 km away," and urges the government for a cost-benefit analysis to justify the disposal cost.

The document, with 31 points and titled 'Citizen's Agenda for Bellandur/Varthur Catchment', by the BET has also been submitted to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), Karnataka State Pollution

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M.M. Hills Temple laddu, Dasoha meal secure FSSAI licence

This is valid for a period of one year



Sri Malai Mahadeswara Temple at M.M. Hills in Chamarajanagar has the capacity to produce nearly 50,000 laddus daily.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Sri Malai Mahadeswara Temple has secured a licence under the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSAI) for the "prasada" it serves to devotees visiting the temple atop M.M. Hills in Chamarajanagar district. With this, laddu and prepared food (served twice a day as part of the Dasoha programme) are now FSSAI-certified.

Sri Malai Mahadeswara Kshetra Development Authority, Mahadeswara Bettu, Hanur taluk, had sought registration under FSSAI six months ago and the licence was issued recently by the Designated Officer, FSSAI, Chamarajanagar. The licence is valid for one year and needs to be renewed every year, subject to meeting the conditions laid down under the Act.

The licence had been availed as a part of Blissful Hygienic Offering to God (BHOG), a project initiated by FSSAI for places of worship across the country for complying with the food safety guidelines laid down under the Act while preparing prasada.

Authority secretary Jaya Vaibhava Swamy said: "We completed all mandatory registration processes and thereafter the licence was issued to us. This has doubled our responsibilities as highest safety and quality standards have to be adhered to in the preparation of prasada."

The secretary said the temple sought the FSSAI licence on the advice of the Minister in charge of Chamarajanagar district S. Suresh Kumar, who had inspected the prasada preparation a few months ago. He said

Price of laddu revised

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

The Malai Mahadeswara Kshetra Development Authority has revised the price of laddu prasada with effect from November 8 based on the expenditure incurred on making a 100 gm laddu. The price of each laddu has been revised from ₹20 to ₹25. Meanwhile, the temple will remain closed for devotees from November 13 to 16 as a measure to contain COVID-19, ahead of Deepavali. The order was issued by Deputy Commissioner M.R. Ravi on Monday.

the quality control measures as mandated under the Act would be examined once in three months by the representatives of FSSAI.

On the suggestion of the Commissioner, Department of Muzrai, the food safety standards maintained at Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala were studied and the people in charge of the temple kitchen underwent training. Subsequently, we applied for FSSAI licence.

All quality control protocols are being met," he said. Mr. Swamy said the temple has the capacity to prepare 50,000 laddus every day. However, on an average, 20,000 to 25,000 laddus are prepared and during peak season (before COVID-19), laddus were prepared to the installed capacity because of the rush of devotees.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.30 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: No weather warning

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.0	19.8	Kozhikode	1.6	34.3	—25.6
Ahmedabad	—	34.0	—17.0	Kurnool	—	32.0	—19.7
Aizawl	—	24.8	16.2	Lucknow	—	30.2	—13.1
Allahabad	—	28.7	13.5	Madurai	4.1	33.0	—23.4
Bengaluru	—	28.6	20.4	Mangaluru	—	34.2	—24.6
Bhopal	—	29.4	12.8	Mumbai	—	34.7	—21.2
Bhubaneswar	—	30.8	16.3	Mysuru	—	30.0	—21.6
Chandigarh	—	29.8	12.2	New Delhi	—	28.4	—10.0
Chennai	—	31.4	24.0	Patna	—	31.4	—15.4
Coimbatore	4.6	32.2	23.4	Port Blair	41.4	28.1	—23.8
Dehradun	—	28.4	11.6	Puducherry	—	31.6	—22.8
Gangtok	—	19.4	10.8	Pune	—	30.5	—13.6
Goa	—	34.7	—24.5	Raipur	—	30.2	—15.4
Guwahati	—	31.0	16.6	Ranchi	—	28.8	—12.5
Hubballi	—	29.0	19.0	Shillong	—	23.7	—12.4
Hyderabad	—	30.0	13.6	Shimla	—	23.0	—10.5
Imphal	—	27.7	10.1	Srinagar	—	19.5	—0.2
Jaipur	—	31.5	15.6	Thiruvananthapuram	4.4	33.3	—24.9
Kochi	19.2	32.0	23.0	Tiruchi	—	6	—33.0
Kohima	—	23.0	14.7	Vijayawada	—	31.6	—19.6
Kolkata	—	31.6	19.4	Visakhapatnam	—	31.6	—22.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing Yesterday

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE
Ahmedabad	27	120	47	200	153	■■■
Bengaluru	.7	.25	.45	.152	.114	■■■■■
Chennai	20	.18	.35	.204	—	■■■■■
Delhi	15	113	.164	.499	.499	■■■■■
Hyderabad	.5	.95	.11	.167	.140	■■■■■
Kolkata	14	.25	.18	.224	.149	■■■■■
Lucknow	14	.26	.63	.452	.427	■■■■■
Mumbai	12	.76	.34	.181	.150	■■■■■
Pune	19	.25	.52	.62	.50	■■■■■
Visakhapatnam	.7	.63	.33	.129	.139	■■■■■

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI) SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_x: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

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GLAND PHARMA LIMITED

Our Company was incorporated as Gland Pharma Private Limited, a private limited company, at Hyderabad under the Companies Act, 1956 on March 20, 1978 and was granted the certificate of incorporation by the Registrar of Companies, Andhra Pradesh at Hyderabad. Subsequently, the name of the Company was changed to Gland Pharma Limited pursuant to a special resolution passed by the shareholders of the Company on December 5, 1994, and a fresh certificate of incorporation dated April 25, 1995 was issued by the Registrar of Companies, Andhra Pradesh at Hyderabad consequent upon change of name and conversion into a public limited company under the Companies Act, 1956. For further details of change in name and registered office of the Company, see "History and Certain Corporate Matters" on page 141 of the Red Herring Prospectus dated October 31, 2020 ("RHP").

Registered and Corporate Office: Sy. No. 143 - 148, 150 and 151, Near Gandhi Masiamma 'X' Roads, D.P. Pally, Dundigal - Gandi Masiamma (M), Medchal-Malkajgiri District, Hyderabad 500 043, Telangana, India; Tel: +91 40 3051 0999

Website: www.glandpharma.com; **Contact Person:** Sampath Kumar Palleramudi, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer; E-mail: investors@glandpharma.com; **Corporate Identity Number:** U24297G1978PLC002276

OUR PROMOTERS: FOSUN PHARMA INDUSTRIAL PTE. LTD AND SHANGHAI FOSUN PHARMACEUTICAL (GROUP) CO., LTD.

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFER OF UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹1 EACH ("EQUITY SHARES") OF GLAND PHARMA LIMITED ("COMPANY" OR "ISSUER") FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹[●] PER EQUITY SHARE (INCLUDING A SHARE PREMIUM OF ₹[●]) PER EQUITY SHARE) AGGRGATING UP TO ₹[●] MILLION (THE "OFFER") COMPRISING A FRESH ISSUE OF UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES AGGRGATING UP TO ₹12,500 MILLION (THE "FRESH ISSUE") AND AN OFFER FOR SALE OF UP TO 34,863,635 EQUITY SHARES, INCLUDING UP TO 19,368,686 EQUITY SHARES BY FOSUN PHARMA INDUSTRIAL PTE. LTD ("PROMOTER SELLING SHAREHOLDER") AND UP TO 10,407,435 EQUITY SHARES BY GLAND CELSUS BIO CHEMICALS PRIVATE LIMITED, UP TO 3,573,014 EQUITY SHARES BY EMPOWER DISCRETIONARY TRUST, AND UP TO 1,874,500 EQUITY SHARES BY NILAY DISCRETIONARY TRUST (COLLECTIVELY, THE "OTHER SELLING SHAREHOLDERS" AND COLLECTIVELY WITH THE PROMOTER SELLING SHAREHOLDER ARE REFERRED TO AS THE "SELLING SHAREHOLDERS", AND SUCH EQUITY SHARES, THE "OFFERED SHARES" AGGRGATING UP TO ₹[●] MILLION (THE "OFFER FOR SALE"). THE OFFER SHALL CONSTITUTE [●] % OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY.

• QIB Portion: Not more than 50% of the Offer • Retail Individual Bidders Portion: Not less than 35% of the Offer • Non-Institutional Bidders Portion: Not less than 15% of the Offer

Price Band: ₹ 1,490 to ₹ 1,500 per Equity Share of face value of ₹ 1 each.

The Floor Price is 1,490 times of the face value and the Cap Price is 1,500 times of the face value of the Equity Shares.

Bids can be made for a minimum of 10 Equity Shares and in multiples of 10 Equity Shares thereafter.

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UPI
UNIFIED PAYMENTS INTERFACE

UPI-Now available in ASBA for Retail Individual Bidders ("RBIs") applying through Registered Brokers, DPAs and RTAs. Retail Individual Bidders also have the option to submit the application directly to the ASBA Bank (SCSBs) or to use the facility of linked online trading, demat and bank account.

Investors are required to ensure that the bank account used for bidding is linked to their PAN.

* ASBA has to be availed by all the investors except Anchor Investors. UPI may be availed by RBIs. • For details on the ASBA and UPI process, please refer to the details given in ASBA Form and abridged prospectus and also please refer to the section "Offer Procedure" beginning on page 296 of the RHP. The process is also available on the website of Association of Investment Banks of India ("AIB"), BSE Limited ("BSE") and the National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE"), and together with BSE, the "Stock Exchanges") and in the General Information Document. ASBA Forms can be downloaded from the websites of the Stock Exchanges and can be obtained from the list of Banks that is displayed on the website of the SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in. List of banks supporting UPI is also available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in. • RBIs Bidding using the UPI Mechanism may apply through the SCBS and mobile applications whose names appear on the website of the SEBI (<https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&mtid=40>) and (<https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&mtid=43>) respectively, as updated from time to time. ICICI Bank Limited has been appointed as Sponsor Bank for the Offer. For other related queries, please contact the Book Running Lead Managers ("BRLMs") on their respective email IDs as mentioned below. For UPI related queries, investors can contact NPCI at their toll free number 18001201740 and Mail ID: ipo.upi@npci.org.in.

Risks to Investors

1. The 4 Merchant Bankers associated with the Offer have handled 15 public issues in the past three years out of which 5 issues closed below the issue price on listing date.
2. There are no listed peers in India engaged in Issuer's line of business.
3. The Price/Earnings ratio based on diluted EPS for Fiscal 2020 for the Issuer at the upper end of the Price Band is 30.07 as compared to the NIFTY 50 index Price/Earnings ratio of 31.43 (as on November 2, 2020).
4. Average Cost of Acquisition of Equity Shares for the Selling Shareholders is in the range of Nil to ₹ 605.12 per Equity Share, and the Offer Price at the upper end of the Price Band is ₹ 1,500 per Equity Share.

BID/OFFER PERIOD

OPEN CLOSES ON: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2020

In case of any revision in the Price Band, the Bid/Offer Period will be extended by at least three additional Working Days after such revision in the Price Band, subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. In cases of force majeure, banking strike or similar circumstances, our Company and the Selling Shareholders may, in consultation with the BRLMs, for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend the Bid/Offer Period for a minimum of three Working Days, subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. Any revision in the Price Band and the revised Bid/Offer Period, if applicable, shall be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges, by issuing a public notice, and also by indicating the change on the respective websites of the BRLMs and at the terminals of the Syndicate Members and by intimation to the Designated Intermediaries and the Sponsor Bank.

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Joe Biden will have to walk a tightrope

He will have to deal with combative Republicans as well as resolve issues within the Democratic Party



SRIRAM LAKSHMAN



Large crowds had gathered in Black Lives Matter Plaza, a wide street in D.C. that leads all the way up to Lafayette Park outside the White House, on Saturday afternoon. The mood was unmistakably festive – drums in the distance, cars honking, music, people taking photographs, some standing silently, taking it all in. A few policewomen and policemen – watchful but relaxed, some with arms crossed – stood on the sides of the plaza. A stream of people and cars flowed to and from the White House area, people filled the sidewalks and drivers gave way to pedestrians and jaywalkers.

"It feels like we've just completed an exorcism," tweeted political scientist Francis Fukuyama.

A record 74 million Americans and counting voted for the man at the centre of Saturday's celebrations, Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden. The day belonged to him and his running mate Kamala Harris, the first woman of colour to be elected to the position.

This is only part of the story though, as there exists a parallel universe in the U.S., one in which 70 million people voted for the incumbent, Donald Trump, who now holds the record for the second highest number of votes received.

Deeply divided

Those who support Mr. Trump and those who support Mr. Biden are deeply divided. Though COVID-19 has killed nearly 2,40,000 people in the U.S., only 24% of Mr. Trump's supporters, as per a Pew Research Center survey, said last month that the issue was "very important" to their vote, compared to 82% of registered voters who support Mr. Biden. There is also a significant split on healthcare (Mr. Biden's supporters give this more weight) and the economy (Mr. Trump's supporters give this more weight).

This is the country whose stewardship Mr. Biden will inherit on January 20, 2021. The task he has set himself, of bringing the country together and

healing it, is going to require him to navigate complex dynamics, which will often pull in opposite directions.

To begin with, Mr. Trump, with a devoted base (that grew by some eight million since 2016) and a vast following on social media, is likely to remain a force to reckon with as long as he is publicly active and can tweet. Writing in *The New York Times* on his political future, Peter Baker and Maggie Haberman argue that Mr. Trump could use this to pressure Republican lawmakers to push back against Mr. Biden.

Some of the effects of Mr. Trump are already being seen. Only a small minority of Republican lawmakers have congratulated Mr. Biden on winning the election. Others have backed Mr. Trump's sweeping and false claims around voter fraud, or have remained quiet, presumably waiting for Mr. Trump to have his day in court. Some Republicans, such as former U.S. Ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley, and Senator Marco Rubio, are hedging their bets, making ambiguous statements around the validity of Mr. Trump's claims.

The magnitude of Mr. Biden's task is, therefore, in some measure dependent on the hold Mr. Trump will have on his supporters. When Barack Obama won the presidency in 2008, his opponent, the late Senator John McCain, asked those who had voted for him to support their new president. Mr. Trump has yet to concede the election, let alone ask his supporters to give Mr. Biden a chance.

Republicans on Capitol Hill will continue to factor in Mr. Trump's presence in the way they vote in the Senate. To gain control of the Senate, Democrats will need to win two runoff races in Georgia, scheduled for January 5. Failing this, Mr. Biden will need to win the support of Republi-

can Senators to confirm his cabinet appointments, confirm judicial appointments, pass stimulus packages and implement healthcare and immigration reform.

Mr. Biden, who was a Senator for 36 years, will need to rely on his decades-long relationship with Senate Republicans like majority leader Mitch McConnell and Mr. Trump's ally, Lindsey Graham, both of whom won their races comfortably and will be around in 2021. Mr. Graham said Mr. Biden "deserves" a cabinet and that he will find common ground with the president-elect. "There may be some people that I just can't vote for because I think they're unqualified or too extreme," he said.

Mr. Biden is likely to use Executive Orders to get things through if faced with a Republican Senate. Regardless, he is reportedly planning a series of orders as soon as he assumes office to reverse a number of Trump policies, enacted via Executive Orders (Mr. Obama also used these to circumvent an uncooperative Senate). Orders to rejoin the Paris Agreement and the World Health Organization and to reverse the travel ban from several Muslim-majority countries are among those being considered.

Tensions among Democrats

Combative Republicans will not be Mr. Biden's only challenge: there will be issues to resolve within the Democratic Party between the moderates and progressives, who would have rather seen their candidate, Bernie Sanders, win the Democratic nomination and the White House, but got behind the Biden ticket.

Mr. Sanders himself campaigned hard for Mr. Biden. Had he won the nomination, it is far from clear that Mr. Sanders could have "rebuilt the

Blue Wall" as Mr. Biden did last week, by winning Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin – States that Mr. Trump flipped in 2016. However, in the south, the story is different. Grassroots activism in Arizona helped get the vote out for Mr. Biden. Demographic shifts and differences in voting patterns between urban and rural areas also contributed to Mr. Biden's vote lead in Arizona and Georgia. Mr. Biden will need to find policies that speak sufficiently to the mandates that were given to him by these different groups.

Already there are some signs of stress within the party. Abigail Spanberger, a Democratic Congresswoman from Virginia, who narrowly retained her House seat, said on a call with other House Democrats that use of the word "socialism" had caused some of their colleagues to lose their seats.

Progressive lawmaker Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who also retained her seat, told *The New York Times* that progressive policies like the Green New Deal or Medicare for All did not hurt candidates in swing districts, but running obsolete campaigns without an adequate digital focus did. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez cited "anti-activist sentiment" within the Democratic Party and suggested that running on a more progressive platform, rather than hurting the party in Congressional elections (Democrats lost seats in the House), could have helped it do better. She also said that the composition of Mr. Biden's transition team would indicate whether the administration would take a "collaborative approach" or start "icing-out" progressives.

One consequence for Mr. Biden of having to deal with a Republican Senate is that it will probably temper divisions within the Democratic Party. Mr. Biden is reportedly looking to put together a cabinet that will include the likes of centrist Republicans (such as John Kasich who supported him) and Democrats who are moderate as well as progressive.

Mr. Biden's track record of working with colleagues across the aisle, his message of unity, and his empathy are going to be critical come January 20. Nobody, however, is going to get all of what they want. In a country as polarised as the U.S., that is indeed a very good thing.

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Lessons from Vietnam and Bangladesh

With reforms promoting innovation and lowering the cost of doing business, India is poised to attract the best investments

wealth and employment and lifted millions above the poverty level in less than two decades. Which elements of Vietnam and Bangladesh models should India emulate?

The key learning from Bangladesh is the need to support large firms for a quick turnover. Large firms are better positioned to invest in brand building, meeting quality requirements, and marketing. Small firms begin as suppliers to large firms and eventually grow. Vietnam has changed domestic rules to meet the needs of investors. Yet, most of Vietnam's exports happen in five sectors. In contrast, India's exports are more diversified. The Economic Complexity Index (ECI), which ranks a country based on how diversified and complex its manufacturing export basket is, illustrates this point. The ECI rank for China is 32, India 43, Vietnam 79, and Bangladesh 127. India, unlike Vietnam, has a developed domestic and capital market. To further promote manufacturing and investment, India could set up sectoral industrial zones with pre-approved factory spaces. A firm should walk in to start operations in a few weeks. There should be no need to search for land or obtain many approvals.

The quick build-up of exports in Vietnam resulted from large MNC investments. But most of its electronics exports are just the final assembly of goods produced elsewhere. In such cases, national exports look large, but the net dollar gain is small. China also faces this issue.

Two nations and their success stories

An open trade policy, a less inexpensive workforce, and generous incentives to foreign firms contributed to Vietnam's success.

Vietnam pursues an open trade policy mainly through Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)

which ensure that its important trading partners like the U.S., the EU, China, Japan,

South Korea and India do not charge import duties on products made in Vietnam. Vietnam's domestic market is open to the partners' products. For example, 99% of EU products

will soon enter Vietnam duty-free.

Vietnam has agreed to change its domestic laws to make the country attractive to investors.

Foreign firms can compete for local businesses. For example, EU firms can open

shops, enter the retail trade, and bid for both

government and private sector tenders.

They can take part in electricity, real estate,

hospital, defence, and railways projects.

This model may not be good for India as it

offers no protection to farmers or local producers from imports. Vietnam being a single-party state can ignore domestic voices.

Over a decade or so, large brands such as

Samsung, Canon, Foxconn, H&M, Nike, Adi-

das, and IKEA have flocked to Vietnam to

manufacture their products. Last year, Viet-

nam received investments exceeding \$16 bil-

lion. As a result, Vietnam's exports rose from

\$8.5 billion in 2010 to \$279 billion in 2019.

In Bangladesh, large export of apparels to

the EU and the U.S. make the most of the

country's export story. The EU allows the im-

port of apparel and other products from

least developed countries (LDCs) like Bangla-

desh duty-free. Sadly, Bangladesh may not

have this facility in four to seven years as its

per capita income rises and it loses the LDC

status. Bangladesh is working smartly to di-

versify its export basket. India, as a good

neighbour, accepts all Bangladesh products

duty-free (except alcohol and tobacco).

Vietnam and Bangladesh have gained

enormously from trade. Trade has created

Ajay Srivastava is an Indian Trade Service officer.

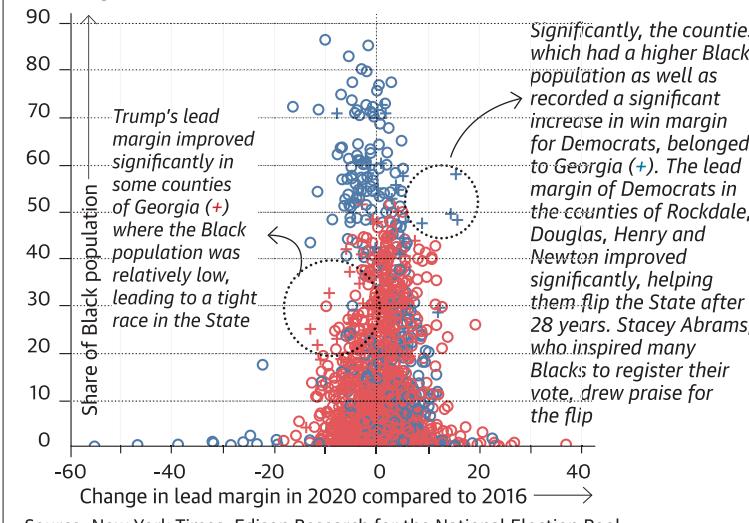
Views are personal



DATA POINT

A matter of Black votes

1. FIRST CHOICE | The graph plots the share of the Black population in a U.S. county against the increase/decrease in the lead margin in the 2020 presidential polls compared to 2016. ● represent counties lead by Democratic nominee in 2020 and 2016. ○ represent the same for the Republican nominee. Counties that switched sides in 2020 were not considered. Democrats retained their lead in 2020, in almost all the counties in the top half of the graph, where a higher share of Blacks reside. This shows that the community continues to prefer Democrats. However, in many such counties, the Democrats' lead margin fell in 2020 compared to 2016. In 2020, Joe Biden led in 97 counties which had >50% Black population. However, in 68% of them, the Democrats' lead margin has fallen



As the U.S. presidential election showed, an overwhelming number of Black voters continue to prefer the Democratic nominee. However, in many counties with a relatively higher Black population, the lead margin of Democrats came down considerably compared to 2016. Notably, the exit polls reflected this minor shift in choice. The share of Black voters who preferred Donald Trump recorded a slight increase in 2020 compared to 2016. By Vignesh Radhakrishnan, Suman Sen and Naren Singaravelu

2. MINOR SHIFT | In the 2020 exit polls, only 12% of Blacks said that they voted for Trump, a 4% point increase from 2016. The share of those who preferred Trump was higher among Black men than women

Race/gender	% voted for Trump in 2020	Change from 2016 (% points)
Blacks	12	4
Black men	18	5
Black women	8	4

3. STATE-WISE CHOICE | A very high share of Black voters preferred Biden over Trump in the 2020 election. However, in some States, the share of such voters decreased compared to 2016. For instance, in California, 88% Black voters preferred Democrats in 2016. This reduced to 83% in 2020

State	% of Black voters who voted for Biden in 2020	Change from 2016 (% points)
S. Carolina	88	-6
California	83	-5
Michigan	89	-3
Georgia	87	-2
Nevada	80	-1

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 10, 1970

Probe into British author's book

The Defence Minister, Mr. Jagjivan Ram today [November 9, New Delhi] assured the Lok Sabha that the question as to who supplied the material to the British author, Mr. Neville Maxwell for his book "India's China war" would be examined thoroughly and action taken "as early as possible". He was replying to Mr. Nath Pai, who sought to know whether Mr. Maxwell had obtained permission to reproduce extracts from Lt.-Gen Henderson-Brook's report on the NEFA reverses in 1962 and if so what action had been taken against the author for publishing the extracts. Mr. Jagjivan Ram, who faced rough weather on the question, said that "nobody in the Defence Ministry was authorised to disclose any classified document to any unauthorised person", and if anyone had supplied any document without Government authorisation "action under the Official Secrets Act will be taken." Mr. Nath Pai, who described the matter as "serious", contended that the book on which his question was based was patently partial and highly prejudicial though it made "interesting reading". He quoted from the book in which the author had claimed that he (author) has drawn extracts from unpublished files and materials in the Army. The author had also claimed he was given access to these sources and observed he could not name them (the sources) "but can only thank them."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOV. 10, 1920

Armstic Day

London, November 7: Armstic Day will be observed with even greater solemnity this year than last year. Symbolic burials in London and Paris of anonymous heroes in the national resting places as a tribute to unknown valour has made an unusually strong appeal to popular sentiment. The personal participation of His Majesty in the London ceremony will add an historic interest to the occasion. Seven thousand relatives of fallen warriors, who will be chosen by ballot, are being invited to witness the ceremony of the unveiling of the cenotaph or to attend the service in the Abbey. Places for 100 representatives of the three fighting services, also of the principal organisations for ex-service men, of those who lost their sight in the war, and of nurses, will be reserved. Representatives of the 3 services will all be recipients of the Victoria Cross or who otherwise distinguished themselves in the war.

FROM PAGE ONE

COVID-19 vaccine could be 90% effective: Pfizer

Some participants got the vaccine, while others got dummy shots.

Pfizer Inc. did not provide any more details about those infections and cautioned that the initial protection rate might change by the time the study ends. Even revealing such early data is highly unusual.

Authorities have stressed it's unlikely any vaccine will arrive much before the end of the year, and initial supplies will be rationed.

"We need to see the data, but this is extremely promising," said Dr. Jessie Goodman of Georgetown University, former chief of the FDA's vaccine division. He ticked off many questions still to be answered, including how long the vaccine's effects last and whether it protects older people as well as younger ones.

Rollout impact
If Pfizer's vaccine ultimately pans out, "it's going to be a while before this has a major impact at the population level," Dr. Goodman said.

Marylyn Addo, head of the tropical medicine unit at UKE hospital in Hamburg, Germany, said the interim results were "an interesting first signal," but questions remain.

Global markets, already buoyed by the victory of President-elect Joe Biden, exploded on the news from Pfizer. Major markets in Europe, where infections have soared, were up 5%.

In the U.S., Dow futures also rose 5%.

President Trump, who had suggested during the presidential campaign that a vaccine could be ready by Election Day, tweeted on Monday: "STOCK MARKET UP BIG, VACCINE COMING SOON. REPORT 90% EFFECTIVE. SUCH GREAT NEWS!"

Pfizer Chairman and CEO Albert Bourla said on CNBC that the election was always an artificial deadline and that the data was going to be ready when it was ready. The independent data monitors met on Sunday, analysing the COVID-19 test results so far and notifying Pfizer.

"I am very happy," Mr. Bourla said, "but at the same time, sometimes I have tears in my eyes when I realize that this is the end of nine months, day-and-night."

NGT links firecracker sales to air quality

"We are also of the view that since we have taken the view that pollution aggravates COVID-19, not only crackers are to be banned or restricted depending upon air quality, all State pollution control boards and committees must take special initiative to contain air pollution by regulating all other sources of pollution," it added. If timings were not specified by respective States, then use of firecrackers would be permitted bet-

ween 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Diwali and Gurupurab, 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. on Chhat and 11:55 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. for Christmas and New Year eve (if the ban continues till then), it stated.

The Tribunal also directed the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the State pollution control boards and committees to regularly monitor the air quality during this period and upload the data on their respective websites.

Finance panel submits report to President

The report is expected to be presented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi soon, and will be available in the public domain once it is tabled in Parliament along with an action taken report on its recommendations.

The Commission was asked to give its recommendations on many unique and wide-ranging issues in its terms of reference. Apart from the vertical and horizontal tax devolution, local government grants, disaster management grant, the Commission was also asked to examine whether a separate mechanism for funding of defence and internal security ought to be set up and if so how such a mechanism

Customs dept. questions Jaleel in Koran case

Kerala Wakf Minister says his hands are clean; truth will prevail

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHEE

The preventive wing of the Cochin Customs interrogated Kerala Wakf Minister K.T. Jaleel for nearly nine hours in Kochi on Monday.

The interrogation that began in the morning ended by around 7 p.m. The questioning was in connection with the import of the Koran from the United Arab Emirates by its consulate as diplomatic baggage and its distribution in some parts of the State.

Mr. Jaleel asserted on his social media page that his hands were clean and no agencies could ever produce even an iota of evidence to link him to any shady deal.

"No one will be able to implicate me in a gold smuggling case or financial fraud, wealth amassment, fraudu-



Minister K.T. Jaleel arriving at the Customs office after being summoned by the agency on Monday • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

lent business deals or taking bribe. Truth alone will prevail," noted Mr. Jaleel.

The Minister said he went to the Customs office officially as the Customs notice for appearance was publicised in the media. The factual position regarding the case was communicated to Customs officials.

Taking a dig at his detrac-

tors, Mr. Jaleel said those who wished to tighten the noose around his neck would either become tired of the act or the noose would snap and he would emerge unscathed.

The consignment weighing 4,479 kg was brought from the UAE by officials of the UAE consulate. The port of loading the consignment

was shown as Dubai in the Bill of Entry and it was loaded on March 4, 2020. There were 250 packets of the Koran in the consignment. The contents of the packets were mentioned as 'Holy Quran (Diplomatic Cargo)' in the description part of the consignment in the Bill of Entry.

Customs officials cleared the cargo and no customs charges were levied on the consignment as it was brought to Kerala as diplomatic cargo.

Mr. Jaleel's initiative for distributing the Koran in some parts of northern Kerala had kicked up a political storm as allegations of violation of protocol were raised against the Minister. Some packets were taken for distribution in official vehicles of some departments under his administrative control.

Defending his action, Mr. Jaleel had earlier stated that the distribution of the holy book need to be viewed only as a cultural activity.

Minister's doctoral thesis under scanner

STAFF REPORTER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The doctoral thesis submitted by Higher Education Minister K.T. Jaleel to the University of Kerala in May 2005 came under scrutiny on Monday after Governor Arif Mohammed Khan took cognisance of a complaint that raised allegations of irregularities in the award of doctoral degree.

Considering a petition submitted by the Save University Campaign Committee, a collective of education activists and academics, which demanded a revaluation of Dr. Jaleel's thesis on 'Kunhammed Hajji and Ali Musliar - Their Role in the Malabar Rebellion,' the Governor directed the Vice

Chancellor to consider the plaint and furnish a response.

The petition also portrayed the thesis in bad light by flagging "the poor literary ability, lack of comprehension capacity and a meagre logical thought process" on the part of Dr. Jaleel, who was then a senior-scale lecturer at the PSMO College, Tirangady.

Pointing out several errors that crept into the research thesis, it accused the researcher of approaching the topic with bias, purportedly failing to highlight the "unfortunate fallout of the Mappila Rebellion."

The committee called for a revaluation of the doctoral thesis by a team of expert academics.

IN BRIEF



'Polavaram to be completed by 2022'

VIJAYAWADA
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Monday said his government knew the importance of water in doing economic justice to all regions.

Two soldiers - Lance Naiks - K. Sudhakar Rao and V. John Babu of Hyderabad were killed in Sri Lanka in 1987. They were part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force sent by the Union Government to Sri Lanka. In 2002 Lt Colonel S C H N Raja was killed while on UN Mission in Congo and another Colonel S. Madhava Perumal lost his life in IED blast.

Kingpin of international red sanders racket held

KADAPA
Shaik Abdul Hakim, 41, alias Basha Bhai, an alleged kingpin involved in an international red sanders smuggling racket, was arrested by the Kadapa police on Monday. Eight of his accomplices were also nabbed following an investigation. The police were able to get a breakthrough after the mishap near the Kadapa airport on November 2, in which two vehicles carrying red sanders rammed a tipper, killing five persons.

Church takeover: HC slams Kerala government

KOCHI
The Kerala High Court on Monday slammed the State government for not complying with its directive to take over the

Kothamangalam church, its precincts, and all its movable properties and hand them over to the vicar of the Orthodox faction. Justice P.B. Sureshkumar orally observed that if the State government could not implement its directive, it would have to direct the Centre to enforce the court directive.

Chiranjeevi tests positive for COVID-19

The Telugu superstar quarantines self

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

Telugu superstar Chiranjeevi Konidela announced on social media that he has tested positive for COVID-19. The 65-year-old Stalin actor underwent testing as part of safety protocol before joining the sets of his upcoming movie, Acharya.

"Unfortunately tested positive. I am currently asymptomatic and quarantining myself at home," he wrote, requesting all those who met him in the past five days to also undergo test. "Will update you on my recovery soon," the former Union Minister stated in a letter to fans and mediapersons. On Saturday, Mr. Chiranjeevi, along with actor Akkineni Nagarjuna, met Te-



Chiranjeevi Konidela

langana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and handed over cheques towards the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for relief operations in flood-hit areas of Hyderabad. Both Mr. Chiranjeevi and Mr. Nagarjuna, who donated ₹1 crore and ₹50 lakh respectively, were seen without masks while having a conversation with Mr. Rao.

Ex-IAS officer joins Cong.



Dinesh Gundu Rao (right) with former IAS officer Sasikanth Senthil (centre) in Chennai. • K.V. SRINIVASAN

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The BJP has started its model of hate politics in Tamil Nadu and it should not be given even an inch of space in the State, said former IAS officer Sasikanth Senthil, who joined the Congress on Monday.

"The BJP's ideology and politics is one of hate," he said.

"Now they have taken their model of hate politics across India and have started one of similar kind in Tamil Nadu as well," Mr. Senthil said.

AICC in-charge for Tamil Nadu, Dinesh Gundu Rao, said the Constitution of India guarantees equality, fraternity and brotherhood. "Today, that is being destroyed," he said.

Journalist's wife seeks Kerala Chief Minister's intervention

He has been in U.P. police custody for over a month now

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Delhi-based Keralite journalist Sidhique Kappan's wife Raihanath said on Monday that she has not been allowed to meet or speak to her husband who has been in U.P. police custody for over a month now.

Talking to reporters here on Monday, Ms. Raihanath sought Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's urgent intervention to get her husband released.

Mr. Kappan has neither been allowed to meet his family nor interact with his lawyer, she alleged. "I have a right to know where my husband is. Our children have a right to know where he is," a



Raihanath

distracted Ms. Raihanath said. She said she was concerned about her husband's health condition.

The Supreme Court has listed the case for hearing on November 16, she said.

After the Kerala Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ) moved the Supreme Court,

Mr. Kappan was allowed to speak to his aged mother, who lived with his brother, over phone on November 2, Ms. Raihanath said.

"I was told that he spoke to her for about five minutes and that he said he was fine. But I have not been given an opportunity to see him or speak to him," she said.

Mr. Kappan, who works for the news portal azhimukham.com, was arrested along with three others on October 5 while he was on his way to cover the Hathras rape incident.

According to his wife, Mr. Kappan had merely boarded a vehicle that was immediately available for travelling to Hathras.

Kerala's weekend dip doesn't lower positivity

3,593 cases were reported, but rate stands at 11.05%

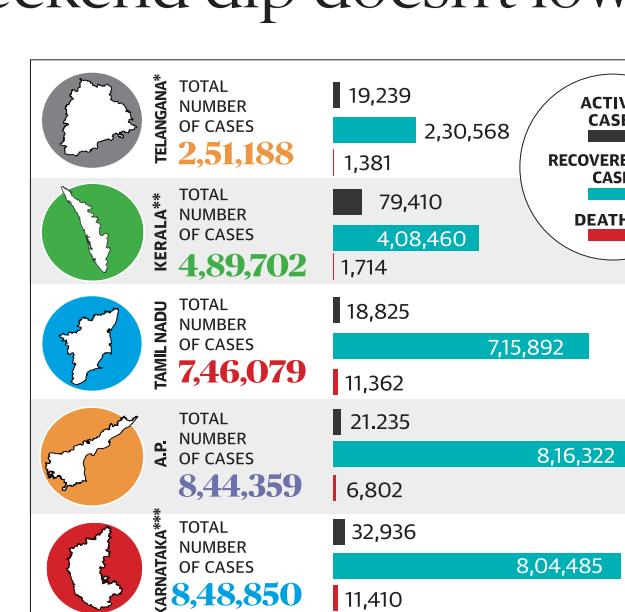
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Only 3,593 people tested positive for COVID-19 in Kerala on Monday, when 32,489 samples were tested. The case numbers were low, but test positivity rate remained almost the same as previous

COVID-19

days, at 11.05%. The COVID toll touched 1,714, with the Health Department adding 22 deaths to the list. Thiruvananthapuram accounted for eight deaths, Alappuzha four, Ernakulam and Kollam three each, Wayanad two, while Malappuram and Kannur reported one death each.

Malappuram district re-



ported 548 cases, Kozhikode 479, Ernakulam 433, Thrissur 430, Alappuzha 353, Thiruvananthapuram 324, Kollam 236, Palakkad 225, Kottayam 203, Kannur 152, Kasaragod

75, Wayanad 50, Pathanamthitta 43 and Idukki 42 cases. Telangana recorded 857 cases and four deaths on Sunday. Only 23,806 tests were conducted, as against around

45,000 normally.

The new cases included 250 from Greater Hyderabad.

Andhra Pradesh reported 1,392 infections and 11 deaths on Monday. It was the lowest single-day tally in four months, and positivity rate for 61,050 samples was 2.28%.

Seven districts reported no new deaths, while Krishna district reported five. Kadapa reported two and East Godavari, Guntur, Visakhapatnam and West Godavari one each.

After 150 days, the number of deaths reported due to COVID-19 in Tamil Nadu every day came below the 20 mark on Monday. A total of 18 deaths were reported, taking the total toll to 11,362. The last time the count was below 20 was on June 12, when a similar number of deaths was reported.

(With inputs from Hyderabad, Vijayawada, and Chennai bureaus)

Pre-wedding shoot turns tragic for couple

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

A pre-wedding shoot turned tragic for a couple in Mysuru who drowned in the Cauvery at Talkad on Monday when the coracle in which they were posing capsized.

Chandru, 28, and



Baby Kanish (2 months) diagnosed to have DORV, D-Malposed Great Vessel, Sub-pulmonic VSD. Severe PAI is advised to undergo a Arterial Switch Operation + VSD Closure at MIOT International. His family condition is very poor, 4,00,000/- cost of his hospitalisation & surgery. We are asking for your generous contribution to his surgery. Donations sent by ChD.D. favouring Mysore Hospitals Private Limited, will be acknowledged. The donations sent through ChD.D. NFEFT Transfer (Syndicate, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No.601820063310, IFSC No. SYNB0006018) favouring WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE are entitled for exemption under 80G IT. Please give us your email id.

<p

New Parliament building will be bigger in size and have more amenities

Taking into account future needs, the Lok Sabha hall has been designed to accommodate 888 members and the Rajya Sabha hall will be able to seat 384

A. SRIVATHSAN

The design of the new Parliament is complete, detailed and construction-ready. Located next to the existing one, it is almost one-and-a-half times larger in size and capacity.

The purpose of the new building, at one level, is to offer upgraded and expanded facilities for the functioning of Parliament. At another, when completed in 2022, it will serve as a landmark to commemorate the 75th year of Indian Independence. Here are the details of the design.

In October 2019, the government selected HCP Design, Planning and Management, an Ahmedabad-based architecture firm, to design the new Parliament and redevelop the area around the Central Vista. The architects chose the triangular plot next to the existing Parliament to build a new one. As a result, the proposed structure is triangularly shaped in contrast to the existing circular one. The proposal tries hard to limit the contrast to shape. Through materials and facade design,

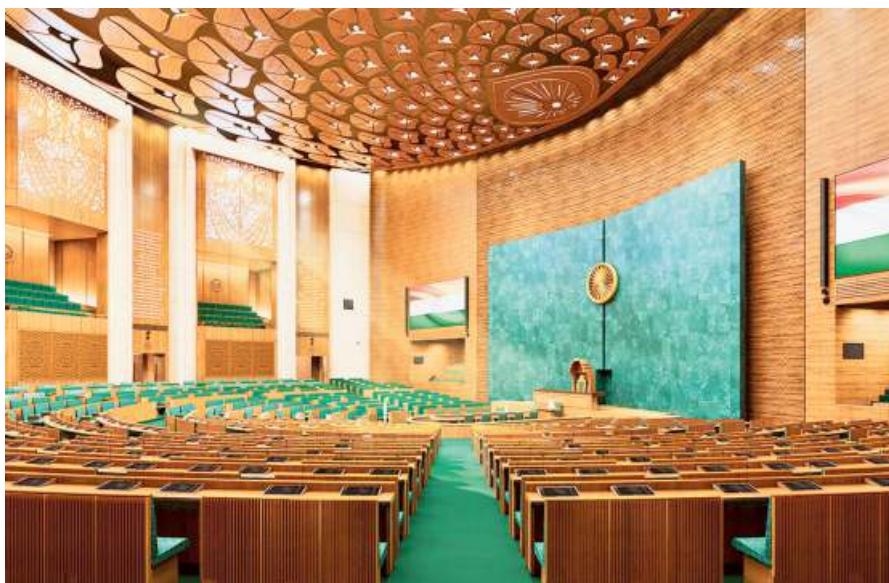
the new Parliament wants to appear as carefully restrained, and look as old and similar to the existing one. However, in terms of amenities and finish, it is sumptuous.

Constitutional hall

At the core of the proposed Parliament are three spaces: Lok Sabha hall, Rajya Sabha hall and the central lounge built around an open courtyard. Interlinking them is the constitutional hall. This grand space, located in the centre of the complex, will exhibit the original copy of the Constitution and icons of national leaders.

The total built-up area of the proposed Parliament, spread over four floors, is about 64,500 sq.m that is 17,000 sq.m more than the existing one.

The proposed Lok Sabha hall, located on the ground floor, anticipates an increase in the number of people representatives in the years to come. It plans to accommodate 888 members, 336 more than the current maximum strength. Similarly, the Rajya Sabha hall will accommodate 384 in place of the



Wider vistas: A sketch of the Lok Sabha hall (left) and the VIP entrance at the new building. •HCP DESIGN, PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT PVT. LTD.

current capacity of 245.

There is no drastic change in the seating arrangement that may have led to alternative forms of debate. It continues to be fan-shaped. The difference being that every member will have a desk in front, which is currently available only for the front rows. Enough space behind the seat for free movement, and digital system and touch screen for each member are

some of the new features. The assembly halls will have an intuitive multilingual graphical user interface, dual authentication-based biometrics and RFID, and digital Ink based nameplates with automatic naming.

Office spaces

Besides the Parliament halls on the ground floor, there are offices for the Prime Minister, Speaker and Minis-

ters. In the above two floors are more rooms for Ministers, a dining hall, and the expanded media gallery. Infrastructure facilities and office rooms are located on the lower ground floor.

When it comes to the existing Parliament, Bimal Patel, director, HCP Design, said "both buildings, the existing and new Parliaments, will work in conjunction. Some functions will move to



Wider vistas: A sketch of the Lok Sabha hall (left) and the VIP entrance at the new building. •HCP DESIGN, PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT PVT. LTD.

the new, while some will remain in retrofitted and refurbished existing buildings".

The proposed Parliament will be under total surveillance with separate access for MPs, Speaker, Prime Minister and the public. While the car parking within the building is limited to about 110 vehicles, the proposal makes space for 1,100 cars within the entire Parliament

complex, including the existing Parliament, library and annexe.

No overt symbolism

Surprisingly, except for a tall Ashoka lion head on the top like a finial, the new Parliament appears to eschew any overt symbolism.

The design has come a long way from its earlier version which had a tall sloping spire over the central space.

In contrast, it suffuses the interior with symbolism and decor rooted in traditional motifs and elements. Abstracted peacock feathers for panels, lotus motifs for roofs, floral inlay patterns on floors and intricate wooden *jalis* abound.

"We have tried to harmonise the architecture of new with the old Parliament. They will be closely related in many ways and will function as one," Dr. Patel said.

In terms of construction and materials, it seeks to use high-grade stainless steel and self-compacting concrete. There are plans to obtain a five-star GRIHA rating for its sustainable building practices and waste management systems.

The new Parliament project is currently held up because of appeals against its construction in the Supreme Court. However, the government, on its part looks like it is getting construction-ready. In the event of a favourable judgment, it would possibly commence quickly and try to catch up with its 2022 deadline.

(The author is a Professor at CEPT University)

All quiet at party offices in Bihar

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav celebrates low-key 31st birthday on eve of results

AMARNATH TEWARY

PATNA

A day before the declaration of the Assembly election results, it was all quiet at the offices of the political parties on Beherand Patel Marg in Patna.

Leaders remained mostly confined to their homes on Monday and refused to comment on the results. Rashtriya Janata Dal leader and the UPA's chief ministerial face Tejashwi Yadav celebrated his 31st birthday in a low-key affair at the residence of his mother, Rabri Devi.

At the party headquarters of the ruling Janata Dal(U), a few office-bearers sat discussing the exit poll results that have predicted a dismal show by the party. "Why should we believe these exit



Sweet delight: RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav celebrating his birthday with family members in Patna on Monday. •PTI

polls? You must remember the 2015 exit poll that went completely wrong...We're coming to power again, our leader Nitish Kumar is going to be the CM for the fourth consecutive term," said one of them requesting anonymity.

A few yards away at the Opposition RJD office, a small group was seen sporting broad smiles. "After a long time, smile has returned to the party office," said party leader and spokesperson Mrityunjay Tiwari. "And why not? Haven't

you seen the exit poll projections? But we knew even before, that people of Bihar have voted for a change this time, for a young leader like Tejashwi Yadav. Now it's matter of a few hours and we will all know what is in fact a foregone conclusion," he said.

At the BJP and Rashtriya Lok Samata Party offices too, there were very few people moving about. Big hoardings displaying Prime Minister Narendra Modi's image have been occupying the space outside the BJP office. The Lok Janshakti Party office, near the Patna airport, wore a deserted look.

"Come tomorrow and you'll see the rush here," said an office-bearer before quickly retreating inside.

Next round of talks likely this week

India, China Corps Commanders discuss broad proposals for disengagement

DINAKAR PERI

NEW DELHI

At the Corps Commander talks last week, India and China made broad proposals for disengagement in eastern Ladakh and another round of talks is likely to take place later this week to discuss them further, an official source said on Monday.

"Broad proposals have been made by both sides and they will be discussed in another round of senior commander talks likely later this week," the source said. Discussions were on to finalize the dates for the next round of talks.

The proposals are being discussed at the highest levels in the government, including the apex group on China policy, the China Study Group.

China has deployed around 50,000 troops along



With talks remaining inconclusive, both sides have stocked up for the harsh winter. Here, an IAF plane flies over Leh. •PTI

tain distance behind, but that is not acceptable to us as it would put us in a disadvantage," a third source said.

Stocking up for winter

With several rounds of military and diplomatic talks remaining inconclusive, both sides have built habitats and stocked up essentials to house the thousands of

troops through the harsh winter. With passes still open, vehicle movement was still on and winter stocking was almost complete, but once the passes close, sustenance for forward areas would be only through air, the third source noted.

As the Indian Army occupied several dominating features that were lying vacant on the south bank of Pangong Tso (lake) in August, China has been pressing for discussing south bank first and other friction areas later. However, this has been rejected by India.

A joint statement stated that both sides agreed to "earnestly implement" the consensus reached by leaders of the two countries, ensure their "front-line troops to exercise restraint and avoid misunderstanding and miscalculation".

Bengal govt. using violence against BJP workers: Surya

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday accused the Mamata Banerjee-led government in West Bengal of using violence against its party workers during a rally last month in the State.

Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha chief and MP Tejaswi Surya has issued a privilege notice against the top brass of the State administration, including the police commissioners of Kolkata and Howrah.

At a press conference at the national headquarters of the BJP in New Delhi, Mr. Surya cited the violence during the BJP's "Chalo Nabanna" rally on October 8 as a manifestation of the "fascist" nature of the State government.

CM YK

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE	
WORKS DEPARTMENT	
E-mail : cetwbankprojects@gmail.com	
Bid Identification No. CE-W.B.P. (O) - 11 / 2020-21	
1. The Chief Engineer (World Bank Project), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Road & Bridge works as detailed in the table below:	
2. Nature of work	: Bridge works
3. No. of work	: 03 Nos.
4. Tender Cost	: Rs.10,00,00
5. Class of Contractor	: Super Class Contractor
6. Available of bid document in the website	: From 10.00 AM of 12.11.2020 to 5.00 PM of 10.12.2020
7. Pre-Bid meeting	: Dt. 20.11.2020 at 11.30 AM
8. Date of opening of Bid	: DL.11.12.2020 at 11.30 AM
9. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : https://tenderodisha.gov.in . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.	
Chief Engineer, World Bank Project, Odisha.	
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR	
OIPR-34003/11/0014/2021	

Ex-lawmakers leave BSP, Cong. for SP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LUCKNOW

Three former MPs and five former MLAs joined the Samajwadi Party on Monday, as the party continues to attract key leaders from its opponents ahead of the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly election.

When it comes to the existing Parliament, Bimal Patel, director, HCP Design, said "both buildings, the existing and new Parliaments, will work in conjunction. Some functions will move to

joined the SP in the presence of party president Akhilesh Yadav.

Mr. Patel, a Kurmi, is the brother of slain dacoit Dadua and was elected MP from Mirzapur in 2009 on the SP ticket.

In 2019, on being denied ticket, he joined the Congress and contested from Banda only to finish a distant third with 75,000 votes.

Former MP Kailash Nath Singh Yadav (Chandauli), Bal Kumar Patel (Mirzapur) and Kaishar Jahan (Sitapur)

koot-Banda region.

Ms. Jahan, who had won from Sitapur in 2009, also joined the Congress in 2019 and contested the ranks of the SP. So did Ashfaq Khan, the BSP candidate from Sitapur seat in 2017.

Speaking at the press conference on four years of demonetisation, SP president Akhilesh Yadav said that the sole purpose of the decision by the BJP was to win U.P. in 2017 at any cost. "The BJP benefited from demonetisation and won Uttar Pradesh," the former CM said.

(Shahjahanpur) and Jasir Ansari, who is Ms. Jahan's husband, also joined the ranks of the SP. So did Ashfaq Khan, the BSP candidate from Sitapur seat in 2017.

Speaking at the press conference on four years of demonetisation, SP president Akhilesh Yadav said that the sole purpose of the decision by the BJP was to win U.P. in 2017 at any cost. "The BJP benefited from demonetisation and won Uttar Pradesh," the former CM said.

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

Coimbatore - 641 003, Tamil Nadu

CORIGENDUM

In partial modification of the Advertisement No 1 / 12907 / 2020 dt. 14.10.2020 regarding filling up of the vacant posts of ICAR-KVK the 3rd condition may be read as "ICAR-KVK scheme post" instead of "Purely Temporary".

Last date of submission of online application extended upto 13.11.2020 till 05.00 p.m. A copy of the printed application along with the required documents and Online payment receipt should reach this office on or before 5.00 p.m. on 20.11.2020. Details hosted in the TNAU website kvk.tnau.ac.in.

Coimbatore Date : 10.11.2020 DPPR/1076/Display/2020 Registrar

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY

Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 560064,
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE NO.RWF/S/P/1/010/2020-21 Date: 07-11-2020

On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Materials Manager invites electronic Tenders from Interested Vendors for supply of the following items on the Indian Railways E-Portal - www.reps.gov.in. The Tender documents and the Corrigenda to the Tenders, if any, will be available on the Portal only.

Sl.No.	Tender No.	Due date	Short Description	Qty.
1	P1201600A	04-12-2020	Calcined Lime as per RWF specification.	8577 MT

Principal Chief Materials Manager

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR SPACE SCIENCE STUDIES

P.B. 7250, Akkulam, Trivandrum- 695 011, India

Tel: 0471- 2511313 Fax: 0471-2442280

e-mail : purchase.ncess@nic.in Web site: www.ncess.gov.in

No. NCESS/PUR/PT-177/2020 Date:02.11.2020

TENDER NOTICE

Offers are invited from manufacturers / authorized dealers for supply / installation of the following items through e-procurement procedure.

For details, please log on to eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app

1. Broadband Seismometers (BBS) - 6 Nos
2. High End (RTK) DGPS System for Topographic Survey - 1 Set
3. Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Geosciences Data Centre - 1 No

Due Date:08.12.2020 (06.00 PM) Date of Opening 10.12.2020 (11.00 AM)

Sd/- Senior Manager</

IN BRIEF



Railways' decision illogical: Punjab CM

CHANDIGARH
Punjab Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh on Monday termed the Railways' decision to link the movement of goods trains in the State with passenger trains irrational. Train services had been suspended following rail blockade in protest against the new farm laws. The Railways declined to restart goods trains, saying it would either operate both freight and passenger trains or none.

FIR against Ahmedabad journalist quashed

AHMEDABAD
The Gujarat High Court has quashed a sedition case lodged against a journalist by the Ahmedabad police for writing a speculative story on change of guard in Gujarat in May last. Justice R.P. Dholaria quashed the FIR against Dhaval Patel, editor and owner of an online portal, following his unconditional apology for the article. It cautioned him against writing any speculative articles without verifying the facts.

Narcotics worth ₹6.5 cr. recovered in Mizoram

NEW DELHI
In a major recovery of narcotics along the Myanmar border, Assam Rifles has recovered 1.3 lakh methamphetamine tablets worth over ₹6.5 crore in the international market in Champai district of Mizoram, a defence source said. "In a major successful operation by an Assam Rifles battalion located at Serchhip, Mizoram, a large quantity of methamphetamine tablets was recovered last Wednesday," the source said.

Ahead of poll, Rajasthan BJP moves corporators

BHOPAL
The Rajasthan BJP has moved 36 of its corporators who recently won in the Kota South Municipal Corporation polls to hotels at a hill station in Madhya Pradesh ahead of the mayoral election on Tuesday. The ruling Congress in Rajasthan and the BJP bagged 36 wards each in the civic body. Independents won eight. Sources said a few independent corporators may have gone with the BJP team.

Dental council chief election invalid: Ministry

NEW DELHI
The Union Health Ministry said in an order issued on Monday that the election of president, Dental Council of India (DCI), held on December 15 last year is illegal and invalid. "Consequently Dr. Dibyendu Mazumder ceases to be the president of the Council with immediate effect," said the order. As per the DCI Regulation 1956, vice-president of the council will be given charge, it said.

Academic credit banks, degree with entry and exit option soon

Agricultural education policy for changes in 74 varsities

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

The first National Agricultural Education Policy is set to bring academic credit banks and degree programmes with multiple entry and exit options to the 74 universities focussed on crop sciences, fisheries, veterinary and dairy training and research.

A six-member committee of Vice-Chancellors has been asked to submit a draft policy document to the Agriculture Ministry next month, according to R.C. Agarwal, Deputy Director General for Education, at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. More than 45,000 students are admitted into agricultural universities every year, and the new policy is set to usher in some changes to their academic life.

"The process started about two months ago, after the release of the National Education Policy. In many ways, agricultural education is ahead of its time, and al-

Celebrate with caution: Vardhan

Be on guard this entire festive season till Makar Sankranti, says Health Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

COVID-19 appropriate behaviour is still the best bet against infection and it is no rocket science.

This was stated by Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan on Monday in an interaction with State Health Ministers and senior officials of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana, Punjab, Haryana and Kerala to review COVID-19 situation and preparedness.

Of the total active cases in the country, 0.44% patients were on ventilator support, 2.47% in ICU and 4.13% occupied oxygen-supported beds. India had the highest recovery rate and one of the lowest fatality rate globally, he said.

The Health Ministry said that some districts in the States invited for the meeting had been reporting a rise in the number of cases, high average daily cases on a seven-day average, decline in testing, high rate of mortality within the first 24/48/72 hours of hospitalisation, high doubling rate and higher death among the vulnerable population groups.

Winter caution

Dr. Vardhan said, "The country had stepped into the 11th month of the pandemic and now we all need to be more vigilant for the entire festive season that started with Dussehra and would continue onto Deepavali, Chhat Puja,



Alert continues: Testing underway at Gur Mandi in New Delhi on Monday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Christmas and then onto Makar Sankranti in the next year. Respiratory virus also spreads rapidly in the winter months."

Briefing the audience about his recent interaction with State Health Ministers and senior health officials of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh, he said that the "trajectory of the disease is being monitored personally by the Prime Minister".

At the meeting, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan requested all the States to focus on 10 key areas to contain COVID-19 and gain an upper hand over its trajectory. This included

increased testing, targeted testing at markets, workplaces and religious congregations that could have the potential to become super spreaders, increased use of RT-PCR in testing and compulsory testing of symptomatic RAT negatives.

Delhi still on top

Meanwhile, as per data released by the Health Ministry, new cases reported in the last 24 hours did not cross the 50,000 mark. "45,903 persons have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 24 hours. Delhi has reported the highest daily new cases, also its highest tally so far, with 7,745 new cases. It is followed by Maharashtra

with 5,585 cases and Kerala with 5,585 cases," said the Ministry.

It added that 79% of the new recovered cases were observed to be concentrated in 10 States/Union Territories. Maharashtra has reported the maximum number of single day recoveries with 8,232. In Kerala, 6,853 people recovered and it was followed by 6,069 in Maharashtra.

The Ministry said, "490 case fatalities have been reported in the past 24 hours. Fatalities have continued to decrease with less than 500 reported in the last 24 hours. Maharashtra, Delhi and West Bengal are leading the fatalities tally".

Punjab revokes general consent given to CBI

Agency needs to seek State nod for probe

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH

The Punjab government has withdrawn the general consent given to the Central Bureau of Investigation for investigating cases in the State.

A senior government official confirmed to *The Hindu* on Monday that an order in this regard had been issued, following which, the CBI would have to seek prior permission from the State for conducting any investi-

gation in Punjab.

The order revoked the general consent for investigating cases by members of Delhi Special Police Establishment, said the official. The CBI derives its legal powers to investigate crime under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

The order adds that in any future investigation in the State, prior consent of the Government of Punjab would be required on a case-to-case basis.

Focus to be on non-motorised transport: Puri

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

After the COVID-19 pandemic led to a reassessment of public transport systems, the focus of government interventions going forward would be on non-motorised transport, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Monday.

Mr. Puri was speaking during the inaugural session of the Urban Mobility Conference held virtually this time due to the pandemic.

"Public transport systems around the world have seen ridership and revenue plummet, owing to the lockdowns and have been forced to cut services... In the aftermath of the ongoing pandemic, India is likely to experience a behavioural change in urban mobility. This crisis also presents an opportunity to guide the recovery of urban transport towards long-term development goals," Mr. Puri said.

Considering this as an opportunity, elevating the priority of these modes gives travellers another private vehicle alternative, which is clean, safe, secured particularly if it is integrated with other modes and affordable for all. Non-motorised transport will occupy the prime, non-negotiable, position in every form of urban mobility discourse and intervention," he said.

Indefinite blacklisting is death knell for firms: SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Indefinite blacklisting will "spell the death knell" for commercial organisations and institutions, the Supreme Court has said in a judgment.

A Bench of Justices Rohinton F. Nariman, Navin Sinha and Krishna Murari described the blacklisting of a business entity as its "civil death". The court was hearing an appeal filed by Vedanta Pharmaceuticals Limited against an indefinite order of blacklisting issued against it by the Uttar Pradesh government on the ground of supplying sub-standard quality products.

The company that would blacklist the company, thus, giving no opportunity for the latter to make a suitable response. The top court referred to its own past judgments which held that "an order of blacklisting beyond three years or maximum of five was disproportionate."

"We hold that the order of blacklisting dated 08.09.2009 stands vitiated on more than one ground and merits interference."

HC refuses interim bail to Arnab

Applicant has an alternative and efficacious remedy of regular bail, it says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Monday rejected an interim bail plea filed by journalist Arnab Goswami in the 2018 case of abetment to suicide of Anvay and his mother Kumbha Naik in Alibag.

After hearing the matter for three days, a Division Bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and M.S. Karnik had reserved orders on Saturday.

Mr. Goswami sought interim protection/bail on the grounds that he was illegally arrested and wrongfully detained, and quashing of the FIR.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, representing Mr. Goswami, had vehemently argued that the allegations in the First Information Report (Section 306, abetment to suicide and Section 34, acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention of the Indian Penal Code), read in its entirety, do



No relief: Police shifting Republic TV editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami to the Taloja Central Jail. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

not disclose the alleged offence against the petitioner (Mr. Goswami). The submission deserves no consideration at this stage when the investigation is on and the alleged suicide note mentions the petitioner's name.

The Bench said, "The applicant has an alternative and efficacious remedy under Section 439 (special powers of high court or court of session regarding

Police can question for 3 hours: court

The magistrate court at Alibag on Monday granted the Raigad police permission to question journalist Arnab Goswami at the Taloja jail for three hours in the 2018 abetment of suicide case.

Governor voices safety concerns

Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari spoke to Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh on Monday and conveyed his concern over the health and security of Arnab Goswami. Mr. Koshyari also asked the Home Minister to let Mr. Goswami's family meet him.

Militancy went up under BJP: Mehbooba

'Will fight for rights of people of J&K'

PEERZADA ASHIQ

JAMMU

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on Monday said the graph of militancy witnessed a sharp rise during the BJP rule in Jammu and Kashmir and pledged to fight for the return of all "rights snatched from people of J&K".

"The government is following an iron fist policy. Whoever speaks against them is being pushed to jail. Its high-handedness is forcing the youth in Kashmir to prefer guns to going to jail forcibly. In fact, militancy witnessed a rise during the BJP rule," Ms. Mufti said at a press conference in Jammu.

Describing J&K's special status as "an essential to all people, irrespective of their religious background", she said, "Article 370 and other provisions of special status were meant not just for Muslims of Kashmir but for the entire Jammu and Kashmir too. They were indeed brought by the Maharaja re-

Isn't J&K an integral part, govt. asks Bar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR

The J&K administration on Monday sought a clarification from the Kashmir High Court Bar Association (KHCBA) "if it considers J&K an integral part of India or a disputed territory", as it was preparing to hold the Bar elections, which were deferred earlier, from November 10.

According to the Association's constitution, the objective of the body "is to find ways and means, take steps for resolving the issues concerning the public at large, including the larger issue of peaceful settlement of Kashmir dispute". In the past, the Bar has advocated a trilateral dialogue between India, Pakistan and people of J&K.

In an oblique reference to the flag controversy raked up by her remarks, Ms. Mufti said, "The late Mufti [Mohammad Sayeed] upheld the national flag in J&K at a time when he was socially boycotted. We are the people, especially in the Kashmir Valley, who upheld the tricolour high over the years at the cost of thousands of our workers who were martyred".

J&K party approaches SC for early hearing of pleas

'Centre has brought in crucial changes'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR

The Peoples Conference (PC), headed by Sajad Lone, on Monday submitted a plea before the Supreme Court for an early hearing of the petitions pending before it that contested the measures taken by the Union government since August 5 last year in Jammu and Kashmir, including the abrogation of provisions of Article 370.

"(I appeal to) Allow the present application on behalf of the petitioner for an early hearing of the present petition and the other petitions pending before it," reads party spokesman Adnan Ashraf Mir's plea.

He said the petitions "ought to be heard and disposed of urgently as significant changes to the rights of the residents of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir and the abrogation of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir, and notwithstanding the prevailing pandemic conditions, sweeping changes are being brought about by the Centre that impact the rights of a large number of people, including dilution of the safeguards earlier available to the permanent residents."



Sajad Lone

dered by a Constitution Bench of the court." The PC plea said, "Notwithstanding the foregoing, pending the final hearing of these petitions challenging the abrogation of the special status of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir and the abrogation of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir, and notwithstanding the prevailing pandemic conditions, sweeping changes are being brought about by the Centre that impact the rights of a large number of people, including dilution of the safeguards earlier available to the permanent residents."

Republicans decline to recognise result

Most elected officials from the party stayed silent on Joe Biden's victory as Trump is yet to concede

LUKE BROADWATER
WASHINGTON

Joe Biden prepared on Sunday to start building his administration, even as Republican leaders and scores of party lawmakers refrained from acknowledging his victory out of apparent deference to President Donald Trump, who continued to refuse to concede.

With Mr. Biden out of the public eye as he received congratulations from leaders around the world, his team turned its attention to a transition, with the launch of a coronavirus task force and swift moves to begin assembling his team.

But more than 24 hours after his election had been declared, the vast majority of Republicans declined to offer the customary statements of goodwill for the victor that have been standard after U.S. presidential contests, as Mr. Trump defied the results and vowed to forge ahead with long-shot lawsuits to try to overturn them.

While some prominent



Differences to the fore: People walking past the United States Capitol building in Washington DC on Sunday. ■ AFP

Republican figures, including former President George W. Bush, called Mr. Biden to wish him well, most elected officials stayed silent in the face of Mr. Trump's claims that the election was stolen from him.

Transition plan
Mr. Biden did not respond to Mr. Trump's attacks on the result, but he also was not waiting for a concession. On Sunday, he unveiled his offi-

cial transition website as he prepared a series of executive actions for his first day in the Oval Office – including rejoining the Paris climate accord, moving aggressively to confront the coronavirus pandemic and restoring labour organising rights for government workers – aimed at unwinding Mr. Trump's domestic agenda and repairing the U.S.'s image in the world.

But Republicans' silence

suggested that even in defeat, Mr. Trump maintained a powerful grip on his party and its elected leaders, who have spent four years tightly embracing him or quietly working to avoid offending him or his loyal base. For many prominent Republicans, the President's reluctance to accept the election results created a dilemma, making even the most cursory expression of support for Mr. Biden seem like a conspicuous break with Mr. Trump.

Sen. Roy Blunt of Missouri was the most senior Republican to suggest that Mr. Trump had most likely lost and cast doubt on his allegations of a stolen election, but he stopped short of referring to Mr. Biden as the President-elect in an exceedingly careful television interview.

"It's time for the President's lawyers to present the facts, and it's time for those facts to speak for themselves," Mr. Blunt, chair of the Rules Committee, said on ABC's *This Week*. "It seems unlikely that any

changes could be big enough to make a difference but this is a close election, and we need to acknowledge that."

"Look forward," Mr. Blunt added, "to the President dealing with this however he needs to deal with it."

Corrupt election'

At the White House, there was little indication that Mr. Trump was dealing with it at all. As he played a second consecutive day of golf at his private club outside Washington, the President recirculated a claim by Newt Gingrich, the former Republican speaker of the House, who told Fox News, "I think that it is a corrupt, stolen election."

Privately the President's advisers, several of whom have quietly been candid with Mr. Trump that the chances of success in any challenge to the election outcome were not high, had concluded they had little option other than to allow the President to keep fighting until he was ready to bow to the reality of his loss. ■ NY TIMES



Vivek Murthy

to exhaust every recourse for hanging onto power, Biden-appointed scientists and experts will liaise with local and State officials on the pandemic response. They will consider how to safely reopen schools and busi-

nesses and tackle racial disparities.

The Biden panel includes Rick Bright, a whistleblower who says he was removed from the Trump administration post for raising concerns about coronavirus preparedness, and Luciana Borio, who specialises in complex public health emergencies.

Mr. Biden's advisers are considering candidates for top Cabinet posts. But the transition cannot shift into high gear until the U.S. General Services Administration certifies the winner. Emily Murphy, the Trump appointee who runs the agency, has not yet done so.

China holds off on greeting Biden on win

REUTERS
BEIJING

China, which has held off on congratulating U.S. presidential election winner Joe Biden, said on Monday it would follow custom in responding to the result.

"We noticed that Mr. Biden has declared election victory," Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a daily media briefing. "We understand that the U.S. election result will be determined following U.S. law and procedures."

In 2016, Chinese President Xi Jinping sent congratulations to Mr. Trump on November 9, a day after the election.

Trump lost the race, but the GOP is still his party

President got 7.4 million more votes than he did in 2016

JEREMY W. PETERS

The election of 2020 ended for Republican Party leaders a lot like the election of 2016 began: as much as they may want to move on from Donald Trump, he won't let them – and neither will the voters.

After losing the White House to Joe Biden and the popular vote for the seventh time since 1980, and facing the possibility of once-unthinkable defeat in Arizona and Georgia, Republicans were grappling with how to untangle the man from a movement that is likely to dictate party politics for years.

Privately the President's advisers, several of whom have quietly been candid with Mr. Trump that the chances of success in any challenge to the election outcome were not high, had concluded they had little option other than to allow the President to keep fighting until he was ready to bow to the reality of his loss. ■ NY TIMES



Unshaken: Donald Trump gives thumbs up to supporters as he departs after playing golf in Sterling, Virginia. ■ AP

er, at least. In particular, Republicans in their 30s and 40s see a road map to the bigger and more diverse coalition that the party has tried to build for two decades, if they can salvage the more popular aspects of the President's appeal to middle-class Americans while jettisoning the racial grievances he fanned. From Senate offices, think tanks and salons, the conversations about what's next have grown in urgency now that the final months of the Trump presidency are at hand.

'King with no heirs'

"He is sort of the king with no heirs," said Oren Cass, executive director of American Compass, a group that hosts monthly online happy hours of Capitol Hill staff and policy

experts to debate the successes and failures of the Trump agenda. Mr. Cass said

Mr. Trump's defeat sets up a clash between more conventional Republicans who, on one hand, took the attitude of "This too shall pass, and we can go back to doing what we were doing before,"

and those who think the President "called attention to a certain set of issues and voters that certainly the center-right wasn't paying enough attention to."

Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, who said he has tried to reimagine Trumpism with "a mute button" for the Pre-

sident, expressed a view that had taken hold among conservatives – one that would seem to rule out any reflective, autopsy-style self-assessment of how they lost.

The fact that Mr. Trump's defeat was not the blowout critics had hoped, Mr. Rubio said, means that the anticipated repudiation of Trumpian politics was wrong.

While Mr. Rubio said he cannot imagine a scenario in which Mr. Trump was not in the picture – "He's not going to just vanish into a building" – the President's strong support among Latino voters in Florida (47%) and Texas (40%) showed how the party could expand a "multi-ethnic, working-class coalition" that did not fit neatly inside the left-right paradigm.

Navigating the unavoidable, disruptive force that is Trump complicates an already difficult job for conservatives like Mr. Rubio, 49. First, Republicans need to persuade more voters of colour that they are welcoming, despite embracing Mr. Trump and his divisive rhetoric. They also need to demonstrate that Republicans can be the party for Americans who are struggling economically – many of whom were won over by Mr. Trump's message – not just the party that cuts taxes for corporations and dismantles regulations. ■ NY TIMES

Biden convenes COVID-19 taskforce

The board is co-chaired by Vivek Murthy, David Kessler & Marcella Nunez-Smith

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

President-elect Joe Biden convened a task force on Monday to devise a blueprint for tackling the coronavirus pandemic in the United States and hailed progress on a vaccine, while President Donald Trump steadfastly refused to acknowledge his defeat.

Mr. Biden conferred in Delaware by video link with the 13-member task force that he named, headed by former U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, former Food and Drug Administration Commissioner David Kessler and Yale University healthcare equity expert Marcella

Nunez-Smith. The Democratic former Vice-President is set to give remarks in Wilmington, Delaware, about his plans to address the pandemic that has killed more than 2,37,000 Americans and to rebuild the economy.

"Dealing with the coronavirus pandemic is one of the most important battles our administration will face, and I will be informed by science and by experts," Mr. Biden said in a statement on Monday.

Pandemic preparedness
Even as Mr. Trump declines to concede and some of his closest allies encourage him

Rick Bright, a whistleblower who says he was removed from the Trump administration post for raising concerns about coronavirus preparedness, and Luciana Borio, who specialises in complex public health emergencies.

Mr. Biden's advisers are considering candidates for top Cabinet posts. But the transition cannot shift into high gear until the U.S. General Services Administration certifies the winner. Emily Murphy, the Trump appointee who runs the agency, has not yet done so.

Pakistan media mogul gets bail after months in prison

He has frequently been critical of Imran Khan's govt., Army



Mir Shakeel-ur-Rehman

preme Court to order Mr. Rehman's release, saying that he was being held on a "spurious charge".

RSF added that Mr. Rehman's group was targeted because its journalists "dare to tackle stories that are supposed to be off-limits".

Pakistan routinely ranks among the world's most dangerous countries for media workers and criticism of the country's powerful security establishment has long been seen as a red line.

Journalists and bloggers have complained of intimidation tactics, including kidnappings, beatings, and even killings if they cross that line. Last month, a Geo journalist briefly went missing after reporting on the controversial arrest of an opposition politician.

IN BRIEF



Trump 'terminates' Defense Secretary Esper

WASHINGTON
President Donald Trump on Monday announced by tweet that he had fired his Defense Secretary Mark Esper. "Mark Esper has been terminated. I would like to thank him for his service," Mr. Trump said

on Twitter, announcing his replacement by Christopher Miller, the current head of the National Counterterrorism Center. ■ AFP

3 dead in axe, gun attack at Russian army base

MOSCOW
A Russian serviceman on Monday hacked an officer to death with an axe and shot two soldiers dead at a military base in Voronezh. The shooting started after an altercation broke out between them during an inspection. ■ AFP

Lodha UK sells penthouse for ₹1,362.4 cr.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COLOMBO/NEW DELHI

New Delhi and Male on Monday signed four agreements, including a \$100 million Indian grant for an ambitious connectivity project, during Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla's visit to the Maldives.

In addition to two MoUs for "high impact" community development projects, the countries signed an MoU on cooperation in sports and youth affairs and another for the \$100 million grant, which is part of India's "\$500 million package" for the Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP). Last month, the two governments inked a deal for a

India, Maldives sign four MoUs to boost ties

New Delhi will support Maldives Foreign Minister's candidature for UNGA president

\$400 million line of credit from the Exim Bank of India.

Mr. Shringla's visit comes two months after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Maldives Foreign Minister Abdullah Shahid held a virtual discussion, and about a fortnight after U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's visit to the island nation. Amid New Delhi's growing concern over China's growing influence in the region, the ties with the Maldives have remained under sharp focus.

The MoUs, which we have signed today, are emblematic of our strong development partnership which is multi-faceted and de-

signed to meet the specific requirements of the government and people of Maldives," the visiting Indian Foreign Secretary said.

India first' policy
"We deeply appreciate the government of President Solih for its 'India First' foreign policy. This is reciprocated in full measure by our 'Neighbourhood First' policy in which the Maldives enjoys a very special and central place," he said, even as the political opposition in the Maldives has been criticising the Solih administration for its "India tilt". Former President Abdulla Yameen, who was dislodged from office in 2018, was widely perceived

as a close ally of China. A statement from Mr. Solih's office said he expressed his gratitude to the Indian government for agreeing to implement an air-bubble between the two countries, and remarked that increasing amounts of Indian tourists have visited the Maldives since the country reopened its international borders.

Further, India reiterated its support for Maldivian Foreign Minister Shahid's candidature for the Presidency of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly in 2021. Mr. Shahid, Mr. Shringla observed, had "best credentials", while urging the Maldives to play a "more prominent role" at the UN.

Suu Kyi's party claims victory

NLD says it has absolute majority; EC is yet to release full results

ASSOCIATED PRESS
YANGON

Myanmar's ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) party claimed on Monday that it has won enough seats in Parliament to constitute an absolute majority and retain power. It made the claim even though the Election Commission has not yet completed releasing results from Sunday's polls.

"I can now confirm that we're now securing more than 322 seats," said Monywa Aung Shin, a spokesperson for the NLD information committee. There are 642 seats in Parliament. "We were aiming to secure 377 seats in total. But it would be likely more than that," said



Celebration mode: NLD cadres waving party flags in front of the party's office in Mandalay. ■ AFP

Mr. Monywa Aung Shin.

There were no reliable official figures available on voter turnout, and the Election Commission had earlier said that it might take as long as a week to release full results. Much of the NLD's appeal is based on the popularity of its leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, who became the head of government with the title of State Counsellor after the 2015 polls.

Can MI break its odd-even jinx? Or will DC finally taste glory?

Rohit's dominant side is seeking a record fifth title, its first in an even year; Shreyas' men, 0-3 against Mumbai in 2020, are looking to win Delhi's maiden crown

IPL 2020

SPORTS BUREAU

And then there were two. After more than 50 days of hectic action, Delhi Capitals and Mumbai Indians have sliced through the pack to battle in Tuesday's final, at the Dubai International Stadium.

Pure match-winners

The occasion is especially sweet for DC, which makes its first appearance in an IPL title match. In opener Shikhar Dhawan, pacer Kagiso Rabada and all-rounder Marcus Stoinis – the heroes of the victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad in Qualifier 2 – DC has three pure match-winners.

Dhawan is 67 runs behind K.L. Rahul in the race for the Orange Cup, while the fiery Rabada is leading the wickets chart. Stoinis, who achieved only moderate success in previous seasons with other teams, has elevated his game. Promoted to open on Sunday, Stoinis made a quick 38 before picking up three crucial wickets to scuttle the SRH chase.

With cerebral spinner R. Ashwin and speed merchant Anrich Nortje also in the ranks, DC boasts of a highly skilful bowling unit.

Cool, confident veteran

If DC is a newcomer to the bright lights, MI is the cool, confident veteran.

A four-time champion, making a sixth final appearance, MI has 'been there, done that'. The only thing the side hasn't managed is a title win in an even year, something it will look to



achieve on Tuesday. MI possesses a great record against DC, having registered comfortable victories on the three occasions the sides have met this season. The

most recent win, which came just a few days ago in Qualifier 1, will surely haunt DC.

After Quinton de Kock, Suryakumar Yadav, Ishan Kish-

an and Hardik Pandya blasted MI to 200, DC stumbled in embarrassing fashion. The team lost the first three wickets without putting a run on the board and eventually

rolled over, losing by 57 runs. Jasprit Bumrah and Trent Boult, who scalped six wickets between them in the DC wipeout, form the best new-ball pair in the IPL. If they hit

the mark on Tuesday, DC could once again fall out of contention even before the PowerPlay is completed.

MI's batting line-up is no less impressive. Suryakumar,

Kagiso Rabada and Ishan have been consistent, all making in excess of 450 runs this season. Hardik and Kieron Pollard are devastating at the death, more than capable of repair-

ing any early damage. And then there is skipper Rohit Sharma, who may have had an average run thus far, but his ability to win matches can't be taken lightly.

Capitals' best yet to come, says Ponting



SPORTS BUREAU

Delhi Capitals head coach Ricky Ponting has warned Mumbai Indians not to take his side lightly in Tuesday's IPL final, saying its best is yet to come.

"Looking back now we are happy, it's been a good season but we are here to win the IPL and we will give it our best shot," said Ponting on Monday.

"It's not an easy thing to

make it to the IPL final. There are a lot of guys who never made one. Thankfully, I have coached one before and I was a part of another team as captain, so I know what it's like to be," he said.

MI captain Rohit Sharma hoped that Trent Boult would recover in time from a groin strain. "Trent looks pretty good. He pulled up pretty well in the last few days, so fingers crossed and hopefully he plays," he said.

Trailblazers could have made a lot more, but for a five-wicket haul from Radha Yadav. From 112 for two, it crashed to 118 for eight. The left-arm spinner's figures – five for 16 – are the best in the tournament's three-year history.

Smriti smashed 14 off the last three balls off off-spinner Anuja Patil's first over, the se-

cond of the innings. Her lofted six off the last ball, after dancing down the track, was an indication of things to come. She was all grace and timing and more than made up for the uncharacteristically sluggish batting from her opening partner Deandra Dottin (20, 32b, 1x4). The two added 71 before the West In-

dian balloonned a catch to Radha at mid-on off Poonam Yadav. Three overs later, Smriti was dismissed by a smart piece of work by Taniya Bhatia off off-spinner Shashikala Siriwadee.

Supernovas' chase was never on. Chamari Atapattu was out leg-before to Sophie Ecclestone after a review and

Jemimah Rodrigues was brilliantly caught by Nattakan Chantam at cover point as the defending champion slid to 37 for three in the ninth over. Only Harmanpreet (30, 36b, 2x4) could have turned it around. But she was far from fit and once she fell in the penultimate over, it was curtains for Supernovas.

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IN BRIEF



Ansu Fati out for four months after surgery

BARCELONA
Barcelona forward Ansu Fati will be sidelined for about four months after undergoing knee surgery on Monday, the club said. The 18-year-old tore the internal meniscus in his left knee in Barcelona's 5-2 win over Real Betis on Saturday. Fati, a regular starter this season, has scored five goals in 10 matches in all competitions. AFP

Dayanand elected KSBBA president

BENGALURU
B. Dayanand and K. Govindraj were elected unopposed as president and hon. secretary respectively of the Karnataka State Basketball Association for the 2020-2024 term.
The office-bearers:
Chairman: J. Alexander;
president: B. Dayanand;
vice-presidents: R. Rajan,
Gunashkara, K.K. Sumithra;
hon. secretary: K. Govindraj;
treasurer: Srinivasamurthy.



Carlos Ortiz claims his first PGA Tour victory

Houston
Carlos Ortiz held off Dustin Johnson and Hideki Matsuyama by closing with a 13-under 267 to win the Houston Open by two shots, becoming the first Mexican to win on the PGA Tour in 42 years. AP

Kimmich out until Jan. after knee surgery

MUNICH
Bayern Munich midfielder Joshua Kimmich will be out until January after undergoing a knee operation, the club said on Monday. AP

Rohit included for Test series down under

BCCI accepts Virat Kohli's paternity leave request, to miss last three matches

IND IN AUS

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

Virat Kohli will return to midway through the Australia series after he was granted paternity leave, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced on Monday.

The National selectors have added Rohit Sharma to the Test squad but have not included him for the ODI and T20I series beginning later this month.

Two weeks after announcing the squads for the tour down under, to be played from November 27 to January 19 next year, the BCCI issued a medical and availability update through a media statement. According to the statement, Kohli, during the selection meeting on October 26, had made himself unavailable after the first Test in Adelaide.

"The BCCI has granted paternity leave to the Indian captain. He will return after the first Test against Australia in Adelaide," stated BCCI secretary Jay Shah.

Rahane may lead
With Kohli returning for the birth of his child, Ajinkya Rahane could don the skipper's role in the last three Tests of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

The BCCI also formally ruled Rohit out of the limited overs' leg. "In consultation with Mr. Sharma, it has been decided to rest him for the ODIs and T20Is in Australia to regain full fitness and he has been included in India's Test squad for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy," said Shah.

Ishant Sharma, working at the NCA in Bengaluru, will



In and out: While Rohit, right, has been drafted into the Test squad, Kohli would return after the first match. ■ FILE PHOTO

Australia tour updates

- Kohli to miss final three Tests
- Rohit gets the nod for the longer format
- Natarajan replaces Varun in T20I squad
- Samson to be second 'keeper for ODIs

.....

jan, picked as a back-up bowler for the Australia-bound contingent, has replaced Varun Chakravarthy in the T20I squad. Chakravarthy, who is nursing a shoulder injury, has been ruled out for at least a month.

Kamlesh Nagarkoti, named as a back-up bowler, has been pulled out due to "workload management".

be added to the Test squad "once he fully recovers and gains sufficient match fitness".

Decision on Saha

Wridhiman Saha, whose hamstring tear was confirmed by SRH captain David Warner on Sunday, is a doubtful starter for the Test series and a call on his availability would be taken later stated Shah.

The selectors, who had announced K.L. Rahul as the lone wicketkeeper for the three ODIs, added Sanju Samson as an additional wicketkeeper.

Kamlesh Nagarkoti, named as a back-up bowler, has been pulled out due to "workload management".

Real pays the penalty at Valencia

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
VALÈNCIA

Real Madrid was thrashed 4-1 at struggling Valencia on Sunday as Carlos Soler scored a hat-trick of penalties to raise further doubts over LaLiga's reigning champion.

Real took the lead through Karim Benzema but presented Valencia with four gifts at Mestalla, including three spot-kicks and an own-goal scored by Raphael Varane. This result puts the pressure back on ahead of the international break, with Real now fourth in the table, four points behind early leader Real Sociedad.

Aston Villa stormed into sixth in the Premier League as Ollie Watkins scored twice in a 3-0 win over Arsenal at the Emirates after Bukayo Saka's own goal opened the scoring for the visitors.

A share of the points with Manchester City has left champion Liverpool in third spot, behind Leicester and Spurs, while City is 10th with a game in hand. **The results:** Premier League: Arsenal 0 lost to Aston Villa 3 (Saka-og 25, Watkins 72, 75). Serie A: Torino 0 ore with Crotone 0; Bologna 0 lost to Napoli 1 (Osimhen 23); AC Milan 2 (Magnani 27-og, Ibrahimovic 90+3) dre with Hellas Verona 2 (Barak 6, Calabria 19-og).

LaLiga: Valladolid 2 (Orellana 19-pen, Andre 48) bt Athletic Bilbao 1 (Williams 86-pen); Levante 1 (Morales 51) dre with Alaves 1 (Lucas 4); Valencia 4 (Soler 35-pen, 54-pen, 63-pen, Varane OG-43) bt Real Madrid 1 (Benzema 23). **Bundesliga:** VfL Wolfsburg 2 (Steffen 6, Weghorst 26) bt Hoffenheim 1 (Adamyan 87); Bayer Leverkusen 4 (Alario 27, 41, Bailey 68, Baumgartlinger 82) bt Borussia Moenchengladbach 3 (Stindl 18-pen, 31, Lazar 90).

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Medvedev overtakes Federer

ATP RANKINGS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Daniil Medvedev's first title of the year in the Paris Masters moved the Russian up to

fourth, ahead of Roger Federer, in the ATP rankings released on Monday as the world's top players move on to London.

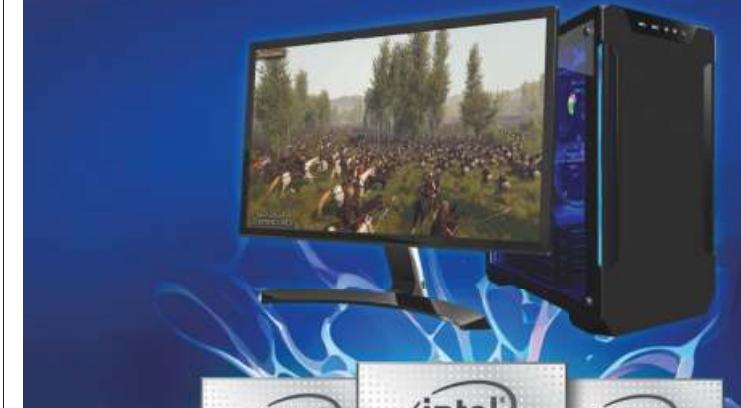
Novak Djokovic has already clinched No.1 ranking for the sixth time as he heads in-

to the ATP Masters starting at London's O2 Arena on Sunday.

Milos Raonic made the biggest move of the week, rising three places to 14th after reaching the semi-finals in Paris.



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HONDA

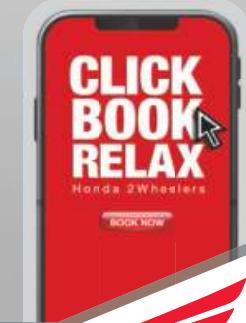
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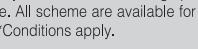
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