



Nitish Kumar dissolves Bihar Cabinet, submits resignation to Governor

Page 9



WHO will set up centre in India soon: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Page 10



Arjun Rampal questioned by NCB; friend arrested

Page 10



Suu Kyi's party wins absolute majority with 346 of 412 seats

Page 13

PRINTED AT : CHENNAI • COIMBATORE • BENGALURU • HYDERABAD • MADURAI • NOIDA • VISAKHAPATNAM • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • KOCHI • VIJAYAWADA • MANGALURU • TIRUCHIRAPPALLI • KOLKATA • HUBBALLI • MOHALI • MALAPPURAM • MUMBAI • TIRUPATI • LUCKNOW • CUTTACK • PATNA

NEARBY



Centre, Punjab farmers talks inconclusive

NEW DELHI
The deadlock between the Centre and Punjab's farmer unions over controversial agricultural reform laws continued on Friday with talks on the eve of Deepavali ending inconclusively.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 10

Have LIMITED STUDY TIME for IAS2021
UPSC WARRIOR PROGRAM
All GS Notes
Video Lectures
Test Series
CSAT, ESSAY
crack IAS 921-7070707
crackIAS.com

THE HINDU
greets its readers
on the occasion of
Deepavali
There will be no issue of
THE HINDU dated November
15, 2020 as Deepavali
is a holiday

Readers can access the online edition at
www.thehindu.com



Air pollution, cold a lethal pair for COVID-19 patients: doctors

Health system under stress; next 10 days are crucial

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Doctors in the National Capital Region have warned that high levels of air pollution, exhausted medical staff and stressed health infrastructure is making COVID-appropriate behaviour a "must" to contain the spread.

Delhi, along with three other northern States Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, is among the 10 States/Union Territories which have reported 76% of the new COVID-19 cases.

Most fatalities

Delhi (104), Punjab (23), Uttar Pradesh (21) and Haryana (19) are also among the 10 States reporting 80% of the COVID-19 deaths in the last 24 hours, as per data released by the Union Health Ministry on Friday.

"Our public health behaviour over the next 8-10 days will be extremely crucial and could decide the fate of India's COVID wave. Our healthcare workers are exhausted. The general public should avoid super-spreader events. The risks they

Viral tracker

With 521 new fatalities recorded on Friday, India's COVID-19 death toll stood at 1,29,247. More than one-third of the cases recorded in the country over the past week were from Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh

NEW CASES AND DEATHS



The graphs depict the new cases and deaths in the last 14 days in select States. If average cases and deaths in the last seven days are higher than the previous seven days, then the cases and deaths are rising ■; if they are lower, then dropping ■; if they are similar, then cases and deaths are flattening ■ in that State

health care workers) endure far outweigh any urges to do otherwise. Celebrate sensibly. Give the medical staff reasons to keep fighting," said Arvind Singh Soin, chairman of the Institute of Liver Transplantation and Regenerative Medicine, Medanta-The Medicity.

Across India, 547 COVID fatalities have been reported in the past 24 hours, along with 44,878 new cases. Also, the total number of recover-

ies stands at 81,15,580 with 49,079 new discharges in the same time period.

Doctors said that due to low temperatures and increased air pollution, particularly matter remains suspended in the air for a longer period and this increases the transmissibility of the novel coronavirus, making people more vulnerable to the disease.

"The second mechanism linking increased COVID-cas-

es and mortality due to air pollution is that exposure to polluted air is known to cause inflammation and cellular damage, making it easy for the virus or any other pathogenic microbe to invade our lungs," Vivek Nangia, principal director and head of pulmonology at the Max Super Speciality Hospital in Saket in Delhi said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8
ANOTHER REPORT ▶ PAGE 8

Kodiyeri goes on indefinite medical leave

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Communist Party of India (Marxist) Kerala secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan has gone on a leave of absence for medical treatment.

A press release issued by the CPI(M) State secretariat here on Friday said Left Democratic Front (LDF) convener A. Vijayaraghavan would officiate as the party State secretary in Mr. Balakrishnan's stead.

The CPI(M) has not set any date for Mr. Balakrishnan's return, triggering speculation that his going on leave presaged a "rectification campaign" in the party in the run-up to the local body and State Assembly elections. However, Mr. Vijayaraghavan denied the notion, saying it was an unfounded rumour.

Mr. Biden holds a lead of more than 14,000 votes in Georgia, a margin that is nearly certain to survive a manual recount.

Although the national popular vote does not determine the outcome, he is winning by more than 5.3 million votes, or 3.4 percentage points.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Arizona gives Mr. Biden a

NO PROOF OF FRAUD ▶ PAGE 13

and the city government-run GTB Hospital, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital and Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital, among others.

Also, COVID-19 beds were not available in many private hospitals including Max Hospitals in Patparganj and Shalimar Bagh, Maharaja Agrasen Hospital in Punjabi Bagh and Akash Healthcare in Dwarka.

On Thursday, the Delhi High Court had allowed the city government to reserve 80% ICU beds for COVID-19 patients in 33 private hospitals in the Capital where "cases are spiralling daily."

Delhi recorded 7,802

Seasonal visitors



Birds of a feather: As winter sets in, whistling teals have begun arriving at a waterhole in Guwahati on Friday. ▶ RITU RAJ KONWAR

Joe Biden takes Arizona, + but Trump still defiant

State has been Republican since 1996

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
REUTERS
WASHINGTON

Democratic nominee Joe Biden has won Arizona, U.S. networks said late on Thursday, further cementing his lead in the Electoral College and flipping the state Democratic for the first time since 1996.

NBC, CBS, ABC and CNN declared Mr. Biden the winner with a lead of more than 11,000 ballots, giving him the State's 11 electoral votes. Fox News and The Associated Press called the race in the southwestern state in Mr. Biden's favour on Election Night, triggering the wrath of President Donald Trump, but other outlets held off until after nine days of ballot counting.

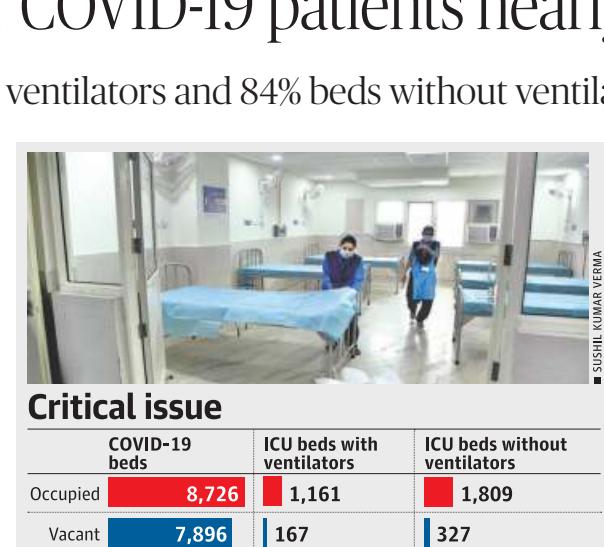
In a note, the Associated Press said Mr. Biden had won the race with 7,802 more votes than Mr. Trump, giving him a lead of 11,000.

Mr. Biden holds a lead of more than 14,000 votes in Georgia, a margin that is nearly certain to survive a manual recount.

Although the national popular vote does not determine the outcome, he is winning by more than 5.3 million votes, or 3.4 percentage points.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Arizona gives Mr. Biden a



and the city government-run GTB Hospital, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital and Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital, among others.

Also, COVID-19 beds were not available in many private hospitals including Max Hospitals in Patparganj and Shalimar Bagh, Maharaja Agrasen Hospital in Punjabi Bagh and Akash Healthcare in Dwarka.

On Thursday, the Delhi High Court had allowed the city government to reserve 80% ICU beds for COVID-19 patients in 33 private hospitals in the Capital where "cases are spiralling daily."

Delhi recorded 7,802

Over 87% beds with ventilators and 84% beds without ventilators occupied

and the city government-run GTB Hospital, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital and Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital, among others.

Also, COVID-19 beds were not available in many private hospitals including Max Hospitals in Patparganj and Shalimar Bagh, Maharaja Agrasen Hospital in Punjabi Bagh and Akash Healthcare in Dwarka.

On Thursday, the Delhi High Court had allowed the city government to reserve 80% ICU beds for COVID-19 patients in 33 private hospitals in the Capital where "cases are spiralling daily."

Delhi recorded 7,802

fresh COVID-19 cases in a day, taking the infection tally in the national capital to over 4.74 lakh on Friday, while 91 more fatalities during the same period pushed the death toll to 7,423.

Positivity rate of 13.8%

These fresh coronavirus cases were detected from 56,553 tests conducted the previous day. Delhi recorded a positivity rate of 13.8% amid the festive season and rising pollution in the city.

Addressing a press conference on Friday, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that the cases will come down in 7-10 days. "Corona is rising. I am worried... The Delhi government will take several preventive measures in the coming days to control the situation. I hope in 7-10 days, the number of cases declines and the situation comes under control," he said.

In a note, the Associated Press said Mr. Biden had won the race with 7,802 more votes than Mr. Trump, giving him a lead of 11,000.

Mr. Biden holds a lead of more than 14,000 votes in Georgia, a margin that is nearly certain to survive a manual recount.

Although the national popular vote does not determine the outcome, he is winning by more than 5.3 million votes, or 3.4 percentage points.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

ICU beds for COVID-19 patients nearly full in Delhi

Over 87% beds with ventilators and 84% beds without ventilators occupied

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

ICU beds for COVID-19 patients in the Capital are nearly full with new cases showing an upward trend and often hitting daily highs.

Overall, 87.42% of the total 1,328 ICU beds with ventilators and 84.7% ICU beds without ventilators were occupied. As of 8 p.m. on Friday, there was 52.5% occupancy for COVID-19 beds in city hospitals, but the situation is starker in some cases: in 59 hospitals, all ICU beds with ventilators for COVID-19 treatment were occupied; and in 61 hospitals, all ICU beds without ventilators were full.

When contacted, the Delhi government spokesperson did not comment on the situation.

Hospitals without any ICU beds with ventilators include AIIMS Trauma Centre

Employer free to reject overqualified aspirant: SC

Verdict overturned Orissa HC's decision allowing a graduate to be appointed as a peon with PNB

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

A prospective employer has discretion not to appoint a candidate who may have a "higher qualification", but not the one prescribed for the job vacancy, the Supreme Court has held.

"There is a rationale behind it... Qualifications are prescribed keeping in view the need and interest of an institution or an industry or an establishment as the case may be. The courts are not fit instruments to assess expediency or advisability or utility of such prescription of qualifications," the apex court judgment explained.

"It is for the employer to determine and decide the relevance and suitability of the qualifications for any post, and it is not for the courts to consider and assess," Justice M.R. Shah, who authored the verdict, pointed out.

"It is for the employer to determine and decide the relevance and suitability of the qualifications for any post, and it is not for the courts to consider and assess," Justice M.R. Shah, who authored the verdict, pointed out.

"It is for the employer to determine and decide the relevance and suitability of the qualifications for any post, and it is not for the courts to consider and assess," Justice M.R. Shah, who authored the verdict, pointed out.

"It is for the employer to determine and decide the relevance and suitability of the qualifications for any post, and it is not for the courts to consider and assess," Justice M.R. Shah, who authored the verdict, pointed out.

"It is for the employer to determine and decide the relevance and suitability of the qualifications for any post, and it is not for the courts to consider and assess," Justice M.R. Shah, who authored the verdict, pointed out.

"It is for the employer to determine and decide the relevance and suitability of the qualifications for any post, and it is not for the courts to consider and assess," Justice M.R. Shah, who authored the verdict, pointed out.

"It is for the employer to determine and decide the relevance and suitability of the qualifications for any post, and it is not for the courts to consider and assess," Justice M.R. Shah, who authored the verdict, pointed out.

"It is for the employer to determine and decide the relevance and suitability of the qualifications for any post, and it is not for the courts to consider and assess," Justice M.R. Shah, who authored the verdict, pointed out.

"It is for the employer to determine and decide the relevance and suitability of the qualifications for any post, and it is not for the courts to consider and assess," Justice M.R. Shah, who authored the verdict, pointed out.

"It is for the employer to determine and decide the relevance and suitability of the qualifications for any post, and it is not for the courts to consider and assess," Justice M.R. Shah, who authored the verdict, pointed out.

</

IN BRIEF

Metro to operate last service at 10 p.m.

NEW DELHI
The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Friday said that on account of Deepavali, the last train from terminal stations will depart at 10 p.m. instead of 11 p.m. on Saturday. Metro train services will run as usual for the rest of the day from 6 a.m. onwards on all lines and 4.45 a.m. on Airport Express Line, officials said.

Sisodia attends happiness class at govt. school

NEW DELHI
Education Minister Manish Sisodia attended a happiness curriculum class at a government school as part of Children's Day celebrations. Mr. Sisodia said that it was noteworthy that these classes are being conducted in the midst of COVID-19 crisis. "I'm happy to know that our students have now become teachers of the happiness curriculum by engaging their family members and their friends by spreading the message of the class," he said.

Withdraw ban on Chhath Puja celebrations: BJP

NEW DELHI
Terming it "condemnable", the Opposition BJP on Friday demanded that the Delhi government withdraw its decision to ban Chhath Puja at public places in the Capital. "After banning the use of green crackers on Deepavali, the Delhi government has now banned Chhath Mahaparva being celebrated on the banks of the Yamuna," Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta said.

Unstable Internet, power cuts add to students' woes

Several issues have taken a toll on mental health, say students

SHINJINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI

From attending classes online with unstable Internet connectivity, sourcing reading materials that are unavailable online to performing household chores, Delhi University students, spread across the country, are grappling with a variety of issues. So much so that some have complained of escalating mental health issues.

Nimisha Pathak, a second year student, was at her home in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district when DU announced the commencement of classes a few months ago.

"For almost one and a half months, I was in a remote area without access to proper connectivity due to rains. I did not even have a register to take my notes. Attending nearly seven hours of classes daily with 2 GB data is not enough," said the Economics Honours student.

'Inconsiderate DU'

She said she attended classes for the sake of attendances only. "Behind the cameras we are actually crying. My screen-time increased to nearly 10 hours a day in September. At times, there are power cuts, which mean we cannot even charge our gadgets. The problem with DU is that it is not considerate at



• FILE PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

ers. By then my semester exams will also be done. This is a huge issue," said Ms. Diya.

Online classes have also not been helpful to differently abled students some of who require study material in an audio format as many teachers refuse permission to record classes, students said.

Poorva, president of the Enabling Society of Miranda House College, said: "Most of the reading material that is shared is in the PDF format, which often becomes an issue for students who require material in the audio format. It is an even bigger problem for students who are not from an English-medium background."

"While most teachers are cooperative, there are others who do not permit recording classes. A major chunk of students are suffering," said Ms. Poorva.

We are taking all necessary COVID 19 Precautionary Measures
Jawahar / Modi Style

JACKETS & SUITS • BLAZERS SALE FESTIVE COLLECTION

ARROW raymond PARK AVENUE LOUIS PHILIPPE By Economy Sales: 9212758425

- PUNCHKUIAN ROAD**, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.)
- WAZIRPUR A-5**, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
- JANAKPURI B-1/2**, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
- NOIDA**, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
- LAJPAT NAGAR**, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED
"A State Government Undertaking"

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (e-Tendering Mode Only)

Online tender (Two part bid) are invited for the supply of following items, on the prescribed form (Tender Documents). The date of sale, submission and opening of Techno Commercial Bid of tender is as per detail given below. The Detailed Tender Notice can also be downloaded from website <https://www.tenderwizard.com/HPSEB>.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Description of Items	Qty.	Estimated Cost (in Lacs)	Estimated @ % of Estimated Cost Value (ECV) (in ₹)	Tender document fee (Non-refundable) inclusive GST (in ₹)	Last Date and Time of online sale of tender	Last Date & Time of tender online/ offline	Last date & Time of opening of tender online/ offline	Due date & Time of opening of techno comm. bid.
1	CE(MM)-13/2020	ISI Marked 3-Phase, 4 wires, DLMS compliant, LT and HT Static Trivector Meters of accuracy class 0.5s of assorted ratings.	9926 Nos.	1399.00	13.99.000/-	140/-	24/11/2020 (upto 5.00 p.m.)	25/11/2020 (upto 5.00 p.m.)	26/11/2020 (at 11:30 a.m.)	26/11/2020 (at 11:30 a.m.)
2	CE(MM)-14/2020	ISI Marked Swaged Steel Tubular Poles of sizes in 8 Mtr, 9 Mtr, 10 Mtr and 11 Mtr.	30003 Nos.	3226.00	32.28.000/-	140/-	23/11/2020 (upto 5.00 p.m.)	24/11/2020 (upto 5.00 p.m.)	25/11/2020 (upto 5.00 p.m.)	26/11/2020 (at 11:30 a.m.)

Notes:-

- The detailed tender notice can be viewed at website <http://www.tenderwizard.com/HPSEB> and tender documents can be had after making prescribed payment. For terms and conditions visit above website.
- The undersigned reserves the right to change the scope of purchase and to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereto.
- The above quantities are tentative and likely to increase or decrease.
- Those who tamper the Tender documents are liable for rejection.
- In case, the date of opening of tender remains holiday, the tenders shall be opened at the time and place on the next working day.

Sd/-
(M.K. Upreti)
Chief Engineer (MM), HPSEB Ltd, Shimla-4

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR
Telefax:- 0194-2496089, Email ID:- xenmhchdk@yahoo.in

GIST of e-NIT No:

NIT No: MHCHD/TS /2020-21/185/e-tendering, Dated:-11.11.2020

For and on behalf of the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir state, e-tenders, valid for 180 days, are invited from the Original equipment manufacturers of Lifts or their authorized dealers/ representatives or Registered/ reputed and experienced firms for the following works:-

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Earnest Money (Lacs of Rs)	Time of completion (in months)	Position of AAA/funds
1	2	3	4	5	6
Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of one (01) No. 15 Passenger cum Stretcher (G 3) Lift including CMC for 03 years post One year of defect liability period at Model Rural Health Research Unit, Khag, Budgam.	24.50	1000	0.49	02 months	Available as Communicated by intending Department

- Downloading of Bids:- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 11.11.2020(18.00 hrs) and can be downloaded from 11.11.2020(18.00 hrs).
- Uploading:- The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 12.11.2020(10.00 hrs) to 01.12.2020(15.00 hrs) in two (02) covers.
- Opening of Bids:- The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 02.12.2020 at 14.00 hrs or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
MHCHD, Srinagar

DIPK-8908/20

CYK

6,405 police personnel tested positive, 5,440 recover so far

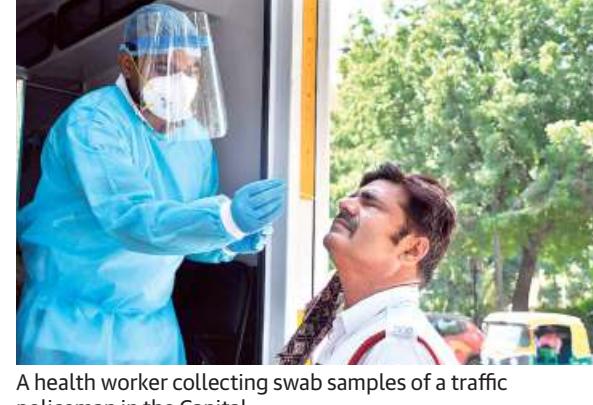
Festival season sees a spurt in COVID-19 cases in the force

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

With the steep climb in COVID-19 cases in the city during the festival season, the Delhi police have also witnessed a rise in infections in the force. A total of 6,405 personnel have tested positive so far.

However, the recovery rate is impressive, as 5,440 have recovered and resumed their duty. "But unfortunately 23 men died, and most of them were carrying out their responsibilities during the fight to contain the pandemic," said a senior police officer.

The officer added that around 1,000 are either undergoing treatment at hospital or are under home quarantine. The list includes two senior police officers. While one is undergoing treatment at a hospital, the other is recovering and is in home quarantine.



• FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

In North district, a total 289 policemen were tested positive and many of them have recovered. There are only 34 active cases in the district.

Festival rush

"Due to festive rush, the policemen deployed in crowded market areas and other places are prone to get infected. For their safety, we have

formed a chain of welfare officers. Each welfare officer will take care of around 18 police constables, and in case any police personnel faces health issues then the welfare officer will take care of him," said the officer. The officer added that around 1,000 are either undergoing treatment at hospital or are under home quarantine. The list includes two senior police officers. While one is undergoing treatment at a hospital, the other is recovering and is in home quarantine.

time," Mr. Kejriwal said.

According to the government, the construction of 89,400 flats to be constructed across Delhi by 2025.

"We have to provide shelter to every poor person in Delhi. The project should be completed within its due

in the third phase. The Delhi government is preparing a detailed rehabilitation and construction plan and architect consultants will be appointed for the project, it said.

CM holds meeting on construction of EWS flats

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal convened a meeting with Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) officials on Friday regarding

89,400 EWS flats to be constructed across Delhi by 2025.

"We have to provide shelter to every poor person in Delhi. The project should be completed within its due

Punjab Government
extends heartiest greetings
on the auspicious occasion of

DIWALI

and

BANDI CHHOR DIWAS

"May these joyous festivals usher in a new era for all of us, with good health, happiness and harmony to lead us into a new dawn. Let us celebrate these moments in the true spirit of caring and sharing,

with all due precautions to keep ourselves, as well as our families, friends and neighbours safe amid the unprecedented COVID pandemic."

Capt. Amarinder Singh

Chief Minister, Punjab



SAY NO TO CRACKERS - CELEBRATE GREEN DIWALI

Department of Information and Public Relations, Punjab



Panel to probe allegations against Jamia Hamdard V-C

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
The University Grants Commission has constituted a fact-finding committee to look into the complaints received against the state of affairs at Jamia Hamdard and study the allegations of financial and administrative irregularities against Vice-Chancellor Seyed Ehtesham Hasnain.

The UGC said that it had received a complaint from Hamid Ahmed, Chancellor of Jamia Hamdard against the Vice-Chancellor alleging financial and administrative irregularities. The Vice-Chancellor was requested to submit para-wise responses to the allegations.

The committee will study the para-wise responses and see if the university functions according to the rules of the UGC. The committee has been asked to submit its report within three weeks.

Timings

DELHI
SATURDAY, NOV. 14
RISE 06:43 SET 17:29
RISE 05:24 SET 17:00
SUNDAY, NOV. 15
RISE 06:44 SET 17:28
RISE 06:34 SET 17:45
MONDAY, NOV. 16
RISE 06:45 SET 17:28
RISE 07:46 SET 18:34

Air quality in Delhi likely to deteriorate today: SAFAR

'With no crackers, this Deepavali will be cleaner than last 4 years'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 30 12
Safdarjung 30 12
Palam 27 15

Delhi Palam Today
30°C Cool morning with smog and clear sky. Pollution level would deteriorate. Few clouds likely.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
29°C Smog morning. A spell of light rain and thunderstorm with gusty wind may occur late afternoon at some places.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019
All rights reserved.

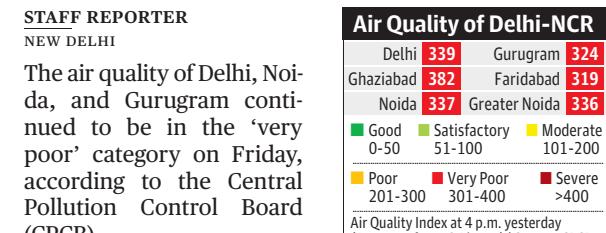
THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an article or advertisement referred to in any publication in this newspaper. HG PUBLISHING PVT LTD, the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper does not vouch for the products and/or services of any merchant or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the publisher be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

2 units sealed in Delhi for polluting Yamuna

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has sealed two polluting units, ordered closure of 15 others, and issued a show cause notice to one unit for polluting the Yamuna that may have led to froth formation in the river.

The action was taken during a drive on Wednesday and Thursday to identify



The air quality of Delhi is predicted to deteriorate to the high end of 'very poor' category on Saturday, even without any emission from firecrackers, as per government-run monitoring agency, System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR).

"Although the level of PM2.5 is predicted to be at the edge of 'very poor' to 'severe', it is expected to be much better as compared to the past 4 years around the Deepavali period with 0% firecracker emission scenario," SAFAR said in a statement about Delhi.

The AQI of Delhi was 339 on Friday and the values for Gurugram and Noida were

'severe' category on Saturday night. The AQI is likely to start improving from Sunday afternoon onwards," SAFAR said.

The AQI is expected to improve from Sunday afternoon as easterly boundary layer winds are likely and this will lead to only marginal effect of stubble burning to city's air quality. Also, isolated rainfall is expected on Monday. Both these factors will help in flushing out the impact of any additional locally generated emissions and stubble burning-related impact to reduce the AQI to the lower end of the 'very poor' category by late Monday.

Stubble burning
The contribution of stubble burning in neighbouring States to PM2.5, a chief pollutant, in Delhi was 14% on Friday.

"AQI is predicted to remain in the high-end of 'very poor' to the lower end of

CAQM's direction
Also, the Commission on Air Quality Management on Friday directed States to strictly implement the National Green Tribunal's orders to control air pollution, including a ban on firecrackers in Delhi and the NCR, the government said.



70-95% stubble turned into manure in 24 Delhi villages'

CM shared results of bio-decomposer technique used at farmlands in the Capital

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

success and the impact assessment report across 24 villages in Delhi had shown that around 70-95% of stubble had turned into manure for as low as ₹30 per acre.

"I want to congratulate

you all on the occasion of Chhoti Deepavali, and I pray to God for you and your family to stay healthy. For the last 10-12 years, the smoke from stubble burning in October and November reaches Delhi and travels across northern

India, which causes massive pollution in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana," he said.

blem of pollution," he also said.

The Central government has constituted an Air Quality Commission (AQC) to monitor pollution levels in Delhi-NCR and the Delhi government will formally file a petition in the AQC with this report, Mr. Kejriwal said. The Delhi government, he said, will put forward its appeal for the AQC to direct the other States to implement the bio-decomposer technique.

IN BRIEF

Virtual edition of 'Dilli ki Diwali' slated for today

NEW DELHI
Delhi Tourism, in association with the Delhi government, will organise a virtual edition of 'Dilli ki Diwali' as part of community Deepavali celebrations here on Saturday in a bid to encourage people to celebrate a safe and cracker-less festival. It will be celebrated with a grand puja, which will be conducted by CM Arvind Kejriwal and his Deputy Manish Sisodia at Akshardham Temple, the government said.

Festive Celebrations Got Bigger !

MAHASUPER HOME LOAN

ROI - 6.90% onwards

EMI ₹ 659/- Per Lakh

2 EMI FREE

with PMAY Subsidy upto ₹ 2.67/- Lakh

MAHASUPER CAR LOAN

ROI - 7.30% onwards

EMI ₹ 1530/- Per Lakh

NO Processing Fees

Wishing all our Customers & Well Wishers
A Very Happy Diwali !

Give Missed Call : 8010 614 614
Or
Apply at : www.bomloans.com

Follow us @mahabank

बँक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र
Bank of Maharashtra
प्रगति विद्या का वर्जन
एक परिवार एक बँक

Bharati Vidyapeeth
(Deemed to be University), Pune (India)

NAAC Score 3.53
Category - I
University

Accredited with 'A+' Grade (2017) by NAAC | 63rd Rank among Universities by NIRF-2020

BDS ADMISSIONS 2020-21

For Admission process and details visit

www.mcc.nic.in

Colleges at -

- Dental College and Hospital, Sangli
- Dental College and Hospital, Pune
- Dental College and Hospital, Navi Mumbai

FOR DETAILS VISIT :

Pune - www.dchpune.bharatividyapeeth.edu
Navi Mumbai - www.dcmumbai.bharatividyapeeth.edu
Sangli - www.dchsangli.bharatividyapeeth.edu

REGISTRAR

Sign 11120

कनरा बँक Canara Bank

भारत सरकार का उपक्रम
A Government of India Undertaking

सिंडिकेट Syndicate

Khushion ki Bahar Apke Dwar

Canara Retail Utsav
Oct, 2020 to Jan, 2021

Canara Education Loan

Canara Personal Loan

Canara Vehicle Loan

Canara Gold Loan

Attractive Rate of Interest

Lower EMI

Lifelong Relationship

Strong Presence

Together We Can

Safe and convenient banking through our integrated delivery channels:

SMS <Product code SPACE (Name)> to 9591504466	Product codes: EL : Education Loan, PL : Personal Loan, GL : Gold Loan, VL : Vehicle Loan, HL : Home Loan
Call Centre 1800 425 0018	Missed Call 1800 572 9700
Website www.canarabank.com	Mobile Banking
Internet Banking	

Also connect through: @canarabank [CanaraBankOfficial](https://www.youtube.com/canarabank) [canarabank](https://www.facebook.com/canarabank) [canarabankinista](https://www.instagram.com/canarabankinista)

Man held for trying to sell firecrackers

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 38-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly trying to sell firecrackers secretly from his grocery shop in north Delhi's Sarai Rohilla, the police said on Friday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Anto Alphonse said that the accused has been identified as Yogesh, a resident of Shastri Nagar, where he runs his grocery shop.

"The man was apprehended and on checking, bags containing 20 kg of crackers were recovered from his possession," Mr. Alphonse said, adding that a case under relevant sections of the Explosive Act and the Indian Penal Code was registered.

Nine held in Gurugram, Faridabad for selling crackers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Nine people have been arrested in Gurugram and Faridabad over the past two days for allegedly selling firecrackers in violation of the NGT direction imposing complete ban on the sale and use of crackers in the National Capital Region.

In adherence to the directions of Gurugram Police Commissioner K.K. Rao, Gurugram Police arrested four people from different parts of the district on Thursday for allegedly selling firecrackers. The four have been identified as Roshan Lal, Arun Kumar, Sunil and Gagan. They have arrested four persons on Wednesday too. The Adarsh Nagar police in Faridabad also arrested one.

NO FIRECRACKERS THIS DIWALI

NO FIRECRACKERS THIS DIWALI

National Green Tribunal Has PROHIBITED the Sale and Use of Firecrackers From Midnight of November 9th to December 1st, 2020

How Firecrackers are harmful to health:-

- Smog caused by firecrackers is harmful when inhaled
- The fumes that these crackers produce are harmful to the environment and us
- Causes irritation in the respiratory tract
- Reduces the oxygen carrying capacity of blood, leading to anaemia.

Delhi Police wishes citizens to celebrate a clean and pollution-free Diwali

E-mail to CP, Delhi at: cp.snsrivastava@delhipolice.gov.in
Write to CP, Delhi at P.O. Box No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL : 112 TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL : 1090

DP/9259/2020

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES,
SOURA SRINAGAR-190011
E-mail: ammoimports@skms.ac.in Fax No: 0194-2403404

IMPORTS SECTION NOTICE

Subject:- Procurement of State of Art Endoscopy Tower Image 1S (TIPCAM®1) Rubinia on proprietary basis from M/S M/S Karl Storz SE & Co KG Germany.

SKIMS intends to procure State of Art Endoscopy Tower Image 1S (TIPCAM®1) Rubinia on proprietary basis (M/S Karl Storz SE & Co KG Germany) from M/S Karl Storz Endoscopy India Pvt Ltd for the department of Urology SKIMS being their proprietary item as claimed by the company.

In this connection, objections (if any) from companies manufacturing/marketing such equipment capable of delivering the same result as intended from the above equipment, regarding the proprietary nature of the above item should be communicated within 15 days on the above mentioned email id/fax after which the claim of the company who has claimed for the proprietorship of the said item shall be accepted.

Sd/-
Asstt. Materials Management Officer
(Imports)

No: SIMS-324-Endoscopy Rubina-2020-3578-83-3578-835678-80
Dated 13/11/2020

Enclosure: Proprietary certificate as provided by M/S Karl Storz SE & Co.KG Germany.

No.: SIMS-5680, Dated: 13.11.2020

Government of Jharkhand
Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute
Department of Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minorities,
and Backward Classes Welfare Department
Morabadi, Ranchi - 834008
Tel: 0651-2551824 e-mail- tri.directorate@gmail.com/

Lt. No. 849 Ranchi, Dated: 13.11.2020
Corrigendum
P.R. No. 234383
(Expression of Interest)

There are some minutes changes has been done in the methodology of this Research Project. The last date of submission and opening of the Expression of Interest has been rescheduled as given below:-

Sl. No	Name of the Project	Date of Submission As per EoI	Rescheduled date of submission	Date of opening as per EoI	Rescheduled date of opening
1.	TOPIC: "Socio-psychological teeangers in communication, hesitation in Schools/ Colleges. A comparative study in rural and urban children & teenagers." Ref:- Our Advertisement No. 267 Dated 14.10.2020	06/11/2020	24/11/2020	12/11/2020	27/11/2020

*Note:-

1. Remaining all other mentioned terms and conditions in EOI will remain unchanged for details can be obtained from the office of the TRI on any working day during office hour to meet concerned Nodal person and the same can also be downloaded from the website www.tri.jharkhand.gov.in ([http://59.145.222.53/twri/tenders.php]) or through E-mail tri.directorate@gmail.com by specifying the topic & details of Institution /Organization Interested.

PR 235800 (Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minority and Backward Class Welfare Department) 20-21 (D) Sd/- Director

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTENANCE DIVISION-VIII, JKPTCL, AMBEDKAR CHOWK, RAILWAY ROAD, JAMMU
E-mail : xentlc01@gmail.com, Tele No: 0191-2451732

NOTICE FOR EXTENSION OF DATE

Sub:- Extension of TLMD-VIII/J/18 of 2020-21 DATED: 21/10/2020. Due to poor response of e-NIT No. TLMD-VIII/J/18 of 2020-21 dated: 21.10.2020 for Strengthening of 132KV D/C Rajouri Draba Transmission Line by way of Earth Filling and Top Sealing of the plate form at Tower Location No. 78 situated at Pangai, Thanamandi, District Rajouri, J&K, issued by this office is hereby extended as per following:-

1. e-Bid submission (end) date and time 18-11-2020 up to 1600 Hrs.
2. Online Commercial and Technical e-Bid 20-11-2020 at 1500 Hrs.

Hard copy of Cost of Tender document must be delivered to the Office of the Executive Engineer Transmission Line Maintenance Division-VIII, JKPTCL, Jammu on or before the last date of submission of e-Bid. Sd/- Executive Engineer, TLMD-VIII, JKPTCL, Jammu.

DIP/J-2512-P/20

BARKHI

"One year has passed
Once you left us"

Barkhi of Miss Sakshi Sharma (Guddia Ji) will be performed at Manke Talab's House No. 697, W.No. 17, Kathua at 11.30 AM on 14.11.2020

Grief Stricken:

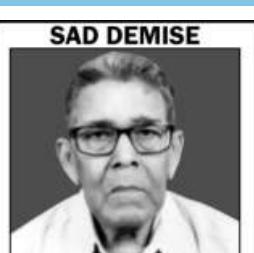
Manohar Lal Raina } (Parents)
Vijay Kumar
Sahil & Isha (Brother & Bhabhi)



Sakshi Sharma (Guddia Ji)

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



K. Peethambaran, (85 Yrs)
Served as Sr. General Manager of JBA Printing Inks & Vice President of Incowax Ltd. Expired at Bangalore at 1.30 A.M. on 12.11.2020
Kuruvakkat House, Chittur Palakkad Berseved by Wife - Vasantha Peethambaran & Members of Kuruvakkat House Contact : +91 99450 29574

In memory of your loved ones
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
011-43579797

from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
For Placing Advertisements Online log on to
www.thehinduads.com

DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE:

www.thehinduads.com

011-43579738 • 43579797

BUSINESS OFFER

FACTORY SUITABLE for industrial bio-products Sale/JV in TN :733884439

PERSONAL

LOST & FOUND

IT IS noticed for the information that my Original Qualifying Certificate of the Main Senior Secondary Examination of the year 2016 and Roll No. 4614507 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Name of the candidate is Mehek. Malik. Full Address- B-1 Hams Anjali Atrium, Sundaram Salai, R.A.Puram, Chennai 600028. Tel. 0465610000

Assam's border dispute shifts to Nagaland now

Alleged encroachment by Nagas in two districts of the State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

said Simeon Rongphar, president of the Karbi Students' Association.

Forest officials in Karbi Anglong have also raised concerns over encroachment by people from Nagaland by removing pillars demarcating the 512-km border between the two States.

Prahlad Kro, Assistant Conservator of Forest and Sub-Divisional Police Officer John Da had inspected the "extent of encroachment" on November 11. "The issue needs to be discussed between the two governments," Mr. Das said.

The Nagaland government has allegedly issued land allotment certificates to the encroachers in Assam. There are similar reports from the Dissoi Valley Reserve Forest in Assam's Jorhat district.

hat district.

Jorhat district officials said Assam police personnel erected a temporary camp in the area on November 11 soon after their Nagaland counterparts erected a shed and refused to budge from their position. Efforts were on to pursue the Nagaland authorities to vacate the area.

Nagaland denies charge The Nagaland government has denied "illegal occupation" of land in Assam, claiming that its police personnel were keeping vigil within the State's periphery.

At least 350 people have lost their lives on Assam's periphery, mostly along the boundary with Nagaland since 1965. A majority of the victims have been from Assam.

Arunachal to hold rural polls after two-year delay

Second election in NE during pandemic

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

polls in April-May. The COVID-19 outbreak caused further delay," he said.

Public notice for the elections would be issued by returning officers on November 24 and the last date for filing nomination papers would be December 2.

This will be the second election in the Northeast during the COVID-19 pandemic after the rural and civic polls in Mizoram in October. The elections to the Bodoland Territorial Council in Assam have been cleared but a date has not been announced.

The elections got delayed due to the amendment to the existing acts and rules for conversion of the panchayat system from three-tier to two-tier and municipal councils to municipal, State Election Commissioner Hage Kojeen said on November 12.

"We had done the groundwork for holding the

ULFA(I) names new deputy commander

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The outlawed United Liberation Front of Assam-Independent, or ULFA (I), has appointed Michael Asom as its new deputy commander-in-chief.

Replaces Rajkhowa

Asom replaces Drishti Rajkhowa, who surrendered formally before the Army and the Assam police on November 12, a statement issued by the outfit said on November 13. "We have granted retirement to Major General Drishti and appointed Major General Michael Asom in his place," the ULFA (I) "commander-in-chief," Lt General" Paresh Baruah said in the statement.

Not much is known about Asom. Intelligence officials said he had been with the outfit for a long time and was elevated to the post of 'chief staff officer' four years ago.

Rajasthan bags award for water management

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Rajasthan has bagged third prize among the top States under the National Water Awards-2019 for its outstanding work in the field of water resources management.

The award given in the general category recognises the State's achievements in water use efficiency, water harvesting and micro-irrigation with solar pumps.

State Water Resources Secretary Naveen Mahajan received the award from Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu at a virtual event earlier this week. Mr. Mahajan said here on Friday that this was the seventh prize in the water sector received by the State during the last 15 months.

CENTRAL MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE
(An Autonomous R&D Institute under the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Govt. of India)
Tumkur Road, Bengaluru - 560022
Advt No.CMTI/PUR/01/2020-21

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Tenders are invited for in "Two Cover System" for:

1 Ultra-High Precision Co-ordinate Measuring Machine.	EMD Rs. 7,00,000/-
2 Manufacture of Components for Geared Actuators.	EMD Rs. 2,50,000/-

Reputed Manufacturer/Authorised Representatives may participate in the tender, by registering at www.tenderwizard.com/CMTI. The tender details, eligibility criteria etc., can be viewed from www.cmti-india.net and the same may be downloaded from www.tenderwizard.com/CMTI.

Appeal for Identification



General public is hereby informed that one person Name: Rajesh, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 27 Years, Height: 5'7", Sex: Male, Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Face: Long, Wearing: Orange Pazama, Place of Recovery: Admitted in Dr. Hedgewar Arogya Sansthan, Delhi due to illness on 22.07.2020 and referred to Rajan Babu TB Hospital Kingsway Camp Delhi. On 04.11.2020 during treatment he died.

In this regard DD No. 39A, U/s-174 CrPC, Dated 05.11.2020 has been lodged at Police Station, Farsh Bazar, Delhi. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

SHO

P.S. Farsh Bazar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-22303600, 22385817 & 7065036027

Phone/Fax No: 011-2459029/2459255 (Anytime)
Website- [www.phqjk@police.gov.in](http://phqjk@police.gov.in)
JAMMU AND KASHMIR POLICE HEADQUARTERS
Tender Extension Notice
Due to administrative reasons, dates for tender submission and online opening of technical bids in respect of PHQ & JK NIT No. 47 of dated, 23.09.2020 floated for purchasing Mobile Centers are rescheduled as per following details:-

I). Last date for tender submission 16.11.2020

II). Date of online opening of technical bids 18.11.2020

other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged.

Sd/- Rayees Mohammad Bhat, IPS

AIC (Provision / Transport)

DIP/J-7079/20 For Director General of Police, J&K-Srinagar

Harkhand Government
Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department
O/o Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (FCA), Jharkhand, Ranchi
Tender Notice Tender Notice Number 05/2020/FDA/ FoSTaC Training Addl. PCCF (FCA) invites proposals from FSSAI empanelled/ accredited FoSTaC Training Providing organizations for providing Basic level Manufacturing/Processing Training to 200 trainees who are in the business of production and sale of Foods/Food products made from minor forest produce. The One day duration FoSTaC trainings shall be held on separate convenient dates in six forest divisions in Jharkhand. Detailed information and the Tender Document for the tender is available on the website www.forest.jharkhand.gov.in. Technical as well as Financial bids will be opened on 03.12.2020. Last date and time for submission of bids & EMD is 03.12.2020 (12.00 Noon). For queries : Call office at 0651-2480450/ 9958387834, email at : apccf-fda@gov.in Sd/- (D.K.Tewatia IFS) APCCF (FCA)

PR235793 (Forest, Environment and Climate Changes)20-21*D Van Bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi-834002

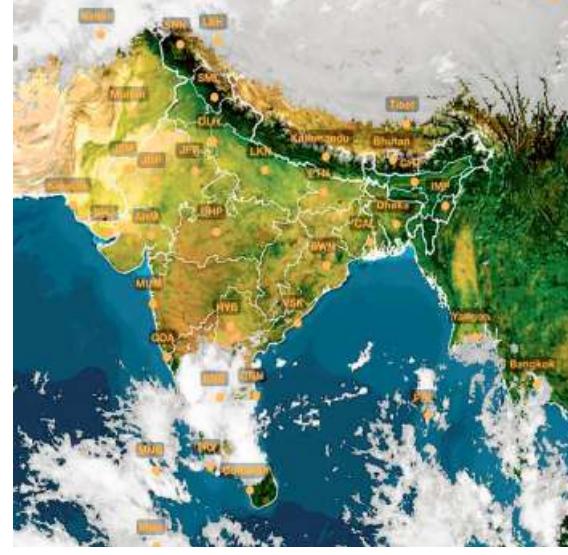
दीपावली की हार्दिक मंगलकामनाएं

दीप पर्व पर हम सब मिलकर, करें कामना सर्व मंगल की छंटे अनिश्चितता का अंधियारा, फैले खुशहाली का उजियारा कोरोना के विरुद्ध लें शपथ, सही से मास्क पहनें, बार-बार हाथ धोएं दो गज की दूरी अपनाएं, जीवन सबका सुरक्षित बनाएं।

- जय राम ठाकुर, मुख्यमंत्री, हिमाचल प्रदेश

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan, Muzaffarabad, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karaikal, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.0	0.0	0.0	Kozhikode	—	29.0	26.0
Ahmedabad	—	33.4	17.8	Kurnool	0.3	—	—
Aizawl	—	25.2	14.9	Lucknow	—	29.5	16.8
Allahabad	—	30.4	10.4	Madurai	0.2	30.2	25.0
Bengaluru	—	26.0	20.4	Mangaluru	—	37.2	24.0
Bhopal	—	32.1	17.2	Mumbai	—	35.0	19.6
Bhubaneswar	—	32.7	21.5	Mysuru	—	29.0	21.5
Chandigarh	—	28.9	11.4	New Delhi	—	29.7	12.3
Chennai	40.6	31.4	25.2	Patna	—	32.0	18.6
Coimbatore	—	31.2	23.8	Pond Blair	0.8	30.6	25.4
Dehradun	—	27.4	10.7	Puducherry	6.8	27.5	24.0
Gangtok	—	19.5	11.7	Pune	—	31.3	17.0
Goa	—	34.8	23.4	Raipur	—	33.3	20.6
Guwahati	—	31.2	17.2	Ranchi	—	30.7	16.4
Hubballi	—	28.0	21.0	Shillong	—	23.8	13.3
Hyderabad	—	29.6	20.6	Shimla	—	22.0	11.2
Imphal	—	28.3	10.5	Srinagar	—	17.0	0.1
Jaipur	—	28.6	14.7	Thiruvananthapuram	14.8	28.8	25.3
Kochi	—	32.2	25.4	Tiruchi	—	0.4	30.3
Kohima	—	23.8	10.2	Vijayawada	1.6	32.2	23.4
Kolkata	—	32.6	22.0	Visakhapatnam	—	28.0	23.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Yesterday

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	32	.97	.47	145	139	...
Bengaluru	16	.31	.76	46	57	...
Chennai	27	.12	.49	68	—	...
Delhi	16	165	106	407	402	...
Hyderabad	.5	.79	.9	.68	.92	...
Kolkata	26	.68	.30	.112	.119	...
Lucknow	13	.98	.42	.375	.282	...
Mumbai	.6	.18	.1	.244	.137	...
Pune	10	.27	.31	.34	.61	...
Visakhapatnam	—	—	—	—	—	—

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

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

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

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

4,543 recoveries in Maharashtra

4,132 new cases, 127 more deaths in State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT PUNE

As opposed to the robust recovery trend in the past few weeks, Maharashtra on Friday reported just 4,543 recoveries against 4,132 new COVID-19 cases. The cumulative recoveries now stand at 16,09,607, with the State's recovery rate rising marginally to 92.48%.

In the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, Thane reported more than 200 cases as its tally crossed the 83,000-mark. With five more deaths, the toll stands at 2,060. The Vasai-Virar civic body registered 19 deaths as its death toll surged to 635.

Nagpur district reported 281 new cases, taking its case load to 1,08,236, of which 2,943 are active. Eight more deaths took the toll to 2,874.

In western Maharashtra, Satara reported 13 deaths, taking its toll to 1,542. With 155 fresh cases, the total case tally has risen to 50,005, of which 3,841 are active.

Activists file complaint over illegal toll collection

MSRDC, PWD officials named as accused

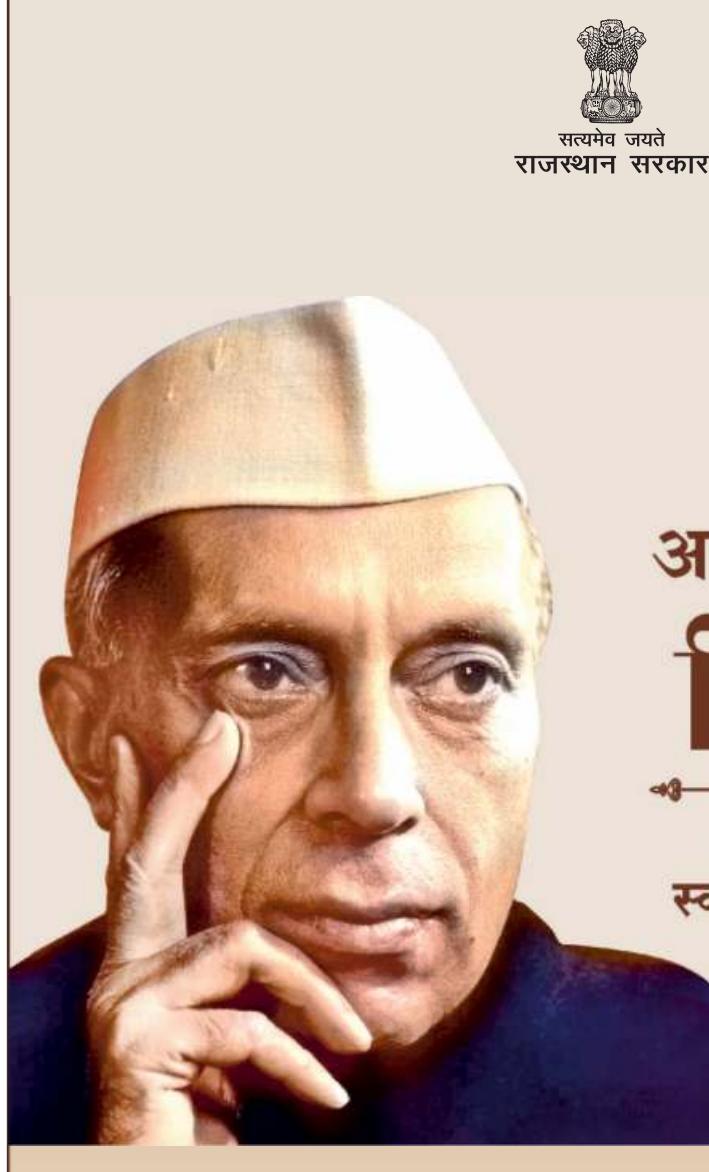
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT PUNE

and PWD secretary Manoj Saunik.

A complaint has been filed with the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) against top authorities of the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) and Public Works Department (PWD) over fraudulent tender processing and illegal toll collection for over three years along the Mumbai-Pune Expressway.

The complaint filed by Thane-based lawyer-activist Praveen Wategaonkar and Pune-based activist Sanjay Shirodkar names as accused MSRDC managing director Radhyeshyam Mopalwar

in observation made at 4.00 p.m. Hissar, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 404 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 25.



#राजस्थान_सतर्क_है

आधुनिक भारत के निर्माता

भारत के प्रथम प्रधानमंत्री भारत रत्न

स्व. पं. जवाहरलाल नेहरू

14 नवंबर, 1889

के जन्मदिवस एवं बाल दिवस की प्रदेशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं



अशोक गहलोत
मुख्यमंत्री, राजस्थान

राजस्थान संवाद

“भारत की आजादी में अपना महत्वपूर्ण योगदान देने वाले पं. जवाहरलाल नेहरू जी का पूरा जीवन ही प्रेरणा से भरा रहा। इन्हें 'आधुनिक भारत के रचयिता' यूँ ही नहीं कहा जाता, नेहरू जी सदा ही सशक्त लोकतंत्र, धर्मनिरपेक्ष संविधान और स्वावलम्बी अर्थव्यवस्था के पक्ष में रहे और उन्होंने अपना पूरा जीवन नव भारत के निर्माण में समर्पित कर दिया। उनके सपने और आदर्श हमें सदा ही प्रेरित करते रहेंगे।”

कोरोना से बचाव के लिए: बिना मास्क बाहर न जाएं | बार-बार हाथ धोएं | दो गज़ की दूरी रखें

कोरोना संबंधी समस्या समाधान के लिए डायल करें: 181

सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, राजस्थान



Remembering

India's First Prime Minister
Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

on his

131st Birth Anniversary

“I, on behalf of my government and the people of Punjab, rededicate myself to ensuring a secure, safe and sustainable future for the children, in whose future Pandit Nehru envisioned India's progress and development.”

Capt. Amarinder Singh
Chief Minister, Punjab

Issued by: Department of Information & Public Relations, Punjab



Purveyor of promise

The latest stimulus package takes into account the jobs crisis in both urban and rural India

The most heartening aspect of the Centre's latest announcement to spur the economy, a package worth over ₹2.65-lakh crore, is the implied realisation that the economy is not yet out of the woods. Over the past month, with several high frequency indicators registering an uptick, the Finance Ministry has often asserted that a sustainable recovery is under way, hitting out at analysts who hinted that the spike reflected pent-up demand and could be transient. From that standpoint, the fresh stimulus, exactly a month after the LTC cash voucher scheme to revive spending, suggests the government has not taken its eye off the ball while purveying hope and promise. That the package takes cognisance of India's jobs crisis and seeks to resuscitate the construction sector – the largest job creator – bodes well. One, it acknowledges the spate of job losses in the formal sector, and rural distress, as the pandemic and lockdowns hit home. Second, by pushing urban housing projects, introducing tax sops to help primary sales of unsold units worth upto ₹2 crore, and freeing up capital requirements to bid for public contracts, there is demonstration of a commitment to get the maximum bang for each precious fiscal rupee by focusing on a sector with multiplier effects. Apart from creating formal and informal jobs, this would drive up demand for steel, cement and other materials.

While some sectors have been lifted with the rising tide of demand (pent-up or otherwise) following the unlocking in September and October, employment-intensive retail, hospitality and tourism remain battered. Therefore, it is encouraging that medium-sized firms in 26 such stressed sectors as well as health care have been brought under an emergency credit scheme originally restricted to MSMEs. But ₹2.05-lakh crore of the ₹3-lakh crore scheme outlay has already been sanctioned, so additional allocations may be needed for new beneficiaries. Stimuli such as ₹1.46-lakh crore as incentives for domestic manufacturing investments in 10 sectors will take years to play out. Terming a ₹900 crore outlay for COVID-19 vaccine research a 'stimulus' is somewhat disingenuous, as it should have been made in any case. Outcomes in terms of new jobs (or maintaining jobs in stressed sectors) will rely on creating demand for which there is little direct push. It is generous of the government to foot PF contributions worth 24% of salary for two years for people getting jobs between October and June, but it is not enough to nudge firms into hiring just because they get an employee at about 3/4th of salary costs – unless there is a foreseeable demand pick-up. Future measures should be simpler, with a template for economic activities to scale up or down depending on the infection trend. This would help firms plan operations without worrying about the next official diktat under the Disaster Management Act.

Content tracking

Self-regulation by news media is necessary, but censorship by government is uncalled-for

The recent decision of the government to bring video streaming services and online news under the ambit of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was much anticipated, though with some trepidation. This government has, from time to time, made it clear that it is in favour of bringing these digital services under some sort of regulatory framework. Recently, when the Supreme Court asked for its suggestions toward improving the existing self-regulatory mechanism for television media, in a case involving Sudarshan News, the government stated that regulating the digital media was more pressing. More regulation is usually a problematic idea, bringing with it the real risk of censorship. But on one count at least this decision may have some merit, and that is if this is targeted at levelling the playing field by bringing new digital players within the purview of a regulation that non-digital players have been subject to all these years. New movies, before theatrical release, have to get through the certification process of the Central Board of Film Certification. In contrast, video streaming services such as Netflix and Amazon Prime, which have become key distributors for new movies and entertainment content and have gathered millions of subscribers in India in recent years, have not had to follow any such requirement. It cannot be denied that regulation, of the light-touch kind, which serves as an advisory for the content being presented to the viewers, plays a useful role.

But is the intent here to create a level playing field, and nothing more? And how will the regulatory mechanisms function? These will be the key questions. The fear is that this will just end up facilitating more governmental interference and censorship, especially problematic when it comes to regulating digital news. There is little to be said about the average politician's appetite for independent journalism and political satire. In a democracy, whose progress is dependent on free speech, it is important that regulation is not an excuse to stifle voices, especially those not palatable to the ruling class. There is little doubt that digital media have grown to be influential even if some sections have struggled to make money. The government recognises this, and just a few months ago, introduced new investment rules for digital news media, where a number of legitimate initiatives have now taken shape. It is also important that the government recognises that there is really no reason to have a different regulatory mechanism for digital news. For decades now, the print media and television media have managed themselves in self-regulation frameworks where one of their main goals has been to maintain their independence. Self-regulation is a must, and censorship a definite no-no.

Bihar's result as a new phase in backward politics

The RJD's performance, in vote share terms, points to an alteration of the traditional socio-political dynamics



RAJAN PANDEY

A day after the results of the closely contested Bihar Assembly elections were declared, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was ecstatic. After all the party had won 74 seats with an overall vote share of 19.46%, second only to the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) of the *Mahagathbandhan* which got 75 seats and an overall vote share of 23.11%. Since the BJP contested only 110 seats compared to the RJD's 144, it is being projected as the ultimate winner in this election, which is waiting in the wings to take up the reins of government in Bihar.

On the other hand, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United) is being painted as the ultimate loser in this election; the party could win only 43 of the 115 seats it contested, with a vote share of 15.39%. Contrary to this view, while the fortunes of Nitish Kumar are surely on the decline, the BJP's growth is only marginal, and the RJD has grown exponentially in terms of the social support base.

New social alliance

In Bihar, the RJD is said to be the party of Yadavs and Muslims who comprise around a third of the State's population. The BJP is traditionally a party of upper caste Baniyas who form around a quarter of the State's electorate. The Extremely Backward Classes, or EBCs, and Mahadalits constitute the remaining 43-odd per cent of the State's voters. It is a majority of these voters who are said to be Nitish Kumar's committed vote base. Common political understanding about Bihar is that whenever two

of these three parties unite, the grand social coalition that emerges as a result can easily sail through in the elections. This was the case in October 2005, 2010 and even the 2015 Assembly elections. This time, though the National Democratic Alliance which had two of these three parties won, the results actually show that a social churning has set in, altering these traditional socio-political dynamics.

RJD versus the others

In support of this is the RJD's performance. The party's vote percentage continued to stay around 18% over successive elections since 2005, despite occasional increases in the number of seats contested. This was primarily due to the majority of MY, or Muslim-Yadav, votes that it got, and a lack of support from other social sections. Over the years, the RJD had failed miserably in increasing its vote percentage significantly to become a winning party in its own right. This could be called the 'MY plateau curse' which shadowed the party.

However, if the vote percentage in this election is any clue, then the RJD has certainly overcome the odds by polling 23.11% votes; an increase of around five percentage points. Such an increase is simply impossible without other social sections rooting for the RJD this time. And since upper caste and Banias voters are still closely associated with the BJP – which too did not suffer any loss in vote percentage – it would be safe to assume that sections of the EBC and Mahadalit voters shifted to the RJD. A 6.7 percentage point decline in Nitish Kumar's vote when compared to the 2010 elections (when both the Janata Dal (United) and BJP were together) from 22% to 15.3% is very indicative in this respect. Though some of this could be attributed to 26 less seats contested by the JD(U) this time, a



large part of it appears to have been caused by a significant shift of JD(U) voters to the RJD.

The BJP on the other hand appears to be doing only marginally well when we compare the results now with past trends. While doing so, keeping the 2015 election out of this would be prudent as the BJP contested far more seats than (157) – without the support of the JD(U). The party won 55 of the 102 seats it contested (with a vote share of 15.65%) in the October 2005 Assembly elections, and improved its tally to 91 wins out of 102 seats it had contested with 16.49% votes in 2010. While the number of seats won has come down this time despite an increase in seats contested, the vote percentage has certainly improved. However, if we adjust it to the number of seats contested, which are eight more this time when compared to 2010, an increase of only 1.8 percentage points could be attributed to the party, which pales in comparison with that of the RJD.

Revisiting political history

This shows that while Nitish Kumar's JD(U) is on the decline and the BJP has improved only marginally, the RJD is the ultimate gainer in this election in terms of increasing its social support base. But what explains this huge altering of social alliances? The answer would lie in going back to the political history of Bihar.

The foundations of the now withering EBC-Mahadalit vote

bank of Nitish Kumar (which he carefully crafted during his years in power), are inherent in an old contradiction of Backward politics in Bihar.

Socialist parties and leaders such as Ram Manohar Lohia, who gave voice to backward aspirations, had a two-pronged strategy of enabling economic uplift and social justice. Lohia's emphasis on reservations for the numerically dominant yet socio-economically underdeveloped classes blended an economic agenda with "unjust" social realities, and succeeded in shaping the aspirations of these groups. During the 1970s, the socialists captured political power twice in Bihar and while the identity politics of Lohia was never lost sight of, the economic uplift programme was comfortably forgotten. The diverse social groups supporting socialist politics then were broadly divided into feuding factions of dominant Other Backward Classes (OBCs) such as the Yadavs on the one hand and non-dominant, dispersed yet collectively-significant Backwards, along with some Dalit castes on the other.

To enable the non-dominant OBCs to get their fair share in reservations, the 'Karpoori Thakur Formula' was adopted by the socialist government of Bihar which provided a quota-within-quota for EBCs. The dominant OBCs tried to get rid of it repeatedly but failed. This created a unique situation; the Backward-lower castes appeared united when opposing upper caste dominance, but within them, the conflict for greater share of resources and power never ceased.

It is in this scenario that Lalu Prasad Yadav emerged as a champion of *samajik nyay* (social justice) and promising dignity to the Backward and low castes, uniting dominant OBCs, EBCs and significant Dalit castes with minorities due to his aggressive secularism.

As a result, Lalu Prasad Yadav won two consecutive and decisive victories in the State Assembly elections in the 1990s. However, massive corruption and nepotism, lack of economic mobility, disproportionate benefits to Yadavs and absence of development hollowed the social justice slogan. Sole emphasis on identity and a shunning of emancipatory economic programmes proposed by Lohia brought stagnation to socialist politics, and it is around this time that various social sections other than the Yadavs and Muslims gradually began deserting the RJD.

Nitish Kumar acted as a catalyst to this process. Once in power, he consciously promoted an EBC-Dalit consolidation through government policies such as extending EBC benefits to more castes, a 20% quota in panchayats, creating a Mahadalit category, and devising welfare schemes mainly aimed at them. The EBC-Mahadalit voters responded to these changes. While the RJD's vote share declined from 25.07% in February 2005 to 18% in 2010 elections, that of the JD(U) kept on growing, until this election.

Emancipation, social justice

While the NDA's internal squabbles and anti-incumbency have contributed to this, one significant reason for reversal of this trend appears to be Tejashwi Yadav's attempts to re-integrate the long forgotten economic emancipation programme with the social justice pitch. His insistence on *kamai-dawai-padhai-sinchai* (jobs-health care-education and irrigation) and ensuring economic justice after the phase of social justice have certainly rekindled the hopes for a new phase of socialist-backward politics in the State.

Rajan Pandey teaches political science at Royal Global University, Guwahati and is associated with the survey agency, People's Pulse

Countdown to greater India-Canada convergence

The third edition of the Track 1.5 Dialogue is an opportunity to begin progress in new areas of interest



RAJIV BHATIA

On November 17, the third round of India-Canada Track 1.5 Dialogue, comprising senior diplomats, officials and independent experts, will be addressed by Canadian Foreign Minister François-Philippe Champagne and India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on a virtual platform.

The Ministers will deliberate on and define the role of India and Canada in the post-COVID-19 world. This will be followed by a round table of scholars and experts who will go into various facets of the strategic partnership linking the two countries, the new geo-economics of the Indo-Pacific and digital cooperation, particularly in the areas of fintech and artificial intelligence.

This promising interaction represents a major, deliberate endeavour to boost the bilateral relationship, helping it to cope with challenges of the third decade of the 21st century. It demonstrates how far the two governments have progressed in just two years, following the setback caused by

differences over the Khalistan issue that surfaced both before and during Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's week-long visit to India in February 2018. And this dialogue creates a template for a judicious merger of government to public diplomacy, and the maturing role of think tanks in the conduct of foreign policy today.

Think tanks as the pivot

The 1.5 Track Dialogue has been piloted since February 2018 by two think tanks – Gateway House: Indian Council on Global Relations and Canada's Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI). Their deep three-year-long collaboration (<https://bit.ly/3ppCMEN> and <https://bit.ly/35G3Tl2>) has encouraged the governments to focus on the immediate opportunities available in investment, technology and geopolitical rearrangements.

The real turning point came at the dialogue's second round, held in Mumbai in November 2019, a month after the parliamentary elections in Canada resulted in Mr. Trudeau's return to power, albeit with a reduced number of Members of Parliament for his party. The new government in Ottawa preferred to be more cautious on sensitive bilateral issues, and more receptive to New Delhi's view that the larger geopolitical shifts justified

fied a closer convergence of national perspectives. Mr. Jaishankar's visit to Canada in December 2019 initiated a new phase, consolidating mutual understanding. It laid the ground for more frequent interactions this year, including two virtual meetings between the Prime Ministers and four meetings between the trade ministers conducted digitally.

Tensions in China-Canada ties

Common challenges of the COVID-19 era accelerated the momentum. Canada's travails with China, starting with the arrest of Meng Wanzhou, Huawei's chief financial officer in Canada in December 2018 and the 'hostage diplomacy' practised by Beijing which arrested two Canadian nationals, has caused huge stress in Canada-China relations, turning Canadian public opinion against China. This opened the door to a closer relationship with India, with Canadian sympathy for India's summer of troubles with Chi-

na's aggressive intrusions across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh since April 2020.

In this backdrop, developments concerning the Indo-Pacific – escalating discontent against Beijing's aggressive behaviour, strengthening of the Quad and the growing interest of France, Netherlands and Germany to be active players in the region – are of immense relevance to Ottawa. The forthcoming dialogue can deepen the India-Canada convergence on this issue.

Many strong points

The other major focal point will be the economic and technological cooperation between the two countries. Foreign policy observers highlight the importance of recent positive trends, as below:

Canada-India merchandise trade exceeded C\$10 billion in 2019; Canada's cumulative investment, including foreign direct investment and by Canadian pension funds, is a substantive C\$55 billion, according to diplomatic sources. Addressing virtually the 'Invest India' conference in Canada on October 8 (<https://bit.ly/3IG7cjH>), Prime Minister Narendra Modi pointed out that mature Canadian investors have been present in India for many years and assured them that no barriers would come in their way. Indian students are increasingly being educated in Canada,

and a quarter million of them spent an estimated \$5 billion in tuition fees and other expenses last year, a solid contribution to the Canadian economy. Of 330,000 new immigrants accepted by Canada last year, 85,000 i.e. nearly 25%, were from India. The Indian diaspora in Canada is now 1.6 million-strong, representing over 4% of the country's total population.

Like their brethren in the south, they are increasingly mainstreamed in Canadian politics. The principal areas of bilateral cooperation are best defined by five Es: Economy, Energy, Education, Entertainment and Empowerment of women. In particular, the digital domain holds immense potential, given Canada's proven assets in technology – especially its large investment in Artificial Intelligence, innovation and capital resources, and India's IT achievements, expanding digital payment architecture and policy modernisation.

Divided by geographical distance but united through clear common interests and shared values, India and Canada will begin their steady journey of progress, this time with a laser-like focus on common goals as well.

Rajiv Bhatia, a former Ambassador, is Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House. He also served as Consul General in Toronto from 1994 to 1998

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.



Bail, personal liberty

The arrest and release of a high-profile television anchor is a case with many useful pointers. The Supreme Court of India rightly took up the case with remarkable speed and passed orders, which has to be appreciated especially as it concerns liberty. But as pointed out by Mr. Dushyant Dave, senior advocate, the same urgency needs to be shown in similar matters. Second, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud's scathing attack against such arrests and his deep concern for the rule of law and democracy have to be acknowledged. Therein lies the future of the Supreme Court having regard to the difficult times in which we live. Also, in the instances of those who have been arrested in connection with

the suicide cases of Sushant Singh Rajput and Anvay Naik, the political overtones cannot be missed. The arrests could have been avoided. Most of the burdens on courts are the result of struggles and rivalries between political parties which act without respect to the rule of law and democracy.

N.G.R. PRASAD,
Chennai

■ No one grudges the relief granted to the TV anchor, but selective patronage from a higher court would send wrong signals down the line, unless properly documented. The court did not give the benefit of doubt either to Mr. Prashant Bhushan, who is a crusader for civil rights and an apolitical person, and, more recently, in the case of a

comedian and satirist, whose tweets are at best ephemeral in nature. The common man still evinces great faith in the judicial system, and courts have greater responsibility to ensure that equity and justice prevail in rulings.

V. SUBRAMANIAN,
Chennai

■ The suicide cases of Sushant Singh Rajput and Anvay Naik, the political overtones cannot be missed. The arrests could have been avoided. Most of the burdens on courts are the result of struggles and rivalries between political parties which act without respect to the rule of law and democracy.

THARCIUS S. FERNANDO,
Chennai

decision to accommodate the Congress with such a huge number of seats. The results of the Bihar elections should also be an eye-opener for the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) which also lost a fair chance of winning the 2016 Assembly elections mainly due to the abysmal performance of its ally, the Congress. Once again, in contrast to the bulk of seats demanded, the results were abysmal. With the DMK having a fair chance of winning the Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu in 2021, the party should take a firm stand not to allot more than what Congress deserves.

THARCIUS S. FERNANDO,
Chennai

■ There is something fundamentally wrong with the Congress, once the apple of the eye of the masses, to have fallen rock bottom in the expectations of people. Unless there is thorough and passionate introspection over its repeated failures, the party could be doomed.

V. PADMANABHAN,
Bengaluru

■ Given the real threat of a second wave of infection in the backdrop of the festive season and the onset of winter, the government cannot afford to turn a blind eye to the health risks students would have been exposed to had they returned to school. Any decision regarding reopening educational institutions needs to be guided by science and the ground realities.

M. JAYARAM,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

responses. According to reliable sources,

Goods, not protests, stopped in their tracks

The farmers protesting in Punjab against the Central government's farm laws say they are not agitating on railway tracks and platforms anymore, but train services are yet to be resumed. **Vikas Vasudeva** reports on the impact of the blockade on industry and agriculture

November is generally a busy month in Punjab as the wheat crop is all set for sowing. But this year, the air is thick with resistance. On the tenth day of the month, outside the railway station in Shambhu village in Patiala district on the Punjab-Haryana border, farmers gather to agitate against the Centre's three recent controversial farm laws. They have come to replace a group of farmers who have just left the makeshift site after spending a chilly winter night in protest.

On the stage of the makeshift protest site the farmers reiterate their resolve: 'Long live the unity of 30 farmer outfits'. Farmers trooping in say they are distressed about the Centre's attitude towards their concerns; they think the Centre is being indifferent and confrontational. But they are not angry with the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Central government alone; they are also upset with the Congress and the Shiromani Akali Dal – parties who many allege are working only to gain political mileage ahead of the 2022 Assembly election in the State.

The farmers want their voices to be heard and their demands to be met. Their agitation initially halted train services in the State. The farmers say that they stopped protesting on tracks and platforms a few weeks ago, but the Railways are yet to resume operations in the State. Talks between Central Ministers and protesting Punjab farmer unions on Friday ended inconclusively with the government saying that it was open to more talks. The farmers are against the resumption of passenger services, but are angry that the Centre hasn't resumed goods trains, even though they had lifted the blockade on the tracks. The absence of supply has set off a massive economic crisis that pervades several sectors ranging from farming to manufacturing.

'Ours is a peaceful protest'

The farmers also say that they will not budge until their concerns are addressed. "We are not squatting on railway tracks or on the platform any more. We have announced that goods trains will be allowed to move. Yet the Central government has not resumed railway services. This is nothing but a confrontational attitude. Our indefinite 'rail roko' agitation started on October 1. It was completely peaceful. Can you tell us about any incident of violence? There hasn't been a single such incident," says Hazura Singh Mirzapur, a farmer leader of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Rajewal) and co-ordinator of the protest at the Shambhu railway station.

"We were occupying railway tracks till the afternoon of October 22. After that we vacated the tracks and moved to the platforms. On November 4, members of 30 farmer outfits collectively decided to shift the agitation from railway platforms to nearby vicinities. Since November 5, we have been sitting outside the railway station and protesting peacefully. On October 22, at 3.28 p.m., a goods train passed through this station. That happened the next day too; we have records. But from October 24, the movement of trains was stopped. Why is that," asks Mirzapur.

The 30 farmer outfits, cutting across political affiliations, had first announced on October 21 that they would allow the movement of goods trains till November 5. On November 4, they decided to extend the movement of goods trains till November 20. However, they made it clear that they would not allow movement of passenger trains until their demands were met. The Railways say losses due to the agitation have crossed ₹1,200 crore in the last month.

Gurbaksh Singh Balbera, another farmer leader, says the farmers are upset that they were not taken into confidence by the Centre before introduction of the new farm laws. Now that they are agitating, the government is giving Punjab step-motherly treatment, he says. "These laws have been imposed on us. We will stop protesting only when they are withdrawn. Farmers are protesting in other States as well, and trains are plying in all those States except Punjab. Why is there step-motherly treatment towards Punjab? As far as the issue of security is concerned, which is being raised by the Railways, the State government has already given us an assurance that the police will extend all their support to the Railways in providing security to enable smooth movement of freight trains," he says.

No trains, no goods

As farmers gather to discuss the day's strategy, Jaspal Singh, a farmer from Mandauli village, points out the problems that people have started facing: "There's a shortage of urea in the market. Shop owners have told me that new stock will come only after train services are resumed. I have sown wheat in my field and I am now preparing to use last year's stock of urea. Also, domestic power cuts in the morning and evening for around two hours each are being im-



Farmers block train tracks with tractors during their 'rail roko' protest against the recent farm laws, in Amritsar, on October 13. (Below): Farmers have stopped protesting on the tracks now and are continuing their agitation in makeshift protest sites, such as this one in Patiala, but train services remain shut in Punjab. ■ AFP, V.V. KRISHNAN



C Earlier I used to get wheat seeds from Ghanaur in Punjab. But this time the dealers have informed me that there's a shortage of seeds on account of trains not moving. I had to shell out more money to buy seeds from Ambala in Haryana.

SUKHCHAIN SINGH
Farmer

posed for the last few days. At night, power cuts for tubewells are in place these days, which is hampering sowing operations."

Sukhchain Singh, a 35-year-old farmer, has purchased wheat seeds recently from Ambala in Haryana as quality seeds are not available in his vicinity. "Earlier I used to get seeds from Ghanaur in Punjab. But this time the dealers have informed me that there's a shortage of seeds on account of trains not moving. I had to shell out more money to buy seeds," he says.

A few kilometres from the railway station on the Amritsar-Delhi national highway at the Shambhu border, there are also sit-in protests inside two makeshift tents. At one of the sites, under the banner of the Amritsar Kisan Union, associated with the Shiromani Akali Dal, only a few people are present. Lakhvir Singh, vice-president of the union, says the Central government has been acting in a "vindictive manner" against the farmers of Punjab who have raised their voice against the farm laws. "The people of Punjab are being humiliated. Not resuming goods train services is an attempt to impose an economic blockade. Are we not citizens and do we not have a right to protest," he asks.

The adjacent protest site houses a group of people led by a Punjabi actor-turned-activist, Deep Sidhu. The gathering is a mix of the young and old. Ranjit Singh of Mahruli village says he is fighting for the "rights of Punjab" and as a Punjabi, he won't relent. "We are facing power cuts. The local industry is facing a shortage of raw materials as goods trains services have been stopped. It's the government's strategy to weaken our movement but we won't budge," he says while serving food to his fellow protesters.

On the same highway, in Gandian village, a few farmers have blocked entry to a fuel station run by a private company. They say the new farm laws will promote corporate control of food and

farming systems, and by protesting outside a "corporate house", they are conveying the message that they are not willing to accept "corporatisation of farming".

"The biggest fear is that the government will stop purchasing wheat and paddy in the coming years, which will eventually eliminate the Minimum Support Price regime and destroy the 'mandi' system. Where will I go then? It's a conspiracy to phase out farmers from agriculture and let big corporates take over gradually," says Parvinder Singh, a farmer participating in the protest. "By not resuming goods train services, the government is trying to scare us as it results in a shortage of urea, fertilizers, seeds, etc. But our resolve is only getting stronger. This a battle for our survival and the generations to come."

Sumit, 24, says the government needs to understand that the railway impasse will hit neighbouring areas including Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir. "We produce our own foodgrains and vegetables. We have stocks. If the government thinks that by stopping trains it can pressure us, it is wrong. The people in the neighbouring States could suffer, however, especially the armed forces. With the onset of winter, they may run out of supplies once snowfall blocks the roads to Ladakh and the Valley," he says.

Harvinder Singh of Nagawan village says he has sown wheat in his 15-acre farm with last year's stocked seed. "I am not worried even if there's no urea or there are no pesticides available in the absence of train services. The important thing is that I need to stand against these black laws. Otherwise they will spell doom for future generations," he says.

A ripple effect
The suspension of goods trains has adversely impacted several sectors including agro-processing, engineering, hosiery, pharmaceutical, textile and power. The supply of raw material has reduced considerably, and delivery of products has come to a near halt.

Industry players and economists say that if the blockade is not removed, it could have multiple effects on inter-related value chains across sectors ham-

pering production and livelihoods.

"In Punjab, rail traffic had halted for about a month. The loss is not confined to Punjab's boundaries, this is a loss to the country. As per the Annual Survey of Industries (2017-18), Punjab has 5.4% of the organised manufacturing factories in the country, with 4.5% of the total persons engaged in manufacturing and contributing about 2.2% to the total net value added from the Indian organised manufacturing sector. Further, as per the National Sample Survey Organisation (73rd round), there are 14.56 lakh micro, small and medium enterprises in Punjab with 24.8 lakh employees. According to the latest IMF World Economic Outlook (October 2020), growth projections for India for 2020 is -0.3% for the fiscal year basis starting April 2020. These projections are probably considering only the COVID-19 effects on the economy. But what would be the projections if other internal causes hampering growth were also taken into account such as the 'rail roko' in Punjab," says Swati Mehta, assistant professor at the Panjab School of Economics, Guru Nanak Dev University in Amritsar.

According to the statistical abstract of Punjab (2018 and 2019), says Mehta, commodities like mineral oils and other edible oils, kerosene, jute, cement, iron and steel, electrical goods, fertilizers and chemicals come in bulk to Punjab.

"Therefore, the dearth of raw materials

that are used mainly in agriculture and the industrial sector is hampering growth. Apart from exporting foodgrains and other agricultural commodities, Punjab exports hosiery and ready-made garments, leather products, sewing machines, electric switch gears and electrical accessories, auto spares, sports goods, hand tools and machine tools. In 2018-19, the value of exports of industrial goods from Punjab was ₹1,01,758.38 crore (Statistical Abstract of Punjab, 2019). Thus, the estimated per day loss to Punjab with curbs on exports is expected to be around ₹278 crore," she says.

She adds:

"Missing production deadlines would have a negative impact on future production orders. It will also impede future investment prospects in the State. With the Railways as the cheapest means of cargo transportation, the halting of trains has broken the backward and forward linkages in local and global value chains thus hurting the already COVID-19-hit economies. Hence, in the path of revival, governments at different levels along with other stakeholders should work together to find a path to revive growth and secure jobs of the people," she adds.

A severe blow

The crisis triggered by the suspension of goods trains had resulted in the curtailment of agricultural and vegetables supplies in the State. According to the State agriculture department, fertilizer is the most critical input for sustainable production of wheat crop, sowing of which has already started. Punjab receives the supply of fertilizers from Gujarat and other States through the Railways. At present, shortage of urea is being felt in the vegetable-growing areas of the State and the required quantities are being supplemented by moving truckloads of urea from National Fertilizers plants at Nangal and Bathinda. But it will not be possible to transport large quantities of fertilizer through trucks for meeting the requirement of the wheat crop, according to a recent report of the agriculture department.

Ashok Sethi, director of the Punjab Rice Millers and Exporters Association, says the agro-processing industry has taken a severe blow in the past few days. "The continuing impasse over the movement of goods trains services has shaken the confidence of the agro-processing industry and has caused distress to rice exporters. Over 2,000 rice export containers are stranded at an inland container depot in Ludhiana for almost two months attracting huge demurrage, which has added to financial losses. It is imperative that the State and Central governments find a solution.

ASHOK SETHI
Director, Punjab Rice Millers and Exporters Association

This will dampen the business spirit," says Ramesh Jagota, president, All India Mink Blanket Manufacturers Association.

Sachin Khanna, a leading blanket exporter in Amritsar, says, "We had shelled out more than triple the amount to ferry our goods through containers by road to Mudra Port. We have paid ₹30,000 extra for each of the five export containers. It's an extraordinary situation, especially for Punjab due to its location and the problem of logistics."

The suspension of railway services has also taken a toll on the pharmaceutical industry in Himachal Pradesh. "The pharmaceutical units that are booking export consignments through Punjab's Ludhiana dry port are being drastically affected," says Rajesh Gupta, president of the Himachal Pradesh Drugs Manufacturers Association.

Last week, the State government had stated that it had run out of coal stocks, bringing power generation at coal-based thermal plants in the State to a virtual halt. The daytime power shortage ranging between 1,000 megawatts and 1,500 megawatts has forced the power department to impose power cuts on all residential, commercial and agricultural consumers. The Punjab State Power Corporation Limited says it was left with no generation control. Market rates of power continued to be highly volatile and could spike any time, resulting in an increase in the cost of power purchase, on which the State is now completely dependent to feed its cables.

The Railways declined to resume only goods train services in Punjab after protesters cleared the tracks, asserting that they will operate both goods and passenger trains or none at all. All inward and outward goods transportation including essential commodities have been affected adversely in Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, and Himachal Pradesh.

"Any decision on allowing the movement of passenger trains will be taken on November 18 at our joint meeting of unions. The ongoing impasse is due to the authoritarian attitude of the Central government and discrimination towards Punjab farmers," says Jagmohan Singh, general secretary, Bharatiya Kisan Union (Dakunda).



FROM PAGE ONE

Air pollution, cold lethal for COVID-19 patients'

Warning that the seasonal north Indian winter smog is here and poor quality air causes inflammation in the lungs, making people more vulnerable to breathing-related ailments, Vivek Nangia, Principal Director and Head of Pulmonology at the Max Super Speciality Hospital in Saket in Delhi said:

"We see a rise of about 15-20 % in the cases both in OPD and emergency due to respiratory and cardiac ailments."

"Many people encounter acute exacerbations of their asthma and COPDs. This year the situation is compounded by the ongoing COVID pandemic," he added.

6 civilians among 11 dead in Pak. firing

At least seven civilians were reported injured in the Sawni Sector in the Pir Panjal's Poonch in Pakistan shelling. "A bus stand was hit by the shelling, leaving the civilians injured," an official in Poonch said.

Meanwhile, a Srinagar-based Army spokesman said suspicious movement of infiltrators was also observed at the forward posts along the LoC in the Keran Sector on Friday. "This was accompanied by initiation of an unprovoked ceasefire violation by Pakistan along the LoC in Keran Sector. A befitting response is being given," the Army said.

The National Conference has demanded an imme-

diate end to such skirmishes.

"It is the people of J&K, especially those living on both sides of the LoC or international border who have to face the brunt of skirmishes between the two countries. It's really saddening to witness innocent lives being devoured like this. We call upon both the countries to immediately stop cross border shelling," a NC spokesman said.

Peoples Conference chief Sajad Lone termed the shelling as "modern day barbarism".

"My prayers with the hapless inhabitants of these areas. May sanity prevail," Mr. Lone said.

Kunal Kamra refuses to apologise, retract tweets

"My view has not changed because the silence of the Supreme Court of India on matters of other's personal liberty cannot go uncriticised. I don't intend to retract my tweets or apologise for them," his note on Twitter read.

The comedian said he wished to "volunteer" the time that may be allotted for hearing his contempt case to others "who have not been as lucky and privileged as I am to jump the queue".

"May I suggest the demonetisation petition, the petition challenging the revocation of J&K's special status, the matter of the legality of electoral bonds or countless other matters that are more

deserving of time and attention," he wrote.

On Friday, a group of lawyers and law students filed a joint criminal contempt petition against Mr. Kamra based on the consent from the Attorney General.

"The tweets published by the alleged contemnor are in such bad taste that an ordinary prudent man can gather that he has scandalised this Hon'ble Court and further lowered its authority", their petition contended.

Mr. Venugopal, in his consent letter, had opined that certain tweets of Mr. Kamra's "clearly cross the line between humour and contempt of court".

Kodiyeri goes on indefinite medical leave

Nevertheless, the Congress and BJP spared no effort to link Mr. Balakrishnan's "exit" to the arrest of his son Bineesh on drug trafficking-related money laundering charges by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in Bengaluru in August.

Leaders of both parties suggested that Mr. Balakrishnan had come under pressure from within the CPI(M) to "step down". His "departure" had vindicated their stance, they said.

Leader of the Opposition

T.N. govt. orders inquiry against Anna varsity V-C

Former judge will probe complaints

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government has appointed retired Madras High Court judge P. Kalaiarasan as the inquiry officer to go into complaints of financial and administrative irregularities levelled by certain individuals against Anna University Vice-Chancellor M.K. Surappa.

This is the first time a former judge will probe charges against the Vice-Chancellor of the premier university. Previously, a retired judge had probed some charges against P. Mannan Jawahar after his tenure as Vice-Chancellor ended, and exonerated him.

Expressing shock, Mr. Surappa, who has been at odds

with the government on certain key issues, told *The Hindu* that there was not a speck of truth in the allegations against him.

The Anna University Teachers' Association issued a statement in his defence. But the government ordered, dated November 11, said that since "prima facie" the allegations "are serious in nature", the government decided to conduct an inquiry.

According to the order, A. Suresh of Tiruchi sent a complaint to the Chief Minister's Special Cell in February last, claiming that Sakthi Nath, Deputy Director, Centre for Constituent Colleges, and Prof. Surappa were involved in corruption to the tune of ₹200 crore.

SC modifies Telangana High Court order on fireworks ban

Orders issued by NGT on November 9 apply to Telangana, says Bench

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

A Vacation Bench of the Supreme Court on Friday did not agree with the Telangana High Court's view to completely ban the use, manufacture and sale of firecrackers in Telangana for Deepavali and other festivals.

Instead, a Bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and Sanjeev Khanna modified the High Court order in line with the more "comprehensive" directions issued by the National Green Tribunal (NGT), on November 9, about the use and sale of firecrackers across the country, especially in the Delhi-NCR region.

In its order passed only a few days before the Telangana High Court order of November 12, the Tribunal had



To burst or not to: Firecrackers for sale at a market on the eve of Deepavali in Hyderabad on Friday. ■ G. RAMAKRISHNA

given several alternatives on firecrackers, other than a blanket ban, based on the ground situation in individual cities and towns.

While the NGT ordered a categorical ban on firecrackers of any sort for the Delhi-NCR region, it had allowed green crackers in cities and towns where the average of

ambient air quality was 'moderate or above'. "The cities/towns where air quality is 'moderate' or below, only green crackers be sold and the timings for use and bursting of crackers be restricted to two hours during festivals, like Diwali, Chhatt, New Year/Christmas Eve, etc., as may be specified

by the State concerned," the NGT had ordered. However, like Delhi-NCR, the Tribunal had ordered an imposition of the firecracker ban in cities where the air quality was 'poor' in November. In other cities and towns, the NGT had left the decision to opt for a ban or restrictions to the authorities.

The apex court Bench observed that the NGT order applied to Telangana. "The High Court judgment stands modified and is brought in line with the directions issued by the National Green Tribunal on November 9, which applies even to the State of Telangana," the Supreme Court directed.

On November 12, the Telangana High Court had ordered a complete ban on firecrackers.

Ensure that only green crackers are sold: HC

They sport a distinct logo, QR code

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court on Friday directed the State government to strictly ensure that only green firecrackers, containing the distinct green logo of the National Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) and the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO), and a Quick Response (QR) code on their packaging, are sold across the State.

The Court also directed authorised officers, police and the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board to regularly inspect stalls. To increase awareness about green firecrackers, the Court asked the government to give wide publicity through various media plat-



Green firecrackers can be identified through a green logo and a QR code system.

forms. A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Abhay Shreenivas Oka and Justice S. Vishwanath Shetty issued the directions after the government, acting on Thursday's observation of the court, issued a notification explaining what constitute green crackers and how they can be identified.

Karnataka to open medical colleges in Dec.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has decided to reopen all medical, dental, AYUSH, paramedical, nursing and pharmacy colleges affiliated to the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) from December 1.

As many as 1,939 more persons tested positive for COVID-19 infection in Tamil Nadu, taking the tally of those infected till date in the State to 7,54,460. At the same time, 2,572 more persons were discharged from various health facilities since Thursday.

+

kad, and one from Kannur.

Andhra Pradesh recorded less than 2,000 new cases for the sixth day at 1,593 and 10 more deaths.

Testing covered 80,737 samples with 1.97% returning positive, the lowest single-day positivity rate in five months. The overall positivity rate has been put at 9.44%.

A trend of low numbers continued in Karnataka with 2,016 new cases on Friday. Tests stood at 1,79,999. Also, 17 more deaths were reported. The State's positivity rate stood at 1.71%. Bengaluru Urban district reported 1,030 new cases.

Telangana on Thursday reported 997 cases and four

deaths. The State tested 42,163 samples. Greater Hyderabad added 169 cases, Medchal Malkajgiri 85, Rangareddy 66 and Bhadradi Kothagudem 65 cases.

As many as 1,939 more persons tested positive for COVID-19 infection in Tamil Nadu, taking the tally of those infected till date in the State to 7,54,460. At the same time, 2,572 more persons were discharged from various health facilities since Thursday.

The State also recorded 14 deaths. The total number of deaths due to the infection is now 11,454.

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

Orthodox Church quits peace talks in Kerala

It objects to govt. affidavits in court

STAFF REPORTER

VIZIANAGARAM

A farmer was killed when a herd of elephants attacked him at Parusarampuram village of Komarada mandal in Andhra Pradesh's Vizianagaram district on Friday.

The incident occurred when the farmer, Raghu Manda Lakshminaidu, 50, went to the fields for farming activity. The farmer, unaware of the presence of the elephants in the nearby fields, was working when he was attacked. He died on the spot.

Financial assistance

Following a directive by Vizianagaram Collector M. Hari Jawaharlal, Forest officials rushed to the spot and assured financial assistance to the kin of the deceased.

So far, six persons have been killed by wild animals in Vizianagaram alone.

The Orthodox Church

the Home Secretary had submitted this affidavit with the knowledge of the Chief Minister. The Church members understand that the government is postponing the execution of the court order with an eye on the election," said Yuhanon Mar Diascoros Metropolitan, Malankara Orthodox Church Episcopal Synod Secretary.

Doubts raised

He accused the State government and the Ernakulam Collector of taking a stance against the Orthodox faction and doubted whether the government was colluding with the Patriarch faction. "That the Home Department, which is not even a party in this case, submitted an affidavit in connection with the Kothamangalam church case is incomprehensible," he said.

+

Entry to Sabarimala only for those who register on portal

Masks are not compulsory while trekking, says Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The number of pilgrims being allowed into the Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala during the two-month Mandalam-Makaravilakku pilgrimage season, beginning on November 16, will be increased proportionately taking into account those who do not turn up on the first two days of the pilgrimage after registering on the virtual portal. Entry of pilgrims from Pampa to the temple will be through the virtual queue portal.



Entry of pilgrims to the temple will be through the virtual queue portal.

Friday, Minister for Devaswoms and Tourism Kadampally Surendran said steps would be taken to ensure physical distancing.

A COVID-19 negative certificate had been made mandatory. Those in the 60 to 65 years age group will have to produce a medical certificate for entry. The test should be taken by the pilgrims.

Bathing in the Pampa river will not be allowed in view of the prevailing situation. Instead, showers will be installed by the Irrigation Department and the Kerala Water Authority will supply water.

The Mandala puja is on December 26 and the temple will close on December 27 after the 41-day pilgrimage season.

grims 24 hours before reaching the base camp at Nilakkal.

Masks will not be compulsory while trekking. The Minister said the relaxation in wearing masks was as per the protocols that provided exemption during high physical activity. Arrangements will be made to collect the used masks. Directions have been given to shops to make masks and sanitisers available to the pilgrims.

Bathing in the Pampa river will not be allowed in view of the prevailing situation. Instead, showers will be installed by the Irrigation Department and the Kerala Water Authority will supply water.

The Mandala puja is on December 26 and the temple will close on December 27 after the 41-day pilgrimage season.

Farmer killed in attack by jumbos in A.P.

Farmer killed in attack by jumbos in A.P.

STAFF REPORTER

VIZIANAGARAM

A farmer was killed when a herd of elephants attacked him at Parusarampuram village of Komarada mandal in Andhra Pradesh's Vizianagaram district on Friday.

The incident occurred when the farmer, Raghu Manda Lakshminaidu, 50, went to the fields for farming activity. The farmer, unaware of the presence of the elephants in the nearby fields, was working when he was attacked. He died on the spot.

Financial assistance

Following a directive by Vizianagaram Collector M. Hari Jawaharlal, Forest officials rushed to the spot and assured financial assistance to the kin of the deceased.

So far, six persons have been killed by wild animals in Vizianagaram alone.

The Orthodox Church

the Home Secretary had submitted this affidavit with the knowledge of the Chief Minister. The Church members understand that the government is postponing the execution of the court order with an eye on the election," said Yuhanon Mar Diascoros Metropolitan, Malankara Orthodox Church Episcopal Synod Secretary.

+

New species of vine snakes discovered

They are among the most common snakes in peninsular India, found even in peri-urban areas



Ahaetulla farnsworthi



Ahaetulla sahyadrensis

the Chennai Snake Park, Saujan Pal from the Bombay Natural History Society, and Princis D'souza from IISc.

Vine snakes are known to be among the most common snakes in peninsular India, found even in many peri-urban areas and in the Western Ghats.

According to an IISc re-

lease, Asian vine snakes, distributed throughout the continent, belong to the genus *Ahaetulla* and the recently described *Proahaetulla*.

"Once the team started its research, they were surprised to discover that the common green vine snake (*Ahaetulla nasuta*) in India was a complex of several species. They found four distinct small-bodied and short-nosed species: the Northern Western Ghats vine snake (*Ahaetulla borealis*), Farnsworth's vine snake (*Ahaetulla farnsworthi*), Malabar vine snake (*Ahaetulla malabarica*) and Wall's vine snake

NDA meet tomorrow to elect leader in Bihar

Nitish dissolves Cabinet, submits resignation to Governor

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday submitted his resignation to the Governor, paving the way for the formation of a new government. Earlier in the day, at his government's last cabinet meeting, Mr. Kumar moved a proposal for its dissolution and said NDA legislators would meet on November 15 afternoon to elect a new leader of the alliance.

"A joint meeting of the all four National Democratic Alliance (NDA) partners in Bihar will be held at 12:30 p.m. on November 15 and the legislators would elect leader of the legislature party to finalise details pertaining to the next government formation," Mr. Kumar told reporters after meeting with leaders of the NDA.

"All decisions regarding government formation will be discussed in that meeting and you all (mediapersons) will be informed thereafter," he said.

Senior State BJP leader and Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, Hindutani Awam Morcha (Secular) chief and former CM Jitan Ram Manjhi and Mukesh Sahni, president of the Vikashesi Insaan Party were present in the meeting held at the CM's official bungalow, 1, Anne Marg. It is speculated that Mr. Kumar may take oath as Chief Minister for a fourth consecutive term on November 16.

In the recently concluded Assembly election, Mr. Kumar's JD(U) won got only 43 seats, its worst performance since the party came to power in 2005, while alliance partner BJP got 74 seats. The other two NDA alliance partners HAM(S) and VIP won four seats each. Meanwhile, Independent MLA from Chakai Assembly constituency in Jamui district Sumit Kumar Singh declared his support for the NDA. Mr. Singh is son of former Bihar minister Narendra Singh.



Formal process: Nitish Kumar presenting his resignation letter to Bihar Governor Fagu Chauhan. ■PTI

Cong. may face tough deals in future polls

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

The most immediate fallout of the Congress's non-performance in Bihar will be its ability to strike future alliances and bargain for seats in the next round of elections in crucial States such as West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Assam where polls are barely six months away.

Though the Central Committee of the CPI(M) agreed to a seat-sharing arrangement with Congress in Bengal, there are calls for a rethink in some quarters.

"Every party is free to decide its course of action but the Left parties should remember that in the 2019 Lok Sabha poll, we managed to win at least two seats. The Left that contested on the 42 seats in the State managed to save their deposit only in one seat," West Bengal Congress chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury told *The Hindu* on Friday.

"If we fight separately, then it will impact both the parties in Bengal", he noted.

Mr. Chowdhury's assertion comes after CPI (Marxist-Leninist) leader Dipankar Bhattacharya charged the Congress with trying to play the big brother's role

NEWS ANALYSIS

But the Congress's recent track record in alliances is hardly anything to be mentioned about. In the Maharashtra Assembly polls last year, it contested 147 seats but won only 44, while its ally, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), won 54 of the 121 seats it contested.

In 2016, the Congress contested in 40 seats as part of the DMK-led alliance in Tamil Nadu but bagged only eight and had a strike rate of less than 20%. However, DMK's leader in the Lok Sabha T.R. Baalu told *The Hindu* that there was no rethink on the alliance with the Congress. "Our alliance is very much intact, but on issues such as the number of seats, my leader will decide closer to the time of elections", he said.

Our electoral system is such that, to an extent, vote share becomes secondary as compared to the winning of each and every constituency by being first past the post. In these elections, if you have noted, there is a mere vote difference of approximately 13,000 votes between

the total votes achieved by the NDA and the MGB in total, which converted to a difference of 15 seats, some of them with very thin margin.

Even then, we were able to increase our vote share very significantly. That shows people voted beyond caste affiliations and voted against the present government.

The RJD's performance comes in the face of 15-years of anti-incumbency against Nitish Kumar, do you still think that you fought well enough?

The most impressive aspect of the RJD's performance lies in the fact that we, as a party, began and ended our campaign on the issues that were deeply associated with the demands and grievances of the people of Bihar. We raised and re-

mained steadfastly on the issues of jobs, employment, education, colleges, sports, equal salary for equal work, wage increment, bringing industries, improving the lives of our farmers, ensuring safety, security and well-being of women. We opposed various kinds of communal campaigning. We ignored personal attacks on the party leadership.

It was as close to a model electoral campaign in India as any party can ever reach. This is the reason why we were able to muster the support of different social groups.

But the RJD had a better coordination with the CPI (ML) than the Congress. Wouldn't it have been better to give them more space?

Again, this is a speculative question to which there cannot be a definite answer. Too

M.P. BJP to train recruits in ideology

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

The Bharatiya Janata Party and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh will organise training camps for party workers, including new entrants such as supporters of Rajya Sabha MP Jyotiraditya Scindia, in their ideologies, histories and goals.

"Party workers will be trained so that our organisation becomes more robust and is expanded, and the workers are ideologically stronger," said State BJP president V.D. Sharma. "During the training, they will get to know about the formation of the BJP, its background and its purpose."

Training camps will be conducted from November 25 to December 15 in the State's 1,059 mandals on the direction of the party's central leadership.

"In these camps, party workers will get training on the party's policy, election management, media and social media," said a party official.

From the grassroots

Further, Mr. Sharma said Deendayal Upadhyaya had founded the Jana Sangh and given the idea of 'Integral Humanism', which was adopted by the BJP that became the world's largest political party. "The workers will understand how to take this idea to the grassroots and uplift society through government," he added.

On November 10, the BJP won 19 seats in the Assembly byelection. Eighteen BJP winners were earlier Congress legislators.

Rahul has nervous quality about him: Obama

Cong. says it does not acknowledge such comments

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former United States President Barack Obama's comment that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was like a student who is eager to impress but lacks aptitude to master the subject prompted a terse response from the Congress

on Friday that it does not comment on "an individual's view in a book".

Mr. Obama's memoir, *A Promised Land*, that was reviewed by *The New York Times* (NYT), talks about political leaders from across the world, including Mr. Gandhi.

According to the NYT review, speaking about Mr. Gandhi, the former President wrote that the Congress leader has "a nervous, unfocused quality about him, as if he were a student who'd

done the coursework and was eager to impress the teacher but deep down lacked either the aptitude or the passion to master the subject."

Congress president Sonia Gandhi and former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh also find a mention in the memoir.

"We are told of the handsomeness of men like Charlie Crist and Rahm Emanuel, but not the beauty of women, except for one or two instances, as in the case of Sonia Gandhi," the NYT review said.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala tweeted, "May I humbly remind certain overzealous friends of the Media running a sponsored agenda that we don't comment on individual's views in a book. In the past, a Leader has been called "psychopath" and "master divider" by people and agencies. We didn't acknowledge such comments!"

The West Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Ltd., Jorhat, Panjabari, Guwahati-781037, World Bank Financed Agribusiness & Rural Transformation Project (APART) Ref No. MD/PC/APART/E-Tender/2020-21/02 Dated: 19-November, 2020 E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

The West Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Limited (WAMUL) as an implementing agency of World Bank Financed (APART) Project, intends to purchase the following items from the eligible bidders as mentioned below:

SL. No.	Category	Date of publishing Tender	Last date of submission of Quotations
1	Automatic Milk Collection Systems (AMCS)	18.12.2020	18.12.2020
2	Bulk Milk Coolers (3KL & 5KL)	22.12.2020	22.12.2020
3	Road Milk Tanker (5KL & 9KL)	24.11.2020	23.12.2020

The details of the E-tender will be published and available at www.assamtenders.gov.in as mentioned above.

Sd/- Managing Director

DIRECTOR DIPRC/8941

Government of Rajasthan DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL AVIATION State VIP Hanger, Sanganer Airport, Jaipur-302011 Telefax: 0141-2550543 Email: dcarajasthan@gmail.com Dated: 06 November 2020

NOTICE INVITING BID Bid for providing the services of professional/Technical personnel on Job basis are invited from interested bidders upto 14.00 hrs. on 19-11-2020. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://www.eproc.rajarshani.gov.in>) and (<http://sppp.rajarshani.gov.in>) of the state www.gad.rajarshani.gov.in website. UBN, DCA 2021 SLDB00021

DIRECTOR

No. F.1(8)DCA/2017/728

Tender Document can be downloaded from the website <https://tender.aperecruitment.gov.in> for further details contact Phone No.0977-2264479, and mail 1dc2acvsoft@gmail.com.

RoC.No. PR/4/13924/Adv.No.212/PRO/2020; Dated:13-11-2020 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH Revenue Department e-Procurement Tender Notice

Rc.No. Rev05-22021/13/2020-K-SEC-CSSL Dt.13.11.2020

Name of the work : Procurement of 500 GNSS Rovers for conducting Resurvey in Andhra Pradesh State. Opening date & time for sale of bid tender document : 16.11.2020 @ 11.00 AM. Closing date & time for sale of bid tender document : 01.12.2020 @ 3.00 PM. Time and Date of pre-bid meeting : 23.11.2020 @ 11.00 AM. Last date & time for filing tenders : 01.12.2020 @ 5.00 PM. For online downloading / submission of bids visit : www.aperecruitment.gov.in. For detailed tender notification visit : www.ccl.ap.gov.in. Sd/- Commissioner, SS&LRs, AP, Vijayawada.

DIPR 1345/CL, Dt: 13-11-2020

Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> or www.kmml.com.

TENDER NOTICE

No. Tender ID Items

1 2020_KMML_39895_1 For Fabrication and Supply Turbine TG 1520

Chavara 14.11.2020 Sd/- HOU(T) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd

Our Products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge, Zircon, Rutile, Silimanite

DIPR/4266/TENDER/2020

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd. (Govt of Kerala Undertaking) (An ISO 9001, ISO 14001 & OHSAS 18001 & SA 8000 Certified Company) Sankaramangalam, Chavara-691 583, Kollam, Kerala, India Phone: 0476-2651215 to 2651217, Fax: 91-476-2680101, 2686721, E-mail: contact@kmml.com, URL: www.kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE

Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> or www.kmml.com.

No. Tender ID Items

1 2020_KMML_39895_1 For Fabrication and Supply Turbine TG 1520

Chavara 14.11.2020 Sd/- HOU(T) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd

Our Products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge, Zircon, Rutile, Silimanite

DIPR/4266/TENDER/2020

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd. (Govt of Kerala Undertaking) (An ISO 9001, ISO 14001 & OHSAS 18001 & SA 8000 Certified Company) Sankaramangalam, Chavara-691 583, Kollam, Kerala, India Phone: 0476-2651215 to 2651217, Fax: 91-476-2680101, 2686721, E-mail: contact@kmml.com, URL: www.kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE

Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> or www.kmml.com.

No. Tender ID Items

1 2020_KMML_39895_1 For Fabrication and Supply Turbine TG 1520

Chavara 14.11.2020 Sd/- HOU(T) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd

Our Products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge, Zircon, Rutile, Silimanite

DIPR/4266/TENDER/2020

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd. (Govt of Kerala Undertaking) (An ISO 9001, ISO 14001 & OHSAS 18001 & SA 8000 Certified Company) Sankaramangalam, Chavara-691 583, Kollam, Kerala, India Phone: 0476-2651215 to 2651217, Fax: 91-476-2680101, 2686721, E-mail: contact@kmml.com, URL: www.kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE

Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> or www.kmml.com.

No. Tender ID Items

1 2020_KMML_39895_1 For Fabrication and Supply Turbine TG 1520

Chavara 14.11.2020 Sd/- HOU(T) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd

Our Products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge, Zircon, Rutile, Silimanite

DIPR/4266/TENDER/2020

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

'Political opponents are being falsely implicated'

Curb this criminality: Bengal Governor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday alleged that political opponents to the ruling party in West Bengal are being falsely implicated in criminal cases, including under the NDPS Act. In a series of tweets, Mr. Dhankhar said such "dastardly barbaric acts have no place in democracy".

"Concerned at inputs of vigorous moves #PurbaMedinipur and elsewhere to falsely implicate political opponents in criminal cases including under NDPS Act.

All @MamataOfficial@WBPolice@HomeBengal are alerted to curb this criminality..." he tweeted.

"Details of all NDPS cases @MamataOfficial since 2011 being sought and every case now would be under scanner. Concerned @WBPolice @HomeBengal are alerted of consequences of engaging in such political hatchet work that is grave crime..." he added.

The Trinamool Congress leadership dismissed the allegations saying that he is denigrating his high office and speaking like a spokesperson of the BJP.

PM dedicates two Ayurveda institutions

to nation on 5th Ayurveda Day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The World Health Organization (WHO) will set up a Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in India, it announced on Friday at an event in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed confidence that WHO would become the centre for global wellness, just as the country had emerged as the "pharmacy of the world".

The Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA), Jamnagar (Gujarat), and the National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Jaipur (Rajasthan), are both premier institutions of Ayurveda. The Jamnagar institute has been conferred the status of an Institution of National Importance (INI) by an act of Parliament, and the one at Jaipur has been designated an Institution Deemed to be University (De novo Catego-

ry) by the University Grants Commission (UGC), according to the AYUSH Ministry.

Narendra Modi during the launch of two Ayurveda institutes, via video conferencing, in New Delhi on Friday. ■PTI

ry) by the University Grants Commission (UGC), according to the AYUSH Ministry.

"I am pleased to announce that we have agreed to open a WHO Global Centre of Traditional Medi-

cine in India to strengthen the evidence, research, training and awareness of traditional and complementary medicine," Mr. Ghebreesus said in his video message. "This new centre

will support WHO's efforts to implement the WHO traditional medicine strategy 2014-2023, which aims to support countries in developing policies and action plans to strengthen the role of traditional medicine..." he said.

Matter of pride'

Mr. Modi said Ayurveda was India's heritage and all Indians would be happy to see that the country's traditional knowledge was enriching other countries.

"It is a matter of pride for all Indians that the WHO has chosen India for establishing its Global Centre for Traditional Medicine," the Prime Minister said.

Odisha man back after 20 years in Pak.

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

A resident of Odisha's Sundargarh district who had accidentally crossed over to Pakistan and spent 20 years in the Lahore jail was brought back home on Friday.

The man, identified as Birju Kullu, was accorded an emotional welcome in his village Jangateli under Kutra block. He is in his fifties.

To bring him back, the Sundargarh district administration had sent a vehicle to Amritsar where he was admitted in a hospital upon testing positive for COVID-19.

Unstable condition'
Pakistani authorities had handed him over to their Indian counterparts in the month of October after his jail term. According to his family, he had gone to work in a hotel in Jharkhand about 25 years ago. Mr. Kullu disappeared from there under mysterious circumstances. Since then, his family had no clue about his condition and had lost hopes for his return. When the Sundargarh police was informed about Mr. Kullu, his family members were identified.

Police said Mr. Kullu appeared unstable and was unable to describe as to how he had crossed the international border and got caught by Pakistan security forces. They only answer he managed to give was that he was picked by men in uniform.

"This is his new life. We had lost all hopes for his return. We are very happy," said his sister.

Fresh case filed against M.P. godman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
INDORE

A fresh case has been registered against self-styled godman Namdeo Das Tyagi, for allegedly manhandling a panchayat staff member before the demolition of alleged illegal construction at his ashram near here, police said on Friday.

Mr. Tyagi, 54, popularly known as 'Computer Baba', is currently in jail after he was arrested in preventive action when the administration was removing encroachment from government land in Jamburdhi Hapsi village near Indore on Sunday.

Re-arrested

The godman has been booked in fresh case and formally re-arrested in jail, following a complaint from the secretary of a village panchayat under the Gandhinagar police station area, said Additional Superintendent of Police Prashant Choubey. The complaint stated that Mr. Tyagi and his associates had allegedly abused, manhandled and ill-treated a panchayat staff member, who had gone to free government land from his possession on Sunday, the official said. The case was registered under relevant sections of the IPC on Thursday, the ASP said.

The sub-divisional magistrate court had rejected the godman's bail plea, following which an additional sessions judge also scrapped his review petition. Mr. Tyagi enjoyed Minister of State status in the previous Congress government in Madhya Pradesh, and was appointed chairman of a river conservation trust. The authorities said they have freed 40,000 sq. ft of land worth ₹13 crore from alleged encroachment by Mr. Tyagi.

Fire power



Taking aim: India successfully test-fired the Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile system off the coast of Balasore on Friday. The missile hit its target directly during the test. ■ANI

'Expansionism policy of a few nations needs mature response'

President addresses valedictory session of 60th course of NDC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind, while virtually addressing the valedictory session of the 60th course of National Defence College (NDC) on Friday, said that the policy of expansionism followed by some nations demands a strategic and mature response and decision makers will have to be guided by national as well as international objectives.

Though the President did not name any country, his comments can be interpreted in the backdrop of growing hostility between India and China.

"Decision makers have to be guided by national interests as well as international



President Ram Nath Kovind addressing the session virtually on Friday.

dimensional geostrategic and geopolitical environment for future," President Kovind said.

Civil services

Commenting on the significance of the NDC, he said, "The most significant contribution it has been making is aligning India's Civil Services to the strategic defence thinking. Senior officers from the Civil Services join this course to improve their understanding on national and international security situation."

President Kovind, in his address, also highlighted the need to fight against terrorism and described it as the "most virulent curse on humanity".

NCB questions Arjun Rampal, arrests friend

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Actor Arjun Rampal was questioned by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Friday in connection with a drug case while his friend has been arrested, an official said.

The 47-year-old model-turned-actor is being questioned in connection with the case related to alleged drug use in the Hindi film industry, the official said.

"I have nothing to do with drugs. I have prescription for the medicine which was found at my residence and the prescription has been handed over to NCB officials," Mr. Rampal told reporters.

Mr. Rampal's friend Paul Bartel, a foreign national, has been arrested by the NCB, said the official.

BJP rejigs leadership in States

But heads of poll-bound ones left mostly unchanged

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

BJP national president J.P. Nadda announced State in-charge on Friday, with former Union Minister and current BJP vice-president Radha Mohan Singh in charge of the crucial State of Uttar Pradesh, and Kailash Vijayvargiya continuing as in-charge of poll-bound West Bengal.

Newly appointed general secretary C.T. Ravi has been made in-charge of Tamil Nadu, another poll-bound State, as well as Maharashtra and Goa.

Bihar head unchanged
Bihar will continue to be under the charge of BJP general secretary Bhupendra Yadav, and he will be assisted by the party's national secretaries Harish Dwivedi and Anupam Hazra. Another national se-

cretary of the party, Arvind Menon, and party's national IT cell head Amit Malviya will assist Mr. Vijayvargiya in Bengal.

Similarly, Sunil Ojha, party's national secretary, Satya Kumar and Sanjeev Chaurasia will assist Radha Mohan Singh in Uttar Pradesh, and Kailash Vijayvargiya continuing as in-charge of poll-bound West Bengal.

Party general secretary Tarun Chugh, who was earlier co-in-charge of Delhi, will now look after the party's work in Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Telangana.

The party's former general secretary, P. Muralidhar Rao, who was looking after its work in Karanataka, will now be state in-charge of Madhya Pradesh, replacing general secretary Arun Singh who was the in-charge

of Odisha. Mr. Singh will look after the party's work in Rajasthan. Newly appointed general secretary D. Purandeshwari will now look after its work in Odisha. She will also be the in-charge of Chhattisgarh.

Mr. Yadav, who was party's in-charge for Bihar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home State Gujarat. Party's general secretary Dushyant Gautam has been made the in-charge of Punjab, Chandigarh and Uttarakhand and Dilip Sakia of Arunachal Pradesh.

The party has made its Union Minister V. Muralidharan in-charge of Andhra Pradesh, along with Sunil Deodhar as co-in-charge.

Talks between Centre, Punjab farmers remain inconclusive

No end to Centre's blockade of trains to Punjab, J&K

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The deadlock between the Centre and Punjab's farmer unions continued on Friday, with day-long talks on the eve of Deepavali ending inconclusively.

The impasse has led to the stoppage of goods trains in the State after rail roko protests demanded the repeal of three controversial agricultural reform laws.

After more than six hours of discussions at Vigyan Bhawan in the capital, Central Ministers refused to allow the renewal of goods train services in Punjab, and farmers vowed to continue their protests by observing Saturday as a 'Black Diwali', and holding a mass agitation in Delhi later this month.

However, both sides said they were open to further



Heated dispute: Farmers protesting against the contentious farm reform laws in Amritsar on Thursday. ■AFP

talks. "The Railways Minister said unless passenger trains are also allowed to run, goods train services will not be permitted to resume. This amounts to an economic blockade of an entire State," said Bhartiya Kisan Union-Ekta president Balbir Singh Rajewal, who was a leader of the farmers delegation, representing 30 protesting unions.

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said further discussions were needed, as one meeting could not resolve all the issues.

Surat sets up housing project for migrants

393 one-bedroom flats finalised

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Surat became the first city to finalise a project under the affordable rental housing scheme for migrant workers announced by the Centre in May, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Durga Shanker Mishra said on Friday.

The Affordable Rental Housing Complex (ARHC) scheme under the Ministry's Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on May 14 as a part of the government's economic package in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the scheme, private firms will be given unoccupied government housing projects to refurbish and operate as rental housing.

Mr. Mishra said the Surat Municipal Corporation had become the first city in the country to finalise an ARHC

for migrant labourers with 393 one-bedroom flats in the city's Sachin Area.

"These flats were completed in 2014 by SUDA & lying vacant. Shripad Consultants, Surat, won the bid under Model-1 of ARHC. They retrofit, maintain & operate the complex to house migrant labour and pay ₹18 crore positive premium to SUDA over 25 years," he said in a tweet.

"...This will provide dignified living to migrant workers, who are coming back to cities..." Mr. Mishra said in another tweet.

Odisha rights body pulls up 2 police officers

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Human Rights Commission pulled up two police officers in two separate cases for allegedly filing a false murder case and indulging in custodial torture.

While the panel imposed a penalty of ₹5 lakh on Prakash Kumar Karna, it directed the State government not to give police station duty to Sandhyani Jena, a police inspector, who was captured in a video beating up a man inside the police station.

After Jitu Dandasena, 19, went missing in 2016, his father lodged a complaint with the Paikmal police station. Mr. Karna, who was the then investigating officer, arrested two persons – Halu Gurla and Raghab Naik – in June 2017 on charges of killing the youth. However, Dandasena, who was killed, as claimed by the officer, returned home in 2018.

Left slams Centre's stimulus package

'Govt's claim of 15% of GDP is wrong'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The stimulus package announced by the Centre fails to constitute a blueprint for economic revival, without any significant hikes in government expenditures or direct cash transfers to the people, the CPI(M) Polit Bureau said in a statement.

The party said the government's claim that the stimulus package announced in three instalments is equal to 15% of the GDP is wrong. "The reality is that the sum total of direct extra governmental expenditures is, by liberal estimates, ₹3,72,295 crores, or a mere 1.9 per cent of the GDP. This is a measly stimulus compared to other major economies in the world who have provided 10 to 15 per cent of their GDP," the party said.

CPI General Secretary D. Raja said, "The so-called announcement, once again, is targeted to help the corporate houses. There is nothing in the package to address the problems of unemployment."



tell the country what is the amount being spent by the government over and above the budgetary estimates of expenditures. "Coming a day after the RBI's severe indictment that the Indian economy is in a deep recession for the first time in history, this announcement fails to constitute a blueprint for economic revival," the party said.

CPI General Secretary D. Raja said, "The so-called announcement, once again, is targeted to help the corporate houses. There is nothing in the package to address the problems of unemployment."



मध्यप्रदेश शासन



Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister



Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan
Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh

Janjaati Gaurav Diwas

15 November, 2020

**Madhya Pradesh Pays
Tributes to
the Martyr
Birsa Munda
on His
Birth Anniversary**

A freedom fighter,
a mass leader,
who awakened the janjaatis
to the ethos of their culture
and self-esteem
through Ulgulan Kranti.



*Abua Dishum, Abua Raj - Our Country, Our Rule
-Birsa Munda*

Our National Heroes from Madhya Pradesh



Rani Durgawati



Shanker Shah



Raghunath Shah



Sitaram Kawar



Raghunath Singh Mandloi



Bhima Nayak



Tantya Bhil



Khajya Nayak



Mudde Bai

Birsa Munda was a great leader of masses,
who gave janjaatis the consciousness for the freedom.
At a time when our religion, culture and the society
were under assault, he safeguarded them.

He dedicated his life for the freedom of the nation. In Madhya Pradesh,
we are observing his birth anniversary as the 'Janjaati Gaurav Diwas'.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan
Chief Minister

Venue

Tribal Museum
Shyamla Hills, Bhopal
at 4.00 pm



webcast.gov.in/mp/cmevents

DDMP

TV Channels

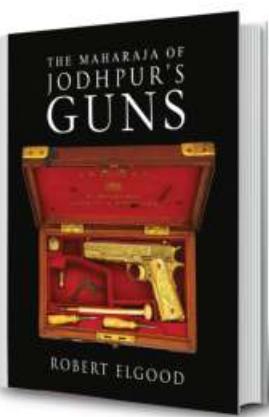
@CMMadhyapradesh, @JansamparkMP

@CMMadhyapradesh, @JansamparkMP

JansamparkMP

Youtube.com/JansamparkMP





DEEPA ALEXANDER

The skyline of Jodhpur is pinned in place by the mammoth silhouette of Mehrangarh on Bhaicheeria Hill and the regal dome of the Umaid Bhawan Palace on Chittar Hill. Between the two is defined the spirit of Marwar, forged by the sword in a thousand bloody battles in the heat of the Thar.

Through the centuries down to the First World War's Haifa in 1918 – considered the last great cavalry action in military history – the Jodhpur Lancers were known for their reckless charge with only sword and lance. The Rajputs first encountered the firearm at the battle of Khanwa (1526) fought between Babur and Rana Sanga of Mewar. "The Rajputs had never seen anything like it before," says Gaj Singh II, erstwhile ruler of Jodhpur (and head of the House of Rathore) in his foreword to Robert Elgood's *The Maharaja of Jodhpur's Guns*.

The book, published by Niyogi Books and Mehrangarh Museum Trust, is an amalgamation of historic Indian firearms, and is said to be the first on the subject. Mehrangarh, built in 1452 by Rao Jodha and described by English writer Rudyard Kipling as 'the work of angels, fairies and giants... built by titans and coloured by the morning sun', has been home



to an extraordinary museum and centre of culture since 1972, when Gaj Singh II transformed the fort. It is also where some of the 350 guns whose images feature in the book, rest.

By the barrel
The UK-based Robert Elgood, an expert on the historic arms of Hindu India and the Islamic world, brings to his work a lifetime of passion for medieval armoury. With a degree in Islamic History from the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, a DPhil in Indian Anthropology from Oxford, and work experiences with Sotheby's and the Wallace Collection, Elgood says, "My interest in arms and armour began at an early age. *Islamic Arms*, which I edited, comprising articles by international scholars, was published in 1979. I was invited to work in the newly-formed Islamic Department at Sotheby's as an expert on Oriental arms."

Those years set off a series of books – on the arms collection of Shaikh Hasan al Thani in Qatar; *Arms and Armour of Arabia*; and the first book on Islamic firearms by the owner of the Tareq Rajab Museum, Kuwait in 1995.

Reading *The Maharaja of Jodhpur's Guns* is like travelling from the 15th to the 20th century at a steady canter on a hardy



Rajputs with the golden guns

Robert Elgood's *The Maharaja of Jodhpur's Guns* is a tour de force of the blood and thunder of Marwar royalty through its extraordinary collection of firearms



Marwari horse. The first aspect of the book that strikes the reader is Elgood's extraordinary research, spanning centuries, continents and private collections. In discussing the transfer of military and firepower technology through war and trade, he makes the subject integrated across Europe, the Arab and Turkish worlds, India and China.

However, the detailed conquests of marauding horsemen and warriors in chain mail may interest only the avid historian. For the lover of the aesthete, there is the rest of the book – over 300 pages of fine pictures of miniature paintings sourced from the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin; the Musee Guimet, Paris; and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; among others. There is also a detailed catalogue on every kind of gun that has been fired on the subcontinent.

With fine brushstrokes, Elgood discusses the invention of gunpowder, its arrival in India, the matchlock guns of the Portuguese Eastern empire, the Sindhi *jezails* with their exquisite muzzles, powder flasks made of mother of pearl, and sporting guns that were the highlight of game shooting expeditions.

Elgood, who had earlier catalogued the Maharaja of Jodhpur's edged weapons, says he worked his "way through the maharaja's personal possessions selecting any object that seemed interesting and high quality". British gunmakers Holland and Holland and Purdeys also made their records available to him.

Tales of the brave
The book names many of the early guns of Jodhpur as matchlocks made in In-

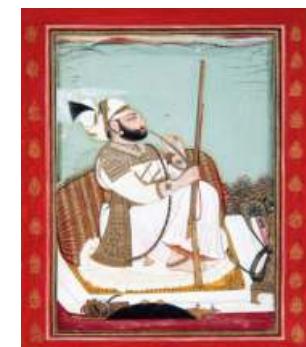


dia. The design was essentially Mughal, copied from the Safavids of Iran, who, in turn, copied from the Turks who were inspired by the weaponry of the European armies they fought.

"The Rajput warriors despised guns, believing that a brave man should fight his enemy up close. They were usually paid more for a wound with a sword than the same wound caused by a gun," says Elgood. This, however, did not discourage

Gaj Singh II's grandfather, Maharaja Umaid Singh, from possessing some fine weapons, including a priceless enamelled 12-bore gun. His father, Maharaja Hanwant Singh, set up a gun factory in Mehrangarh.

(Clockwise from left) Robert Elgood; a Devgar ruler with a matchlock; a Sindi percussion rifle; a Holland & Holland 12 bore shotgun; a Punjabi shot flask; an 18th century Rajput gunpowder flask; and a pair of Chalembrom pistols • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



"In the 19th century, the use of European guns became widespread in princely India and the Jodhpur armoury contains examples of the very best hunting guns," says Elgood.

He adds, "Maharaja Umaid Singh was a great *shikari* and Maharaja Hanwant Singh was an expert gun designer. The Jodhpur collection, therefore, includes superb 20th century guns including a gold Colt automatic. The ivory grip bears the inscription as given by Umaid Singh to his son on his 21st birthday."

There are also pages from the 1926 hunting diary of Maharaja Umaid Singh that make for some interesting and humorous reading, and tales of how a disguised .22 pen pistol came to be auctioned as part of the Mountbatten Collection.

Be it history that draws you or stories of brave adventure, the book is a record of why India's royalty continues to remain the stuff of legend and how the firearm came to be for the Rathores, as treasured as the "Marwari horse and the sacred sword".

Published by Niyogi Books, *The Maharaja of Jodhpur's Guns* is priced at ₹4,500.

ecary who helps customers blend essential oils is not available for consultations yet.

A contemporary take

There was a time when women 'of a certain age' dedicated themselves to prayers and sacred rituals – this is its modern avatar, where you can shop for *havan kunds* (sacrificial fire) in a mall, even as you grab a *chocolat au pain*. It is when youth has fled that you lapse into the rhythm of routine with *nasya* oil, silver tongue cleaners (₹1,500), and pretty *neti* pots. Simran says that while older women are the natural fit for the brand, she's surprised at the number of young women who engage, too.

The brand is Simran – she's studying Vedanta, Ayurveda and Sanskrit, and herself follows a series of daily micro rituals or *dinacharya*, to connect with nature and still the mind – who hopes everyone will connect with Paro's Indianness and philosophy.



An image from the collection; Simran Lal • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Can you sell wellbeing?

Given the pandemic setting, brands like Paro have a real shot at being at the forefront of luxury

SUNALINI MATHEW

Paro's website declares that it is "an invitation to pause". Ironic for a brand that was forced to do just that during the lockdown, stilling sales as well. In fact, the website, which currently does not involve e-commerce (this will take about four or five months) encapsulates

the brand very well. Parogodearth.com tells you it is woven from the same threads as its 'mother' Good Earth (grand dame Anita Lal has called it Good Earth's soul). The Sanskrit *shloka* as you enter the site invites you to a world of Vedanta and India's current rediscovery of it; and its founder Simran Lal's messages on the blog give you a glimpse into her personal journey that's intertwined with the brand's formulation and development.

On the personal front, Simran says the lockdown was "precious", "fabulous", "just amazing", especially with the time saved on the commute. On the

work front, it was "initially very hard" but then the time was used in reprioritising. "[The brand has] evolved in the sense that people today, thanks to the lockdown, are being forced to look within, look out for things they can connect with.

Sutradhar, which is our online blog, has got much more traffic now than earlier. More men have come to our site (@parogodearth on Instagram) and shop there," she says, adding that they have seen a 55% increase in follower base since the lockdown.

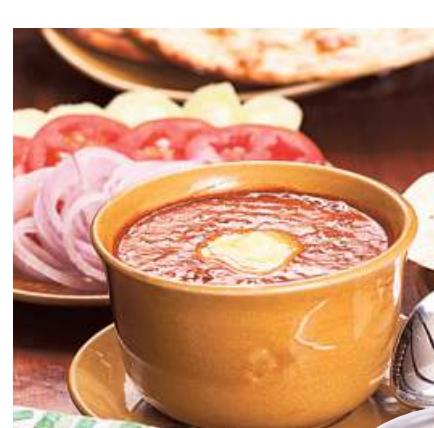
The Indian way
Much like a live Sadhguru session, there is no space for ugliness at Paro. Simran uses the word "beautiful" 16 times across many different topics as we speak. In fact, though Paro's overarching theme is *soukya* (well-

being) and *swasthi* (auspicious) – from which she tells me the word swastika is derived – what you see as you enter the store are the clothes and jewellery. So there is also an emphasis on *shringar* (beautification). The idea is to celebrate the body as a temple, and this approach consequently keeps it well, says Simran.

I wonder if the name in Devanagari script may distance the two-year-old brand from a southern audience already reeling from assaults on its language and culture. "The idea is not to exclude but to open up a world that people don't know anything about," says Simran, of Paro being perceived as exclusionary. Its rooting in 'ancient Indian practises' with a section called the Sacred Agni, the fact that speakers at events Paro has organised have included David Frawley who also writes for

the right wing magazine *Swarajya*, and that its newsletter is titled *Seasonal Rhythms* talks to those who follow a Hindu way of life.

Post pandemic strategy
Paro will be increasing its focus on yoga and deep sleep offerings, says Simran, with the brand expanding to 2,947 square feet, taking in space from what used to be Good Earth's Shalimar. Look forward to a new 'sleep' section at The Chanakya comprising GOTS-certified organic bed and bath linen, pillows, bolsters, oils, fragrances. The store currently has a collection of *bandhani* saris in Bangalore silk and a Cashmere collection. There are incense sticks made of pure herbs and resins, and a signature *panch agni* oil (₹1,500) for a steady flame, organic camphor, *diyas* (₹3,500) and other similar items. However, its therapy rooms that offered facials, foot and body massages, are not functional and the apoth-



not overdone, as that leads to a bitter taste. The Gourmet Couch burras (₹2,299) were superb – well done, yet still juicy, a combination that is hard to get.

We also enjoyed the mutton Dum Pukht biryani (₹1,575). The rice was long grained and had all the mild flavours of a good biryani,

with just the right fragrance of mace and *kewda*. The *murgh handi korma* (₹1,599) was delightful. The chicken pieces – boneless drumsticks – were tender, and I loved its

smooth gravy. Clearly, the masala had been strained, and the outcome was a velvety dish.



(From top) Dal Bukhara; Dum Pukht Biryani; Kakori kabab • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

but even now, when someone says ITC, I think of those crispy-creamy pastries. There is, of course, a lot more to ITC than the ham or chicken tarts. Most people love the food of Bukhara, which serves what is described as northwest frontier cuisine. I am not greatly fond of Bukhara, but I have had memorable meals at Dum Pukht, the restaurant where you get some divine Awadhi food; and at West View, where the chefs would gently sizzle a steak or prepare pork chops that you'd not forget.

To cut a long story short, here's some good news for those who like the food of ITC: It has started a home de-

livery service called Gourmet Couch. In this terrible age of the pandemic, when people are still wary of going out to restaurants, even the highest end ones, many luxury hotels have decided to come to us. You sit at home, look at the menu, place your order, and the food arrives at your doorstep. I got one such hamper from Gourmet Couch last week.

If you do want something from Bukhara, I would recommend its *burrakh kabab*. Now *burrakh kababs*, as most of us know, are really difficult to cook to perfection. They have to be somewhat charred, but

I am afraid the *galouti kabab* didn't work for me. The meat was too densely packed, which made it more like a *shammi kabab* than a *galouti*. I am not very fond of Dal Bukhara (₹950) either, as I tend to find it a bit too smoky. The meal ended with superb *gulab jamuns* (₹599) – which were huge, soft and juicy.

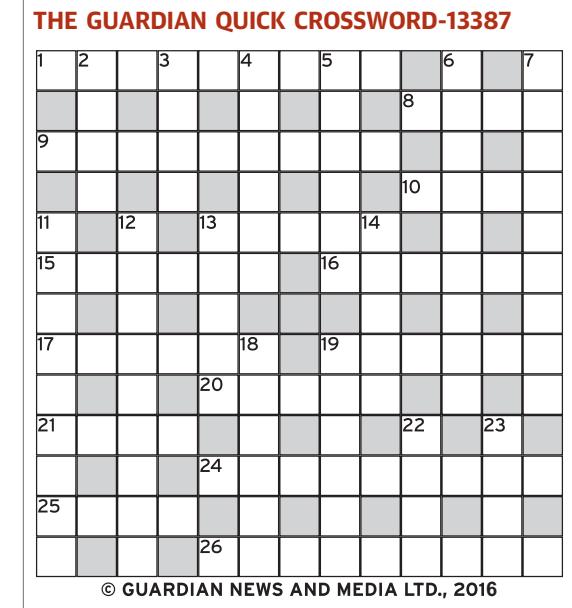
The menu includes food from its Italian kitchen (crusted stuffed chicken served with roasted baby potatoes and veggies, ₹1,250), and the Indian section includes *hara kabab Awadhi* (₹1,099), *mirch baigan ka salan* (₹1,225) and *shahi nihari* (₹1,625).

My friend in ITC communications tells me that a 'no contact' protocol is followed for all deliveries. There are mandatory temperature checks for chefs and other staffers, and the food – packed in corn starched clamshell, corrugated paper boxes – is delivered in their own fleet of cars. The service is open from 11:30 am to 3 pm and 6:30 pm to 10:30 pm (call 011-66325137).

All in all, Gourmet Couch is good news. Stay home, stay safe – and eat well. What could be better than that?

The writer is a seasoned food critic

THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13387



© GUARDIAN NEWS AND MEDIA LTD., 2016

■ Across

- 1 Perennial Alpine plant – we see lids (anag) (9)
- 8 Shop selling processed food products (4)
- 9 Saccharin, for example (9)
- 10 Editing instruction that matter marked for deletion is to be retained (4)
- 12 Musical interval from A to F, say (5)
- 13 Card gambling game – Turk's dope (anag) (4,5)
- 14 Torment (a prince?) (5)
- 15 Close-knit exclusive group (6)
- 20 Rubber boot (5)
- 21 Acceptable (4)
- 24 Inlaid decoration used on furniture (9)
- 25 Trees (of late, prone to disease) (4)
- 26 Post-matrimonial holiday (9)
- 27 Down
- 2 Out of sorts (4)
- 3 Dregs (4)
- 4 Ocular shutter (6)
- 5 Detective (6)

To play The Guardian Quick Crossword, The Hindu Cryptic crossword, Sudoku & other puzzles online, scan the QR code.

6 Controlling measure (9)

7 Annual events (9)

11 Card gambling game – Turk's dope (anag) (4,5)

12 Radio or TV show (9)

13 Tough connective tissue (5)

14 Torment (a prince?) (5)

18 Italian ice cream (6)

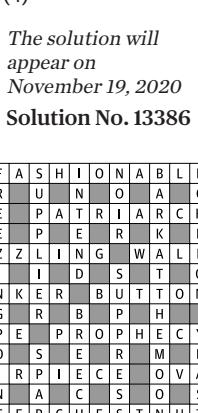
19 Close-knit exclusive group (6)

22 Microbe (4)

23 Bee Gees, Supremes or Andrews Sisters, say (4)

The solution will appear on November 19, 2020

Solution No. 13386



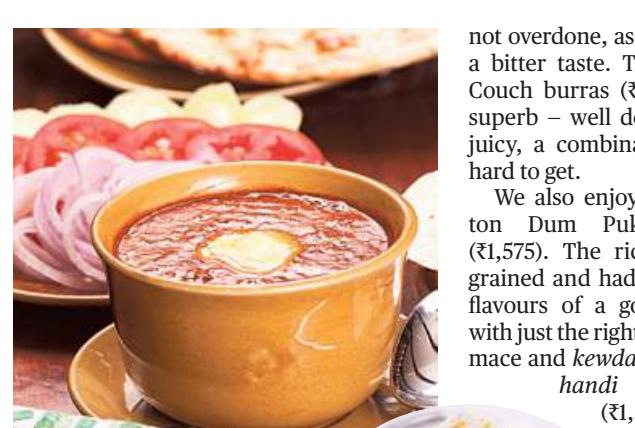
RAHUL VERMA

There was a time as a child, when I wanted to be an ice cream seller. I thought I'd have a van full of the stuff all to myself. The dream remained unfulfilled, but something equally good happened to one of our friends: She went and joined the ITC group of hotels. Thanks to her job, she got us the most delicious ham tarts from ITC Maurya for every celebratory occasion. Over the years, ham, sadly, gave way to chicken,

FOOD SPOT

Dal Bukhara at home

Gourmet Couch from the ITC stable is now home delivering from some of the hotels' restaurants



but even now, when someone says ITC, I think of those crispy-creamy pastries. There is, of course, a lot more to ITC than the ham or chicken tarts. Most people love the food of Bukhara, which serves what is described as northwest frontier cuisine. I am not greatly fond of Bukhara, but I have had memorable meals at Dum Pukht, the restaurant where you get some divine Awadhi food; and at West View, where the chefs would gently sizzle a steak or prepare pork chops that you'd not forget.

To cut a long story short, here's some good news for those who like the food of ITC: It has started a home de-

livery service called Gourmet Couch. In this terrible age of the pandemic, when people are still wary of going out to restaurants, even the highest end ones, many luxury hotels have decided to come to us. You sit at home, look at the menu, place your order, and the food arrives at your doorstep. I got one such hamper from Gourmet Couch last week.

If you do want something from Bukhara, I would recommend its *burrakh kabab*. Now *burrakh kababs*, as most of us know, are really difficult to cook to perfection. They have to be somewhat charred, but

the masala had been strained, and the outcome was a velvety dish.

(From top) Dal Bukhara; Dum Pukht Biryani; Kakori kabab • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

CM YK

No evidence of voter fraud: poll officials

Trump had claimed that an election equipment maker 'deleted' 2.7 million votes for him nationwide

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

WASHINGTON

There is no evidence of compromised ballots or corrupt voting systems in the U.S. election, officials said on Thursday, as a top Democrat accused Republicans who refuse to accept President-elect Joe Biden's win of "poisoning" democracy.

Their messages came hours after President Donald Trump once again cried foul, retweeting a baseless claim that an election equipment maker "deleted" 2.7 million votes for him nationwide.

Arizona win

Mr. Biden, who leads by more than 5 million in the popular vote, cemented his victory late Thursday by winning Arizona, U.S. networks said, flipping the State Democratic for the first time since 1996. Arizona gives Mr. Biden a 290-217 lead over Mr. Trump in the Electoral Col-



Uncertainty lingers: Supporters of Donald Trump rallying outside the Arizona state capitol on November 7. •AP

lege, with 270 needed to win the White House.

With most Republican lawmakers having yet to acknowledge Mr. Biden's win, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, the chamber's top Democrat, accused them Thursday of "denying reality" and "auditioning for profiles in cowardice."

"Instead of working to pull the country back together so that we can fight our

common enemy COVID-19, Republicans in Congress are spreading conspiracy theories, denying reality and poisoning the well of our democracy," he said.

Senior U.S. Federal and State election officials mean-

while in a statement rejected Mr. Trump's claims of fraud, saying that "the November 3rd election was the most secure in American history."

The statement was issued

White House planning for second Trump term'

WASHINGTON

The White House is planning for President Donald Trump to serve a second term despite his re-election loss, a top official said on Friday. "We are moving forward here at the White House under the assumption that there will be a second Trump term," the outgoing President's trade adviser Peter Navarro told Fox Business Network. •AP

many unfounded claims and opportunities for misinformation about the process of our elections, we can assure you we have the utmost confidence in the security and integrity of our elections, and you should too," the statement said. It was signed by the heads of the National Association of State Election Directors and the National Association of Secretaries of State and by the Chairman of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

It came just hours after Mr. Trump's retweet, which in addition to claiming 2.7 million "deleted" votes also said hundreds of thousand had been switched from him to Mr. Biden in Pennsylvania and other States.

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi demanded that Republicans stop what she called an "absurd circus" and turn to combatting the pandemic.

'Attack on Aramco oil facility foiled'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI

Saudi Arabia said early Friday it thwarted an attack by Yemen's Iran-backed rebels that sparked a fire near an Aramco oil distribution centre.

In remarks carried by the State-run Saudi Press Agency, an unnamed official at the Ministry of Energy reported that Saudi security forces had intercepted and destroyed two explosives-packed boats that it said Yemen's Houthi rebels were using to target a major refinery and terminal in the southern Saudi province of Jizan.

NLD has secured 346 of the 412 seats, with results from 64 more yet to be released



Victory march: Supporters of the NLD party celebrating in Yangon on November 10. •AP

announced.

The comfortable win will be a welcome boost for Ms. Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace laureate who has had a turbu-

lent first term and struggled to meet high public expectations.

She is tasked with deve-

loping a country that suf-

fered nearly 50 years of iso-

lation and decay under strict

military rule, years of which

she was held under house

arrest.

Even now, her govern-

ment is required to govern

with military involvement,

in particular in the areas of

security and defence, under

a Constitution drafted dur-

ing the generals' rule.

The ballot was seen as a

referendum on Ms. Suu Kyi's

government, which is hugely

popular at home. However,

its reputation abroad has col-

lapsed due to accusations of

genocide against the coun-

try's Rohingya Muslim mi-

nority, which it denies.

+ How South Asia views Biden presidency

Leaders congratulated the Democrat without waiting for the official results

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Within days of U.S. media declaring Joseph Biden the President-elect, leaders of all South Asian countries, with the exception of Bhutan (which doesn't have formal diplomatic ties with the U.S.), have congratulated him.

The fact that all leaders from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Pakistan PM Imran Khan, to Nepal's PM KP Oli, Bangladesh's Sheikh Hasina, Maldives President Ibrahim Solih and Sri Lanka President Gotabaya Rajapaksa tweeted to Mr. Biden without waiting for the official results, indicates that they each want to reach out to the Democratic administration early in the game, and expect to build on ties with the U.S. in continuation from the past.

PM Modi tweeted an old photograph of him and then-Vice President Biden and his government will count on that continuity for Indo-U.S. strategic ties, military exchanges and in building a counter to China in the Indo-Pacific region. This won't just mean support in times of conflict, such as the current standoff at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), India will seek more support from the U.S. in presenting alternatives to the SAARC region.

Most countries in South Asia have higher bilateral trade figures with Beijing than with India or the U.S., and with the exception of India and Bhutan are all part of



Joseph Biden

des PM Hasina said she hoped to cooperate with the U.S. in "effectively confronting the evils of terrorism, violent extremism, hatred, [and] forced displacements as of the Rohingyas," indicating that she hoped Mr. Biden's tenure would mark an exit from Mr. Trump's travel ban and other policies that appeared to target Muslim countries.

NEWS ANALYSIS

In an article for *Foreign Affairs* magazine in April 2020, Mr. Biden spelt out his foreign policy priorities, which include plans for a global, annual 'Summit for Democracy' within his first year in office, where he marked three areas where he will demand commitments from all countries: "fighting corruption, defending against authoritarianism, and advancing human rights."

Most South Asian countries that have been on the receiving end of U.S. pronouncements will watch his moves on human rights cautiously. Sri Lankan President Rajapaksa and his brother Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa have faced U.S. government strictures over allegations of war crimes in the war against the LTTE for example, and will hope to turn the page now.

Pakistan too will want to avoid a U.S. focus on minority rights, but will hope that Mr. Biden keeps the spotlight on the situation in Jammu-Kashmir and India. In her statement, Bangla-

"There is [a] legitimate concern that a Biden administration could mark a return of America's liberal interventionist agenda focused on human rights, transitional justice and sanctions. Such moralist pressure could push countries like Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar further into Chinese hands," explained Constantino Xavier of the Centre for Social and Economic Progress (formerly Brookings India). "Instead, Delhi's expectation is that the U.S. under Biden would keep Trump's primary focus on China as the greatest strategic challenge in South Asia."

As a result, the entire region will probably be on tenterhooks until Mr. Biden clarifies his China policy. Continuing Mr. Trump's confrontational policy with Beijing could cause trouble for those of India's neighbours who have close ties with China, but not checking China's aggressions will have a deep security impact in the region.

Mr. Biden himself has kept many guessing with his words in the April article, when he said, "the most effective way to meet [China's] challenge is to build a united front of U.S. allies and partners to confront China's abusive behaviours and human rights violations, even as we seek to cooperate with Beijing on issues where our interests converge, such as climate change, nonproliferation, and global health security".

French forces kill al-Qaeda leader in Mali

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS

French ground forces and military helicopters killed a jihadi commander linked with al-Qaeda in Mali along with four others, the French military said Friday. The operation on Tuesday

targeted Bahag Moussa, military chief for the RVIM Islamic extremist group, who had been on a UN sanctions list and was believed responsible for multiple attacks on Malian and international forces in the country, French spokesman Colonel

Frederic Barbry told reporters on Friday.

Surveillance drones helped French forces in Mali identify Moussa's truck in the Menaka region of eastern Mali, which was then targeted by the helicopters and 15 French commandos sent to

the scene, Col. Barbry said. All five people in the truck were killed after they ignored warning shots and fired on the forces, he said.

A statement from the French defense minister said Moussa was in charge of training new jihadi recruits.

After days of silence, China congratulates Biden & Harris

We respect the choice of the American people, says official

ANANTH KRISHNAN

China on Friday congratulated Joe Biden and Kamala Harris for their election victory – one of the last major countries to do so – in a belated and measured response that analysts in Beijing said reflected the Chinese leadership's expectations of a turbulent end to the Trump administration and a continued confrontation with the U.S. election.



"We express our congratulations to Mr. Biden and Ms. Harris," Wang Wenbin said. •AP

"China-U.S. relations for the past three years and more have been poisoned and distorted by some people in high positions in Washington. China needs to stand firm on matters of vital interest to its principles," he added. "China and the U.S. need to reengage and get along with each other. The U.S. will need to come to terms to the imminent reality that China will be an economy larger than the U.S., and an equally important country in terms of political impact in the world. It is important to reset China-U.S. relations as soon as possible, so that these two countries can get along with each other, and avoid coming to blows against each other."

Confrontation

Few, however, expect a complete reset, and the leadership in Beijing appears to be bracing for a period of continued confrontation with the new administration in Washington, and for Mr. Biden to not only pursue many of Mr. Trump's policies, but perhaps to do so more effectively.

The Biden administration would pursue a more strategic approach, working with allies to confront China not just on trade but technology issues," Ms. Wei said. "Trump's go-it-alone strategy alienated a lot of allies. Where China dropped the ball was they could have moved faster in terms of cutting agreements with the European Union, Japan, South Korea, but time and again, they have proved they are not willing to make any kind of concession to anyone."

"Two years from now," she added, "Beijing will miss President Trump."

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS FROM THE HINDU GROUP

CHILDREN'S DAY SPECIAL OFFER

25% DISCOUNT* LIMITED PERIOD OFFER



BOOK YOUR COPY ONLINE



Visit: publications.thehindugroup.com/bookstore/

For bulk booking, e-mail: bookstore@thehindu.co.in | For enquiries call: 1800 102 1878

*Shipping charges extra | Terms and conditions apply

MARKET WATCH

	13-11-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	43443	0.20
US Dollar	74.62	0.02
Gold	50425	0.73
Brent oil	42.78	-3.62

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	365.50	-2.55
Asian Paints	2179.95	8.15
Axius Bank	610.35	10.65
Bajaj Auto	3040.75	23.30
Bajaj Finance	7261.10	234.90
Bharti Airtel	4376.05	77.75
BPCL	394.00	-0.65
Britannia Ind	3514.45	-0.85
Cipla	744.65	4.95
Coal India	125.90	3.80
Divis Lab	3432.95	65.90
Dixit Reddy's Lab	4856.90	30.05
Eicher Motors	2514.60	163.85
GAIL (India)	92.80	-0.25
Grasim Ind	841.35	14.40
HCL Tech	828.10	3.40
HDPE	2306.75	-25.35
HDPE Bank	1358.80	-12.90
HDFC Life	627.50	-2.90
Hero MotoCorp	3128.90	43.10
Hindalco	210.55	1.95
Hind Unilever	2185.35	-6.75
ICICI Bank	485.55	8.85
IndusInd Bank	768.55	-0.65
Infosys	1124.20	6.45
Indian Oil Corp	84.75	-0.55
ITC	187.10	-0.90
JSW Steel	343.20	5.20
Kotak Bank	1763.30	8.55
L&T	1051.50	-21.70
M&M	629.85	-2.85
Maruti Suzuki	6809.25	-27.60
Nestle India Ltd.	16825.65	107.05
NTPC	91.45	0.65
ONGC	72.15	0.60
PowerGrid Corp	188.85	-0.65
Reliance Ind	1996.40	16.40
SBI Life	831.85	-5.90
State Bank	229.45	2.65
Shree Cement	23435.50	-6.10
Sun Pharma	508.45	-0.80
Tata Motors	146.35	-4.85
Tata Steel	486.55	13.40
TCS	2656.85	-14.20
Tech Mahindra	838.85	-4.40
Titan	1288.45	10.35
UltraTech Cement	4899.75	53.65
UPL	425.35	-4.25
Wipro	344.15	-1.40

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.40	74.72
Euro	88.02	88.40
British Pound	98.06	98.49
Japanese Yen (100)	70.82	71.13
Chinese Yuan	11.26	11.31
Swiss Franc	81.40	81.76
Singapore Dollar	55.18	55.43
Canadian Dollar	56.70	56.96
Malaysian Ringgit	18.04	18.14
Australian Dollar	54.02	54.26

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



INOX Leisure raises ₹250 crore via QIP issue

MUMBAI INOX Leisure Ltd. has raised ₹250 crore through a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) issue to meet capital expenditure requirements for ongoing and future projects, to sustain growth, for business expansion and to improve its financial leveraging strength. "INOX aims to augment its business growth with the freshly accrued funds," the company said in a statement.

EPL to buy Creative Stylo Packs in cash/stock deal

MUMBAI The board of EPL Ltd. has approved the acquisition of Creative Stylo Packs Pvt. in a cash-cum-stock deal. Creative makes corrugated boxes, laminated tubes and caps. The deal entails cash purchase of 72.5% stake in Creative for ₹157.9 crore. The remaining 27.5% will involve issuance of 2,500 EPL shares of ₹2 each for every 927 shares of Creative of ₹10 each to Creative's founders.

Services exports fall 1.4% to \$17.3 bn in Sept.

MUMBAI India's services exports in September fell 1.4% to \$17.29 billion, data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) showed on Friday. The services exports (receipts) in September 2019 stood at \$17.54 billion. Services imports (or payments) also dropped 8.7% to \$10.14 billion as against \$11.10 billion a year earlier, according to RBI data on international trade in services. PTI

Hospitality sector needs targeted stimulus: FHRAI

NEW DELHI The Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) on Friday welcomed the extension of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme but said the sector needed a specific stimulus package to come out of distress. Gurbaish Singh Kohli, VP, FHRAI, said it was highly capital- and labour-intensive, and without a specific stimulus, it would continue to bleed. PTI

Sensex, Nifty log gains for a second week, buoyed by banks

Banking stocks have helped the NSE's main index rise more than 19% this month

REUTERS

BENGALURU Indian shares ended higher in a choppy trading session on Friday as banking and financial stocks reversed early losses, with the main indexes recording gains for a second week in a row.

The NSE Nifty 50 index and the benchmark S&P BSE Sensex ended about 0.2% higher at 12,719.95 and 43,443, respectively. The indexes posted weekly gains of more than 3% each.

Private sector banks

The Nifty banking index closed 0.66% higher and rose for four of five days this week, advancing 19% so far this month.

"Some of the private-sec-



On a high: The benchmark S&P BSE Sensex and the NSE Nifty 50 index ended about 0.2% higher on Friday. AP

tors are doing very well in terms of capital adequacy ratios and risk management compared to the industry average and they have seen large gains in the current rally," said Saurabh Jain, assistant vice president at SMC

Global Securities Ltd.

Banking stocks have helped the Nifty index rise over 19% so far this month. India's top lender State Bank of India firmed 1.5%, while its private-sector peers Axis Bank and ICICI Bank ad-

vanced about 1.8% each.

Realty index

The Nifty realty index rose about 1.3% after the government announced a new set of stimulus measures, including additional funding for real estate developers and contractors.

Oil-to-telecoms conglomerate Reliance Industries gained about 1% after recovering from a 5% drop in the last two sessions.

Automaker Eicher Motors firmed 7.4% and was the top gainer among Nifty stocks after the firm reported a better-than-expected profit in the July-September quarter.

Rival automaker Tata Motors was the session's top loser and fell about 3.3%.

PLI scheme to benefit auto industry over 2020-25 period'

But, operational risks in India still remain: Fitch Solutions



the five-year period around ₹57,000 crore.

Adds to costs'

"However, we note that the elevated operational risks present in the country will remain a challenge for many investors," it said.

"Our operational risk team believes that businesses operating in the country will continue to face additional structural risks stemming from legal risks, security gaps, excessive bureaucracy and patchy utility infrastructure, all of which currently increase the costs of operating in India, particularly compared with China," it added.

tric vehicles (EVs) and the associated supply chains," Fitch Solutions Country Risk and Industry Research said in a statement.

Citing the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations, it noted that the domestic automotive industry is set to receive a large portion of this incentive fund over

INTERVIEW | ANUPAM PAHUJA

'One of the biggest challenges in India continues to be cash'

It's critical to manage risks associated with payments: PayPal VP

LALATENDU MISHRA

Ever since the pandemic broke out, PayPal has seen greater adoption of digital payments across the world, more specifically in smaller towns in India, Anupam Pahuja, the company's Vice President – India, South East Asia, Middle East and Africa, said in an interview. Edited excerpts:

What is the future of digital payments and cash post-COVID-19 in India?

■ Digital payments have made rapid progress with the support of the government and the regulator creating a favourable regulatory policy and environment. With the onset of the pandemic, digital payments have shifted from a nice-to-have to an essential service, and hence we have seen accelerated adoption.

Payments is an important pillar and it is heartening to see payments move from remittances and retail to cross sectoral usage.

Post-COVID, we will not see the demise of cash, but its relevance will definitely decline. It's time to think about the role payments could play in the ecosystem of today and tomorrow.

What is the impact of COVID-19 on your business?

■ Our products and services have never been more needed and more relevant. We've worked hard in recent years to establish ourselves as one of the world's most trusted digital payments brands, with substantial reach and scale for both consumers and merchants. And those efforts are clearly paying off.

Another interesting trend seen is increased adoption by what we call the 'Sil-

ver Tech' generation – people in the age group of 50-70 years. Our merchants and our consumers want us to expand our products and services, and we will not let this opportunity pass us by.

What is your focus on risk and security? How do you eliminate payments fraud?

■ As adoption of digital payments has increased, there is evidence that online crime and scams are increasing as bad actors exploit vulnerabilities to their advantage.

All the technical work around cybersecurity and risk management need to translate into tangible and practical end-user benefits. Here, we have implemented easy to understand 'Buyer and Seller Protection' policies, which protect both merchants and consumers across various scenarios as they buy and sell online.

How has the company performed in the Indian market since entry?

■ We entered India with an objective to offer a safe and seamless digital payment experience with a focus on enabling MSMEs and the freelancer community. Our global presence, wide accep-

tance, and focus on risk and security, make us a preferred partner for these merchants.

The brunt of the pandemic has been felt by the small and medium businesses. As they look to adopt a digital approach to survive, we are a valuable partner for them. Our cross-border business helps these merchants sell to a global consumer base and thereby recover faster.

We have best-in-class partnerships to give these small businesses access to an omni-channel approach and to engage consumers across their touch points.

What are the challenges and opportunities in India?

■ India is a key growth market for us. It is home to 6.33 crore MSMEs, out of which 6.30 crore – 99.4% – are micro-enterprises. The number of MSMEs in FY20 has increased by 18.5% to 25.13 lakh units from 21.21 lakh in FY19. Our cross-border business enables these merchants to sell across the globe to our 300 million consumer base.

With initiatives like UPI,

India Stack, Aadhaar, India's digital payments journey is poised to take off unlike other countries.

One of the biggest challenges in India continues to be cash. With the pandemic, we have seen a significant shift to digital; but to sustain this growth, it is critical to manage risks associated with payments. We have a two-sided network which protects both merchants and consumers.

Another challenge is the need for Internet penetration to tier 3 and 4 markets, which will enable deeper penetration of digital payments.



Centre to enact mining law reforms in 6-8 weeks: Jain

'Going to open up sector, opt for reward-and-punish regime'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The Centre is looking at mining reforms, including amendments to the Mining Act and auction rules, Coal and Mines Secretary Anil Kumar Jain said.

These were progressing well and in the next six to eight weeks, the reforms were likely to get adopted in the statute book, he added.

The statement assumes significance as the mines Ministry had earlier sought suggestions from the general public, the mining industry and other stakeholders on proposed reforms in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1952.

"While we are looking at mining reforms, amend-

ments to the MMDR Act, the auction rules, etc, it needs to be mentioned that they are well progressing," Mr. Jain was quoted as saying in a statement.

He was addressing the CEOs Roundtable on Propelling the Mining Industry Forward through Sustainable Technologies for Atma-nirbhav Bharat, organised by FICCI. The Centre was trying to introduce a level playing field between PSUs and the private sector, he said. "We are going to open the sector and reduce the requirement of exploration status. The licensing regime of the

TV PICKS

SATURDAY

UEFA Nations League: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m. onwards.**Augusta Masters:** SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 11.30 p.m.**SUNDAY****Formula One:** (Turkish GP) SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.**ATP Finals:** Sony Six (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.**UEFA Nations League:** Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m. onwards & Sony Six (SD & HD), 10.30 p.m.**Augusta Masters:** SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 8.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Aditi jumps to T-13, Tvesa, Diksha too make cut

Kae (Saudi Arabia)

Aditi carded 2-under 70

Aramco Saudi Ladies

International, here on Friday, to total 1-under 143 and was T-13th. Following Aditi into the weekend rounds were Tvesa Malik (75-75) at T-56 and Diksha Dagar (78-73) at T-61. Danish star Emily Kristine Pedersen raced to a halfway lead with a 67.

Argentina salvages draw against Paraguay

BUENOS AIRES

Argentina had to come from behind to draw 1-1 with Paraguay in a World Cup qualifier at La Bombonera on Thursday, and Lionel Messi had what might have been a winning goal disallowed in the second half.

The results: Bolivia 2 (Arca 37, Martins 60) lost to Ecuador 3 (Beder Caicedo 46, Mena Delgado 55, Gruze 88-pen); Argentina 1 (Gonzalez 41) drew with Paraguay 1 (Romero 21-pen). AFP**North Macedonia makes history**

PARIS

Hungary came from behind to stun Iceland and secure a place at Euro 2020 on Thursday after North Macedonia qualified for a major tournament for the first time by beating Georgia 1-0 away in its play-off final.

The results: Hungary 2 (Nego 88, Szoboszlai 90+2) bt Iceland 1 (Sigurdsson 11); Northern Ireland 1 (Skriniar 88-og) lost to Slovakia 2 (Kucka 17, Duris 110) after extra time; Serbia 1 (Jovic 90) drew with Scotland 1 (Christie 52) after extra time; Scotland won 5-4 on penalties; Georgia 0 lost to North Macedonia 1 (Pandev 56). AFP**Verstappen fastest**

AGENCE-FRANCE-PRESSE

ISTANBUL

Red Bull's Max Verstappen was fastest in the Turkish Grand Prix practice on Friday while Lewis Hamilton slammed the slippery surface. Verstappen lapped in one minute 35.077 seconds in the morning.

Alexander Albon was second in the opening session but Ferrari's Charles Leclerc was best of the rest after lunch.

Mercedes moved back up the timesheets, with Valtteri Bottas third fastest by the end of the day and Hamilton fourth.

Kohli's absence will impact India: Langer

However, the Australia coach hails the star batsman's decision on 'paternity leave'

INDIA IN AUS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MELBOURNE

Australia head coach Justin Langer has hailed India captain Virat Kohli's decision to take paternity leave during the tour down under but said his absence would affect the visitors during the Test series for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Kohli will return home after the opening Test, which ends on December 21. He has been granted paternity leave by the BCCI to be with his actor wife Anushka Sharma for the birth of their first child in early January.

The best
Langer said he respects Kohli for putting family ahead of cricket.

"Virat Kohli is probably the best player I've ever seen in my life for so many reasons. Not only batting, his energy and passion for the game, the way he fields,"

**Irrepressible:** India captain Virat Kohli's passion and work ethic have won him the admiration of even rivals. ■ AFP

Langer told newsmen via video conference on Friday.

"I cannot believe the energy he displays in everything he does and I've got so much respect for him. I've also got respect for him in the sense that he's made this decision (to return for the birth).

"He's a human being like all of us... if I was giving advice to any of my players I would always say never, ever miss the birth of your children because it is one of the great things you'll ever do," the former Australia opener said.

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

Langer said Kohli's absence would definitely impact India, but Australia

could not afford to lower its guard.

"India beat us last time (in 2018-19). They're a very, very good team, we cannot get complacent for a second with or without Virat," Langer said.

India's tour of Australia begins with three ODIs, followed by as many T20 Internationals and four Tests.

Sticking with Burns

Langer, meanwhile, hinted he was likely to stick with Joe Burns in the opening position with David Warner for the first Test despite young Will Pucovski's incredible form.

Burns averaged 32 for Australia last summer and had a below-par start to the Sheffield Shield season with 57 runs at 11.40.

The 22-year-old Pucovski, on the other hand, produced successive double hundreds, scoring 202 against Western Australia after an unbeaten 255 against South Australia.

It's Anjeze vs Speedster

BENGALURU: Anjeze and Speedster may fight out the finish of the Karnataka Police Trophy (1,400m), the main event of the races to be held here on Saturday (Nov. 14).

False rails (width about 5.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1. B.A.R.I. PLATE (1,400m), rated 1.00 to 20, 2.00 p.m.: 1. Hitomi Sakuma (3) R. Ravi 60, 2. My Vision (4) Chethan G 60, 3. Mrs Thatcher (2) Mark 59, 4. Perfectgoldenera (9) T.S. Jodha 59, 5. Annalease (8) Saddam H 58.5, 6. Proudwish (10) Sai Vamsi 58.5, 7. Master Of War (5) Toufis 58, 8. Lovely Sierra (II) Ashhad Asbar 57.5, 9. Fierce Fighter (7) A. Imran 57, 10. Altair (6) Afzar Khan 55, 11. Love Music (1) P.P. Dhebe 54.5 and 12. Phoenix Reached (12) Irvan 53.5.

1. PERFECTGOLDENERA, 2. FIERCE FIGHTER, 3. LOVE MUSIC

2. CHINTAMANI PLATE (Div. II), (1,200m), rated 15 to 35, 4-y-o & over, 2.30: 1. Legendary Prince (9) Srinath 60, 2. Torosante (3) Rayan 60, 3. Apollo Bay (2) P.P. Dhebe 59.5, 4. Splash (4) Suraj 58.5, 5. Konichiwa (I) Darshan 58, 6. Light Of Love (12) A. Imran 57, 8. Pastiche (7) D. Patel 58, 9. Desert Mirage (6) Kiran Rai 56, 9. Legend Is Back (5) R. Pradeep 56, 10. Nerva (8) M. Prabhakaran 56, 11. Grecian Light (II) Sai Vamsi 55.5 and 12. Barog (10) Afzar Khan 54.5.

1. SPLASH, 2. LEGENDARY PRINCESS, 3. NERVA

3. CHILDREN'S DAY PLATE (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3.00: 1. Dreams Ahead (7) R. Pradeep 57, 2. Four Wheel Drive (9) Arshad 57, 3. Griffin (8) Anjar Alami 57, 4. Hope Island (5) Antony 57, 5. Pissarro (12) Zervan 57, 6. Praja Do Cassino (6) P. Surya 57, 7. Twinkle Feet (I) Ashhad Asbar 57, 8. Activated (11) R. Girish 55.5, 9. Glorious Logan (10) D. Patel 55.5, 10. Lake Tahoe (4) Trevor 55.5, 11. Mystic Eye (3) Kiran Rai 55.5 and 12. Sparkling (2) Darshan 55.5.

1. PISSARRO, 2. LAKE TAHOE, 3. GRIFFIN

4. MASTER KEY PLATE (1,600m), rated 15 to 35, 3.30: 1. Casey (8) M. Naveen 60, 2. Donbreakherules (II) Chetan K 59.5, 3. Incitatus (3) B. Darshan 59.5, 4. Ekalavya (6) T.S. Jodha 59.5, 5. Drusilla (1) Trevor 58.5, 6. Arabian Mist (4) Neeraj 57, 7. Sovereign Legend (10) Mark 57, 8. Armenia (9) Khurshed 56.5, 9. He's The One (7) Darshan 55.5, 10.

1. PAPARAZI, 2. HOKKAIDO, 3. THE CORPORAL

Day's best: SPLASH

Double: PISSARRO - LEGARDE

Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; Tr (i): 3, 4 and 5; (ii): 6, 7 and 8.

Rohan Bopanna satisfied with his season

TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

It has been a fascinating season with all the uncertainties and Rohan Bopanna is happy to have salvaged the best tennis in the bargain.

After winding up the season with the Paris ATP Masters quarterfinals, the 40-year-old Bopanna is back at his tennis academy in Bengaluru, providing guidance to youngsters.

Having returned to the professional circuit after lockdown with a quarterfinals in the US Open, and following it up with good wins on clay before winding up on the hard courts in the final leg, Bopanna was understandably satisfied at his ability to get the

Back to training: Ritabrata Sarkar, Niki Poonacha, Rohan Bopanna, and Sravya Shivani at Bopanna's academy in Bengaluru. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

best out of himself on both surfaces.

"I must have done about 35 COVID tests. They were so different. In one place we had to just gargle water and spit

for the test. In some places, they really drilled into our nose and throat," recalled Bopanna.

With suitable caution and measures, Bopanna was hap-

DELHI ROUND-UP

tournament.

The scores: SS Sports Club 89 in 19.1 overs (Nakash Kumar 39; Hitesh Genini 3/9, Raunak Dabas 2/10, Akhil Kohar 2/16, Kabir Bisht 2/7) lost to Haryana Academy 90/1 in 8.1 overs (Kuldeep Dewatal 46 n.o., Devender Lochab 32 n.o.).

Easy win for Manthan

Saurabh Deshwal (45) and Jayant Khowal (four for six) helped Manthan Academy beat GR Academy by 103 runs in the Vicky Bandrey memorial under-16 tournament.

The scores: Manthan Academy 165 in 37.4 overs (Saurabh Deshwal 45; Shubham Saini 4/31) bt GR Academy 62 in 27.2 overs (Jayant Khowal 4/6).

Saiansh shines

Saiansh Kumar picked up

four wickets as M-10 Academy beat Turf Academy by five wickets in the Turf Youth Cup under-13 tournament.

The scores: Turf Academy 80 in 26.1 overs (Abhiraj Singh 34; Saiansh Kumar 4/18) lost to M-10 Academy 85/5 in 19.2 overs (Sahej Wahi 25 n.o.).

Close call for WCL

Akhil Sorout's fighting 47 and three wickets by Priyanshu Kumar helped WCL edge past SN Dubey Academy by one wicket with one ball to spare in the Satish Sharma memorial under-16 tournament.

The scores: SND Academy 162 in 38 overs (Aryan Kumar 78; Priyanshu Kumar 3/15) lost to WCL 166/9 in 39.5 overs (Akhil Sorout 47; Alakshendra Kumar 4/37).

Johnson joins lead on day of record scores

AUGUSTA MASTERS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dustin Johnson made four birdies and a par that felt just as good on Friday morning for a 7-under 65 and a share of the lead, finishing off a first round of record scores on rain-softened Augusta National at the first Masters in November.

Dylan Frittelli ran off four straight birdies on the back nine to match Johnson at 65. The pair tied Paul Casey, who played his bogey-free round of 65 on Thursday.

The opening round was delayed nearly three hours at the start by heavy rain, and with limited daylight in

November, there was no way to complete the round.

The second round began immediately, and that won't finish until Saturday morning. Greg Norman still holds the record for lowest opening round, a 63 in 1996. This record was more about sheer numbers.

There were 53 rounds under par in the 92-man field and 24 rounds in the 60s, both Masters records for any round. The previous mark was 47 rounds under par in the 60s for any round.

The previous record for most scores in the 60s for any round was 20. That was done three times, most recently in the final round last year.

FAITH

Self effort is indispensable

All scriptures teach the fundamental truth that the purpose of life is to transcend the cycle of birth. The Kenopanishad says that there can be no greater loss than the failure to realise the purpose of life during this birth itself. It claims that there is no need for several future births, if only one comprehends and internalises this truth and is determined to make the best use of this chance. It depends on the earnestness with which one approaches this challenge without giving in to any slackness.

The Gita also asserts that it is each one's responsibility to prevent oneself from drowning in the ocean of samsara, especially when every jiva is fortunate to have the grace of God and the teachings of the sastras, pointed out Swami Omkaranda in a discourse. The aim should be to raise the quality of life and be vigilant not to slip into the grip of base tendencies. One's merits and demerits are of his own making and therefore each one is his own friend and also his own enemy. Tiruvalluvar has captured this truth with his matchless brevity of expression when he says that there is no greater enemy for a man than laziness and no greater friend than self effort. How can one hope for any achievement by merely thinking about it without actually going into the brass stacks of action and effort? Can a sleeping lion hope that its prey will automatically enter its mouth?

But, great rewards are hidden in each one's sincere and diligent cultivation of self effort. It is the seed for the development of inner sterling qualities, the most invaluable and permanent assets that accompany the self in its journey across the cycle of birth. The Lord promises to ferry the jiva across this sea of samsara provided one is aware of His Paratva, and engages in dhyana and bhakti yoga.

TH CROSSWORD + 13093

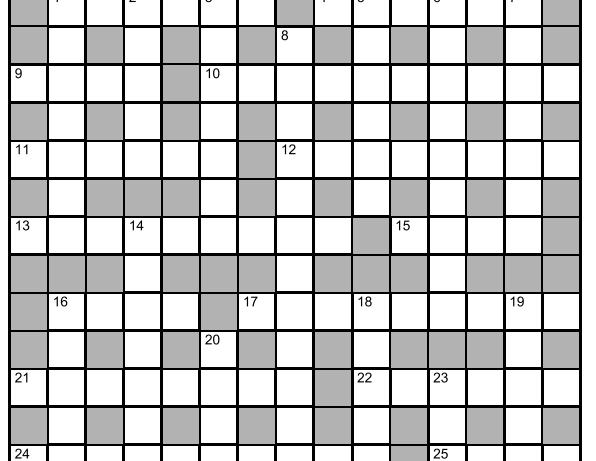
(set by Hypatia)

Free you mind from lockdown.

Solve puzzles on our interactive site:

@ <https://qrqo.page.link/jjpTn>

SCAN TO PLAY





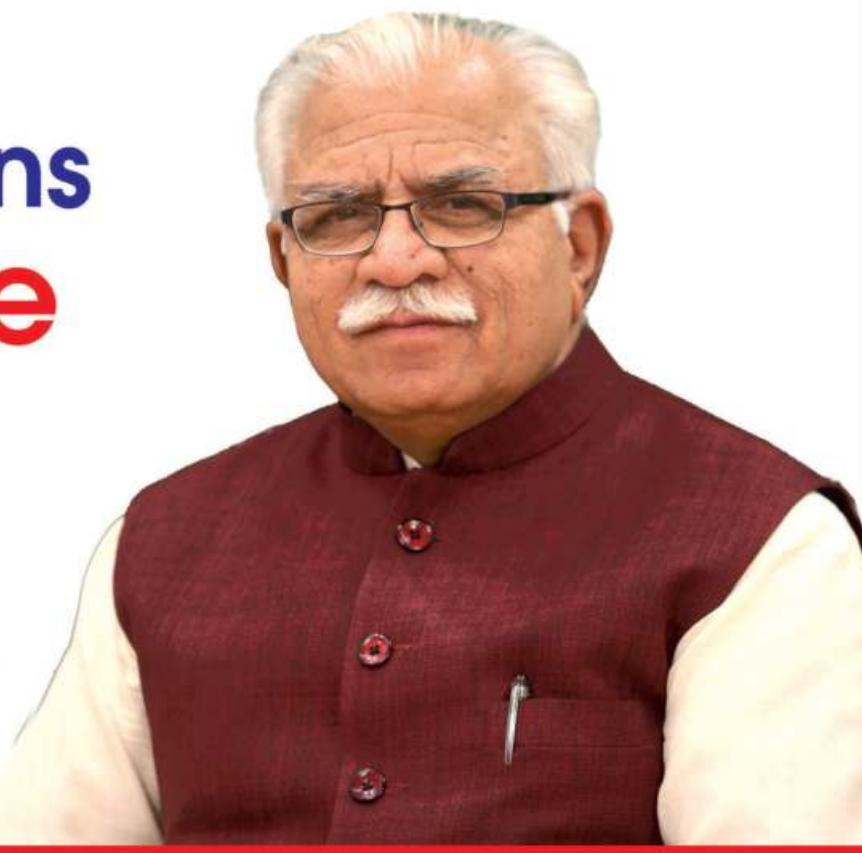
Govt. of Haryana

Unprecedented Decisions for Farmers' Welfare

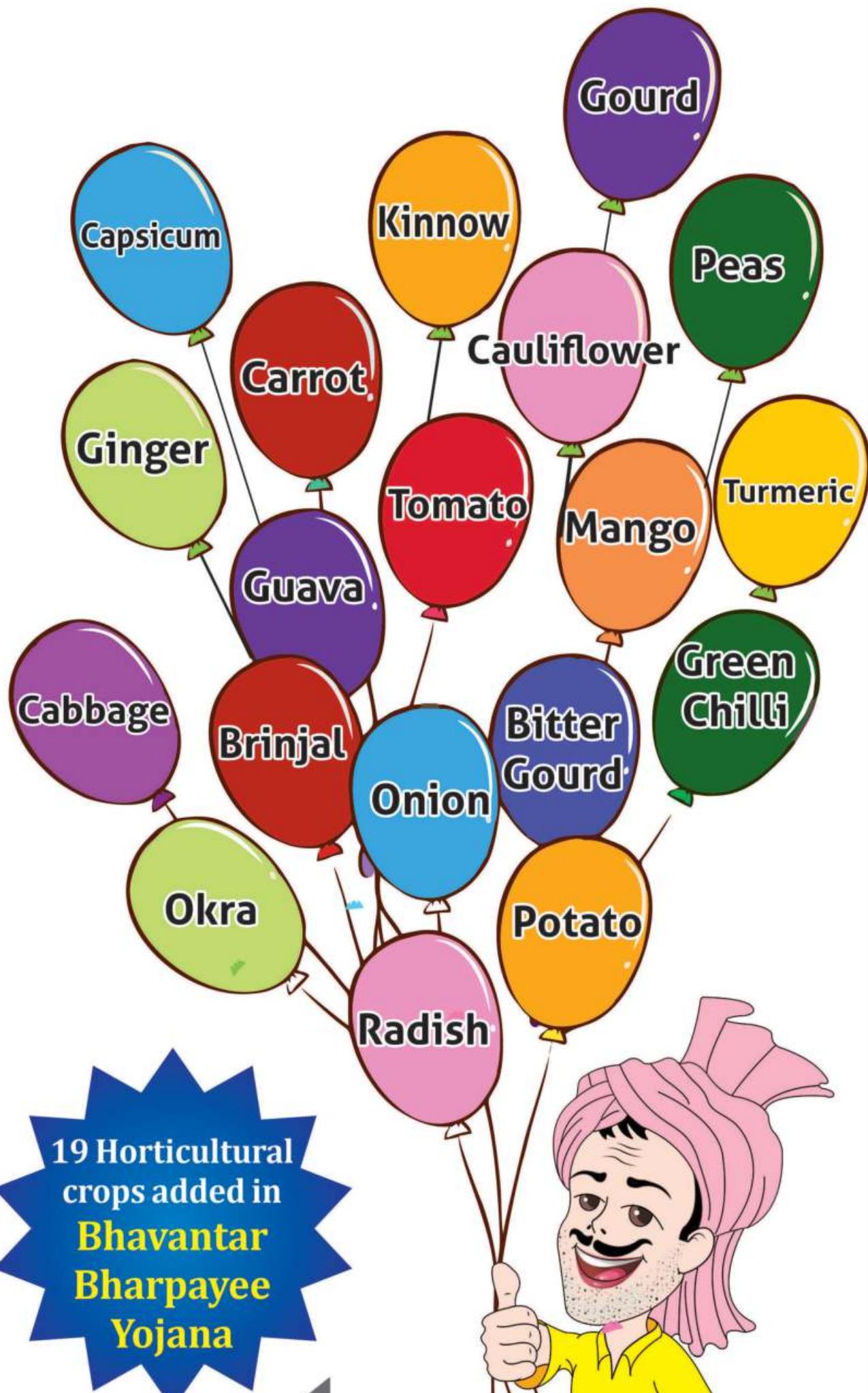
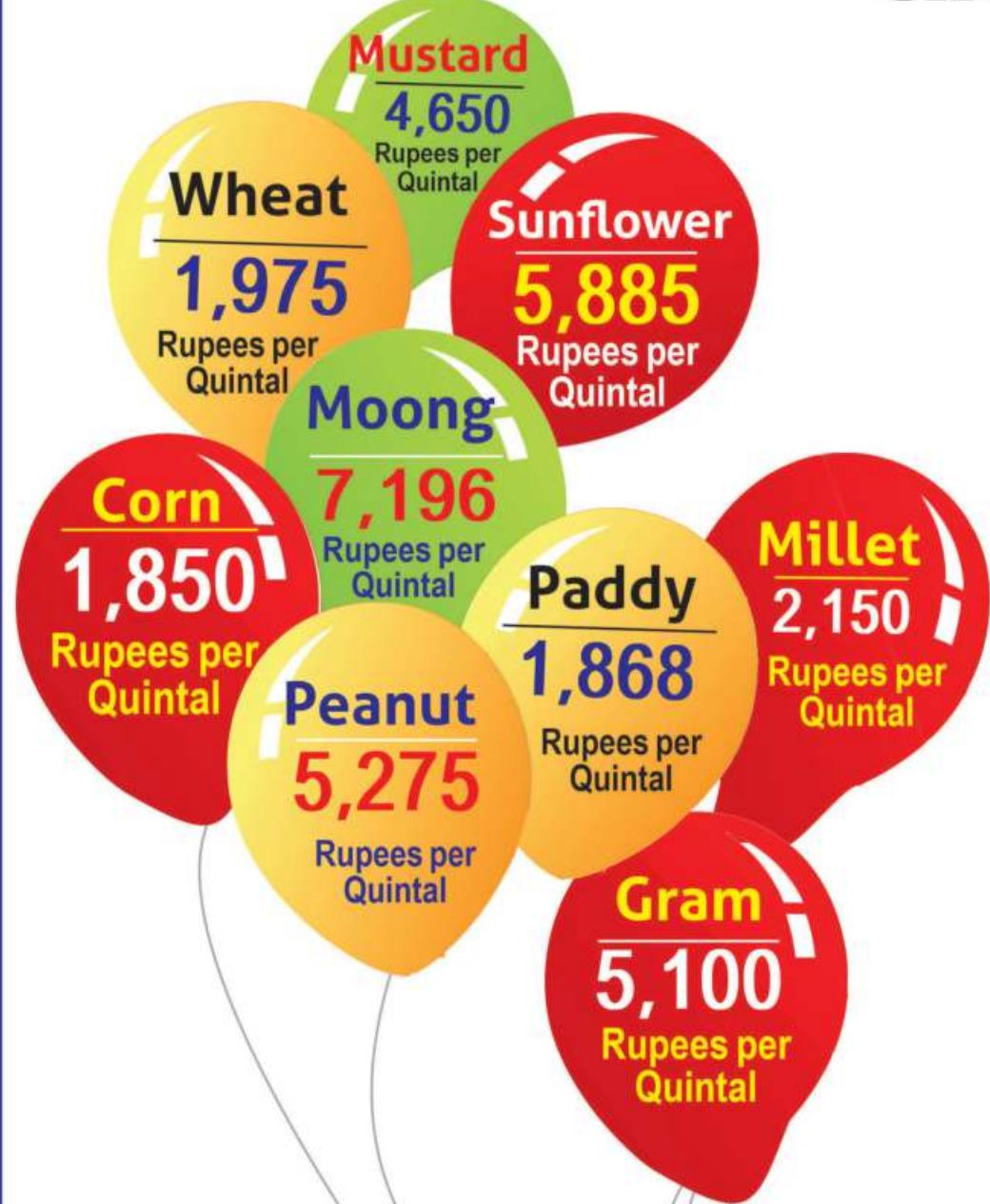


“Our Government has always taken decisions for Farmers' Welfare. Due to these efforts Haryana has become a State to purchase maximum number of crops on MSP”

- **Manohar Lal**
Chief Minister, Haryana



Haryane Ka Badhiya Haal Chokkha Bitya Pehla Saal



Haryana
is the State to
purchase
maximum number
of crops on MSP

19 Horticultural
crops added in
**Bhavantar
Bharpayee
Yojana**

Sugarcane Price
Rs. 350 per quintal is
highest in the Country

