



'ATTACK ON PRESS  
FREEDOM SHOULD  
BE OPPOSED'

P4



PTI CLINCHES  
MOST SEATS IN  
GILGIT-BALTISTAN

P9



SPACEX BLASTS  
ASTRONAUTS  
INTO ORBIT

P10



'AZAM IS SO  
GOOD HE'S  
LIKE KOHLI'

P12

## WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. Mist/shallow fog in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 27 and 13 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 92% Min: 68%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 25.8°C (-2) Min: 16.0°C (+2)

SUN RISES SUN SETS

06:46 hrs 17:27 hrs

MOON RISES MOON SETS

10:01 hrs 19:29 hrs

## THUMBNAILS



A girl performs ritual for her brother on the occasion of Bhai Dooj. In the Capital. SNS

**Kedarnath, Yamunotri close for winters:** The portals of Kedarnath and Yamunotri temples in the Garhwal Himalayas were closed for winters on Bhai Dooj on Monday amidst heavy snowfall. Three out of the famous four Himalayan temples of Uttarakhand, also called Chardham, are now closed for devotees as the Gangotri temple was closed on Sunday. Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat, his UP counterpart Adityanath, were present as the Kedarnath temple gates closed at 8.30 a.m. after a ceremony.

P4

**SC Judge recuses himself from AP CM's case:** Supreme Court judge U U Lalit on Monday recused himself from hearing pleas seeking action against Andhra Pradesh chief minister Y S Jaganmohan Reddy for levelling allegations against the judiciary. "I have difficulties. As a lawyer I had represented one of the parties. I will pass an order for it to be listed before a Bench without me," Justice Lalit said. A bench comprising justices Lalit, Vineet Saran and S Ravindra Bhat was to hear three petitions seeking various reliefs against Reddy.

P4

## Covid impact: Govt mulls joint Winter and Budget Parl sessions

SNS & PTI  
NEW DELHI, 16 NOVEMBER

**The monsoon session, which was held from 14 September was cut short by eight days and concluded on 24 September as many MPs and Parliament staff members tested positive for Covid-19**

In the wake of rising Covid-19 cases in the national capital, it is being contemplated that a single extended session of Parliament be held instead of separate winter and budget sessions, sources said on Monday.

However, nothing has been finalised and discussions are still in a preliminary stage. A final call is yet to be taken, but there are suggestions that a single unified session can be held in the place of two sessions in such a short span of period, the sources said.

The winter session of parliament usually starts from the last week of November or the first week of December, while

liament staff members tested positive for Covid-19.

Several measures such as staggered sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and the use of both chambers and galleries to accommodate members while following physical distancing were implemented during the monsoon session.

The Budget session was also curtailed earlier this year amidst the looming threat of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Former Lok Sabha Secretary General PDT Acharya said it is a convention to hold three sessions of parliament in a year. It is not a rule. If government clubs two sessions of parliament and holds only two sessions this year, then it will not be a violation of any rule, Acharya said.

the budget session starts from the last week of January and the Union Budget is tabled on 1 February.

The monsoon session, which was held from 14 September in midst of the pandemic, was cut short by eight days and concluded on 24 September as, despite the elaborate arrangements made by authorities, many MPs and Par-

## 30,548 new infections, lowest in 4 months

SNS & PTI  
NEW DELHI, 16 NOVEMBER



People wearing face masks against the coronavirus in the Capital on Monday. DEEPAK

India's Covid-19 caseload mounted to 88,45,127 with 30,548 infections being reported in a day, while the number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 82,49,579, according to data updated by the Union Health Ministry on Monday.

The coronavirus death toll climbed to 1,30,070 with 435 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 a.m. showed.

The number of active cases remained below 5 lakh for the sixth consecutive day.

There are 4,65,478 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country as on date which comprise 5.26 percent of the total caseload, the data stated. The total number of recoveries has surged to

82,49,579, pushing the national recovery rate to 93.27 percent. The Covid-19 fatality rate stands at 1.47 percent.

The Health Ministry stressed more than 70 percent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

Significant decline in active cases in Bengal: West Bengal today recorded 3,012 fresh Covid cases and 53 deaths due to the infection in a single day while there is a significant decrease in active cases to 27,897.

Till now, 4,34,563 people have been detected Covid positive, 7,714 died and 3,98,952 recovered of which 4,376 patients were discharged from hospitals in a single day taking the discharge rate to 91.81 percent.

Samples of 38,127 people were tested for the virus today and the positivity rate is 8.27 percent.

Fourteen patients died due to Covid in Kolkata and North 24 Parganas each while 728 fresh cases were recorded in the city and 718 in the neighbouring district in the last 24 hours.

### FACT FILE

| TOTAL CASES  | 88,45,127 |
|--|-----------|
| ACTIVE CASES   | 4,65,478  |
| NEW CASES  | 30,548    |
| NEW RECOVERIES   | 43,851    |
| TOTAL DEATHS   | 1,30,070  |
| UNION HEALTH MINISTRY FIGURES AS OF 8.00 A.M.<br>MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2020 |           |

## Moderna Covid vaccine is over 94% effective

WASHINGTON, 16 NOVEMBER

US biotech firm Moderna on Monday announced its experimental vaccine against Covid-19 was 94.5 percent effective, marking a second major breakthrough in the vaccine hunt. Moderna released early results from a clinical trial with more than 30,000 participants, after US pharmaceutical company Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech last week said their vaccine was 90 percent effective.

Both vaccine frontrunners are based on a new platform called messenger RNA, which is faster to produce than traditional vaccines and effectively turn human cells into vaccine factories.

"This positive interim analysis from our Phase 3 study has given us the first clinical validation that our vaccine can prevent Covid-19 disease, including severe disease," said Stephane Bancel, Moderna's CEO.

The company plans to submit applications for emergency approval in the US and around the world within weeks, and says it expects to have approximately 20 million doses ready to ship in the US by the end of the year.

Global infections from Covid-19 have soared past 54 million with more than 1.3 million deaths since the virus emerged in China late last year.

The Moderna vaccine, which was co-developed by the US National Institutes of Health, is given in two doses 28 days apart, and the preliminary results are based on 95 volunteers of the 30,000 who fell ill with Covid-19. Of the 95, 90 had been in the trial's placebo group, and five in the group that received the drug, called mRNA-1273. AGENCE

Details on page 10

## Gupkar Alliance will spell doom for Congress: BJP

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 16 NOVEMBER



sentiments of people through misleading statements, Dr Jitendra Singh expressed surprise that both the National Conference and Congress are today crying hoarse for the honour of Dogras, whereas these two political parties are precisely responsible for having perpetually compromised the Dogra pride.

He accused NC and Congress of not only unleashing oppression against Dogras

but also putting behind the bars the tallest Dogra of our times, namely Pandit Prem Nath Dogra.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Congress and National Conference are trying to sell the name of Maharaja Hari Singh to the new generation of Jammuites who, they think, may not be fully abreast with history.

But, it is on record that Congress led by Jawaharlal Nehru

and National Conference led by Sheikh Abdullah were responsible for the humiliating ouster and banishment of Maharaja Hari Singh, he said.

The politically expedient Opposition leaders, said Dr Jitendra Singh, have conveniently come to the conclusion that the Dogras of Jammu do not read their own history and can, therefore, be easily manipulated by opportunistic rhetoric.

He asked the Congress and the National Conference, which had ruled Jammu and Kashmir for over half a century, to come out with a white paper to explain as to how the number of employees in the J&K government services as well as the Civil Secretariat had systematically declined over the years.

Dr Jitendra Singh accused these political parties of not only physical discrimination against the Jammu region but also leading a psychological warfare resulting in mental enslavement of the people of Jammu region.

He said, for the first time, people in every region of Jammu & Kashmir have begun to experience the feeling of being equal citizens and not being subservient to any other region.

## Experts warn against 'Zoom Dysmorphia'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 16 NOVEMBER

will persist even when conditions improve.

Zoom has allowed life to go on in an ever-changing world, but may be affecting the way individuals view themselves, they said.

The authors noted a surge in patients citing their appearance on Zoom as a reason to seek care, particularly concerned with acne and wrinkles.

"A recent analysis of Google search trends during the pandemic showed the terms 'acne' and 'hair loss' are increasing in this newly virtual reality," the researchers said.

They attributed this trend to anxiety and depression, common psychological conditions during quarantine.





The BJP will not be able to win even one out of the total 33 seats here.

WEST BENGAL MINISTER JYOTI PRIYO MALICK

AFTER DILIP GHOSH SAID BJP WILL WIN ALL 33 SEATS IN NORTH 24 PARGANAS

# Delhi air improves to 'poor' due to rain, gusty winds

Capital's air quality improves 'significantly' due to light rain and favourable wind speed and is recorded in the 'poor' category after a 15-day spell of 'very poor' and 'severe' air

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 16 NOVEMBER

**D**elhi's air quality improved 'significantly' on Monday due to light rain and favourable wind speed and was recorded in the 'poor' category after a 15-day spell of 'very poor' and 'severe' air days.

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

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

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

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

The air quality is likely to deteriorate marginally and hit the 'poor' category on Wednesday.

In Delhi-NCR, the levels of PM2.5 which is about three per cent the diameter of a human hair and can lead to premature deaths from heart and lung diseases were



The sky over the Capital remained cloudy even as the air quality improved on Monday.

SUBRATA DUTTA

88 microgram per cubic metre (g/m<sup>3</sup>) at 6 pm. The safe limit is 60 g/m<sup>3</sup>.

PM10 level stood at 135 g/m<sup>3</sup> at 6 pm. PM10 levels below 100 g/m<sup>3</sup> is considered safe in India and 500 g/m<sup>3</sup>

is the emergency threshold. The last time Delhi recorded such low PM10 levels was on September 28.

The neighbouring cities of Faridabad (186), Ghaziabad (207), Greater Noida (226)

Gurgaon (246) and Noida (243) recorded their AQI in 'poor' and 'moderate' categories after braving 'severe' air quality on Saturday and Sunday.

Delhi had recorded the

worst pollution levels on Diwali in the last four years due to the combined effect of stubble burning, firecrackers and unfavourable meteorological conditions. The air quality on the day after Diwali was also the poorest since 2016.

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

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

However, rain and high-velocity winds came to Delhi's rescue this year.

Winds gusting up to 40 kilometres per hour swept away the pollutants, while light rainfall in the afternoon and evening on Sunday washed everything down.

Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of the India Meteorological Department, said the wind speed was favourable for dispersion of pollutants on Monday as well.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, SAFAR, had also predicted that pollution levels may recede to the 'poor' category "in case of enough rains and washout".

## Delhi court grants bail to man in triple talaq case

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 16 NOVEMBER

A Delhi court has granted bail to a man who has been arrested for allegedly giving triple talaq to his wife through a letter.

Keeping the nature of offence in question this court is of the considered view that there is no requirement to keep accused (Gulfam) behind bars during the remaining investigation. However, in view of the submission of the complainant (wife) it is also

apparent that she has apprehension of threat from the accused," the court said.

"The court is also aware of settled legal position as to bail is general rule and jail being an exception in course of investigation of a criminal case. Accordingly, accused applicant Gulfam is hereby granted bail in this case.., it said in the November 3 order.

During the hearing, Gulfam's wife submitted that her husband had no intention to

live with her and provide due maintenance for leading a meaningful life.

She further alleged that her husband had committed cruelty with her and has apprehension of threat from his side.

The additional public prosecutor, appearing for the police, opposed the bail plea saying Gulfam might commit further wrong with his wife, who was allegedly a victim of illegal mode of divorce.

Gulfam's counsel argued that their matrimonial relationship was strained and the alleged offence under section 3 (pronouncement of 'talaq' by a Muslim husband upon his wife, by words, either spoken or written or in

electronic form or in any other manner whatsoever, shall be void and illegal) of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) bore a sentence up to three years only.

## Classified

### CHANGE OF NAME

COLLECTION: 110, B.C. RD., Barabazar (Near C.M.S. School) Burdwan, Ph.: 0342-256069 / 8926434614. NEW COMPUTER INDIA: New Market, Benachity, Durgapur-132123. Ph.: 9833934508. M: 9733202070. NARAYAN DASGUPTA: Motijheel, Central Park (C.P.), Kolkata, Ph.: 033-24111077 / 2582-7177 (10 a.m. - 6 p.m.), Sunday Closed. STANDARD BOOK DEPOT: 10/1, Grand Trunk Rd. (South) Howrah Maidan, Howrah-711101. Ph.: 2641-4114 / 2474-5856. RINKU AD AGENCY: Chanchal Bhattacharya, 74, Santram Rasta, Bally, Howrah-712001. Ph.: 033-24333444. RAYCHAND: Arghya Commercial, 1st Floor, Upper Ground Floor, Room No. 8, Sector 8, Raychand, Burdwan, Ph.: 933-310477. Fax: 933 2253099. ASHEE XEROX CENTRE: Khudiram Nagar, Opposite Zilla Parishad, Paschim Medinipur, 721101. 9434702050, 9434259909. S. TRIVENI, 10/1, Bagbazar, Bankura, 722001. 9434259909. S. D. DORN: 10/1, Sector 4, More, Gopalganj, SP-2, Krishnagar-741101, Dist.: Nadia, 9434259973 (03472 257432). KRISHNA DEB, C/o Balurhat Barta, Balurhat-733101, Dist.: Dakshin Dinajpur (W.B.), Ph.: (0322) 249230, Mobile: 8759169158 / 09434247137.

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

## Delhi records 99 Covid deaths, sees 3,797 new cases out of 29,821 tests



People wearing face masks as a preventive measure against coronavirus, in the Capital on Monday.

DEEPAK

### STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 16 NOVEMBER

The national capital recorded 3,797 fresh cases of Covid-19 on Monday, which took the cumulative caseload of such patients to 4,89,202, according to the health bulletin issued by the Delhi government.

The number of tests conducted to identify these cases was 29,821, including 18,011 rapid antigen tests and 11,810 RTPCR/CBNAAT/Tre-uNat tests. The positivity rate was 12.73 per cent.

The count of patients who lost their lives due to the deadly virus infection was 99 today, which pushed the tally of such fatalities in Delhi to 7,713.

The Covid patients who recovered during

the last 24 hours numbered 3,560, which raised the total number of recoveries in the city to 4,41,361 so far, the bulletin said.

As many as 26,533 patients were getting treatment under home isolation. The total number of containment zones (red zones) in the city was now 4,430, the bulletin added.

Delhi had yesterday logged 3,235 fresh Covid-19 cases, the lowest since 26 October, but these cases were detected from 21,098 tests—the lowest since 14 August, when 14,389 tests were done. The city had then recorded 95 fresh Covid fatalities.

Amid the festive season, increased gatherings, lax public behaviour, and rising air pollution, the national capital has witnessed a spike in

coronavirus cases over the last few weeks.

Delhi had recorded its highest single-day spike of 8,593 Covid cases last Wednesday. It had logged on Thursday 104 coronavirus fatalities, the highest in a day in more than five months. The city had registered 93 deaths on 16 June.

Delhi had recorded 7,340 Covid cases on Saturday, which were detected out of 49,645 tests with the positivity rate being 14.78 per cent. The national capital had then reported 96 Covid deaths.

The Covid cases in Delhi have been spiking since 28 October when the daily infection breached the 5,000-mark for the first time. It crossed the 8,000-mark last Wednesday, also for the first time.

**Body of man found hanging from tree in south Delhi:** The body of a 46-year-old man was found hanging from a tree in south Delhi's Defence Colony area, police said on Monday. The deceased was identified as Daan Veer, a resident of Andrews Ganj. He worked as a taxi driver-cum-helper, they said. Police said it is a suspected case of suicide. The police were informed about the victim in the intervening night of November 12-13. The police said a note was also recovered from the victim in which he has alleged that he worked for a sub-inspector, who was posted in a unit in Andrews Ganj for several years, and he did not pay him his due. In the note, he has also alleged that he could not go home in Diwali as the official did not give him money. A senior police officer, however, said all allegations are being enquired into.

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

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

#### CANCELLATION OF MAIL / EXPRESS TRAINS

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

#### CANCELLATION OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS

| Train No. & Name                                       | Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station) |
|--|---|
| 02422 Jammu Tawi-Ajmer Express                         | 17 & 18.11.2020                                     |
| 02421 Ajmer-Jammu Tawi Express                         | 18 & 19.11.2020                                     |
| 02231 Lucknow - Chandigarh Express                     | 17 & 18.11.2020                                     |
| 02232 Chandigarh-Lucknow Express                       | 18 & 19.11.2020                                     |
| 04888 Barmer - Rishikesh Express                       | upto 20.11.2020                                     |
| 04887 Rishikesh - Barmer Express                       | upto 21.11.2020                                     |
| 04519 Delhi Jn.-Bhathinda Express                      | upto 20.11.2020                                     |
| 04520 Bhathinda-Delhi Jn. Express                      | upto 20.11.2020                                     |
| 04401 New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express   | upto 19.11.2020                                     |
| 04402 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - New Delhi Express | upto 20.11.2020                                     |
| 02471/02472 Shri Ganganganagar - Delhi Jn. - Shri Gang |   |

## EAST BOUND FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS FROM 17.11.2020 to 19.11.2020

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during festival season, Northern Railway in coordination with other Zonal Railways has planned to run following East bound Festival Special Trains from Delhi area stations from 17.11.2020 to 19.11.2020 as per the schedule given below:-

| Spl.<br>Train No.  | Station From    | Dept.<br>Time | Station to      | Arr.<br>Time | Accommodation   | Stoppages  |
|--|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|---|--|
| <b>LIST OF EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA ON 17.11.2020 (TUESDAY)</b>   |                 |               |                 |              |   |  |
| 02550  | Anand Vihar (T) | 06:45         | Kamakhya        | 16:35        | AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)           | Aligarh Jn., Tundla Jn., Etawah, Kanpur Central, Fatehpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Barauni Jn., Begusari, Khagaria Jn., Mansi Jn., Naugachia, Kathar Jn., Barsi Jn., Kishanganj, New Jalpaiguri, Jalpaiguri Road, New Cooch Behar, New Alipurduar, Kokrajhar, New Bongaigaon, Barpeta Road & Rangiya Jn. Stations  |
| 04012  | Anand Vihar (T) | 07:30         | Jogbani         | 08:15        | AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)           | Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Tundla Jn., Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Mirzapur, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Dildarnagar, Danapur, Patliputra, Begusari, Khagaria Jn., Naugachia, Kathar Jn., Purnia Jn., Araria Court & Forbesganj Stations   |
| 04436  | Anand Vihar (T) | 10:50         | Saharsa Jn.     | 10:30        | Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)                                 | Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Chhapra, Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Barauni Jn., Begusari & Khagaria Stations  |
| 04434  | Anand Vihar (T) | 11:00         | Jaynagar        | 13:35        | Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)                                 | Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Varanasi Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patna Jn., Bakhtiyarpur Jn., Mokameh Jn., Barauni Jn., Samastipur Jn., Darbhanga Jn. & Madhubani Stations  |
| 04480  | Anand Vihar (T) | 11:00         | Katihar Jn.     | 09:20        | Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)                                 | Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Patliputra & Barauni Jn. Stations   |
| 03258  | Anand Vihar (T) | 13:30         | Danapur         | 07:30        | Second Seating (Reserved)   | Moradabad, Lucknow, Varanasi Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations   |
| 04424  | Anand Vihar (T) | 15:20         | Katihar Jn.     | 19:55        | Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)                                 | Khurja Jn., Aligarh Jn., Hathras Jn., Tundla Jn., Firozabad, Etawah, Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn., Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Barabanki Jn., Gonda Jn., Mankapur Jn., Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur, Deoria, Sadar, Mairwa, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Dighwara, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Dholi, Khudiram B Pusa, Samastipur Jn., Barauni Jn., Begu Sarai, Khagaria Jn., Mansi Jn., Thana Bihpur Jn., Naugachia, Kibh, Kursela & Karagola Road Stations |
| 04426  | Anand Vihar (T) | 16:25         | Raxaul Jn.      | 22:10        | Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)                                 | Ghaziabad, Pilkhua, Hapur, Amroha, Moradabad, Raja Ka Sahaspur, Chandausia Jn., Aonia, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Almora, Lucknow, Nihalgarh, Musafir Khanha, Sultanpur, Lambhua, Sri Krishn Nagar, Jaunpur City, Varanasi Jn., Varanasi City, Aumihar Jn., Nandganj, Ghazipur City, Yusufpur, Ballia, Suramnagar, Chhapra, Dighwara, Parmanandpur, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Runnisidpur, Sitamarhi, Bairagnia & Ghorasahan Stations           |
| 04496  | Anand Vihar (T) | 16:55         | Bhagalpur       | 11:00        | First AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved) | Aligarh Jn., Tundla Jn., Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Dildarnagar Jn., Buxar, Dumraon, Bihya, Ara, Bitha, Danapur, Patna Jn., Rajendra Nagar, Kiul Jn., Janpalur Jn. & Sultanganj Stations   |
| 04494  | Anand Vihar (T) | 17:10         | Saharsa Jn.     | 18:15        | Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)                                 | Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur Jn., Gorakhpur, Chhapra, Muzaffarpur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Barauni Jn., Khagaria Jn. & Simri Bakhtiyarpur Stations   |
| 02596  | Anand Vihar (T) | 20:00         | Gorakhpur       | 07:50        | AC 3 Tier   | Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Gonda Jn. & Basti Stations  |
| 04002  | Anand Vihar (T) | 21:00         | Patna Jn.       | 11:30        | Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)                                 | Kanpur Central, Prayagraj & Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn. Stations  |
| 04018  | Anand Vihar (T) | 22:30         | Bhagalpur       | 20:20        | AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)                      | Kanpur, Allahabad, Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Jn., Patna, Mokameh Jn., Kiul, Jamalpur & Sultanganj Stations   |
| 04456  | Anand Vihar (T) | 23:55         | Bhagalpur       | 21:40        | AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)                      | Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Patna Jn., Mokameh Jn., Kiul Jn. & Jamalpur Jn. Stations  |
| 04468  | New Delhi       | 11:15         | Rajgir          | 09:20        | AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)                      | Moradabad, Lucknow, Varanasi Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn. & Patna Jn. Stations  |
| 02398  | New Delhi       | 12:10         | Gaya            | 03:20        | AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)           | Aligarh Jn., Kanpur Central, Bharwari, Prayagraj Jn., Vindhya Chhapra, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Chandauli Majhwar, Bhabua Road, Kudra, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone, Anupgra N Road, Rafiganj & Guraru Stations   |
| 04410  | New Delhi       | 14:55         | Patna Jn.       | 09:00        | AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)           | Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara & Danapur Stations   |
| 04406  | New Delhi       | 19:25         | Barauni Jn.     | 15:00        | AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)           | Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Siwan Jn., Chhapra & Hajipur Jn. Stations   |
| 04492  | New Delhi       | 20:00         | Islampur        | 14:45        | Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)                                 | Aligarh Jn., Tundla Jn., Firozabad, Shikohabad Jn., Etawah, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Vindhya Chhapra, Mirzapur, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Zamania, Dildarnagar Jn., Gahmar, Buxar, Dumraon, Bihya, Ara, Bitha, Danapur, Phulwaripur, Patna Jn., Rajendra Nagar, Patna Saheb, Fatuha, Daniawan Bazar, Hilsa & Ekangarsarai Stations   |
| 02582  | New Delhi       | 22:35         | Manduadih       | 11:10        | First AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved) | Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., & Gyanpur Road Stations  |
| 04016  | New Delhi       | 23:55         | Jaynagar        | 22:45        | Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)                                 | Kanpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patliputra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur Darbhanga & Madhubani Stations  |
| 04498  | Delhi Jn.       | 20:30         | Darbhangha Jn.  | 18:15        | First AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved) | Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur Jn., Narkatiaganj, Raxaul & Sitamarhi Stations  |
| 04014  | Delhi Jn.       | 22:15         | Saharsa         | 19:55        | Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)                                 | New Delhi, Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur Jn., Gorakhpur, Chhapra, Hajipur, Barauni & Khagaria Stations   |
| <b>LIST OF EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA ON 18.11.2020 (WEDNESDAY)</b> |                 |               |                 |              |   |  |
| 02550  | Anand Vihar (T) | 06:45         | Kamakhya        | 16:35        | AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)           | Aligarh Jn., Tundla Jn., Etawah, Kanpur Central, Fatehpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Barauni Jn., Begusari, Khagaria Jn., Mansi Jn., Naugachia, Kathar Jn., Barsi Jn., Kishanganj, New Jalpaiguri, Jalpaiguri Road, New Cooch Behar, New Alipurduar, Kokrajhar, New Bongaigaon, Barpeta Road & Rangiya Jn. Stations  |
| 04428  | Anand Vihar (T) | 09:00         | Jogbani         | 13:15        | Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)                                 | Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Varanasi Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxer, Ara, Patliputra, Hajipur Jn., Barauni Jn., Begusari, Khagaria, Naugachia, Kathar Jn., Mankapur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Khagaria Jn., Mansi Jn. & S. Bakhtiyarpur Stations  |
| 04474  | Anand Vihar (T) | 09:00         | Saharsa Jn.     | 10:00        | Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)                                 | Moradabad, Sitapur Jn., Gorakhpur Jn., Chhapra, Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Khagaria Jn., Mansi Jn. & S. Bakhtiyarpur Stations   |
| 04472  | Anand Vihar (T) | 11:00         | Bhagalpur       | 08:30        | Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)                                 | Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Patna Jn., Mokameh Jn., Kiul & Jamalpur Jn. Stations  |
| 03258  | Anand Vihar (T) | 13:30         | Danapur         | 07:30        | Second Seating (Reserved)   | Moradabad, Lucknow, Varanasi Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar & Ara Stations   |
| 04424  | Anand Vihar (T) | 15:20         | Katihar Jn      | 19:55        | Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)                                 | Khurja Jn., Aligarh Jn., Hathras Jn., Tundla Jn., Firozabad, Etawah, Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn., Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Barabanki Jn., Gonda Jn., Mankapur Jn., Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur, Deoria, Sadar, Mairwa, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Dighwara, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Dholi, Khudiram B Pusa, Samastipur Jn., Barauni Jn., Begu Sarai, Khagaria Jn., Mansi Jn., Thana Bihpur Jn., Naugachia, Kibh, Kursela & Karagola Road Stations |
| 04426  | Anand Vihar (T) | 16:25         | Raxaul Jn       | 22:10        | Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)                                 | Ghaziabad, Pilkhua, Hapur, Amroha, Moradabad, Raja Ka Sahaspur, Chandausia Jn., Aonia, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Almora, Lucknow, Nihalgarh, Musafir Khanha, Sultanpur, Lambhua, Sri Krishn Nagar, Jaunpur City, Varanasi Jn., Varanasi City, Aumihar Jn., Nandganj, Ghazipur City, Yusufpur, Ballia, Suramnagar, Chhapra, Dighwara, Parmanandpur, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Runnisidpur, Sitamarhi, Bairagnia & Ghorasahan Stations           |
| 04090  | Anand Vihar (T) | 16:55         | Bhagalpur       | 11:00        | AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)           | Aligarh, Tundla Jn., Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Vindhya Chhapra, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Dildarnagar Jn., Buxar, Dumraon, Bihya, Ara, Bitha, Danapur, Patna Jn., Rajendernagar T., Kiul Jn., Jamalpur & Sultanganj Stations  |
| 02596  | Anand Vihar (T) | 20:00         | Gorakhpur       | 07:50        | AC 3 Tier   | Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Gonda Jn. & Basti Stations  |
| 04002  | Anand Vihar (T) | 21:00         | Patna Jn.       | 11:30        | Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)                                 | Kanpur Central, Prayagraj & Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn. Stations  |
| 04092  | New Delhi       | 09:20         | Jaynagar        | 11:15        | AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)           | Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gonda Jn., Basti, Gorakhpur, Narkatiaganj Jn., Raxaul Jn., Sitamarhi, Darbhanga Jn. & Madhubani Stations   |
| 02398  | New Delhi       | 12:10         | Gaya            | 03:20        | AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)           | Aligarh, Kanpur Central, Bharwari, Prayagraj Jn., Vindhya Chhapra, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Chandauli Majhwar, Bhabua Road, Kudra, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone, Anupgra N Road, Rafiganj & Guraru Stations   |
| 02582  | New Delhi       | 22:35         | Manduadih       | 11:10        | First AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved) | Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., & Gyanpur Road Stations  |
| 04486  | Delhi Jn.       | 10:30         | Sitamarhi       | 10:15        | Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)                                 | Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur, Gorakhpur, Chhapra, Hajipur Jn. & Muzaffarpur Jn. Stations   |
| 04482  | Delhi Jn.       | 12:00         | Chhapra         | 04:30        | Second Seating (Reserved)   | Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur Jn. & Gorakhpur Jn. Stations  |
| 04030  | Delhi Jn.       | 13:45         | Muzaffarpur Jn. | 08:00        | AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)           | Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Siwan Jn., Chhapra & Hajipur Jn. Stations  |
| 04412  | Delhi Jn        | 23:00         | Saharsa         | 20:00        | AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)           | Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur, Gorakhpur, Chhapra, Hajipur Jn., Barauni Jn. & Khagaria Jn. Stations  |
| <b>LIST OF EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA ON 19.11.2020 (THURSDAY)</b>  |                 |               |                 |              |   |  |
| 02550  | Anand Vihar (T) | 06:45         | Kamakhya        | 16:35        | AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)           | Aligarh Jn., Tundla Jn., Etawah, Kanpur Central, Fatehpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Barauni Jn., Begusari, Khagaria Jn., Mansi Jn., Naugachia, Kathar Jn., Barsi Jn., Kishanganj, New Jalpaiguri, Jalpaiguri Road, New Cooch Behar, New Alipurduar, Kokrajhar, New Bongaigaon, Barpeta Road & Rangiya Jn. Stations  |
| 04428  | Anand Vihar (T) | 09:00         | Jogbani         | 13:15        | Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)                                 | Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Varanasi Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxer, Ara, Patliputra, Hajipur Jn., Barauni Jn., Begusari, Khagaria, Naugachia, Kathar Jn., Mankapur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Khagaria Jn., Mansi Jn. & S. Bakhtiyarpur Stations  |
| 04488  | Anand Vihar (T) | 11:15         | Jaynagar        | 11:50        | Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)                                 | Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Barauni Jn., Mokameh Jn., Barauni, Samastipur, Darbhanga & Madhubani Stations   |
| 03258  | Anand Vihar (T) | 13:30         | Danapur         | 07:30        | Second Seating (Reserved)   | Moradabad, Lucknow, Varanasi Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar & Ara Stations   |
| 04424  | Anand Vihar (T) | 15:20         | Katihar Jn      | 19:55        | Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)                                 | Khurja Jn., Aligarh Jn., Hathras Jn., Tundla Jn., Firozabad, Etawah, Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn., Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Barabanki Jn., Gonda Jn., Mankapur Jn., Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur, Deoria, Sadar, Mairwa, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Dighwara, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Dholi, Khudiram B Pusa, Samastipur Jn., Barauni Jn., Begu Sarai, Khagaria Jn., Mansi Jn., Thana Bihpur Jn., Naugachia, Kibh, Kursela & Karagola Road Stations |
| 04426  | Anand Vihar (T) | 16:25         | Raxaul Jn       | 22:10        | Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)                                 | Ghaziabad, Pilkhua, Hapur, Amroha, Moradabad, Raja Ka Sahaspur, Chandausia Jn., Aonia, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Almora, Lucknow, Nihalgarh, Musafir Khanha, Sultanpur, Lambhua, Sri Krishn Nagar, Jaunpur City, Varanasi Jn., Varanasi City, Aumihar Jn., Nandganj, Ghazipur City, Yusufpur, Ballia, Suramnagar, Chhapra, Dighwara, Parmanandpur, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Runnisidpur, Sitamarhi, Bairagnia & Ghorasahan Stations           |



*There has been a steep spike in the number of Covid cases in Himachal Pradesh, but the pandemic is not yet over.*

HIMACHAL PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER JAI RAM THAKUR

URGING ALL TO REMAIN CAREFUL AND VIGILANT TO CURB THE SPREAD OF VIRAL DISEASE



## THUMBNAILS



Construction work in progress for the new Parliament building, in New Delhi on Monday. IANS

**CAG report leak:** The Opposition in the Kerala Assembly has given a breach of privilege notice against state finance minister Thomas Isaac alleging he leaked the CAG report before it was tabled in the Assembly. Congress MLA, VD Satheshan has handed over the notice to the Legislative Assembly speaker. SNS

**Anaj Mandi fire:** Nearly a year after a massive fire at a four-story building in Delhi's Anaj Mandi area claimed the lives of 45 people, the fourth accused in the case has been arrested. PTI

**Rape survivor set ablaze:** A 37-year-old rape survivor was allegedly set ablaze Jaipur by the accused who was absconding for seven months, police said on Monday. PTI

# 'Free Press soul of democracy'

PM lauds media for its contribution during pandemic

SNS & PTI  
NEW DELHI, 16 NOVEMBER

**D**escribing a free Press as the 'soul of democracy', top leaders, including President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Monday commended media persons for their work as frontline warriors during the pandemic.

In their messages on the occasion of the National Press Day, the leaders also stressed that any attack on the freedom of Press is detrimental to national interests and must be opposed by one and all.

While the President and the Prime Minister lauded the media for its contribution during the pandemic, Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu and Union ministers Amit Shah and Prakash Javadekar emphasised on the importance of freedom of Press in the country and condemned any attack on it.

In his written message, which was read out during a webinar organised by the Press Council of India (PCI) to celebrate the National Press Day, the President said that media persons have been among frontline corona warriors who played a major role in education people and mitigating the impact of the pandemic.



Himachal Pradesh CM Jai Ram Thakur addresses a webinar on the occasion of National Press Day, in Shimla on Monday. IANS

Kovind said the theme of this year's National Press Day celebration, 'Role of Media during Covid-19 and its Impact on the Media', deals with the most serious crisis facing the world and the country.

Vice-President Naidu today said that any attack on the freedom of the Press was detrimental to national interests and should be opposed by one and all.

He said the Press in India has always been in the vanguard of protecting and strengthening the foundations of democracy.

"A robust, free and vibrant media is as important as an independent judiciary in consolidating democracy and strengthening constitutional rule of law," the Vice-President said.

Describing journalism as a pious mission, he lauded the Press for playing an outstanding role in empowering the people and furthering national interest.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD, 16 NOVEMBER

CBI has taken over the investigations into the case of derogatory posts on social media against judges of Supreme Court and High Court of Andhra Pradesh for judgments which went against the YSRCP government in the state, registering an FIR today naming 16 individuals.

The case was registered by CBI's Anti Corruption Bureau in Visakhapatnam on the basis of Andhra Pradesh High Court's order on 12 October which had ordered the Central agency to investigate into the defamatory remarks against judiciary by YSRCP leaders and supporters.

These cases were originally registered by Andhra Pradesh CBI based on the complaints lodged by registrar general of the Andhra Pradesh High Court alleging that the 'key personnel who are occupying posts of prominence in the state of Andhra Pradesh by intentionally targeting the Hon'ble Judges made interviews/posts/speeches attributing motives, caste and corrupt allegations to some of the Supreme Court Judges and High Court Judges in delivering orders/judgments.'

They even posted abusive, life threatening and intimidating postings against Hon'ble judges in social

media over the recent judgments/orders delivered by the Judges of Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh, 'read the FIR. Although CID had booked 12 cases against 16 individuals apart from some unknown persons, CBI treated them as one FIR because of the nature of allegations and modus operandi.'

Earlier, in April the High Court had issued suo moto contempt notices to 49 people including the sitting MP Nandigam Suresh of Bapla and former MLA of the ruling party Amanchi Krishnamohan for derogatory social media posts and television interviews after some of the court rulings went against the current state government.

The order on 12 October had come from a division bench comprising Justice Rakesh Kumar and Justice J Uma Devi which further directed CBI to submit its report in a sealed cover within eight weeks of receiving the court's directive.

The agency was also directed to take steps to remove all such defamatory posts available on social media and block the users in accordance with law. The court entrusted CBI with the task because it has wider scope of investigations. "While conducting investigation it would be necessary to examine as to whether such attacks on Judiciary were made as a result of larger conspiracy."

## Will emulate Guj growth model in Bengal: Ghosh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, 16 NOVEMBER

Harking on issues of development and employment, Bengal BJP chief Dilip Ghosh urged voters to elect saffron party to power, enabling them to emulate Gujarat growth model in the state.

Employment opportunities in Bengal are scarce and under compulsion are leaving Bengal for jobs, he said.

Criticising the erstwhile Left Front dispensation for alleged politicisation of the education system, he said Bengal, which once produced the finest scientists, doctors and engineers, is now churning out migrant labourers.

Bengalis do not make it to merit lists of competitive exams anymore, he stated.

"Give us a chance so we could change this scenario in Bengal and turn the state into a business and industry hub like Gujarat so you don't have to look for jobs elsewhere. Trinamool Congress pushed out Tata's Nano car manufacturing from here for vested political gains.

We won't let this happen in Bengal if BJP comes to power," said Ghosh.

Reacting to Ghosh's assertion, the Trinamool Congress, which has time and again trained guns on the BJP over the 2002 communal strife in the western state, claimed that Gujarat is known for riots and encounters and not for development.

"It's not development that we associate Gujarat with. Over 2,000 people were killed, encounter deaths of people

like Ishrat Jahan have occurred. If Bengal is turned into Gujarat or UP then here, too, people will get killed in encounters. We want our state to remain the way it is," senior TMC leader and state minister Firhad Hakim said.

Hakim, to drive home his point, also said that the Tata Nano factory which was set up in Gujarat has closed down, while the MSME sector in West Bengal was making good progress.

The Nano plant was moved to Sanand in Gujarat from Singur in West Bengal in 2008, following a prolonged agitation led by Mamata Banerjee, alleging forced acquisition of fertile land by the then Left Front government.

"Industries will come up in Bengal as the situation is favourable and the state has a stable government," Hakim said. Echoing him, state panchayat minister and senior TMC leader Subrata Mukherjee contended that the BJP will never be able to realise its dream of winning Bengal polls, likely to be held in April-May next year.

"It is good to dream, but one should see to it that the dream does not turn into a nightmare," Mukherjee said.

Ghosh steadfastly believes that India will repose their faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he keeps his poll promises and it is one of the reasons he was elected twice.

"In this state, everything remains same without any development work despite chief minister Mamata Banerjee's rule for nearly a decade in the state but did not fulfil her poll promises," he said.

## Vel Yatra: AIADMK hits out at BJP's 'divisive politics' in Tamil Nadu

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHENNAI, 16 NOVEMBER

**3AIADMK is beyond religion and caste. It will not allow vote-bank politics based on religion, says Namadhu Amma**

Ahead of Union home minister Amit Shah's visit, AIADMK has intensified its tirade against BJP's divisive politics, surprising many in the political circle. As per its staunch opposition against BJP's Vel Yatra, defying ban, the AIADMK iterated it will not allow politics that are divisive on religious lines in Tamil Nadu.

In a strongly-worded column in its mouthpiece *Namadhu Amma*, the AIADMK said be it Karuppar Kootam, the YouTube channel which was slammed for allegedly insulting a hymn in praise of Lord Muruga, or those who hold up the saffron flag, the state government under its leadership will not make space for politics stemming out of religious hatred.

All religions preach for peace and love among mankind, *Namadhu Amma* said and added AIADMK, which is beyond religion and caste, will not allow vote-bank politics based on religion. Everybody must understand the peaceful and united ways of people in Tamil Nadu, it added.

Shah will be in Tamil Nadu on 21 November and is expected to take part in BJP events in

"The peaceful state

7 labourers from Bihar killed in HP road mishap

MANDI (HP), 16 NOVEMBER

the state in the run-up to the 2021 Assembly polls. The AIADMK government has been at the forefront of obstructing BJP's Vel Yatra in the state. In the yatra, planned from 6 November to 6 December across Tamil Nadu, is aimed at consolidating the Hindu votes in the state, AIADMK smelted a smart political move by BJP to scuttle Dravidian influence which deny them taking deep roots.

That's why, according to political observers, the state government has repeatedly refused to grant permission for the procession. Leaders have been arrested for taking out the procession without permission. The government has also revoked the permission for holding religious, political, cultural congregations that exceed 100 persons across the state.

The AIADMK's new found aggressive stance against its ally BJP has been construed as it's smart move to deny it a slightest of upper hand in forthcoming Assembly election, according to them.

SNS & PTI

## Heavy snowfall leaves Yogi, Rawat stuck in Kedarnath for over 9 hours, fly to Gauchar

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
DEHRADUN, 16 NOVEMBER

Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath and Uttarakhand chief minister Trivendra Rawat remained stuck in Kedarnath, due to heavy snowfall, for over nine hours on Monday. Continuous snowfall started in the pilgrimage town on Sunday night and continued all day on Monday to disrupt chopper service.

The weather cleared for a brief period, around 4.30 pm, allowing the CMs and their team to fly to Gauchar in Chamoli district for night stay. The portals of Kedarnath shrine, located at an altitude of 11,755 ft above sea level, was closed for a six-month winter break on Monday.

After attending the portal closing ceremony of Kedarnath temple on Monday morning, both the CMs walked to the helipad ground at 7.30 am. Bad weather with low visibility disallowed any chopper flying and Yogi and Trivendra had to return to GMVN tourist lodge.

The pilgrimage centre was covered with about two feet snow. Even undertaking the 14-km trek from Kedarnath to Gaurikund was not possible and the two chief ministers had to wait for the weather to clear.

Over 450 people attended the portal closing ceremony. The 'Panchmukhi Doli' moved from Kedarnath to Rampur amidst snowfall, to thrill the devotees. Adityanath and Rawat were to attend a foundation stone laying function of UPTourism at Badrinath on Monday. But, it got cancelled as the CMs got stuck in Kedarnath. The function



is likely to take place on Tuesday. Despite Covid-19 pandemic, over 1.35 lakh pilgrims visited Kedarnath this year.

Snow blocks J&K highway, Army rescues stranded people

JAMMU, 16 NOVEMBER

The Jammu-Srinagar highway was on Monday blocked due to snow, slippery road condition and shooting stones at several places.

Heavy snowfall was recorded on both sides of the Jawahar Tunnel as a result of which the highway was shut for vehicular traffic.

Rainfall in lower areas triggered landslides and shooting stones. The Batote-Kishnawar road was also shut due to snow. However, light motor vehicles were allowed to move later in the afternoon.

A team of Army and police rescued 10 civilians stranded at the Sinthan Pass.

Medium danger avalanche warning has been issued for higher reaches of Kupwara and Bandipora districts in north Kashmir and low danger avalanche warning has been issued for Ganderbal and Baramulla districts. SNS

## TENDER

**PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED**

Regd. Office: PSPCL Head Office, The Mall, Patiala

CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813

Website: www.pspcl.in

GSTIN 03AAFCP5120QZC

E-tendering Website: https://pspcl.abcprocure.com

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Through E-tendering)**

Tender Enquiry No.: 118 / MM-I / MAMC-256 / O&M / GHTP / 2020

**SHORT DESCRIPTION:** Round the clock operation, maintenance & overhauling of various 3 x 110 TR & 4 x 90 TR Chilled water type A.C. Plants, 2 x 50 TR DX type A.C. plant, Package A.C. Units, Water Cooled Ventilation system and maintenance & overhauling of Window / Split AC's, Water Coolers / ROs of GHTP Stage-I & II and mtc. work of ACs/ ROs systems etc. GNDTP, Bathinda on lump sum basis for a period of one year.

EMD: Rs. 1,29,000 (Rupee one lakh twenty-nine thousand) only fixed.

Last date & time for bid submission : 16-12-2020 up to 11-30 hrs.

Date & time of opening of bids : 18-12-2020 up to 12-00 hrs.

fee stage bid

Detailed NIT and tender specification can be downloaded from PSPCL website: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from dated 16-11-2020 onwards.

Note:

1. The prospective bidders can obtain clarification regarding tender specifications from this office. For registration of digital signatures and uploading of tender information may be sought from Ms. GePNIC, contact No.: +91-(120)-40010025.

2. It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Detail regarding corrigendum may be seen on PSPCL official website i.e. <https://pspcl.in>

Superintending Engineer / O&M Mechanical Mtc. Circle-I GHTP, PSPCL, Lehra-Mohabbat

E-mail ID: se-mmc1-lehra@pspcl.in

Ph.: 0164-2756434, Fax: 0164-2756255

Mobile No.: 96461-17606

457/GHTP-54/2020

## CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

Subject: T.No. OP2/24/2020-21 - DNIT for running rate contract for repairing / testing of 110/433 KV Aluminium wound 100 KVA, 200 KVA, 300/315 KVA, 500 & 750/800 KVA distribution Transformers under ELCY OP Sub Div no 5 Chd.

The subject cited tender due to be opened on dated i.e. 16.11.2020 at 16.00 Hrs. is hereby extended upto 01.12.2020 at 14.00 Hrs. for uploading and opening date i.e. 01.12.2020 at 16.00 Hrs. due to some administrative reason.

All the other terms and conditions shall remain the same.

DA/-  
-Sd-  
Executive Engineer,  
Electricity (OP) Division No. 2  
Chandigarh, U.T.

WEAR MASK, WASH YOUR HANDS, WATCH YOUR DISTANCE IN BOX FORMAT

## NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN TENDER NOTICE



## THUMBNAILS



Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad at a Press briefing on DDC polls in Jammu and Kashmir, in New Delhi on Monday.

IANS

**Tiger carcass found:** The decomposed carcass of a sub-adult tiger was found in a paddy field in Lodhital village in Chutia beat of Maharashtra's Godavari forest range, an official said on Monday. The carcass was found on Sunday in a dismembered state with some organs missing. PTI

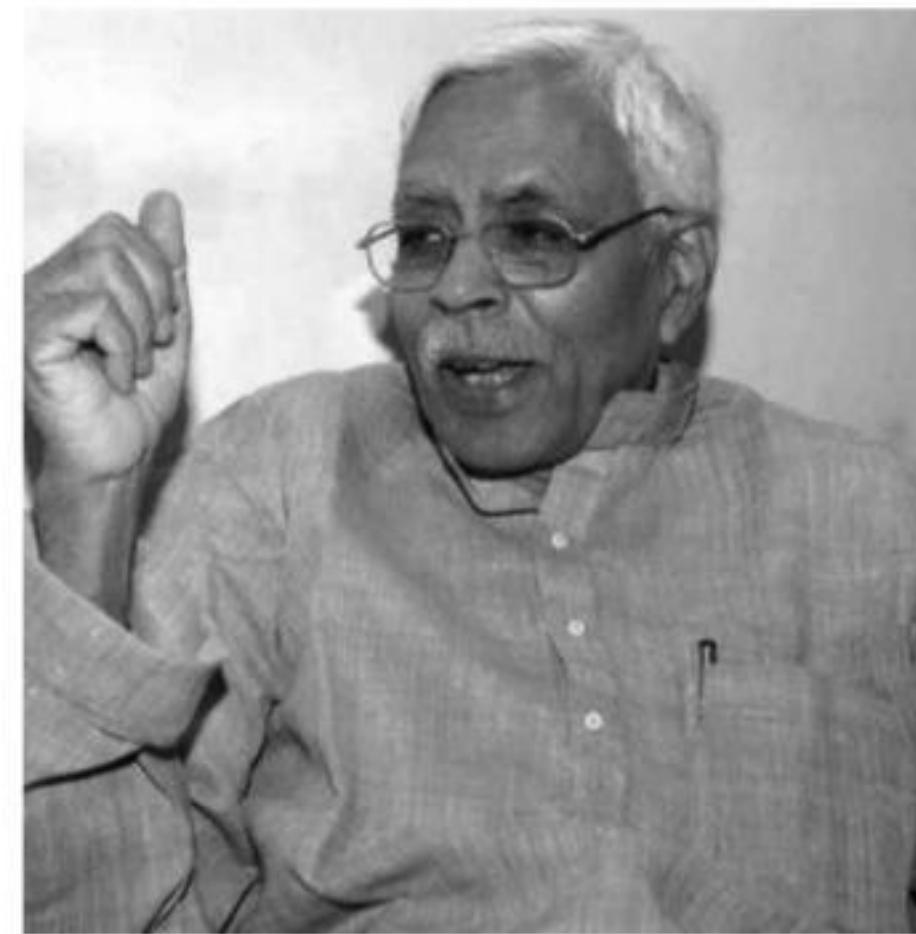
**Illegal sand mining unit:** Police conducted a raid at an illegal sand mining unit in Maharashtra's Pune district on Monday and destroyed 17 boats engaged in sand extraction from the Bhima river basin. The police received information of people running an illegal sand extraction unit in the Bhima river basin near Shirpur village in Daund tehsil. PTI

**Nigerian drug-peddlers held:** Two Nigerians were arrested on Monday on charges of drug-peddling in Bengaluru. Mark and Henry were held following a tip-off with cocaine and ecstasy tablets, police said. PTI

**Tribal conclave:** Around 3,000 people from all over the country and abroad have digitally converged for an annual tribal conclave 'Samvaad', aiming at showcasing traditional practices and heritage. It is organised by the Tata Steel Foundation. PTI

# RJD's Shivanand stirs hornet's nest with Rahul's criticism

Shivanand Tiwari says Congress ~ the grand old party ~ had 'shackled' the 'Mahagathbandhan'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PATNA, 16 NOVEMBER

who is considered close to RJD supremo Lalu Prasad and is part of his old guard, said.

The Congress reacted sharply to Tiwari's criticism.

"Shivanand Tiwari is not an official spokesman for the RJD. He is hand in gloves with party veteran leader Shivanand Tiwari saying the grand old party had 'shackled' the 'Mahagathbandhan' in the state.

Tiwari's remarks made during interviews with TV channels prompted calls for his ouster from the RJD.

"Congress shackled the 'Mahagathbandhan' with chains in the Assembly elections. It contested 70 seats but did not hold even 70 rallies.

"Rahul Gandhi visited Bihar on three days and addressed two rallies a day. Priyanka Gandhi was not seen at all. When electioneering was at its peak, he was picnicking with Priyanka Gandhi in Shimla," Tiwari, and Chittaranjan

It's time such a loud

mouthed and mentally bank-

rump man is thrown out of his party," AICC media panel

member and MLC Prem

Chandra Mishra said. He

later tweeted in Hindi that an

RJD leader speaking the "lan-

guage of Giriraj Singh and

Shahnawaz Hussain" is unac-

ceptable to the Congress.

"There is something

called the coalition Dharma

and all parties should fol-

low it," he wrote on the

microblogging website. RJD

spokespersons Mritunjay

Tiwari and Chittaranjan

Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

has issued a circular re-

questing banks to take

all necessary steps to

ensure that the

lending process is

not affected by the

outbreak of the corona-

virus. The circular also

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## Sore Loser

Even as the world noted Donald Trump's first acknowledgment of the fact that his Democratic rival "won" a contentious election and hoped that he was coming around to acceptance of his defeat, his supporters have tailored their responses to the rest of his message which said the win was secured by fraud, and to a subsequent message saying he had not conceded the election. Protests themed "Stop the Steal" have broken out across several American cities and even turned violent in the national capital. Through this, Mr Trump appeared to be egging protests on as he drove through streets lined with his supporters apparently to encourage them. Despite a series of setbacks in courts, including one where proffered evidence was termed "inadmissible hearsay within hearsay", Mr. Trump appears determined to prolong America's agony and stymie any hopes for a smooth transition that his successor or others may have nurtured. But it will boil down, in the ultimate analysis, to how his fellow Republicans respond to the electoral outcome. While some prominent members of Mr Trump's party have congratulated Mr Joe Biden, most have either endorsed their candidate's obduracy or straddled the fence. Worryingly for a country that has a tradition of hating sore losers, Mr. Trump's position appears to have emboldened his party colleagues to take positions that echo his own. Republican candidates in elections to the Senate from Arizona and Michigan have not conceded defeat, while a candidate for the House of Representatives from Baltimore wants an investigation into an election where her rival won 72 per cent of the vote.

The consequence of these actions is that instead of coming together as a nation as Mr Biden had hoped they would, Americans appear to be getting more polarised by the day. If the events of the weekend - that saw protests in support of Mr Trump mushroom across cities - are an indication, the schism is set to widen. Former President Barack Obama has appealed to his successor to step down gracefully, by accepting that the Presidency is temporary by design, and asked Mr Trump to consider his legacy. But it is not so much the four years that have gone by but the years ahead that drive Mr Trump and many in his party. Contributions to the party's coffers are growing and some estimates say nine of ten Republicans endorse his Presidency. In defiance of opinion polls, Mr Trump secured more votes than any other Republican Presidential candidate in history. This makes him a hugely potent force, and whether he chooses to run again in 2024 or not, he controls the Republican party and will be its sole kingmaker. Republican candidates for other positions realise they need Mr Trump's draw and popularity to secure their own political futures and few will therefore take him on. Mr Trump had started to cry foul long before the election took place; it is unlikely that he will now accept the outcome. He is determined to be dragged out of the White House. America will be poorer.

## Digital battle

Viscerally hated by his opponents but with a mass following that is the envy of many long-time politicians, the man behind the BJP's IT cell will now be applying his tender ministrations to West Bengal for the 2021 Assembly poll. His party's recently-anointed president, JP Nadda, having retained Bihar for the BJP-led NDA after a couple of initial electoral setbacks, has given Amit Malviya a key role in the battle for Bengal by appointing him as one of three prabhari (in-charge) for the state with the expectation that he will help deliver for the BJP a state which it has long aspired to govern. Known for his use of technology, social media and digital platforms to amplify the party's message and build a viable counter-narrative to what he has often termed the predominantly left-liberal mainstream media in India, the calculation behind his appointment seems to be that Malviya will bring to the table his trademark no-holds-barred style which will shore up the party's core support and help in attracting undecided voters towards it. It bears repetition that in a Covid-19 world, while mass rallies and street-corner meetings will certainly not disappear, digital platforms will be the key battleground. In any case, with even 18-year-olds being allowed a vote in this country, there is a vast constituency between the ages of 18 and 35 which consumes nearly all its information online, including content from publications and television.

Adding spice to the mix is the fact that the ruling two-term Trinamool Congress in Bengal faces significant anti-incumbency, its blatant wooing of the minority vote has been pounced upon by the BJP to begin effectively consolidating the majority against the ruling party, and that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, a seasoned political player herself, is not only working the grassroots as has been her wont but is also making a determined bid to ensure her party's effectiveness in the digital and social media narrative doesn't lag. To this end, the TMC has been working with political-electoral consultant Prashant Kishore for a while now and his role is expected to grow exponentially as the date for the Assembly poll draws closer. At a time when the media has lost its role as a good-faith facilitator between those vying for political power and the citizenry - in the sense of being a trusted institution for the gathering, professional processing and disseminating of information - the direct-contact, no-filters principle of social media is in play. While this has reduced leading newspapers, television channels and digital platforms to feeding off and reporting on the tweets, Facebook posts, Instagram photos and leaked WhatsApp group chats of political parties, it has also fundamentally changed how a narrative is built and/or destroyed. Those with the technical know-how and political nous to manage it, such as Malviya, are the key.

# Slothful governance

At a time when almost everything is freely available everywhere, it is not understood as to why the Government believes in centralised purchases and the rigmarole of antiquated procedures when budgets can be allocated to smaller units to buy from the market at the market price



The saying "Success has a thousand fathers while failure is an orphan" must have been coined by someone with an Indian connection. We are a people who avoid responsibility like the plague. Ask the student who failed at the examination; rather than telling you that he did not study, he will go into a long dialogue about how the examiners were ignoramus who could not understand what he had written. Conversely, if a boy does well in an examination, all and sundry will claim credit for his performance. This trait, amusing at the individual level, is disastrous when adopted by the Government and leaders of society. Yet, most processes in the Government of India involve so many people that they appear to have been deliberately devised with the singular aim of diffusing responsibility should things go wrong.

After the Bofors scandal, the crucial process of defence procurement has been made so convoluted that it is almost impossible to complete the process of weapons acquisition within a reasonable time or even the tenure of one Government or of one civil servant. For example, Dassault Rafale fighter aircraft which were approved for purchase in 2012, are being delivered in 2020. Significantly, against an initial order of 126 aircraft, we have finally contracted only for 36, leading to a huge shortfall in our defence preparedness. Moreover, the Rafale aircraft is of 2001 vintage; because of humongous delays in our procurement processes, we appear to have acquired something ancient rather than state-of-art.

Then, we had the infamous 2-G Scam in 2010 wherein the CAG alleged a loss of Rs 1.76 lakh crore to the Government. Even after 10 years, not a single rupee has been recovered and not a single scamster been convicted. However, the inertia in the Telecom Department, brought about by sustained investigation by enforcement agencies, resulted in a freeze on new investment and modernisation. Resultantly, BSNL and MTNL, which were leaders in the telecom sector in 2010, have been reduced to basket cases.

The Coalgate scandal, unearthed in 2012, followed a similar trajectory. Investigating agencies got into the act after the CAG alleged a loss of Rs 1.86 lakh crore in coal allocation. The coal industry suffered in the aftermath of

deallocation and auction of coal mines so that, despite having substantial coal reserves, we are currently importing more than 200 million tonnes of coal, valued at more than Rs 1 lakh crore. Only some officials and surprisingly, a minister in the Vajpayee cabinet, have been convicted but the bigger fish appear to have swum away.

The Bofors scandal had an unexpected denouement when the Delhi High Court quashed all charges against the accused and held that the probe was going nowhere and it was wrong to waste public money on the endless investigation. Earlier, when the Kargil war started, it was discovered that because of the ban on Bofors we had no ammunition for the gun, which later played a stellar role in the war, after its ammunition was acquired - at \$10,000 per round - from Israel and South Africa. The total cost paid for the ammunition was enormous, as a Bofors gun fires three rounds every minute. An upgraded version of Bofors, 'Dhanush' has recently been inducted as the main field gun for the Indian Army.

The common thread in these instances is that after being ripped off by scamsters we damaged ourselves even more by our knee-jerk responses. Our investigative agencies also proved inadequate; the main accused appear to have slipped away in most cases and the defalcated money has never been recovered.

On the other hand, the Economic Survey for 2016-17 identified fear of the so-called "4 Cs" i.e., Courts, CVC (Central Vigilance Commission), CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) and CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General) as the greatest impediment to decision making. Many honest civil servants turn into status-quoists, only because they want to avoid coming in the crosshairs of these august bodies. We seem to be having the worst of both worlds; investigative agencies can neither prevent nor prove frauds but their fear stymies good administration.

A question arises: "Can we not have processes by which Government money is saved but decision making does not suffer?"

Self-restraint by the Govern-

ment and investigating agencies holds the key. Yet, the diametrically opposite is the norm; once a newsworthy scandal breaks out, a plethora of investigative agencies rush in. The tragic suicide of actor Sushant Singh Rajput provided an opportunity to the Mumbai Police, CBI, ED and NCB to try out their investigative skills but to little avail - except boosting the TRP of sundry TV channels.

There could possibly be a rule of administrative convenience that only one agency can probe a particular offence. Parallel investigations by multiple agencies often lead to internecine conflicts, benefiting only the target of investigation. Then, investigative agencies should operate and be seen as operating without bias. The recent ouster of the automatic jurisdiction of CBI by eight opposition-ruled States points to a perception of bias in respect of central agencies, which does not augur well for investigation of serious crime.

Judicial delays compound the problem. A substantial number of coal scam cases, 2-G scam cases, Commonwealth Games scam cases, are in the trial stage even after 10 years of the commission of the alleged offences. In this substantial interregnum, investigating officers have retired, witnesses and accused have died and evidence has been lost sight of. It seems that no one ever thought of fast-tracking cases of serious financial crimes.

The cost of government purchases is unbelievably high because only a certain type of person, who is prepared to undergo the long-drawn and opaque processes of the Government, dares to trade with the Government. This perception was validated at a Press Conference on 14 May 2020, wherein the Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) stated that the Central Government, State Governments, PSUs and large private players, owed MSMEs Rs 5 lakh crore in outstanding payments - a figure which was much larger than the stimulus of Rs 3 lakh crore announced by the Finance Minister. Many MSMEs faced financial stress in the aftermath of the pandemic because they were not able to realise payments from the

Government.

At a time when almost everything is freely available everywhere, it is not understood as to why the Government believes in centralised purchases and the rigmarole of antiquated procedures when budgets can be allocated to smaller units to buy from the market at the market price. The cost of governance can be drastically reduced, if we have transparent decision-making processes along with better accountability for decision makers. Then, we follow inane policies that hurt rather than help stakeholders. Sample this: In the beginning of April 2020 when Coronavirus infections were rising, the Bureau of Indian Standards sat down to decide the specifications for PPE kits. After much deliberation certain guidelines were finalised, which were retracted within three days of notification, because of 'administrative and inter-ministerial issues,' that led to a shortage of protective equipment at a crucial time. After policy issues were sorted out, we became exporters of protective equipment.

Similarly, at the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Government banned the export of hydroxychloroquine thinking that our production of hydroxychloroquine would be sufficient only for our own requirements. But, after we had to supply hydroxychloroquine to the US under duress, production of hydroxychloroquine ballooned to cover requirements of both the domestic and international market. We are a country that has a surfeit of technical manpower and the demonstrated capability of sending multiple satellites in space but when it comes to producing a low technology item like a rifle for the army, we are found wanting. One can be sure that if there are proper guidelines for collaboration between the defence ministry and industry, we would be able to produce all the weapons that the armed forces want.

Often, the impediment to our progress is in our own thinking and Government policies and not in our capabilities. Like Lord Hanuman, we wait for Lord Rama to make us aware of our own strengths. So far as Government policies are concerned, the comedian P. J. O'Rourke had succinctly observed: "It is a popular delusion that the government wastes vast amounts of money through inefficiency and sloth. Enormous effort and elaborate planning are required to waste this much money."

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**  
ASIAN VOICES

Contact tracing, a weapon to combat Covid-19 transmission

In a pandemic or outbreak, contact tracing is the key to preventing transmission through quarantine. Not only will contact tracing ensure efficient testing and early treatment before a prognosis worsens, it will also provide reliable data in modelling to predict the spread of a disease. Contact tracing is exercised through surveillance by a team of surveillants, tracers or epidemiologists. Each local administration's Covid-19 task force has its surveillance team, whose job is akin to a call center. Their daily duty is to call every Covid-19 patient and their close contacts.

The central task force, laboratories or referral hospitals that treat Covid-19 patients can also send a contact list of patients to the surveillance or contact tracer team. The surveillants will phone those patients. The first question will be: "Who have you seen in the last 14 days?" or, "Who do you live with?" The question is a method to trace virus transmission. However, there are several problems regarding the stigma facing infected people. Usually, the interviewee will resist and reply: "Who are you?" or, "Can I have your official assignment letter?" In some cases they will deny they are infected, saying: "Sorry, I'm not sick. You dialed the wrong number." A cooperative patient will answer the questions clearly.

However, another problem arises: the method for asking a patient to sift through their memories is susceptible to error. In epidemiology, this is prone to causing bias, which is called recall bias. A surveillant who does not get the desired information usually leaves the form blank or guesses using their opinion. When that happens, the contact tracing will result in data inaccuracy. Problematic data may also exist because of the long-form question-

**The Jakarta Post**  
naries contact tracers and surveillants have to deal with. Imagine, for example, in Greater Jakarta, a surveillant must phone around 100 people every day, with each interview lasting about 20 to 30 minutes. In fact, a regional task force, which commonly hires 10 surveillants, is unable to complete the job in a couple of days as required. Contact tracers or surveillants also deal with many data systems that are un-integrated. This will complicate the process of inputting a large amount of data. The incomplete data is used in the analysis, such as the calculation of R<sub>t</sub>, or effective reproduction number (modeling in analyzing the spread of the virus after intervention), by the task force.

The result usually suggests that the disease is under control, even though the truth is the opposite. This is referred to as an "overestimation". Data problems may also mislead the task force when identifying COVID-19 transmission clusters. Even surveillants assigned in cities that are considered a benchmark in handling the pandemic also face these problems. Contact tracing in such cities has never reached 80 percent of the set target. There are two options to address these problems. First and foremost, develop a technology for tracing or tracking. The national Covid-19 task force and the Health Ministry have been aware of this need from the beginning. They have been applying many data systems in surveillance, the most recent being an app called Silacak. The new app was designed to ensure the effectiveness of contact tracing. However, recall bias and data integration remain the obstacles. Some countries have adopted a SIM-card-based location tracking app.

made it clear it is its duty to protect the liberty of people and it would not permit any abuse of law in future. Kudos to the apex court for showing this level of prudence.

Yours, etc., Arun Gupta,  
Kolkata, 12 November



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

## Stubborn party

SIR, This refers to your editorial 'Inept students' (14 November). Not only is Rahul Gandhi an 'inept student', but also a pampered one indulged by the sycophancy-driven, coterie-pushed arrogance of his party.

It's the fear of losing the dynastic clout on the party rather than anything remotely associated with its revival that stops the Congress drawing lesson from a series of poll debacles. There is no room for self-introspection within the Congress as the culture of dissent, the hallmark of democratisation, is badly missing. It is neither prepared to introspect, nor to allow any change in the way it is run. The Gandhis must look beyond the coterie to under-

stand who their friends are within the party.

Mr Barack Obama's critique should serve as the wake up call for a stubborn Congress to find a new

leader of substance and gravitas.

Yours, etc., Sudipta Ghosh,  
Jangipur, 16 November.

PRUDENT SC

SIR, Like many others, I am very happy to know that the Supreme Court had no hesi-

tation in granting interim bail to Republic TV's Arnab Goswami in a 2018 case of alleged abetment to suicide of interior designer Anvay Naik. While granting bail, the apex court had expressed concern over the growing number of cases of state governments targeting people who are critical of them. Sadly enough, the high courts are in no mood to protect the rights of citizens for at the drop of a hat they are being harassed without any rhyme or reason.

The Supreme Court had

CHILD'S PLIGHT

SIR, Children are the drivers of the future. But they become victims of situations. Their physical and mental health is in peril. They are confined in their homes for a long period. Television, mobile and laptop are becoming their friends. They are obsessed with the virtual world. Their natural growth is interrupted in artificial environments. They lose their creative and intellectual power. They become unproductive and lethargic. Their health and education should be the most important issue for those who run nations.

A number of primary and high schools have introduced online classes. They do not know the real effect of this on children's minds.

It will encourage students to enter the virtual world which is filled with cheap entertainment. Children need a real platform in school or in nature. They learn lessons from practical experiences. They need physical and mental association of teachers and of many others. Feeding textbooks and completing syllabus in a particular time cannot be the way of education.

There are many students who lack the capability to use internet-based tools. If online classes are continued and schools are closed, they will be deprived.

Yours, etc., Uttam Bhowmik, Tamluk, 16 November.



HARSHA KAKAR

**T**here were reports last week that India is considering a Chinese proposal on disengagement and subsequent de-escalation along the LAC in Ladakh. Nothing has yet been accepted nor firmed up. It would need multiple rounds of talks before finalisation. As per inputs, the Chinese proposed that they would initially pull back on the North bank of Pangong Tso to their positions behind Finger 8, after which India would withdraw to its positions near the Dhan Singh Thapa post at Finger 2/3. The region between Fingers 4 to 8 could remain a no-movement zone.

The second stage would involve pulling back armoured and artillery elements deployed on the Southern Bank, where India holds the key having occupied heights along the Kailash Ridge. This would be followed by pulling back of troops in this region.

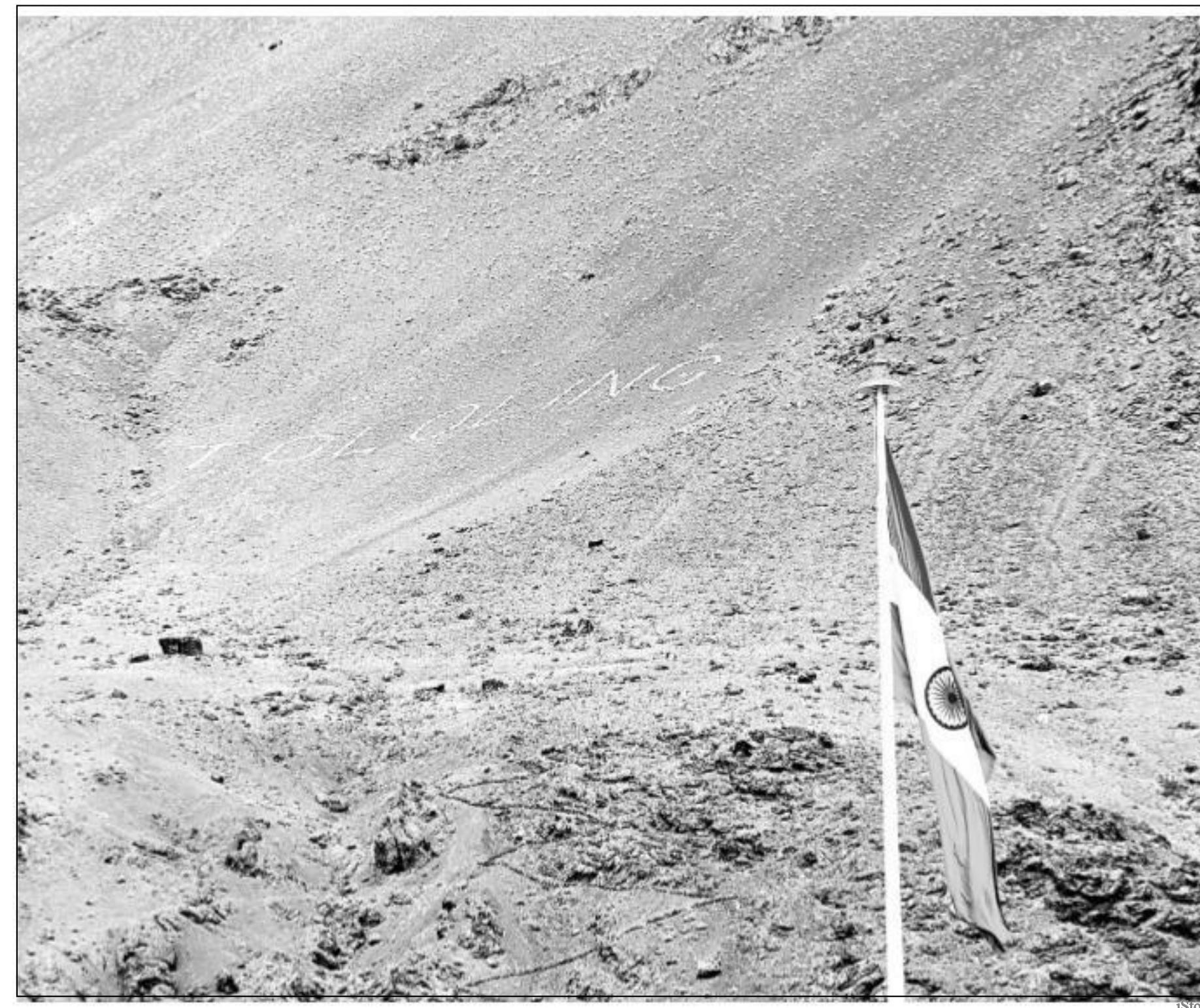
The status of Depsang will be discussed once disengagement at Pangong Tso is complete. As per an Indian security official, "Depasang is an old problem. The first priority is flash points in the Pangong Tso and Chushul areas." The possible reason which compelled China to open discussions for de-escalation is impact of the weather on Chinese troops. Further, the fact that hardened Indian troops hold heights that dominate Chinese positions enhances their vulnerabilities and restricts further options, leading to a stalemate.

China proposed multiple verifying mechanisms, hoping that India would agree considering the high trust deficit between the two nations. It also accepted that it will be the first to withdraw, which remains a primary Indian demand. As a first step both sides have turned barrels of tanks deployed in close proximity in opposite, non-threatening directions.

This latest proposal was put forth by the Chinese representative to the Corps Commanders talks in a one-to-one meeting. It was the first one-to-one meeting between the two delegations, and it was requested by China. All earlier meetings had only delegation level talks. The intention was to convey the message in a subtle manner without it being broadcast as an official communiqué by the Chinese. Such a proposal would have only emerged with approval from the top Chinese hierarchy.

Once the proposal was announced by Indian media, the Chinese mouthpiece, the Global Times,

## Towards disengagement and de-escalation



jumped in accusing Indian media of projecting false inputs. It stated, "the disengagement plan mentioned by Indian media is the media's self-interpretation about the outcome of previous talks between the two sides. But it also to some extent reveals the actual unilateral thought of Indian militaries. However, it cannot represent the result the two sides have reached, nor will it be the final plan." This was expected as China had been broadcasting in its internal WeChat forums that it had achieved its objectives in Ladakh, whereas the reality was vastly different.

Subsequently, Global Times was compelled to change tune and published another editorial stating, "India

should first withdraw staff who illegally crossed the line on the southern side of the Pangong Tso Lake, and China will then consider disengaging on the northern side of the lake." It was forced to accept that such a proposal exists, though unwilling to officially accept that the offer flowed from the Chinese government. At some stage, China would be compelled to state to its people that its attempts to regain its claim lines had failed and it was forced to pull back.

There are reports that the Chinese delegation to the talks has been objecting to news reports and views in the Indian media, which place China as being under pressure and having proposed the withdrawal.

India, being a democratic country has a free media, whose reporting cannot be curbed.

Few defence analysts have commented that any reversion to status quo in the Pangong Tso region would lead to India losing advantages it gained by occupying the Kailash Ridge, an action undertaken for the first time, since 1962. Further, in any future offensive actions undertaken by China, it would occupy the same heights in the initial phase itself, denying India any advantage. Analysts have compared these heights to Siachen, where Indian forces have remained in situ since 1984, aware that if vacated, Pakistan would take advantage.

The writer is a retired Major-General of the Indian Army.

With China also continuing its deployment in Depsang, India would not be in a position to regain its claim lines in the region. Hence, these analysts advocate that India retains its terrain advantage by continuing its deployment on the Kailash Ridge and include Depsang in the current discussions. In such a scenario, the eyeball to eyeball contact would remain and the LAC could become another de-facto LoC.

There is no doubt that occupation of the Kailash Ridge has provided India a position of strength on the discussion table and pushed China to offer solutions. Simultaneously, Depsang opens vulnerabilities which India would seek to avoid.

While concerns of the strategic community are genuine, they must trust and accept that those at the helm of decision making have far better inputs and understanding of Chinese intentions, strengths and weaknesses. They would never create an environment where India ends at a disadvantage. Agreements on mutual pull back, if ever arrived at, would include safeguards based on lessons learnt. No decision would be taken in a hurry. India would evaluate Chinese proposals in depth before responding with their own.

However, for India, the pullback would only stem the Chinese threat for a while. It is possibly the commencement of additional attempts at salami slicing in the years ahead. The next could emerge in multiple sectors and maybe with greater force levels, incorporating lessons learnt from the current failure. India hence cannot let its guard down and must continue building capabilities to deter the Chinese. Simultaneously, India needs to reconsider its current force structures deployed at the Western and Northern borders, readjust and reallocate.

India has staved off the dragon and compelled it to withdraw, a first since 1979 for China. It is unlikely that there would be any Wuhan-Mahabalipuram meetings for some time. China has stabbed India in the back and this country will never forget that. India will now remain on perpetual guard against China and its intentions. The writer is a retired Major-General of the Indian Army.

over a decade ago, "In my whole life, I have never met anybody who's as brilliant as Donald is at building a brand... He's an absolute genius at it."

While Trump fit into New York's generic urban wealth image, he was never part of the other New York, the one in which the majority of its roughly 9 million people live.

New York has long been a gateway to freedom and prosperity for millions of immigrants, their children and grandchildren. Yet President Trump campaigned on radically limiting immigration into the U.S., which may help explain why New York also voted against Trump by a margin of 4-1 in 2016.

As president he followed through on his immigration threats. He abandoned his hometown when it became the centre of the U.S. coronavirus pandemic, simultaneously downplaying the severity of the outbreak while contemplating an "enforceable quarantine" of the New York metropolitan area.

Some would-be New York tycoons grow up in a diverse multi-lingual neighbourhood and walk the gritty streets trying to get their start in business. Many love being around the city's intellectual and cultural life, or are part of its old aristocracy.

Those are New York stories, but they are not Donald Trump's story. He didn't even enjoy his city's variety of ethnic food, according to reporting on his diet.

Donald Trump was always a well-done steak guy in a bagels-and-lox, or slice-of-pizza, or arroz con pollo or soup dumplings town.

The writer is Associate Adjunct Research Scholar, Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, Columbia University. This article was published on [www.conversation.com](http://www.conversation.com)

NO 28137

100 YEARS AGO

### OCCASIONAL NOTE

It is hardly to be expected that any very clear idea as to the issues in the American Presidential contest could be obtained from the clashing views of opposing politicians. One authority, Senator Penrose, declares the League of Nations to be a dead issue so far as this contest is concerned; and, according to his view, "a return to the principles of Americanism and a getting away from all the foolish talk about international idealism" are the live issues in the breast of the people. On the other hand, President Wilson and the Democratic candidate, Governor Cox, are reported to have found themselves in complete agreement with respect to the issue of the League; and the Washington correspondent of a leading London journal says that at the present time there is no other question of overshadowing moment. It appears, he says, as if the Presidential election would really turn on whether the United States is to join the League or revert to its former policy of isolation. If so, it is evidently premature to describe the League as a dead issue with the American people. A maimed issue it may be, over which both the great parties are waging a Homeric combat, but it may be hoped that, whichever side wins, America will take some part in the pacific work of the League. Probably the real issue is that of the reservations with which American policy will be safeguarded.

NEWS ITEMS

### LINDSAY STREET TRAGEDY

The Coroner held an inquest yesterday on the body of Maurie E. Tiernan of Maitland Hall, Madge's Lane, who was found dead with a gunshot wound in the forehead in the room of a friend, Mr. C. Le Feuvre residing in Lindsay Street. The police evidence showed that the deceased was engaged in farming business in Australia, and had recently arrived in Calcutta. Some trouble had ensued over the farming business which was carried on in partnership. He was a daily visitor at the house of his friend. On the day of occurrence, he called at his friend's house as usual and when the latter went out, he remained behind. He was later found lying dead on a couch with a gunshot wound in the forehead and a revolver lying on the floor beside him. The jury returned a verdict of suicide whilst temporarily insane.

### COACHMEN ON STRIKE

The strike fever in Calcutta continues. On Monday morning coachmen employed by business offices declined to work unless they were given an all-round increase and as a result there were exciting scenes in and about Clive Street. The strikers posted pickets in the streets and "blacklegs" were treated in the most summary fashion. Drivers of office conveyances who were unable to show that they had received the increase demanded quickly found themselves held up, while the horses were taken out and sent back to the livery stables. Europeans on their way to business were stranded in this way. Trams and taxis were consequently more in demand. The coachmen usually meet at the different stables, and drive off accompanied by a syce employed by the livery stable concerned. The police are watching proceedings.

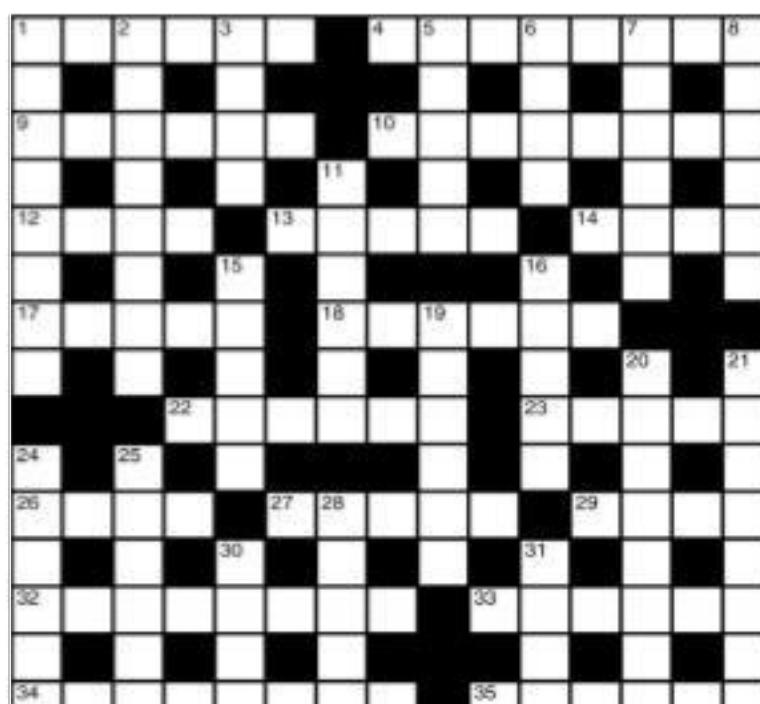
### POLICE DISPERSE STRIKERS

Bombay, Nov 16  
The tramway and other strikers created disturbances in the city this afternoon when several of the Tramway Company and a number of policemen were attacked. Mr. Boyd, the Police Commissioner, and Mr. Frank Oliveira, the Third Presidency Magistrate, ordered the strikers to disperse and upon their refusal to do so the police drove every striker from the Maidan. Many police officers and others were injured and 56 men were arrested. Since the reply of H.E. the Governor, to the deputation of the Trades Union Congress on the subject of the Bombay strikes, acts of violence on the part of the section of the strikers have increased and not a day passes without an incident of this character being reported.

### BRITISH KEY INDUSTRIES

The manufacture of an important British Key Industry, synthetic dyestuffs, which was built up in war time, is threatened with virtual extinction. Factories are exposed to the full blast of the German industry. German selling agents are particularly active, and hold out the bait to British purchasers of the low value of the mark, and the consequent cheapness of the German article. The Frankfort Fair Gazette asserts that dyes are offered to English houses at a price seventy-five per cent below the offers of English makers, while the quality is equally good and sometimes better. Government is urged to pass legislation without delay re-imposing the licensing system to prevent the strangulation of the industry at its birth.

### CROSSWORD



#### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

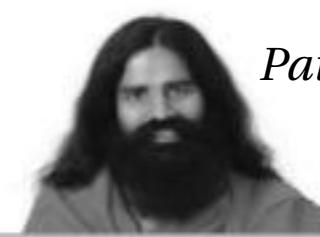
#### ACROSS

- 1 Will's lady has project involving story (6)
- 4 Maybe captain's lip to bowler? (5,3)
- 9 Republican islands losing base in cuts (6)
- 10 Large bird sadly swallows pet rock (8)
- 12 Some prison guards (4)
- 13 Put up with sales talk (5)
- 14 Either way he's Jesus' father (4)
- 17 Internal security has to prosecute children (5)
- 18 Rain cloud cut short play after game (6)
- 22 Show signs of non-atomic form of radiation (6)
- 23 Book of Leviticus about to be reviewed (5)
- 26 Angry drunk advanced (4)
- 27 Helpless rector departs in a huff (5)
- 29 Take a small cut (4)
- 32 Small crack in a ship (3-5)
- 33 Cheat Canadian returning to French commune (6)
- 34 I felt DIY training is required to get accuracy (8)
- 35 Goes around right among some runners (6)

#### DOWN

- 1 Period when Julius Caesar captures Russia in revolt (8)
- 2 Wantonly sins with zeal - not with this sin! (8)
- 3 Make bread (4)
- 5 Memorial soldiers found in playground (5)
- 6 Harshly criticise second strike (4)
- 7 Sailors in house next to toy (4)
- 8 maker (6)
- 9 Finish off Sanctus composed in Italian (6)
- 11 Women intimate with film producer (6)
- 15 Excitement of month in Mali after leaving Indonesia (5)
- 16 Odd joke (5)
- 19 Could two males lead to havoc? (6)
- 20 Drunken vintner welcoming daughter's convenience food (2,6)
- 21 Recalls after surreptitious rugby manoeuvres (3-5)
- 24 Be quiet and run away with Indian banker (6)
- 25 Concluded a good wine includes hint of earthiness (6)
- 28 Dealer in Volkswagen trucks (5)
- 30 Liberal doctor raised young lass (4)
- 31 Jeer King John? (4)

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



Patanjali's Ruchi Soya to launch follow-on offering next year.

Baba Ramdev  
FOUNDER OF PATANJALI

## THUMBNAILS

**EY acquires Spotmentor Technologies:** EY India on Monday said it has acquired Spotmentor Technologies, an AI-enabled upskilling and reskilling platform, for an undisclosed amount. The acquisition strengthens EY's People Advisory portfolio of digital services to help businesses navigate their end-to-end skilling needs, a statement said.

**NBCC bags multi-cr order:** State-run construction major NBCC (India) Ltd said that it had bagged orders worth Rs 1,165.52 crore in October. "This is to inform that NBCC (India) Limited has secured a total business of Rs 1,165.52 crore in October 2020," the company said in a regulatory filing on Monday.

**Larsen & Toubro:** Engineering and construction giant Larsen & Toubro has emerged as the lowest bidder for a Rs 3,200 crore project to build a road bridge over the Brahmaputra river, according to an NHIDCL official. It will be one of the longest road bridges over a river in the country and on completion will connect two eastern states Assam and Meghalaya.

**EPFO's multiple options:** Retirement fund body EPFO has provided multiple options for submission of Digital Life Certificate (DLC) by over 67 lakh pensioners, enabling them to continue drawing their social security benefits, the labour ministry said.

**Crompton:** Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals launched its latest range of ceiling lights Star Lord - a range with high brightness and stylish ultra slim rims. The latest offering by the company ensures its consumers 'maximum brightness with maximum style', said a Press release statement.

**Mutual Funds:** The mutual fund industry has added over 4 lakh investor accounts in October, taking the total tally to 9.37 crore, primarily on account of contribution from debt schemes.

# No extra compliance burden on taxpayers for GST turnover: DoR

Data analytics detected persons showing turnover of crores but not paying a single rupee in tax

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 16 NOVEMBER



The revenue department on Monday said data analytics has detected persons showing turnover of crores of rupees in GST but not paying a single rupee in income tax, and announced there would be no change in the reporting requirement with the display of GST turnover data in Form 26AS for honest taxpayers.

In a statement, the Department of Revenue (DoR) reiterated that there will be no extra compliance burden on the taxpayers for GST turnover displayed in the Form 26AS, which is an annual consolidated tax statement that can be accessed from the income-tax website by taxpayers using their Permanent Account Number (PAN).

"The GST turnover is being shown in 26AS just for the information of taxpayer. DoR acknowledged that there may be some differences in GSTR-3Bs filed and the GST shown in the Form 26AS but it can't happen that a person shows turnover of crores of rupees

in GST and doesn't pay a single rupee of income tax. There are quite a few such cases that have been detected in data analytics," it said.

The DoR said that the notified Income Tax Return for the current AY 2020-21 already requires reporting of GST outward supplies in the Schedule GST.

Therefore, the information displayed in Form 26AS would provide ease of compliance to the taxpayers in filling Schedule GST.

"There would be no change in the reporting requirement with the display of information of GST turnover in Form 26AS because the honest taxpayers are already furnishing GST returns and Income Tax

Return and reporting their turnover correctly," it added.

Beginning June 1, 2020, Form 26AS has been revamped to an "Annual Information Statement" which apart from the TDS/TCS details, shall now contain comprehensive information relating specified financial transactions, payment of taxes, demand/refund and pending/completed proceedings undertaken by a taxpayer in a particular financial year that has to be mentioned in the income tax returns.

It would also show turnover reported in Goods and Services Tax (GST) return form GSTR-3B. It would also contain various information reported by reporting entities in statement of financial transac-

tions such as information of cash deposit/withdrawal from saving bank accounts, sale/purchase of immovable property, time deposits, credit card payments, etc.

The earlier Form 26AS used to give information regarding tax deducted at source and tax collected at source relating to a PAN, besides certain additional information including details of other taxes paid, refunds and TDS defaults.

The DoR said it would ease the reporting of GST turnover in the GST Schedule of the Income Tax Return and should be seen as an important step in the direction of "Transparent Taxation - Honoring the Honest".

"The display of information of GST turnover in Form 26AS, at the same time, would force dishonest taxpayers (who earlier used to evade income tax by under-reporting their turnover in the income tax returns) as compared to turnover reported in the GST returns) to report their correct turnover and consequently force them to pay the correct income-tax," it added.

This would promote ease

of compliance as the information regarding turnover reported in GST returns would be readily available to the taxpayers at the time of filing of their Income Tax Returns, the DoR said.

The revenue department has noticed that many unscrupulous persons are trying to avail or pass on input tax credit fraudulently by generating fake invoices and has already formulated a strategy for identifying these fake invoice generators which inter alia takes into account the income tax profiles of the suspected fake invoice generators.

These persons in most of the cases never file their income tax returns or disclose very meagre taxable income in the income tax return. The suspected fake invoice generators are being identified for serious action under GST and other laws including suspension of their GST registration based on the fact that whether their income tax payment commensurate with the expected profit margin on turnover reported by them in the GST returns, the DoR said.



mation from an internet user. "This disease of just clicking on the link, this is another reason where the malware drops," he said, asking everybody to study the recent cases of frauds at City Union Bank where a person entered the core banking system through a click, and also the ones at Bangladesh Bank and Cosmos Bank. Vulnerabilities will continue to exist and the only solution against those is personal cyber hygiene and technological steps, Pant added.

In such unprecedented times, you mentioned two Cs the challenge of corona and the challenge of cyber. Actually, at the perch which I sit, there are 3Cs. The third 'C' of course is on our northern border, which is another challenge that we are facing.

"In such an environment, cyber-attacks have gone up multi-fold. There are 4 lakh malware, we find every day. 375 cyber-attacks take place." Pant said at an event organised by largest private sector lender HDFC Bank. He said apart from falling prey to voice call-based frauds, people should also be very careful about the click-baits, which are deployed to extract infor-

versa. We have several partnerships in India, for example with Bharti Airtel," Busque pointed out.

Verizon operates three business units in India. Verizon Business Group offers a suite of managed network and security services together with advanced communications.

It holds an internet service provider license, international and national long-distance licenses and a virtual network operator license. Verizon Media Group, on the other hand, works with global digital publishers and advertisers. Verizon India plays a critical role in both the development of next-generation technologies and the day-to-day operations of business, with technology hubs in Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad.

## 'Startups' registration at GeM doubled in last 1yr'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 16 NOVEMBER

year ago, we had 40,275 buyers, 2.98 lakh sellers, 59,536 MSMEs, and 3,509 startups," GeM CEO Talleen Kumar said. He said that providing increased market access to seller groups like startups, and MSMEs has reinforced the Make in India initiative.

Startups have fulfilled orders worth over Rs 1,800 crore through the marketplace, Kumar said adding GeM is taking several steps so that more and more startups, MSMEs, artisans and weavers can register their goods and services on this platform.

"Presently, over 20,000 artisans and 1.2 lakh weavers have registered so far as sellers and are uploading products in their relevant categories," Kumar added.

The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) was launched in August 2016 for online purchase of goods and services by all the central government ministries and departments.

"We now have 48,038 buyers, 7.42 lakh sellers with 2.42 lakh MSEs (micro and small enterprises), 7,438 startups, 10,252 product categories, and 173 service categories. One

## 'India to play key role in global economy, future of tech'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 16 NOVEMBER

India, which has one of the fastest-growing tech and telecom markets, is poised to play a key role in the global economy and future of technology and innovation, a senior official of Verizon Business Group has said.

Robert Le Busque, Managing Director, Asia Pacific (APAC), Verizon Business Group said that the rising middle class, "almost unrivalled talent pool", commitment to research and development, and innovation has made India one of the world's strongest digital economies. Verizon Business Group, a provider of IT, communications, security and network solutions to enterprises and governments around the world, is bullish

about India's 5G prospects, given the transformational nature of the next-generation technology.

"India has one of the fastest-growing technology and telecom markets in the world and Verizon strongly believes that India has a key role to play in the global economy and future of technology and innovation," Busque said in an e-mail interaction.

On the 5G landscape, he said it would be truly transformational for the country.

"Imagine what India's factories,

manufacturing floors,

airports, train stations, media

and entertainment industries

can achieve when 5G becomes ubiquitous," he said, underlining the impact of the next-generation technology on economy and businesses.

"It's a private 5G network

within a facility that will bring data transit speed to many times less than the blink of an eye, eventually less than 10 milliseconds end-to-end response time. The possibilities are truly endless, which is why many countries are going all out to deploy this technology," Busque added.

In October, Verizon Business had announced the launch of an international private 5G platform for global enterprises located in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.

This would be delivered in partnership with Nokia, Busque said, adding that the offering will enable Indian businesses to deploy a private industrial-grade dedicated 5G network capability within their premises.

"In tandem, our existing portfolio of products around our

premises.

"We're always looking at mutually beneficial partnerships which we feel can add value to our customers and vice

versa. We have several partnerships in India, for example with Bharti Airtel," Busque pointed out.

Verizon operates three business units in India. Verizon Business Group offers a suite of managed network and security services together with advanced communications.

It holds an internet service provider license, international and national long-distance licenses and a virtual network operator license. Verizon India plays a critical role in both the development of next-generation technologies and the day-to-day operations of business, with technology hubs in Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad.

## PUBLIC SECTOR ROUNDUP

### Incentives to help India become global manufacturing hub: ASSOCHAM

#### BIMA LOKPAL DIVAS CELEBRATED



Bima Lokpal Divas was celebrated on 11 November by the office of the Insurance Ombudsman, Asaf Ali Road, Delhi by conducting an online meeting with complainants and insurers.

#### SBI DONATES AMBULANCE



State Bank of India (SBI) under the Bank's Corporate Social Responsibility donated Ambulance to a NGO, 'The Earth Saviours Foundation', village Bandhwari, Gurugram.

#### SCOPE hails Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0

The Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE), apex body of Public Sector Enterprises, welcomes the slew of measures announced by the Government as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0 to retrace the economic growth of the country, which is already showing positive signs.

Atul Sobti, Director General, SCOPE said that while the country continues to effectively combat the pan-

ship programme for making India Atmanirbhar in the global manufacturing value chain is near Rs 2 lakh crore. This would have a huge multiplier effect on economic activities, with a sizable generation of employment across different sectors such as automobiles, electronics, textiles, food products, and telecom.

In sectors like pharmaceuticals, chemicals, solar equipment, the PLI would also give a big leap towards scientific research and development," Mr Sood said.

He said, the PLI Scheme, in conjunction with a slew of reforms in agriculture, defence production, infrastructure development are path-breaking measures, some of which required legislative changes.

"Prime Minister Modi's resolve towards making India

Atmanirbhar is being acted upon even in the face of the Covid-19 global challenge.

India's manufacturing has a strong linkage with the country's exports which would get a competitive edge with these measures," Mr Sood said.

He said sectors like textile, particularly technical textiles, have risen to the occasion in making India self-reliant in critical medical devices like PPEs

to fight the Covid-19 pandemic.

With PLIs, "India has further opened doors for global investors to set up their global manufacturing facilities, even as domestic firms have been given a firm hand-holding. These measures would also speed up the economic recovery, to be helped not only by restoring consumer demand but also shoring up the investment climate". The

ASSOCHAM Secretary General said, incentives to sectors like speciality steel and solar modules would help India get cutting technology along with the investment. "The global geostrategic paradigm favours India to become a crucial hub in global value chains.

The Government is making all efforts towards seizing this great opportunity for India," Sood said.

#### ONGC posts net profit of ₹2,878 cr

In its 332nd meeting held on 13 November, ONGC Board approved the results for Second Quarter (Q2) of FY2020-21 (FY '21).

ONGC registered a net profit of Rs 2,878 crore on the gross revenue of Rs 16,917 crore during Q2 FY '21.

During this period ONGC produced

5,686 MMT of crude oil and 5,880 BCM of natural gas.

as compared to the corresponding period of FY '20.

Lower gas prices also contributed to lower topline and bottom line.

The company has also recog-

nised an exceptional item towards impairment loss of Rs 1,238 crore in Q2 FY '21 to factor into estimated future crude oil and natural gas prices.

This impairment loss may be reversed in future as and when there is an increase in crude oil and gas price.

However, PAT for Q2 FY '21 has increased by 480% i.e. from Rs 496 crore in Q1 FY '21 to Rs 2,878 crore in Q2 FY '21 due to recovery of crude oil price.

#### PowerGrid posts PAT of ₹3,117 cr for Q2

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna Company under Ministry of Power, Government of India and the Central Transmission Utility (CTU) of the country, has posted a PAT of Rs 3,094 crore and total Income of Rs 9,831 crore on consolidated basis for Q2 FY21.

On a standalone basis, the company posted

PAT and total income of Rs 3,117 crore and Rs 9,890 crore respectively for Q2 FY21,

registering an increase of about 23% & 8%

respectively with respect to the corresponding period of FY20.

For six-month period (H1 FY21), the PAT

and total income on consolidated basis are

Rs 5,142 crore and Rs 19,648 crore respectively,

which are about 1% and 6% higher with respect

to the corresponding period of FY20, while on

standalone basis, the PAT and total income are

Rs 5,097 crore and Rs 19,511

#### HSCL SIGNS MoU WITH NESTS



Asit Gopal, Chairman, NESTFDC & Commissioner, National Education Society of Tribal Schools (NESTS), Union M/o Tribal Affairs, on behalf of NESTS and Rajendra Chaudhari, Managing Director, Hindustan Steelworks Construction Ltd. (HSCL), a subsidiary of NBCC, on behalf of HSCL, signed an MoU on 9 November. The MoU has been signed for construction of 58 schools. Ekavaya Model Residential Schools by HSCL in the states of Odisha, Jhark

Japan hopes to deepen its alliance with the United States under President-elect Joe Biden

JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER TOSHIMITSU MOTEGI  
DISCUSSING JAPANESE DIPLOMACY AT THE JAPAN NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

The Statesman

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2020

09

# PTI clinches most seats in Pak

India has slammed Pakistan for its decision to hold elections in militarily-occupied Gilgit-Baltistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, 16 NOVEMBER

Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) on Monday won most of the seats in the Legislative Assembly election in Gilgit-Baltistan in northern Pakistan, keeping alive the tradition of success in the region by the party ruling the country.



India has slammed Pakistan for its decision to hold elections in Gilgit-Baltistan and said any action to alter the status of the militarily-occupied region has no legal basis.

Elections were held on 23 seats of the third legislative assembly on Sunday amidst tight security due to the threat of militancy.

Unofficial results compiled by the various media out-

lets showed that PTI won at least 8 to 9 seats, but it was still well short of majority to form the government. However, it was in a position to form the government as 6-7 independent candidates also won.

Geo TV reported that PTI won 8 seats, independent candidates 6, Pakistan People Party (PPP) 5, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) 2, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl

(JIU-F) and Majlis Wahdatul Muslimeen (MWM) 1 seat each.

However, Dunya TV reported that PTI won 9 seats, independents 7, PPP 4, PML-N 2 and MWM 1 seat.

The official results were still not known as election authorities may take some time to announce the final outcome.

Polling was due on 24 seats but it was postponed on one seat after the death of one of the contestants.

As many as 330 candidates, including four women contested the election.

Out of 1,141 polling stations, 577 have been declared sensitive and 297 highly sensitive. Over 15,000 security personnel from Gilgit-Baltistan, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan were deployed at the polling stations.

It is the third election for the current legislative assembly after political reform introduced in 2010.

Traditionally, the party ruling in Islamabad have won the Gilgit-Baltistan polls. The first election was won by PPP when it got 15 seats, followed by PML-N, the then ruling party, in 2015 when it won 16 seats.

The voters kept the tradition but with a difference as PTI failed to get an outright majority. PML-N emerged as the biggest losers as it ruled from 2015-2020 and was popular in the region.

Both the Opposition parties PPP and PML-N have alleged poll rigging.

PPP Secretary General Nayyar Bukhari on Sunday demanded disqualification of ruling PTI candidates from

the election.

Regardless of who wins the polls, it is expected that some changes in the status of the region would be announced after the new government was formed in the region.

In a ruling earlier this year, the Pakistan Supreme Court allowed Islamabad to amend a 2018 administrative order to conduct general elections in the region. The Gilgit-Baltistan Order of 2018 provided for administrative changes, including authorising the prime minister of Pakistan to legislate on an array of subjects.

Following the verdict, India issued a demarche to a senior Pakistani diplomat in New Delhi and lodged a strong protest over the apex court ruling.

# Turkey seeks approval to deploy peacekeepers in Azerbaijan

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
ANKARA, 16 NOVEMBER

Turkey's government submitted a motion to parliament on Monday seeking its approval to deploy peacekeepers to monitor a ceasefire agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia, the state-run news agency reported.

Turkey, which threw its weight behind its ally Azerbaijan in the conflict, has been engaged in talks with Russia for a role in monitoring the ceasefire that ended six weeks of intense fighting between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Russian and Turkish defense ministers signed a memorandum Wednesday to create a joint monitoring center in Azerbaijan.

The bill submitted to parliament requests a one-year

mandate to send Turkish peacekeepers, adding that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan would determine the number of troops to be sent.

The motion is expected to be debated in coming days. The motion states that civilian personnel could also be deployed as part of the peacekeeping mission.

It has been assessed that for the Turkish Armed Forces personnel... to take part in the Joint Center which Turkey and Russia will form together, will be beneficial for the peace and welfare of the region's people and is nec-

essary from the point of our national interests, the state-run Anadolu Agency stated from the motion.

Russian officials have said that Ankara's involvement will be limited to the work of the monitoring center on Azerbaijani soil, and Turkish peacekeepers would not go to Nagorno-Karabakh. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has said the center will operate remotely, using drones and other technical means to monitor possible violations.

Russia, which negotiated the ceasefire, is sending about 2,000 peacekeeping troops under a five-year mandate.

Nagorno-Karabakh lies within Azerbaijan but has been under control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since a separatist war there ended in 1994.

## UN-led Libya talks end without naming interim govt

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GAMMARTH, 16 NOVEMBER

Libya's rival sides wrapped up a week of UN-brokered talks without agreeing on a transitional government that would lead the country to an election in December next year, the top UN official for Libya said Monday.

The political forum, which concluded late Sunday in Tunisia, was the latest effort to end the chaos that engulfed the oil-rich North African nation after the 2011 overthrow and killing of dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

The main goal of the gathering was to draw a roadmap for presidential and parliamentary elections. The participants agreed to hold the

## Peru's interim president resigns as chaos erupts

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LIMA (PERU), 16 NOVEMBER

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

In a short televised address, Manuel Merino said Congress acted within the law when he was sworn into office as chief of state Tuesday, despite protesters' allegations that legislators had staged a parliamentary coup.

I, like everyone, want what's best for our country, he said.

The politician agreed to step down after a night of unrest in which two young protesters were killed and half his

it can't be that the institution that got us into this political crisis, that has for five days paralysed Peru, with deaths, is going to give us a solution, choosing the person who they best see fit, Vizcarra said.

Peru has much at stake: The country is in the throes of one of the world's most lethal coronavirus outbreaks and political analysts say the constitutional crisis has cast the country's democracy into jeopardy.

I think this is the most serious democratic and human rights crisis we have seen since Fujimori, said analyst Alonso Gurmendi Dunkelberg, referring to the turbulent rule of strongman Alberto Fujimori from 1990 to 2000.

Congress kicked Vizcarra out using a clause dating

back to the 19th century that allows the powerful legislature to remove a president for permanent moral incapacity. Legislators accused Vizcarra of taking more than USD 630,000 in bribes in exchange for two construction contracts while governor of a small province years ago.

Prosecutors are investigating the allegations but Vizcarra has not been charged. He has vehemently denied the accusations.

Merino, previously head of Congress, stepped in as interim president, but his six-day rule was marred by constant protests. The little-known politician and rice farmer promised to keep in place a scheduled vote for a new president in April. That did little to sway Peruvians who were loath to accept him.

## Syria's longtime Foreign Minister al-Moallem dies

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIRUT, 16 NOVEMBER



Syria's Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem, a career diplomat who became one of the country's most prominent faces to the outside world during the uprising against President Bashar Assad, died Monday. He was 79.

Al-Moallem, who served as ambassador to Washington for nine years starting in 1990 during Syria's on-and-off peace talks with Israel, was a close confidant of Assad known for his loyalty and hard-line position against the opposition.

A soft spoken, jovial man with a dry sense of humor, al-Moallem was also known for his ability to defuse tensions with a joke.

During the current crisis, he often held news conferences in Damascus detailing the Syrian government's position. Unwavering in the face of international criticism, he repeatedly vowed that the opposition, which he said was part of a Western conspiracy against Syria for its anti-Israel stances, would be crushed.

A short and portly man with white hair, his health was said to be deteriorating in recent years. The state-run SANA news agency reported his death, without immediately offering a cause.

Born to a Sunni Muslim family in Damascus in 1941, al-Moallem attended public schools in Syria and later traveled to Egypt, where he studied at Cairo University, graduating in 1963 with a bachelor's degree in eco-

nomics.

He returned to Syria and began work at the foreign ministry in 1964, rising to the top post in 2005.

His first mission outside the country as a diplomat in the 1960s was to open the Syrian Embassy in the African nation of Tanzania. In 1966 he moved to work in the Syrian Embassy in the Saudi city of Jiddah and a year later he moved to the Syrian Embassy in Madrid.

In 1972, he headed the Syrian mission to London and in 1975 moved to Romania, where he spent five years as ambassador. He then returned to Damascus as he headed the ministry's documentation office until 1984, when he was named as the head of the foreign minister's office.

He was appointed as Syria's ambassador to Washington in 1990, spending nine years in the U.S. During that time Syria held several rounds of peace talks with Israel.

In 2005, he was appointed foreign minister at a time when Damascus was isolated by Arab and Western nations following the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

Many Lebanese, Arabs and Western governments blamed Syria for the massive blast that killed Hariri.

## Hurricane Iota powers up in new threat to America

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANAGUA (NICARAGUA), 16 NOVEMBER

A fast-strengthening Hurricane Iota is sweeping over the western Caribbean and predicted to become a very dangerous Category 4 storm as it heads for the same part of Central America battered by a similarly powerful Hurricane Eta just over a week ago.

Evacuations were being conducted from low-lying areas in Nicaragua and Honduras near their shared border, which appeared to be Iota's likely landfall. Winds and rain were already being felt on the Nicaraguan coast Sunday night.

The hurricane center said Iota had maximum sustained

winds of 105 mph (165 kph) late Sunday. It was centered about 235 miles (375 kilometers) east-southeast of Cabo Gracias a Dios on the Nicaragua-Honduras border and moving westward at 10 mph (17 kph). It was already a record-breaking system, being the 30th named storm of this year's extraordinarily busy Atlantic hurricane season. Such activity has focused attention on climate change, which scientists say is causing wetter, stronger and more destructive storms.

In Honduras, compulsory evacuations began before the weekend and by Sunday evening 63,500 people were reported to be in 379 shelters just in the northern region,

while the whole country was on high alert. Nicaraguan officials said that by late Sunday afternoon about 1,500 people, nearly half of them children, had been evacuated from low-lying areas in the country's northeast, including all the inhabitants of Cayo Misquitos. Authorities said 83,000 people in that region were in danger.

Wind and rain were beginning to be felt Sunday night in Bilwi, a coastal Nicaraguan city where people crowded markets and hardware stores during the day in search of plastic sheeting, nails and other materials to reinforce their homes, just as they did when Hurricane Eta hit on Nov. 3.

## Pak's FIA files case against Shahbaz Sharif, others

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LAHORE, 16 NOVEMBER

Pakistan's top investigative body has registered an FIR against top Opposition leader Shahbaz Sharif, Prime Minister Imran Khan's friend and three others in a multi-billion sugar scam.

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) registered the case on Sunday against Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) President Shahbaz Sharif, his sons Hamza and Suleiman, Prime Minister Khan's friend Jahangir Tareen and his son Ali Tareen under money laundering, forgery, criminal breach of trust and cheating

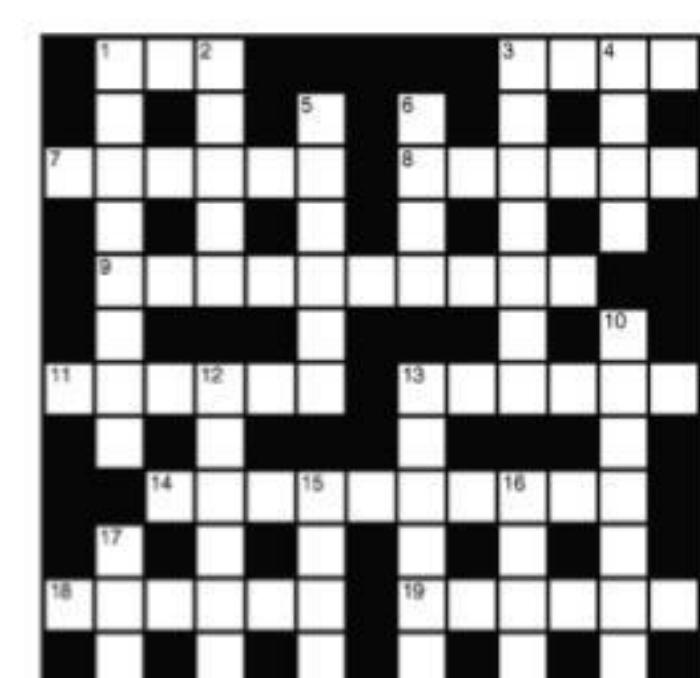
of public shareholders.

Tareen and his son are accused of defrauding and laundering Rs 4.35 billion in the case, while Shahbaz and his sons are facing similar charges amounting Rs 25 billion.

The complaint comes days after the Lahore High Court struck down a case filed by the Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) with the FIA against Tareen's JDW Sugar Mills and Farooqi Pulp Mills and Shahbaz's Al-Arabia Sugar Mills on the basis of procedural unfairness and for being a dictated exercise.

## LEISURE

### 10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



### SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

| ACROSS                   | DOWN                                   |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1 Organ of sight (3)     | 1 Abtruse (8)                          |
| 3 Culinary herb (4)      | 2 Choose (5)                           |
| 7 Powerful (6)           | 3 Walk unsteadily (7)                  |
| 8 Calm-natured (6)       | 4 Profit (4)                           |
| 9 Study of insects (10)  | 5 Thwart (6)                           |
| 11 Dent in the flesh (6) | 6 Gemstone (4)                         |
| 13 Religious address (6) | 7 Flattering talk (informal) (4,4)     |
| 14 Desire to travel (10) | 12 Sign carried by a demonstration (7) |
| 18 Tribute (6)           | 13 Extend (6)                          |
| 19 Writer (6)            | 15 Say (5)                             |
| 20 Hospital room (4)     | 17 Jot (4)                             |
| 21 Tear (3)              |  |

By arrangement with The Independent. Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required

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*Why does the Fake News Media continuously assume that Joe Biden will ascend to the Presidency*

US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

REFUSING TO CONCEDE THE US ELECTION, ASSERTING THAT HE HAS WON

World

## WEATHER

| CITY          | MAX (°C) | MIN (°C) |
|---------------|----------|----------|
| SINGAPORE     | 31       | 25 H     |
| HONG KONG     | 26       | 21 H     |
| TOKYO         | 20       | 10 CL    |
| LONDON        | 13       | 8 R      |
| DUBAI         | 28       | 22 CL    |
| SAN FRANCISCO | 21       | 11 H     |
| NEW YORK      | 13       | 6 CL     |
| MOSCOW        | 0        | -5 H     |

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

## THUMBNAILS



**Merkel to assess lockdown:** German Chancellor Angela Merkel will assess the effects of a nearly two-week-long partial lockdown with state governors in a video conference on Monday. Germany went into a partial lockdown at the beginning of November but left open schools and stores after virus figures spiked exponentially in October. AP

**Eight killed as bus falls into gorge:** At least eight people were killed and eleven others injured after a passenger bus on Monday skidded off a mountain road and fell into a gorge in northwest Pakistan. The bus was on way to Hazrat Kaka Sahib shrine in Nowshera district of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa when it fell from a mountain road after its brake failed while saving another vehicle coming from the opposite direction, police said. PTI

**UN envoy criticises Israel's move:** The UN's Mideast envoy on Monday said he was very concerned by Israel's decision to advance construction in a Jewish settlement in east Jerusalem that would make it even harder to establish a contiguous Palestinian state. The move also risks angering the incoming US administration, which is opposed to settlement expansion and hopes to revive negotiations over a two-state solution. AP

**Macron sees Trump envoy after wishing Biden on victory**

PARIS, 16 NOVEMBER

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

Neither side said much in advance about US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's low-profile visit to Paris, the starting point of a seven-country tour of Europe and the Middle East.

Macron's office described

Pompeo's planned stop Monday at the presidential Elysee Palace as a courtesy visit. No press conference was scheduled, seemingly ruling out the likelihood of journalists getting to ask Pompeo or Macron about their conflicting visions of the US election outcome.

Pompeo has not accepted Trump's election defeat. Macron has already spoken by phone with Biden to congratulate him.

Pompeo's trip is aimed at shoring up the priorities of Trump's outgoing administration. From Paris, he was expected to travel to Turkey. The trip will also include visits to Israeli settlements in the West Bank that have been avoided by previous secretaries of state.

Before the scheduled meetings with Macron and his foreign minister, Pompeo laid a bouquet of red, white and blue flowers at a memorial to victims of terrorism at a Paris landmark, the Hotel des Invalides. The ceremony lasted about a minute. AP

# Ray of hope: Vaccine reaches 94.5% efficacy

Moderna vaccine news come hot on the heels of similar results from Pfizer; add to growing confidence that vaccines can help end the pandemic

## ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, 16 NOVEMBER

For the second time this month, there's promising news from a COVID-19 vaccine candidate. Moderna said Monday its shots provide strong protection, a dash of hope against the grim backdrop of coronavirus surges in the US and around the world.

Moderna said its vaccine appears to be 94.5% effective, according to preliminary data from the company's still ongoing study. A week ago, competitor Pfizer Inc. announced its own COVID-19 vaccine appeared similarly effective, news that puts both companies on track to seek permission within weeks for emergency use in the US.

Dr Stephen Hoge, Moderna's president, welcomed the



"really important milestone" but said having similar results from two different companies is what's most reassuring. "That should give us all hope that actually a vaccine is going to be able to stop this pandemic and hopefully get us back to our lives," Hoge told *The Associated Press*.

"It won't be Moderna alone that solves this problem. It's going to require many vaccines" to meet the global

demand, he added.

A vaccine can't come fast enough, as virus cases topped 11 million in the US over the weekend, 1 million of them recorded in just the past week. The pandemic has killed more than 1.3 million people worldwide, more than 245,000 of them in the US.

Still, if the Food and Drug Administration allows emergency use of Moderna's or Pfizer's candidates, there will be limited, rationed supplies before the end of the year. Both require people to get two shots, several weeks apart. Moderna expects to have about 20 million doses, earmarked for the US, by the end of 2020. Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech expect to have about 50 million doses globally by year's end.

Moderna's vaccine, created with the National Institutes

of Health, is being studied in 30,000 volunteers who received either the real vaccination or a dummy shot.

On Sunday, an independent monitoring board broke the code to examine 95 infections that were recorded starting two weeks after volunteers' second dose, and discovered all but five illnesses occurred in participants who got the placebo.

The study is continuing, and Moderna acknowledged the protection rate might change as more COVID-19 infections are detected and added to the calculations.

Also, it's too soon to know how long protection lasts. Both cautions apply to Pfizer's vaccine as well.

But Moderna's independent monitors reported some additional, promising tidbits: All 11 severe COVID-19 cases

were among placebo recipients, and there were no significant safety concerns.

The main side effects were fatigue, muscle aches and injection-site pain after the vaccine's second dose, at rates that Hoge characterized as more common than with flu shots but on par with others such as shingles vaccine.

Moderna shares rocketed higher on the announcement and appeared to be headed for an all-time high Monday. The Cambridge, Massachusetts, company's vaccine is among 11 candidates in late-stage testing around the world, four of them in huge studies in the US.

Both Moderna's shots and the Pfizer-BioNTech candidate are so-called mRNA vaccines, a brand-new technology. They aren't made with the coronavirus itself, meaning

there's no chance anyone could catch it from the shots. Instead, the vaccine contains a piece of genetic code that trains the immune system to recognize the spiked protein on the surface of the virus.

The strong results were a surprise. Scientists have warned for months that any COVID-19 shot may be only as good as flu vaccines, which are about 50% effective.

Another steep challenge: distributing doses that must be kept very cold. Both the Moderna and Pfizer shots are frozen but at different temperatures.

Moderna announced Monday that once thawed, its doses can last longer in a refrigerator than initially thought, up to 30 days. Pfizer's shots require long-term storage at ultra-cold temperatures. PTI

## Janssen begins major new vaccine trial

LONDON, 16 NOVEMBER

Belgium-headquartered global pharmaceutical company Janssen began a major new clinical trial of its potential vaccine against COVID-19 in the UK from Monday, which will involve 6,000 volunteers across the country. Recruitment into the Phase 3 study will complete in March 2021 and the trial will last for 12 months. It marks the third potential vaccine to enter clinical trials in the UK, alongside Novavax and AstraZeneca.

## TIT-BITS



**S Korea daily cases stay above 200:** South Korea's daily coronavirus tally has stayed above 200 for a third consecutive day, as authorities consider raising the country's social distancing rules. The 223 additional cases recorded Monday by the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency took the country's total to 28,769 with 494 deaths. The agency says 193 of them are locally transmitted cases while the rest was associated with international arrivals.

**New Zealand imposes new mask rules:** New Zealanders will be legally required to wear masks on public transport in Auckland and on planes nationwide from Thursday. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and Virus Response Minister Chris Hipkins announced the new rules on Monday after meeting with senior lawmakers. The country has been largely successful in eliminating the virus but has experienced several small outbreaks in Auckland, the latest one after a military worker at a hotel where travelers returning from abroad are being quarantined got infected.

**Arthritis drug may improve COVID-19 survival among elderly patients:** A drug used to treat rheumatoid arthritis may reduce the risk of dying for elderly patients with COVID-19, and provide a new weapon in the arsenal against the novel coronavirus, according to a study. In the research, published in the journal *Science Advances*, 83 patients with a median age of 81 and all suffering from moderate to severe COVID-19 infection were given a drug called baricitinib. This medication was initially identified by scientists at Imperial College London in the UK using artificial intelligence (AI) as a drug that could have anti-viral and anti-inflammatory effects.

**Santa Claus to get new normal makeover:** Santa Claus is coming to the mall just don't try to sit on his lap. Despite the pandemic and the fact that Santa's age and weight put him at high risk for severe illness from the coronavirus mall owners are going ahead with plans to bring him back this year. But they are doing all they can to keep the jolly old man safe, including banning kids from sitting on his knee. Kids will instead tell Santa what they want for Christmas from six feet away, and sometimes from behind a sheet of plexiglass. Santa and his visitors may need to wear a face mask, even while posing for photos. Other safety measures include online reservations to cut down on lines, workers wiping down holiday-decorated sets, and hand sanitizer aplenty. Santa's hours are also getting cut to give him a break from crowds.

## I feel great, says Johnson as he remains in self-isolation

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, 16 NOVEMBER



UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Monday said that he feels great as he remains in self-isolation at 10 Downing Street here after coming in contact with an MP who later tested positive for COVID-19.

In a video message posted on Twitter, 56-year-old Johnson, who had spent three nights in Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at St. Thomas' Hospital after testing positive for coronavirus in April, said that he must now follow the rules but stressed that he would continue to work from home and continue speaking to the nation by means of electronic communication. The fact that he had been contacted by the National Health Service to self-isolate was a sign that the system was working well, he said.

The good news is that the NHS Test and Trace is working ever more efficiently. The bad news is that they pinged me and I've got to self-isolate because somebody I was in

contact with a few days ago has developed COVID.

It doesn't matter that we were doing social distancing, doesn't matter that I feel great and that I have had the disease and am bursting with antibodies. We have got to interrupt the spread of the disease and one of the ways is by self-isolating, the Johnson said. In his characteristic style, he struck a note of optimism in his video message as he referred to the UK now having two gigantic boxing gloves with which to wallop our foe into submission in the form of the government's mass lateral flow rapid turnaround testing programme and the prospect of a vaccine, perhaps even before Christmas.

## Biden seeks window on vaccine plans as Trump stalls handoff

### ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, 16 NOVEMBER

President-elect Joe Biden's scientific advisers plan to meet with vaccine makers in coming days even as a stalled presidential transition keeps them out of the loop on government plans to inoculate all Americans against COVID-19.

President Donald Trump's refusal to accept that he lost the election means that the Biden team lacks a clear picture of the groundwork within the government for a mass vaccination campaign that will last the better part of next year, says Biden's chief of staff, Ron Klain.

We now have the possibility... of a vaccine starting perhaps in December or January, Klain said. There are people at HHS making plans to implement that vaccine.

Our experts need to talk to those people as soon as possible so nothing drops in this change of power we're going to have on January

20th. A lack of coordination between outgoing and incoming administrations would be especially problematic in a worsening public health crisis, said the government's top infectious disease expert, Dr Anthony Fauci.

Klain said it would be better if we could start working with them, said Fauci, head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, who has been through multiple presidential transitions during 36 years of government service. He likened the process to runners passing the baton in a relay race. You don't want to stop and then give it to somebody, he said. You want to just essentially keep going. The president

the counties that didn't allow (voters) to make corrections, Levine said.

The goal should be making sure every vote counts. Pennsylvania's top election official, Secretary of State Kathy Boockvar, a Democrat, responded in court on Sunday, asking the judge to dismiss the case. State courts are the proper jurisdiction for the subject, and the lawsuit contains no plausible claim for relief on any legal theory, the state's lawyers wrote.

More than 2.6 million mail-in ballots were reported received by counties, and there has been no report by state or county election officials or a prosecutor of fraud or any other problem with the accuracy of the count.

In any case, there is no provision in state law preventing counties from helping voters to fix mail-in ballots that were going to be disqualified for a technicality.

The lawsuit charges that

Democratic-heavy counties violated the law by identifying

mail-in ballots before Election Day that had defects,

such as lacking an inner secre-

cy envelope or lacking a voter's signature on the outside envelope, so that the voter could fix it and ensure that their vote would count, called curing.

Republican-heavy counties followed the law and did not provide a notice and cure process,

disenfranchising many, the lawsuit said.

Cliff Levine, a lawyer repre-

senting the Democratic Na-

tional Committee, which is seek-

ing to intervene, said it isn't

clear how many voters were

given the chance to fix their

ballot. But, he said, it is min-

imal and certainly fewer than

the margin, almost 70,000,

that separates Biden and

Trump. The numbers aren't

even close, Levine said.

In any case, there is no pro-

vision in state law preventing

counties from helping voters

to fix mail-in ballots that were

going to be disqualified for a

technicality.

They really should be suing

the counties that didn't allow

(voters) to make corrections,

Levine said.

The goal should be making

sure every vote counts.

Pennsylvania's top election

official, Secretary of State

Kathy Boockvar, a Democra-

t, responded in court on Sun-

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miss the case. State courts are

the proper



## Best of both worlds

A blend of face-to-face teaching and virtual lessons allow for co-creation and student-led learning opportunities

JITIN CHADRA

**I**ndia holds an important place in the global education industry with one of the largest networks of higher education institutions in the world. It's considered the second-largest market for e-learning.

However, the pandemic changed the scenario for students and teachers drastically, with educational institutions rapidly embracing technological know-how and reshaping their thinking to address the unprecedented demands of the "new normal".

The concept of a traditional classroom changed. In the ever-evolving digital environment today, technology has become an essential part of the learning process and plays a pivotal role in the future of education. The aim is to create exciting, engaging experiences so students continuously learn and grow into critical thinkers and problem solvers.

Simultaneously, teacher leadership is aimed to strengthen the instructional quality, lessen time in front of classrooms and increase time

to work with students individually and interaction with peers. Teachers are now part of multiple collaborative groups (offline and online) to share ideas, the work of lesson preparation, identify learning needs and together assess performance and progress.

Collectively, this encourages a blend of face-to-face teaching and virtual lessons, allowing for co-creation and student-led learning opportunities. Although the classrooms will continue to exist as physical spaces, their utility will focus more on collaboration and application of knowledge to learning projects and real-life issues while most learning will happen at home through virtual lessons.

India has the world's largest population of about 500 million in the age bracket of five to 24 years, which provides a great opportunity for the education sector.

One of the biggest advantages is that learning can happen anywhere and anytime. Rapid advancement in technology provides quicker and targeted access to information saving costs on books and supplements.

Classrooms are no longer limited by physical locations. A collaboration and co-creation mindset supports students to work on projects with their peers using social media to test ideas and theories, learn facts, understand opinions and balance skill sets for efficient teamwork.

Teacher and student roles are expanding. Teacher's roles have shifted from being owners of information to facilitators guiding students to experiment, be adventurous and manage their learning journey. Beyond subject expertise, teachers now need to be efficient planners, collaborators, problem-solvers and researchers.

Customisation of lesson plans to suit individual needs, abilities and pace of learning. A balance between learner-first approach and teacher-led learning creates engagement characterised by curiosity, imagination and enquiry. Forms of assessment are being reviewed based on what they aim to achieve. It's no longer about knowing the answer or scoring high. For a long time, results

labelled students as "good or bad" performers but now they're aimed to guide and develop individual learning plans.

It encourages lifelong self-directed learning in students to become independent thinkers, aware of their environment and behaviour. Alternatively, teachers help to develop self-discipline, time management skills and ability to explore how they think.

Technology can ease non-academic tasks like marking attendance, tracking progress, grading and recommending lesson resources. This gives teachers time to focus on monitoring, offering feedback and engaging in critical and analytical thinking. Tech-driven initiatives, tools and practices can make content interactive thereby increasing their appeal. Alternatively, students can also use digital portfolios to showcase their work that links to their assignments.

Now for the constraints; access to device and internet connectivity is crucial to grow and expand blended learning requiring concerted efforts from all stakeholders.

While developing imaginative use of digital technologies students need to be protected from its dangers. Also, educational institutions need to clearly articulate their policies on social media use to protect themselves from encroaching into someone's "online social world".

Working conditions, resources, training, on-the-job experiences, class size, accountability need to be clearly defined when developing teachers for the next-generation classrooms.

Even as technology and artificial intelligence are transforming the profession, teaching requires complex social skills and a human-centred approach. In the Union Budget 2020-21, the government announced a proposed outlay of US\$ 429.55 million for Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) by 2022. Thus, blended learning although intense and exhausting seems like the most effective way forward.

The writer is director and founder, Indian Institute of Art & Design

**The government's intent on faster digital integration and creating a high-quality and equitable public education system needs to be backed by adequate fund allocation**

RUSTOM KERAWALLA

**A**chieving a 100 per cent literacy level like many other developed nations is the bedrock for India's socio-economic progress in the 21st century. However, this goal cannot be achieved without involving private funding in education for developing the physical infrastructure, technological framework and creating a larger base of qualified and trained teachers.

The new National Education Policy (NEP) lays adequate emphasis on improving literacy levels among the youth and adults through strong and innovative government initiatives. It also rightly gives the highest priority to achieving foundational literacy and numeracy for all students by Class III. However, when it comes to funding these goals, the policy falls way short on answers for mobilising private sector capital for undertaking such massive overhauling of India's education sector within the shortest time frame.

**Focus on literacy**

India's current literacy level at 80 per cent is a distinct improvement over the past years but still falls short of the global average of 86 per cent. The NEP, however, draws focus on a much bigger problem - that is the country currently being in a learning crisis with over five crore students in elementary school not being able to



## ACHIEVING LITERACY FOR ALL

attain the foundational literacy and numeracy. The ability to read and write, and perform basic operations with numbers, is a necessary foundation for schooling and lifelong learning of students.

Given the urgency to address this problem, all state and union territory governments have been asked to immediately prepare an implementation plan for attaining universal foundational literacy and numeracy in all primary schools, identifying stage-wise targets and goals to be achieved by 2025.

Besides literacy for primary school students, the NEP also pro-

poses to achieve 100 per cent Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in school education by 2030 and bring adults into the ambit of structured education programmes. Community involvement and the smooth and beneficial integration of technology are the two ways suggested for adult literacy.

### Why private funding?

The government's intent on increasing literacy levels, faster digital integration and creating a high-quality and equitable public education system needs to be backed by adequate fund allocation. According to the NEP proposals, the centre

and the states will be asked to work together to increase the public investment in the education sector to reach six per cent of GDP at the earliest for meeting these goals.

Though NEP notes the criticality of enhancing public funding, it does not provide a roadmap for achieving this target, especially in the backdrop of the current economic slowdown and the general strain on public exchequer to manage the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

### Role of the private sector

During the implementation

phase of NEP, the state governments and union territories need to emphasise on public private partnerships for bringing the desired change across the entire spectrum of education. Not just for fund infusion, leveraging the expertise of private players in diverse areas like developing the technology infrastructure, managing public institutions, creating relevant and modern pedagogy and a large pool of trained teachers, will not just improve literacy levels but also improve the overall learning outcome within the stipulated time framework.

The writer is an educationist and edtech entrepreneur

### PLUS POINTS

#### Insightful lecture



The Institute of Management Studies (IMS) Noida organised a lecture on "New Marketing Strategy in Competitive Era" recently with an aim to provide insights about what are the major expected changes in marketing strategies and how students can cope with this situation. The lecture was graced by Ranu Jain, guest speaker, regional sales manager (North-1 UP) of Parle Biscuits Private Limited. Besides IMS president Rajeet Kumar Gupta, senior director Dr Kulneet Suri, Dean Dr Manju Gupta, HOD Neerja Anand along with teachers and students of the institute were present.

Inaugurating the programme, Jain stated that marketing strategy is a long-term, forward-looking approach and an overall game plan of any organisation. In this pandemic, the strategies adopted by Parle Biscuits Limited are an example of innovative marketing strategy.

#### Showcasing skills



The Indian Institute of Art and Design in collaboration with Kingston School of Art and Kingston University, London has come up with a revolutionary way to showcase their graduating class' final year projects. It aims at providing a platform to its students for showcasing their skills to some of the world's top industry patrons, while adhering to the new world order of social distancing.

In collaboration with Create Britain—an international platform to bring together and promote design and creativity—all portfolios for the outgoing batch of 2020 are being showcased online. Students across all disciplines were asked to upload their work emphasising on their research, design process, skill-set, industry exposure and accomplishments/awards/publications. Through this platform, prospective skill-set seekers are also encouraged to have access to a wide range of creative candidates who are showcasing their best skills on a streamlined platform.

#### Orientation programme



Sanskriti University welcomed a new batch of students of 2020 in their respective programmes offered by various schools of the university. It embraced the new normal by hosting its orientation programme virtually this year. Students and their parents were introduced to the university and were made familiar with the policies, procedures, resources and facilities, rules and regulations, and career opportunities for the students by conducting innovative programmes with industry experts, who shared their knowledge with all new students with diverse career aspirations.

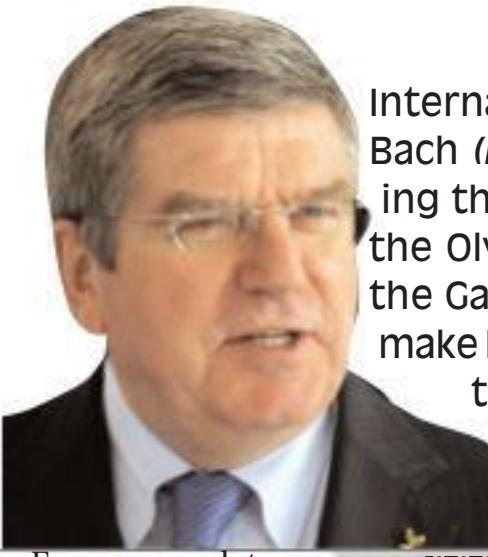
Amit Nevatia, education programme lead, Amazon Internet Services, Iftikhar Drabu, head ICRC-Nordics, Prof Cristine Gusmao, professor, Federal University of Pernambuco, Jatin Sabharwal, CEO, Feaster Venture Private Limited, Prof Devendra Narayan, manager, international division at Tokyo University of Science were present as guests for the three-day event.

#### In-depth learning



IIIT Delhi announced that admissions are now open for MTech in Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), Electronics and Communications Engineering (ECE), and Computational Biology (CB) recently.

The institute feels that to address the needs of the industry, which today requires more specialised manpower as each field is getting more complex, it is desirable to provide specialisations within CSE and ECE in the MTech programme. MTech (CB) programme strives for rigorous training in theoretical and computational approaches for solving real life biological problems. The last date for online application is 22 November. For details visit: <https://iiitd.ac.in/admission/mtech/2020>



For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

## REAL TRIER

International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach (*in photo, left*) will be in Tokyo this week, making the rounds, shaking hands on his first visit since the Olympics were postponed and telling everyone the Games would surely be held next year. Bach will make his point to supportive politicians, and to a skeptical public distracted by the pandemic and worried about jobs and the economy.

## THUMBNAILS

**Cuneswaran beaten:** Prajesh Cuneswaran ended runner-up in the men's singles event of the Atlantic Tire Championships after suffering a 6-3, 3-6, 0-6 defeat against America's Denis Kudla in the final of the Association of Tennis Professionals Challenger event.

**Italy win:** Italy overcame the absence of around 20 players plus coach Roberto Mancini owing to injury or Covid-19 related issues to beat lacklustre Poland 2-0 on Sunday and go top of their Nations League group. The hosts extended their unbeaten run to 21 games.

**England beaten:** Goals by Youri Tielemans and Dries Mertens earned Belgium an easy 2-0 victory over England as they strengthened their grip on top spot in Nations League Group A2 in Leuven on Sunday. England needed a win to put themselves back in the frame.

**Second squad:** Norway are scrambling to save their Nations League campaign by putting together a second squad after a row over Covid-19 precautions with the country's health ministry caused the cancellation of Sunday's game away to Romania.

**Title drought:** Manchester United may not have the resources that some of their Premier League rivals do but the fallen giants of English soccer still possess the mentality to end their title drought, midfielder Bruno Fernandes said. They last won the league in 2012-3.

**Positive tests:** Six South Korea players and a member of the team's staff tested positive for the new coronavirus before their 3-2 defeat by Mexico in an international soccer friendly, casting doubts over their clash with Qatar scheduled for Tuesday.

**Clemence dead:** Former England, Liverpool and Tottenham goalkeeper Ray Clemence has died aged 72, the Football Association said on Sunday. Clemence, who played 61 times for England, began his pro career with Scunthorpe before joining Liverpool.

**Back-up plan:** With New Zealand set to start its home cricket season later this month by playing a T20 al series against the West Indies, its cricket board has ensured there are back-up plans to switch venues in case Covid-19 alert levels at a host venue go up.

**League bounty:** Sri Lanka Cricket expects a bounty with the Lanka Premier League tournament getting the go-ahead from Colombo's health authorities after the Covid-19 pandemic delayed the event several times. SLC hopes to earn \$10 million over five years.

**Looking forward:** ATK Mohun Bagan will play the opening match of the Indian Super League against the Kerala Blasters in Goa on Friday. The players could not win the two matches against Kerala last year. Four days before the match, however, the champion coach does not want to give importance to the last year's result. He said, "We lost but we also became champions. In football, the result of the previous match remains only as statistics. I don't think the impact of last year's Kerala match will be felt in Friday's match".

**Bradi scores:** Stefan Bradl of the Repsol Honda Team was able to make a solid start to the 27-lap Valencia GP and set a series of consistent times as the German worked to move into the points, crossing the line in 14th place while Alex Marquez finished in 16th place.

## Virus scare ahead of first Test

AGENCIES  
MELBOURNE, 16 NOVEMBER



Australian media reported. South Australian state premier Steven Marshall said he was hopeful the outbreak could be brought under control in time to avoid disruption to the Test tour. "The cricket is still some time down the track and we'll deal with this as quickly as we possibly can," he said.

"If we act quickly and decisively, we get in front of this, I'm hopeful that we can get this resolved in the coming weeks." Paine and vice-captain Pat Cummins indicated there was still uncertainty about the impact of the outbreak.

"To be honest I'm not sure how that might affect us in a few weeks when we're due to go over

there," he said. "Cricket Australia have thought of every contingency... coming up with different options, different plans. So I'm sure whatever we have to do we'll find a way."

The governments of Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory have announced border closures, with Queensland imposing a two-week hotel quarantine on all visitors from Adelaide at 11.59 pm today. The rules mean that all those Western Australia players who took part in the recent Sheffield Shield rounds in Adelaide, must now self-isolate for two weeks and so Paine and his team-mates in the Tas-

mania squad have gone into isolation. South Australia announced the new Covid-19 cluster yesterday, with the number of patients quickly growing to 17 today. Cricket Australia has said that it is monitoring the situation. "There is ongoing monitoring but that's the end of the story," a CA spokeswoman was quoted as saying by The Sydney Morning Herald on the pink-ball Test.

The Indian contingent, as well as the Australian players who took part in the Indian Premier League in the United Arab Emirates, have been in a two-week quarantine in Sydney since Thursday. The players are, however, able to train after testing negative for Covid-19.

The two teams will compete in three One-Day Internationals and as many Twenty20 Internationals, beginning 27 November, before the four-Test series. The first two ODIs will be played at the Sydney Cricket Ground while the third ODI and the first T20I will be played at the Manuka Oval in Canberra.

The final two T20Is will then be played at the SCG. Virat Kohli's team India will begin their Test series title defence with the pink-ball match in Adelaide from 17 December. It will be followed by Tests at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (December 26), the Sydney Cricket Ground (January 7) and the Gabba (January 15).

Team India innovates to counter bounce, pace on Aus wickets after UAE trip



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE  
SYDNEY, 16 NOVEMBER

The Indian cricket team is using innovative ways to counter the extra bounce and pace they are expected to face on Australian surfaces over the next two months.

In a video posted by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Monday, spinner Ravichandran Ashwin is seen hitting a tennis ball with a tennis racket at batsman KL Rahul in the nets.

The top-order batsman, who led Kings XI Punjab and

was the highest run-getter at the just-concluded Indian Premier League (IPL), is seen playing the pull shots to deliveries directed at his body and evading or guiding those that are slightly outside the off-stump. Ashwin ensured that the ball did not bounce before reaching Rahul. "How is that for innovation? Ravichandran Ashwin grabs tennis ball racquet while KL Rahul faces volleys with his cricket bat and ball," BCCI tweeted along with a 39-second video. Extra bounce and pace are going to be a challenge for the Indian batters in the forthcoming series after a 53-day-long IPL season this month on slower wickets of the United Arab Emirates. Practicing in the nets with tennis ball on Australian tour has been done previously by sub-continental teams to counter the bounce and pace Down Under. However, with the players coming to Australia straight from the UAE and not getting enough practice games on Australian wickets ahead of the limited-overs series that begins on November 27 due to strict quarantine rules, net sessions like these assume greater significance.

## Azam is like Kohli: du Plessis

DAWN/ANN  
KARACHI/LAHORE,  
16 NOVEMBER



South Africa's former captain and senior pro Faaf du Plessis believes that prolific batsman Babar Azam (*in photo*) has the ability to become one of the greats of the game of cricket, saying the Pakistani skipper has surprised everyone with his Twenty20 exploits. He said that a lot of people considered him Virat Kohli's equal. "I do see similarities between Kohli and Babar."

They are extremely high-quality players. Babar, over the last year or so, has taken another step towards becoming one of the greats of the game as he has got an exciting future," cricketpakistan.com.pk quoted Du Plessis as saying.

"I think he surprised a lot of people with his T20 cricket. People would have originally boxed him in as a guy that hasn't got a lot of power but certainly of late his T20 game has been remarkable." The 36-year-old also recalled his tours of Pakistan with the World XI, a side which he captained, in 2017 and the under-19 team. In another development, Zaheer Abbas has told the Pakistan

Cricket Board that its decision to appoint Azam captain of the Test team in addition to his leadership roles in the One-Day Internationals and Twenty20 formats might affect the prolific batsman's own performance and it could subsequently damage the Pakistan team's performance as well.

"After a long time Pakistan

has got a batsman of Babar's calibre and I don't know why the PCB has put too much responsibility on him at this age as it may backfire. And if that happens, it will ultimately affect Babar's form and the Pakistan team will suffer a lot," Abbas said.

He was all praise for Azam's batsmanship and added that he had also turned out to be a good fielder. Babar, given his top-class performances in all three formats, has been compared with Kohli by experts around the world.

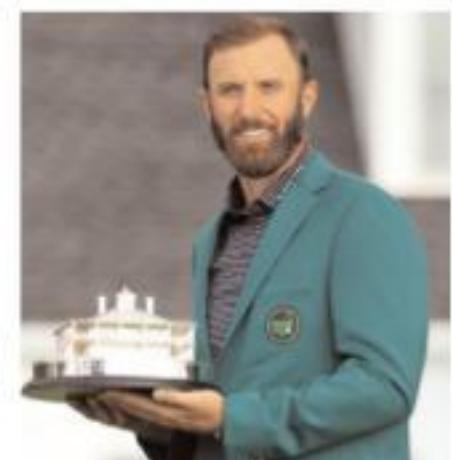
"Babar is doing well with the bat as his performance in all the three formats is worth mentioning and he maintains good averages in all the formats, which is not an easy job," said Abbas. Referring to the forthcoming tour of New Zealand which will be the first Test assignment for captain Azam, Abbas said New Zealand had become one of the world's top teams in both Tests and ODIs and the tour would be a big challenge for Pakistan.

"Though Pakistan have a brilliant record of success against New Zealand, now the situation is different because the Black Caps are quite a strong bunch who can beat any team," Zaheer said.

"After a long time Pakistan

## Gritty Johnson wins The Masters 2020

TOM KERSHAW  
AUGUSTA, 16 NOVEMBER



Only once the last putt dropped and the scar tissue dissolved did Dustin Johnson (*in photo*) finally allow a smile, and later a few tears, to crack his stone-like expression. For this record-breaking Masters victory, on a day where his commanding lead almost vanished in an early twist, was not just affirmation of his status as the world's best player but an exorcism of the past.

The chastening surrenders - imploding at Pebble Beach; choking at Chambers Bay; the more recent US Open and PGA Championships where the trophy melted through his fingers - when Johnson hid his disappointment behind a deadpan gaze. His dominant career, inspite of such immense success, and even with a sole major victory in 2016, had always been caveated by those four occasions where he squandered a 54-hole lead.

That changed cathartically on Sunday as the American leant on every last drop of mental fortitude during an anxious front-nine to convert his overnight advantage and clinch a maiden Green Jacket. This win might have been made on Saturday when he blitzed the course with near-effortless contempt en route to a 65, but it was hard-earned on a Sunday where his resolve was repeatedly called into question as those old haunts offstage veered to the fore. "I tried not to watch the leaderboard," he said afterwards. "I made a great shot at six and made birdie

54-hole lead.

Meanwhile, Cameron Smith, the impressive if unfavoured Australian, surged into the closing gap with consecutive birdies. And at an eerily sombre Augusta, deprived of patrons by the pandemic, the echoes of former unravelings came sharply into focus. Those painful memories, though, have taught Johnson to master the tumult of one's own thoughts. This version of him - mature, consistent, implacable - is far removed from the hungry naive twenty-something who collapsed so abysmally at the US Open a decade ago. THE INDEPENDENT

and then I settled down. It was a tough day - always tough on the final day of a major. The Masters is the biggest tournament. It's the one I wanted to win most. I'm proud of the way I handled myself."

Few had expected Johnson to train-wreck his own procession this time, such had been his imperiousness all week, but within the first hour his lead was halved; a nervous three-putt from the fringe at four followed by a hick from the fairway bunker and another bogey at the fifth.

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