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KOLKATA | NEW DELHI | SILIGURI | BHUBANESWAR



'INDIA AND NEPAL
SHARE VERY
STRONG TIES'

P4



JAISHANKAR, ABU DHABI
CROWN PRINCE DISCUSS
POST-COVID SITUATION

P5



'WE WON THE
ELECTION BY A LOT'

IT'S AS TOUGH
AS IT GETS
DOWN UNDER

P12



WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. Mist in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 23 and 08 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 95% Min: 51%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 25.8°C (0) Min: 10.4°C (-1)

SUN RISES 06:54 hrs SUN SETS 17:24 hrs

MOON RISES 15: 44 hrs MOON SETS 04:50 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Left leaders Biman Bose and Surja Kanta Misra lead a protest rally during the 24-hour trade union strike against the Centre's farm, labour laws. In Kolkata on Thursday. IANS

IT sector visionary FC Kohli dead: Faqir Chand C Kohli, considered as the father of Indian IT industry, has passed away on Thursday. Kohli, the founding chief executive of sector leader TCS, was 96. In a statement, TCS said it mourns the death of Kohli, who died this afternoon, and added that it was JRD Tata's insistence that had got the young Kohli to join the Tata Group in 1969. Kohli led innovations in areas far-ranging from adult literacy, water purification, software engineering, software automation, complex systems and cybernetics.

Two soldiers killed in Srinagar terror attack: Two soldiers of Army's Quick Reaction Team (QRT) were killed on Thursday in Srinagar when terrorists of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) indiscriminately fired at them. Terrorists, who reportedly came in a car, indiscriminately fired at the soldiers who were deployed in the HMT area in the outskirts of the city. Helicopters were used from there after the attack. Army's spokesman Colonel Rajesh Kalia said: "Being a crowded area, troops exercised restraint to avoid any civilian casualties and collateral damage".

Three dead as Nivar makes landfall, weakens into severe cyclonic storm

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, 26 NOVEMBER

Three people have lost their lives and an equal number injured in cyclone Nivar-related incidents in Tamil Nadu.

Meanwhile the very severe cyclone Nivar made a landfall near Puducherry close to the Cuddalore coast on Thursday morning around 3.30 causing widespread damage to properties and vegetation.

The landfall process marked by gusty winds that touched more than 120 kmph began around midnight and ended around 0300 hrs today morning, Met office said.

A bulletin issued by the government said the number of human lives lost in the State due to the cyclone fury was three and three others sustained injuries. A total of 101 houses, including 89 huts and 12 tiled houses

were damaged in the cyclone, accompanied by strong winds.

It said 26 cattle and goats have perished due to heavy rains and gusty winds. There were 380 incidents of uprooting of trees and all of them were cleared. A total of 19 electric posts fell due to strong winds and all of them were repaired.

It said banana plantation crops in 14 acres were damaged due to the cyclone.

A total of 3,085 relief camps were set up by the government in which 2,27,317 people have been lodged. Besides, 921 permanent medical camps, 234 mobile camps were set up through which 73,491 people have benefited.

Meanwhile, chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami visited cyclone-hit areas in Cuddalore district today.

As Cuddalore suffered major brunt of the cyclone fury, the chief minister, during his

visit, would assess the damages caused by the calamity.

Cuddalore received the maximum of 28.2 cm of rains during the last 24 hours ending at 8.30 this morning, followed by Parangipettai which recorded 19 cm of rains.

Meanwhile, Chennai city received 9 cms of rain and the suburban Meenambakkam 12 cms.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah today spoke to chief ministers of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry on the prevailing situation arising out of Cyclonic Storm Nivar and assured all possible support. He said the Centre was closely monitoring the situation.

"Have spoken to CM Shri @EPSTamilNadu and CM Shri @VNarayanasami and assured all possible help from the centre. NDRF teams already on ground to help people in need," Shah said in a tweet.

Active cases below 5L for 16th day in row

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 26 NOVEMBER

India's Covid-19 caseload increased to 92.66 lakh with 44,489 new infections being reported in a day, while the recoveries surged to 86.79 lakh, the Union health Ministry said on Thursday.

The death toll climbed to 1,35,223 with 524 new fatalities, the Ministry data updated at 8 a.m. showed.

The Covid-19 active case-load has risen to 4,52,344, an increase of 7,598 cases from Wednesday, even though it remained below 5 lakh for the 16th consecutive day.

The active cases comprise 4.88 per cent of the total case-load, the data stated.

The total number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 86,79,138, pushing the national recovery rate to 93.66 per cent, while the Covid-19 case fatality rate stands at 1.46 per cent.

India's Covid-19 tally had

crossed the 20-lakh mark on 7 August, 30 lakh on 23 August and 40 lakh on 5 September.

It went past 50 lakh on 16 September, 60 lakh on 28 September, 70 lakh on 11 October, 80 lakh on 29 October, and surpassed 90 lakh on 20 November.

According to ICMR, over 13.59 crore samples have been tested for Covid-19 till 25 November, with 10,90,238 samples being tested on Wednesday.

The 524 new fatalities include 99 from Delhi, 65 from Maharashtra, 51 from West Bengal, 42 from Haryana, 31 from Punjab, 29 from Uttar Pradesh and 26 from Kerala.

The Health Ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

"Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)," the Ministry said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is sub-

ject to further verification and reconciliation.

According to the Ministry, 65 per cent of the active cases are in eight states and UTs which have contributed to the maximum daily new cases and deaths.

Delhi adds 5,475 new infections, 91 deaths: Delhi on Thursday recorded 5,475 fresh coronavirus infections, while 91 more fatalities pushed the city's Covid toll to 8,811, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

These new cases were detected out of 63,266 tests, including 28,897 RT-PCR ones — the highest till date — and 34,369 rapid antigen tests, the health bulletin said. The positivity rate was 8.65 per cent as compared to yesterday's 8.49 per cent.

Delhi's Covid caseload mounted to 5,51,262, of which 5,03,717 patients have recovered. The tally of active cases rose to 38,734 from 38,287. Delhi

recorded 6,746 new cases on Sunday, 4,454 on Monday, 6,224 on Tuesday and 5,246 yesterday.

(SEE ALSO PAGE 2)

DGCA extends suspension of international flights till 31 Dec

MUMBAI, 26 NOVEMBER

The aviation safety regulator DGCA on Thursday extended the suspension of scheduled international commercial passenger flights to 31 December.

The restrictions, however, will not apply on international all-cargo operations and flights specifically approved by the DGCA.

International scheduled flights, however, may be allowed on selected routes by the competent authority on a case-to-case basis. The suspension of flights from/to India, which has been in place since 23 March in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, was to expire on 30 November.

(PTI)

FACT FILE

TOTAL CASES	92,66,705
ACTIVE CASES	4,52,344
NEW CASES	44,489
NEW RECOVERIES	36,367
TOTAL DEATHS	1,35,223

UNION HEALTH MINISTRY FIGURES AS OF 8.00 A.M. THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2020

(PTI)

'India has the highest bribery rate in Asia'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 26 NOVEMBER

India has the highest bribery rate in Asia and the most number of people who use personal connections to access public services, according to a new report by corruption watchdog Transparency International.

The Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) Asia, found that nearly 50 per cent of those who paid bribes were asked to, while 32 per cent of those who used personal connections said they would not receive the service otherwise. The report is based upon the survey which was conducted

between 17 June and 17 July this year in India with a sample size of 2,000.

"With the highest bribery rate (39 per cent) in the region, India also has the highest rate of people using personal connections to access public services (46 per cent)," the report said.

Bribery in public services continues to plague India. Slow and complicated bureaucratic process, unnecessary red tape and unclear regulatory frameworks force citizens to seek out alternate solutions to access basic services through networks of familiarity and petty corruption, the report said.

AstraZeneca manufacturing error clouds study results

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, 26 NOVEMBER

AstraZeneca and Oxford University on Wednesday acknowledged a manufacturing error that is raising questions about preliminary results of their experimental Covid-19 vaccine.

A statement describing the error came days after the company and the university described the shots as "highly effective" and made no mention of why some study participants didn't receive as much vaccine in the first of two shots as expected.

In a surprise, the group of volunteers that got a lower

dose seemed to be much better protected than the volunteers who got two full doses. In the low-dose group, AstraZeneca said, the vaccine appeared to be 90% effective.

In the group that got two full doses, the vaccine appeared to be 62% effective. Combined, the drugmakers said the vaccine appeared to be 70% effective.

But the way in which the results were arrived at and reported by the companies has led to pointed questions from experts.

The partial results announced on Monday are from large ongoing studies in the U.K. and Brazil designed to determine the optimal

dose of vaccine, as well as examine safety and effectiveness. Multiple combinations and doses were tried in the volunteers. They were compared to others who were given a meningitis vaccine or a saline shot.

Before they begin their research, scientists spell out all the steps they are taking, and how they will analyse the results. Any deviation from that protocol can put the results in question.

In a statement on Wednesday, Oxford University said some of the vials used in the trial didn't have the right concentration of vaccine so some volunteers got a half dose.

The university said that it discussed the problem with regulators, and agreed to complete the late stage trial with two groups. The manufacturing problem has been corrected, according to the statement. Experts say the relatively small number of people in the low dose group makes it difficult to know the effectiveness.

Some 2,741 people received a half dose followed by a full dose. A total of 8,895 people received two full doses. Another factor: none of the people in the low-dose group were over 55 years old. Younger people tend to mount a stronger immune response than older people.

Phase-3 trial of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin commences in AIIMS

NEW DELHI, 26 NOVEMBER

The phase-three human clinical trial of indigenously developed anti-coronavirus vaccine candidate Covaxin began at the AIIMS here on Thursday with Dr M V Padma Srivastava, the chief of Neurosciences Centre at the premier institute, and three other volunteers receiving the first dose.

'Covaxin' is being developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

Dr Srivastava was the first one to receive the shot, which would be given to around 15,000 volunteers at the AIIMS over the next few days, sources said.

The first dose of the 0.5 ml intramuscular injection was given to four volunteers. They were under observation for two hours and will be monitored for the next few days, a source said.

(PTI)

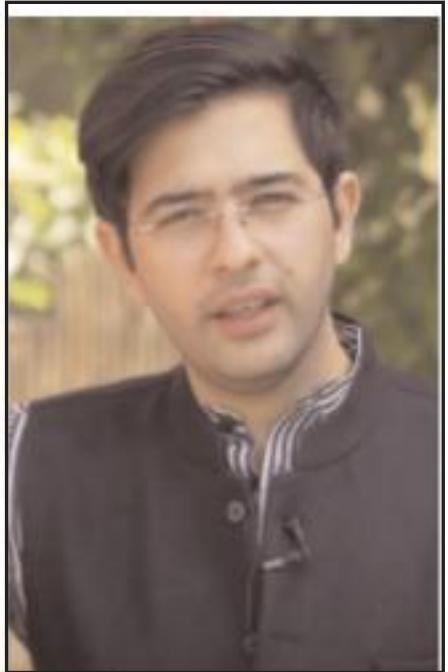


Earlier, we had decided to enrol at least 7.5 crore people under 'Swathya Sathi'. I am announcing today that every family in West Bengal, every person, be it a child or an old man or woman, irrespective of their religious affinity will be covered under this scheme

MAMATA BANERJEE
WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

DJBVC asks officials to prevent release of any untreated effluents into Yamuna

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 26 NOVEMBER



Delhi Jal Board (DJB) Vice Chairman Raghav Chadha along with the Chief Engineer, the Executive Engineer, the STP management team and senior officials of the DJB inspected the 40 MGD Pappankalan sewage treatment plant at Dwarka on Thursday and issued directions to the officers concerned to get Phase-I bio-digester functional soon.

Chadha also directed the officers to ensure that the tapping of drains into the interceptor sewer project should be 100 per cent so that no untreated effluent is released into the Yamuna river.

He said that the Pappankalan sewage treatment plant (STP) had two bio-digestors. While the Phase-II of the STP is functional, the Phase-I has not been functional for some time despite

the completion of the requisite electrical and mechanical work.

On finding out the reason for such delay, Chadha spoke to the contractor concerned, reprimanded him, issued him a show cause notice, and gave strict instructions to complete the work within 30 days.

These two bio-digestors in

the Pappankalan STP have a collective capacity to produce 15,000 units of electricity. However, due to the Phase-I not functioning, only 8,900 units of power was produced. This power generation is for captive consumption.

Taking cognisance of this, Chadha directed that the work related to the Phase-I should begin as soon as possible so that the generation of electricity along with sewage treatment could continue as expected.

During his visit, the DJB Vice Chairman inspected the functioning of the machinery of the Pappankalan STP.

During the inspection, Chadha noticed that a portion of the Phase-II aeration tank was malfunctioning due to which the tank was not functioning at full capacity.

Following this, he instructed the officials on the site that the tank should be rectified as soon as possible.

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 26 NOVEMBER

Schools in Delhi will not reopen till the AAP-led Delhi government is convinced about students' safety, health minister Satyendra Jain today said.

"There is no plan to reopen schools (in Delhi) as of now.

We are hopeful that a vaccine

will be available soon. Schools

will not be reopened till the time

we are convinced that students will be safe," Jain told reporters.

Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia had on Tuesday said that the reopening of city schools is unlikely until a vaccine is available.

While several restrictions have been eased in different "Unlock" phases, the educa-

tional institutions continue to remain closed.

Universities and schools across the country were closed on 16 March, when the Centre had announced a nationwide classroom shutdown as part of measures to contain the spread of Covid-19. A nationwide lockdown was imposed on 25 March.

According to "Unlock 5" guidelines, states can take a call on reopening schools in phases. Several states had begun the process of reopening schools. However, some of them announced closing of schools again due to a fresh rise in coronavirus cases there.

Earlier, school authorities were allowed to call students of class 9 to 12 to schools on a voluntary basis from 21 September. However, the Delhi government decided against it.

Meanwhile, the national capital today recorded 5,475 fresh coronavirus cases, while 91 more fatalities pushed the city's Covid toll to 8,811, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

These cases were detected out of 63,266 tests, including 28,897 RT-PCR ones — the highest till date — and 34,369 rapid antigen tests, the health bulletin said. The positivity rate was 8.65 per cent as compared to yesterday's 8.49 per cent.

Delhi's Covid caseload mounted to 5,51,262, of which 5,03,717 patients have recovered.



The tally of active cases rose to 38,734 from 38,287.

Delhi recorded 6,746 new cases on Sunday, 4,454 on Monday, 6,224 on Tuesday and 5,246 yesterday.

The number of containment zones in the national capital today rose to 5,156 from yesterday's 4,980.

Of the total number of 18,252 beds in Covid hospitals, 9,143 were vacant, according to official data.

The Delhi health minister said the Covid testing capacity has reached the "saturation level" and laboratories in

the city were finding it difficult to release results of all RT-PCR tests within a day.

"The testing has reached the saturation level. Many people now say they were tested just two to three days ago," Jain said.

Delhi yesterday recorded 99 Covid fatalities. It was then after five days that the national capital recorded Covid deaths below 100. The city had logged 98 coronavirus deaths on November 19, 118 on November 20, 111 on November 21, 121 each on November 22 and 23, and 109 on

November 24. It had recorded 131 Covid deaths on 18 November — its highest so far.

Amid the raging "third Covid wave" in Delhi, CM Arvind Kejriwal had yesterday urged experts to audit Covid deaths and suggest measures to reduce fatalities.

His statement came as Delhi's three BJP-led municipal corporations alleged inconsistencies in the official death count vis-a-vis the number of deaths projected by funerals at the city's crematoriums and burial grounds.

Classified

LEGAL NOTICES

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001.

OA No. 116/2019 Date : 17-10-2020

Punjab & Sind Bank — Applicant

Versus Abhishek Walia & Anr. — Respondent

To, Defendant

1. Mr. Abhishek Walia, s/o Shri Arun Walia, r/o House No. 1/937, Gali No. 7, Shahi Mohalla, West Rohtash Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-32.

Also at : CS/09, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad U.P.

2. Mr. Raj Kumar, s/o Shri Khaireatilal, r/o 1/9261, West Rohtash Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032.

Whereas the abovenamed applicant(s) has instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 12,24,254/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Four only) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 19-02-2021 at 10-30 a.m.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

By Order of the Tribunal For Registrar, DRT-II, Delhi.

NOTICE DEBTS RECOVERY APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

Apartment No. 318, IIrd Floor, Hotel Samrat, Kautilya Marg, Chanakya-puri, New Delhi-110021.

Appeal No. 317/2019 in SA-284/2011 DRT, III, Delhi

Ashish Sharma — Appellant

Versus

Allahabad Bank & Ors. — Respondent

1. Mrs. Dimple, wife of Sh. Nishand Kumar, Resident of B-1, Bhinno Mandir, Bhargava Lane, Tis Hazari, Delhi-110054. — Respondent 2

2. Mr. Shiv Vir Singh, Resident of 5432-A, Chandrawali, Kamla Nagar, Delhi-110007.

— Respondent 3

3. Shri Ghan Shyam Dass, Resident of 744, Type-I, Timarpur, Delhi. — Respondent 4

Whereas the notice that an appeal from the order passed by the Presiding Officer of DRT in the above case has been presented by the appellant on 17-06-2019 and is registered in the Tribunal. The matter was listed before Tribunal DRAT on 29-10-2020.

Whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 03-12-2020 before the Registrar through Video Conferencing.

Whereas take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Tribunal, this 06th day of November, 2020.

By Order of the Tribunal Registrar.

NOTICE U/S 11 OF ACT NO. VII OF 1890 OF GUARDIAN & WARD ACT.

In the Court of Sh. Dharmesh Sharma, District & Sessions Judge RCT/West District Room No. 201, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi GP - 15/2020 (PUBLIC/CITATION)

Sh. Ajay Talwar, s/o Sh. Jagdish Talwar, r/o A3/125, Jamak Puri, New Delhi-59 Versus

1. State (NCT of Delhi)

2. Sh. Prateek Talwar, s/o Sh. Ajay Talwar, r/o A3/125, Jamak

in person or through counsel on 15-12-2020 at 10-00 a.m. For details logon to https://highcourtdchd.gov.in/?t=rs=district_notice&district=jalandhar.

Dated, this day of 11-11-2020.

Additional Civil Judge (Senior Division), Phillaur Seal of the Court

IN THE COURT OF SH. UMED SINGH GREWAL Additional District Judge-02, (West)

Court No. 127, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi PC-32/2020

Atul Kumar Sharma Versus

State & Ors.

NDOH : 16-01-2021

Time : 10:00 a.m.

To,

2. Sh. Ajay Sharma, Mobile : 9891360036

3. Smt. Arshi Sharma, Mobile : +917808628538

Email : ID : arati.kaushik@bk.com

FOR NOTICE

You are intimated that suit/petition bearing No. PC-32/2020 titled Atul Kumar Sharma V/s State & Ors. shall be taken up by the Court of Sh. Ummed Singh Grewal, ADJ-02, West District, THC, and you are here at liberty to appear through video conferencing on Cisco Webex for which link is available at website www.delhidistrictcourts.nic.in or else you shall be at liberty to file written submissions/written statement/reply at least three days prior to scheduled date of hearing which be sent at Email : ID : readeraj02west@gmail.com.

Hearing will be held through video conferencing on Cisco Webex or physically on 16-01-2021 at 10-00 a.m.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court, this 20th day of Oct., 2020.

Additional District Judge-02, (West)

Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi Seal of the Court

— Petitioner

1. State Through SDM (Kalkaji), Plot No. 37, Institutional Area, Tuglakabad, Near Batra Hospital, New Delhi, E-mail ID : kalkasdmc@nic.in

2. Gaurav Kohli, s/o Late Sh. Manohar Lal Kohli, r/o I-1651, First Floor, Raisaann Bengal School, C. R. Park, Kalkaji, South Delhi, Delhi-110019.

— Respondents

Whereas, an application U/s 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 has been made by Kiran Kohli, successor of Late Manohar Lal Kohli for grant of Succession Certificate in respect of debts/securities of deceased.

And whereas the said applicant shall come for hearing on 22-12-2020 at 10-00 a.m.

Therefore, the public at large is hereby given notice if any person has objection to the grant of Succession Certificate in favour of the said applicant, he may appear and file objections in writing, in person or through duly appointed pleader, on the said date and time.

Given under my hand and the Seal on 21-11-2020.

ACJ/CCJ/ARC-South East

Saket Courts, New Delhi Seal of the Court

— Petitioner

1. State Through SDM (Kalkaji), Plot No. 37, Institutional Area, Tuglakabad, Near Batra Hospital, New Delhi, E-mail ID : kalkasdmc@nic.in

2. Gaurav Kohli, s/o Late Sh. Manohar Lal Kohli, r/o I-1651, First Floor, Raisaann Bengal School, C. R. Park, Kalkaji, South Delhi, Delhi-110019.

— Respondents

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Whereas take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Tribunal, this 06th day of November, 2020.

By Order of the Tribunal Registrar.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

EDUCATIONAL

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY

Kolkata - 700 032
B.E. Admision (session 2020-2021)

Applications are invited for admission to 2-year B.Ed. course to be made on-line through the University website www.jaduniv.edu.in and from November 25 to December 9, 2020.

For other information please consult University website.

Reservations under SC/ST/OBC-B/PD quota is as per State Govt. rules.

Secretary Faculty Council of Arts

The country's farmers are standing resolutely in the face of Modi government's cruelty against them



RAHUL GANDHI
CONGRESS LEADER

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2020

03

THUMBNAILS



UP CM Yogi Adityanath addresses, on the occasion of Constitution Day, at his office headquarters on Thursday.

Farmers' 'Delhi Chalo' march: Huge traffic jams at borders

Commuters face traffic snarls at NCR borders as Delhi Police, deployed in large numbers, intensify vehicle checking and put up barricades & cement blocks to thwart protesting farmers' march

PTI
NEW DELHI, 26 NOVEMBER

People coming to the national capital from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh faced traffic snarls at several border crossings as the Delhi Police on Thursday intensified vehicle checking in view of the 'Delhi Chalo' march by Punjab farmers against the Centre's farm laws.

Farmers from Punjab are scheduled to reach Delhi through five highways connecting the city as part of their march.

Tension spiralled at the Shambhu border in Haryana, around 215 km from Delhi, on Thursday as police used water cannons and teargas to disperse hundreds of farmers coming from Punjab who broke barricades, throwing some into a river, determined to enter Haryana as part of their march.

Delhi Metro services from neighbouring NCR cities to the national capital have been suspended in view of the farmers' protest, officials said. However, metro services will be available from Delhi towards the National Capital Region (NCR) sections.

Senior police officials said that heavy deployment has been made on the Faridabad, Singhu and Gurgaon border crossings with Haryana and vehicle checking has been intensified as a precaution-



Heavy traffic jam at Delhi-Noida border on Thursday.

ary measure in view of the protest march.

Vehicles are also being checked at the DND and National Highway-24 crossings with Uttar Pradesh, they said, adding that borders have not been sealed, but barricades and cement blocks have been placed to stop trucks and tractors of protesters.

Several commuters coming to the national capital from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh complained of traffic jams due to checking.

Rohit Tomar, an advocate, said, "I had to go to Noida regarding a case in the morning. While I was returning from there in the evening, there was heavy traffic at Delhi-Noida border."

"Police personnel were checking vehicles. I was stuck there for almost half an hour," he said.

Generally Abhishek Sinha, who works at a real estate company in Manesar in Haryana, said, "Generally it takes 40 to 45 minutes, but today it is showing over an hour. I commute everyday from Dwarka."

Priyanka Rai, who works in Gurgaon, said that she deboarded her metro train at Chhatarpur in Delhi as services have been suspended.

"I live in Ghaziabad and work in Gurgaon. I general lyde-board at MG Road metro station and take an auto till my office. Today, I got information about a couple of metro stations being closed, following which I took a cab from Chhatarpur till my office," she said.

Delhi Police personnel have been deployed in large numbers at interstate border crossings as Punjab farmers, representing over 30 farm bodies, have announced they will go to Delhi through several routes, including Lajwanti, Shambhu, Patiala-Pehowa, Patran-Khanauri, Moonak-Tohana, Rati-Fatehabad and Talwandi-Sirsia.

Five sand-laden trucks have been stationed at the Singhu border to stop tractors being driven by the protesters, police said, adding that drones have been deployed for security purposes.

Delhi Police Commissioner S.N. Shrivastava visited the bordering areas and took stock of the situation there.

Jantar Mantar at central Delhi has been blocked with the barricades, police said.

"There is traffic at the borders as we are checking vehicles. However, the borders are not being sealed," a senior police officer said.



HP CM Jai Ram Thakur addressing a rally in Kathua in Jammu & Kashmir.

courto every section of the society. This package had ensured relief not only to the economy of the country but also to the general public at large.

Besides, the Central government has also made a provision of rupees one lakh crore for post-harvest management, food processing, better agricultural infrastructure for primary agricultural societies etc," he said.

The Chief Minister said that this decision would benefit the farmers of the country.

He added that even during the pandemic Prime Minister had found an opportunity to make India self-reliant in the health sector and India today was producing over five lakh PPE kits daily, which were even being exported to several countries.

The Chief Minister urged the people to vote and support BJP candidates in the District Development Council elections so that the pace of development goes uninterrupted.

State Forests and Youth Affairs Minister Rakesh Pathania, former MP Kripal Parmar and other BJP leaders were present on the occasion.

355 more test positive for Covid, 11 deaths in Utkhand: Uttarakhand's COVID-19 tally rose to 72,997 with 355 more persons testing positive on Thursday, while eleven more patients died. Dehradun district reported the highest number of 128 cases, followed by Pithoragarh 51, Pauri 39, Haridwar 28, Nainital 24, Chamoli 24, Udhampur 18, Almora 14, Tehri 9, Bageshwar and Champawat six each, Uttarkashi five, and Rudraprayag three, a state health department bulletin said.

Centre acting like Punjab not part of India: Sukhbir



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 26 NOVEMBER

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal on Thursday said the BJP-ruled Centre was acting like Punjab was not part of India.

Condemning the use of water cannons and tear gas shells by the Haryana police to disperse protesting Punjab farmers headed to Delhi as they tried to break through barricades in Ambala, Badal said the Bharatiya Janata Party governments at the Centre and Haryana were treating farmers as one treats enemies.

He said the water cannon would not douse flames of democratic protest against injustice. Badal said the Narendra Modi government is treating Punjab as if it were not a part of the country. "Are we not a part of India? Are farmers, traders and other common Punjabis not Indians?" he asked.

Referring to the growing repressiveness and trends in the country in recent times, the SAD chief Badal said the country was being ruled like a dictatorship.

WINGS OF HOPE



A boy selling roasted chickpeas at Sukhna Lake in Chandigarh on Thursday.

PARDEEP SAINI

HP Governor, CM felicitate people on Constitution Day

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 26 NOVEMBER

Himachal Pradesh Governor Bandaru Dattatreya and Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Thursday felicitated the people of the state on the occasion of Constitution Day.

Dattatreya administered the oath of the Constitution to Raj Bhavan officials to mark the 71st anniversary of the Constitution Day.

He said the Constitution Day, also known as the National Law Day, is celebrated to commemorate the adoption of the Indian Constitution.

On November 26, 1949,

the Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution, which came into effect on January 26, 1950, he added. Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur too felicitated the people on Constitution Day and urged the people to reaffirm themselves to obey, respect the Constitution of India and keep the spirit of Constitution alive.

"Constitution Day, also

known as National Law Day, was celebrated on 26 November every year to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India and of the Constitution of India," he added.

Chief Secretary Anil Khachi too administered the pledge of Constitutional day to officers and officials of State Government to mark the 71st anniversary of the Constitution Day.

Secretary Urban Development Rajneesh, Secretary General Administration Department Devesh Kumar and other senior officers were also present on the occasion.

gress, he added.

The CM said Congress president Sonia Gandhi had not penalised anyone who had raised a voice of dissent but had, in fact, made then members of various committees, in true spirit of democracy, to bring in reforms.

Rejecting the suggestion for change in party leadership in the light of the Bihar election results, Amarinder said Sonia will remain the leader as long as she wants, after which the new leader will be elected. There was no need for change at this juncture, he said, adding that one should read too much in the Bihar poll verdict.

Pointing out that victory and defeat were part of the process of an actual democracy, which India fortunately has, the CM quipped that unlike the American democracy, India has true democracy, with political ups and downs a part and parcel of it.

He recalled the time when BJP had only two seats in Parliament. The Congress could come back into power in 2024, he added.

HP University prof Mahavir Singh listed among top world scientists

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 26 NOVEMBER



Himachal Pradesh University physics department professor and Commonwealth fellow, Mahavir Singh has featured in a list of top 2 per cent of world scientists which has been released by Stanford University recently.

HP University spokesperson said Prof Mahavir Singh has been listed in the category of Immunology, a branch of Medicines in which competition was very hard and close, and only three other scientists from India had fea-

tured in the list. "The database of scientists is created to provide updated analyses and a publicly

available database of 1,00,000 top scientists that provide standardized information on citations, h-index (an index to measure an individual's scientific research output), co-authorship-adjusted hm-index, citations to papers in different authorship positions, and a composite indicator.

Such citation metric provides a basis to measure and reflect the impact of a published journal," he added.

The spokesperson said Singh had used Magnetic Nano-technology for various biological cells. Enzymes and other biological entities to enhance its activity and strengthen other physical and chemical parameters.

"The beauty of Magnetic Nano Technology is that it is Eco Friendly, Bio Compatibile, Biodegradable and safe to use in Medical Science. In Nano technology there are challenging issues like safety, environment and com-

mercial use.

But in Magnetic Nano Technology it is safest so as to use in Medical Science. Prof Singh has used this magnetic Nano technology for the last ten years in various areas of biological science, Communication and storage sectors," he added.

He added that Singh was actively working on the areas

Oppn peddling 'lies' to counter PM: Jai Ram

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 26 NOVEMBER

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Thursday charged that all the Opposition parties were working on an agenda to counter the popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi by peddling "lies" against him.

Addressing public rallies in Kathua region of Jammu and Kashmir for District Development Council polls, he said people of the country were rock solid behind the strong and able leadership of PM Modi who was committed to make India a strong and vibrant Nation.

"Over six years of Narendra Modi as Prime Minister of Country has witnessed several historic decisions.

The decisions as abrogation of Article 370, Triple Talaq, Citizenship Amendment Act and paving a way for construction of the magnificent temple of Lord Rama at Ayodhya are possible due to the strong political will power of our PM," he added.

Thakur said the abrogation of Article 370 had ensured that Jammu and Kashmir becomes an integral part of India and thus can derive benefits of various schemes.

He further stated that seeing two flags simultaneously on Jammu and Kashmir Secretariat were hurting for every Indian citizen and now only tricolor flutters on the Secretariat which was possible due to strong leadership of PM Modi. "PM Modi also took the timely and wise decision to check the spread of Covid-19 pandemic in the country and announced a Rs 20 lakh crore package under Atmanirbhar Bharat to provide some suc-

cessful measures to raise party matters publicly: Capt to dissidents



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 26 NOVEMBER

Rejecting charges that the Congress lacks inner-party democracy, Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Thursday said anyone was free to take their grouses to the party chief or the Working Committee, but internal party issues should not be raised on public platforms.

"If you're a Congressman you can go to the party president or the Congress Working Committee with any problem you may have with the party functioning. But you should not go out to air your grievances. If you want to do that, you can leave the party," said Capt Amarinder, amid reports of raging dissidence within the Congress party.

Capt Amarinder said he learnt this lesson from late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi when he was a member of Parliament.

Indira had told him that internal party matters should remain within the party, and this still holds true for the Con-

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT	
(Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)	
In the court of Shri Lalit Kumar, ADJ-04, South-East District, Saket Courts, New Delhi, Room no. 210	
Case no. CS DJ-773/2017	
CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.	Plaintiff
M/S. COMPUTRACK & ANR.	Defendant
To,	
1. M/s. COMPUTRACK THROUGH MR. RAVI KWATRA C-688, GANESH NAGAR-II, DELHI-110092	Defendant no. 1
2. SHRI RAVI KWATRA, C-688, GANESH NAGAR-II, DELHI-110092	Defendant no. 2
WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 05th December, 2020 the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex parte.	
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 19th October, 2020.	
Additional District Judge 04 Saket Court Complex, New Delhi	



A wall painting on Covid at the District magistrate office (SDM) Lajpat Nagar, in New Delhi. IANS

Kshitij Prasad gets bail: A Mumbai court on Thursday granted bail to Kshitij Ravi Prasad, a former Dharmatic Entertainment executive producer, and a suspected drug peddler arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau in connection with its probe into the alleged use of drugs in Bollywood. PTI

Bail in Palghar case: A special court in Thane on Thursday granted bail to 53 persons arrested in the Palghar mob lynching case, in which two sadhus and their driver were killed at a village in Maharashtra's Palghar district. District judge P P Jadhav in his order granted the accused bail with a surety of Rs 15,000 each. PTI

French Ambassador visits Gorakhnath temple: Ambassador of France to India Emmanuel Lenain visited the Gorakhnath temple in Gorakhpur and participated in rituals amid chants of vedic mantras. The Ambassador fed jaggery to the cows in the temple's cow shelter. PTI

Haryana sets up 3-member drafting committee to frame law on love jihad: Haryana's home minister Anil Vij on Thursday said the state government has set up a three-member committee to draft a law against love jihad, a term used by BJP leaders to describe religious conversions in the guise of marriage. The minister's statement comes days after the Uttar Pradesh government cleared a draft ordinance against conversion through force or fraudulent means. But even before the UP ordinance was cleared, Vij had announced that a committee was being set up in Haryana to frame a new law. The Haryana committee will also study laws enacted by other states on the issue, Vij said. He tweeted that the drafting committee formed to frame law on love jihad in Haryana will be made up of state Home Secretary T L Satyapakash, Additional Director General of Police Navdeep Singh Virk and Additional Advocate General Deepak Manchanda. PTI

TENDER

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Dy. Chief materials manager, Northern Railway, Central Hospital, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites tenders for supply of the following items:-

Tender No.	Description	Tender Due Date	Tender invited by
82200924A	Tablets Epalrestat 25 mg.	15.12.2020 at 11:00 hrs.	Dy. CM/Northern Railway Central Hospital, New Delhi

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2652/20

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering)

Tender No. 558-Sig-16-M-TENDER-AMC-045-2020-21 Dated: 26.11.2020

Name of work with its location Comprehensive Annual Maintenance contract and Repair of DG sets installed over Delhi Division for one year.

App. Cost of the work (*) 14,27,09/- only

Ernest Money Deposit(*) 28,800/-only

Address of the office Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annexe-I, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055.

Date & Time for upload the tender / closing of tender 23.12.2020 up to 15.00 hrs.

Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc. See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2651/20

H. P. P.W.D. TENDER

Sealed item rate tenders on the form 6&8 are invited by the Executive Engineer Kotla Behar Division HPPWD, Kotla Behar on behalf of the Governor of HP for the following works from the approved and eligible contractors (C & D Class) enlisted in HPPWD.

TENDER SCHEDULE:

1. Date and time of receipt of application for tender form:
2. Date and time of issue of tender form:
3. Date and time of receipt of tenders:
4. Date and time of opening of tenders:

The tender forms will be issued against cash payment (non refundable). The earnest money in the shape of NSC/FDR/Deposit at call of any Post Office/ Scheduled Bank in H.P duly pledged in the name of the Executive Engineer, Kotla Behar Division HPPWD Kotla Behar must accompany with each tender.

Job No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Ernest money	Time limit	Cost of form	Eligible Class
1	C/O Health Institution Level -III at Dada Siba Distt Kangra HP (SH- P/I Panelled and glazed shutter, Flush Door Shutter Stair work) Balance work	495871	10,000	Two month	Rs.350/-	C&D
2	C/O Health Institution Level -III at Dada Siba Distt Kangra HP (SH- P/I Granite stone flooring & Painting etc) Balance work	408646	8200	Two month	Rs.350/-	C&D
3	C/O Kolha Sharita Road to Sidhi Punani Road Km 0/0 to 1/0 (SH- Cement Concrete pavement at Rd 0/160 to 0/297) Under MMGSY	496961	10000	Two month	Rs.350/-	C&D
4	Improvement of Kotla Behar Ghati Bilwan Road Km 0/0 to 9/165 (SH- C/O R/wall at Rd 6/690 to 6/704) Under Industrial Corridor to 0/2970 0	157049	3200	Two month	Rs.350/-	C&D
5	Improvement of Road from Terrace to Riri Km 0/0 to 3/0 Under industrial Corridor (Bharwain Chintpurni Kandron Damai portion 29/560 to 32/560 (SH- C/O U shape drain in km 0/0 to 0/250	225438	4500	Two month	Rs.350/-	C&D
6	A/R & M/I Link Road to ST Sec. School Kotla Behar (SH- Repair of Pot holes in km 0/0 to 0/400)	286158	5800	Two month	Rs.350/-	C&D
7	A/R & M/I Kotla Bassi Malot Seul Road Km 0/0 to 6/825 (SH- Repair of pot holes in km 1/0 to 2/0)	206953	4200	Two month	Rs.350/-	C&D
8	C/O Link Road to Village Lakshia (SH- P/L Cement Concrete pavement at Rd 0/305 to 0/400 and r/wall at Rd 0/305 to 0/317 deposit work	448952	9000	Two month	Rs.350/-	C&D
9	A/R & M/I Link Road from Jandur to Gummi Road km 0/0 to 3/0 (SH- Repair of pot holes in km 0/0 to 0/280)	177974	3600	Two month	Rs.350/-	C&D
10	Restoration of Rain Damages on Dhounia to Samloni km 0/0 to 3/120 (SH- C/O Wire crate at Rd 2/830 to 2/897 and 2/925 to 2/968.30	258749	5200	Two month	Rs.350/-	C&D

1 The contractors/firms should possess the following documents(Photocopy to be attached):
 (i) Latest renewal of enlistment.
 (ii) PAN (Permanent Account No.)
 (iii) Registration under HP General Sale Tax Act, 1968 (TIN No.)
 (iv) EPF (Employee Provident Fund Account No.)
 2 Ambiguous/telegraphic/conditional tenders or tender by Fax/E-mail shall not be entertained /considered in any case.
 3 The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject/cancel any or all the tenders without assigning any reason(s).
 4 The offer of the tender shall remain valid up to 120 days after the opening.

For terms and conditions kindly refer to website of the department.

We should make our force so strong that the idea of attack on Maharashtra does not come into the mind of terrorists



MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER UDDHAV THACKERAY

PAYING TRIBUTES TO THE MARTYRS OF THE 26/11 MUMBAI TERROR ATTACK ON ITS 12TH ANNIVERSARY,

i
ndia

India, Nepal share 'very strong' bond: Shringla

FS will also hand over Covid-related support before wrapping up his visit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KATHMANDU, 26 NOVEMBER



Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla calls on Nepal Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali in Kathmandu.

India shares a "very strong" relationship with Nepal and is keen to further strengthen the bilateral ties. Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said here on Thursday as he began his two-day official visit to the Himalayan nation during which he will hold talks with his Nepalese counterpart and other top leaders.

Shringla's was accorded a warm welcome on his maiden visit to Nepal which is happening at the invitation of Nepal Foreign Secretary Bharat Raj Paudyal, amid a strain in bilateral ties following a bitter border row between the two countries.

Interacting with journalists on his arrival at Tribhuvan International in Kathmandu, the foreign secretary said, "I have wanted to come here earlier also, but because of Covid I couldn't do so. I am very happy to be here. I was here in Kathmandu earlier too, though this is my first visit to Nepal as a Foreign Secretary. We have very strong relationship. Our endeavour will be to see how we can take that relationship forward."

"I would like to thank the government of Nepal, the foreign secretary for the warm hospitality extended to us. We have some very good meetings ahead of us and we will look forward to how that goes. My first meeting will be with the Nepalese Foreign Secretary and then I will meet Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali. I will also hold meetings with high dignitaries in Kathmandu," he said.

"We have also focused in education sector. India has also rebuilt school buildings in Gorkha district. He will inaugurate three school buildings built in Gorkha under India's assistance," he said.

Shringla's visit will be a continuation of the regular exchange

of high-level visits between the two friendly neighbours, the Nepalese Foreign Ministry said in a statement this week.

Shringla is also scheduled to call on Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and President Bidya Devi Bhandari on Thursday. On Friday, he will give a lecture on India-Nepal relations at Hotel Soaltee Crown Plaza in Kathmandu and will inspect three schools built under Indian assistance at Gorkha, the epicenter of the 2015 earthquake, it said.

He will also hand over Covid-related support to the Government of Nepal before wrapping up his two-day visit on Friday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had pledged to construct 50,000 houses in Gorkha, the epicentre of the 2015 earthquake. The construction of forty thousand houses has already been completed there.

"We have also focused in education sector. India has also rebuilt school buildings in Gorkha district. He will inaugurate three school buildings built in Gorkha under India's assistance," he said.

India had pledged \$1 billion to Nepal in 2015 after an earthquake struck the country, killing over 9,000 people. Out of that amount, Rs 25 billion was India aid while Rs 75 billion was soft loan.

As per the commitment, India has built over 46,000 houses under the reconstruction scheme in Nepal after 2016, largely under the grant portion.

Nepal and India are yet to reach an investment modality on how to use the Rs 75 billion soft loan," Shringla said.

Shringla will also inaugurate a Buddhist monastery in Manang district situated in remote mountainous region of Nepal near Tibetan border, which was renovated under India's assistance. Earlier this month, Indian Army chief Gen. M M Naravane travelled to Nepal on a three-day visit during which he held talks with Nepal's top leadership and discussed bilateral relations.

During the visit, he called on Prime Minister Oli, who is also the Defence Minister of Nepal.

Oli told him that problems between Nepal and India would be resolved through dialogue.

Gen Naravane's three-day visit to Nepal was largely aimed at resetting bilateral ties that came under severe strain following a bitter border row between the two countries.

The ties between the two countries came under strain after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated an 80-km-long strategically crucial road connecting the Lipulekh pass with Dharchula in Uttarakhand on May 8. Nepal protested the inauguration of the road claiming that it passed through its territory. Days later, Nepal came out with the new map showing Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadu as its territories. After Nepal released the map, India reacted sharply, calling it a "unilateral act" and cautioning Kathmandu that such "artificial enlargement" of territorial claims will not be acceptable to it.

In its reaction, after Nepal's lower house of parliament approved the bill, India had also termed as untenable the "artificial enlargement" of territorial claims by the neighbouring country.

India had said Nepal's action violates an understanding reached between the two countries to resolve the boundary issues through talks.

Meanwhile, Chinese Defence Minister Gen. Wei Fenghe is scheduled to visit Nepal shortly after Shringla returns home, according to Foreign Ministry sources here.

Wei is likely to arrive here on Sunday on a four-day official visit, though the date of the trip is yet to be officially announced.

Those without health insurance will be covered under Swasthya Sathi: WB CM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 26 NOVEMBER



Chief minister Mamata Banerjee showing Swasthya Sathi card to mark 125 birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in Nabanna in Howrah on Thursday. SNS

Vinayak Banerjee, Sugato Basu, Sumantha Bose, Amit Mitra, Shankha Ghosh, Bratya Basu, Sirshendu Mukhopadhyay, Sirjana Goswami and others. The committee will plan the programme till block level and publicise Netaji's life, philosophy, fight, movement and his love for the country. Hopefully, other states will take a cue from us and plan similar yearlong celebrations, she said.

In the wake of allegations of corruption made by Opposition parties, Miss Banerjee said there is only one per cent of the corruption that exists in BJP-run states. "Those who are accusing us of corruption should look out for Uttar Pradesh and other BJP-run states. Bengal does not have even one per cent of the corruption. Though we don't support even that much corruption and have to rectify it. Corruption existed during the Left Front's tenure but we have tried to improve the situation," she said.

Yet again slamming the Union home minister Amit Shah, Miss Banerjee said that instead of running the country, he is holding civic polls and clicking photographs of having lunch at some person's house. The country is experiencing an economic slowdown while the leaders are busy in giving 'big talks', she added.

Support the cause not strike, says Mamata "We support the causes behind today's trade union strike in principle but our government is against holding any kind of strike and this has been our stand since 2011, said chief minister Mamata Banerjee in Nabanna today adding that the Centre is selling off the country's assets.

GHMC polls: BJP releases manifesto, promises free vaccination, wifi, water

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 26 NOVEMBER

Telangana BJP today promised to conduct free Covid test and distribute the vaccine according to central government stipulations through primary health centre if the party wins the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) poll slated for 1 December.

Taking a leaf out of Kejriwal government in Delhi the Telangana BJP also promised free travel to women commuters in all forms of trans-

port including Hyderabad Metro. The party also promised free power to houses using less than 100 units per month. Apart from scrapping the controversial Layout Registration Scheme (LRS) introduced by the TRS government in order to approve illegal layouts, the party also promised Rs 25,000 to the flood affected families in Greater Hyderabad area. Those who have received Rs 10,000 from the government will receive another Rs 15,000.

The party promised tap

connection to every household and free drinking water as well as free tabs and quality WiFi to the poor students to attend online classes. Fadnavis also promised that Telangana Liberation Day will be celebrated if the party was voted to power and the manifesto spoke about reclaiming the old city area from AIMIM.

The TRS took a dig at the BJP for using photographs in its manifesto which are evidences of the development of the Hyderabad city under TRS.

K'taka BJP MP booked for trespass on Osmania varsity campus

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 26 NOVEMBER

K'ktaa BJP MP Tejasvi Surya has been booked for criminal trespassing for entering the Osmania university campus by breaking the barricades at the NCC gate after a complaint was filed by the university authorities.

According to the university the MP from Bengaluru did not have permission to hold a rally at the university premises.

The MP had claimed that KCR had tried to stop him from paying his tribute to Telangana martyrs.

"We strongly condemn the case lodged against BJYM president Tejasvi Surya. It is undemocratic. BJP will not be cowered by cases and arrests. No matter how many obstacles are created, BJP will fight on behalf of students, the unemployed and the youth," said BJYM state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar.

Hyderabad police chief has warned about fake messages being circulated through social media and about attempts to disturb communal harmony. The varsity was the epicentre of protests for the separate state of Telangana.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, ANANTNAG, J&K (CAMP OFFICE: MMAB, DISTRICT HOSPITAL ANANTNAG)

Email: gmcantnag2018@gmail.com Phone: 01932-227624

e- NIT No. 11/11/2020

Dated: 25/11/2020

On behalf of Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of J&K, e- tenders (through www.jktenders.gov.in), under two bid system, are invited from eligible and qualified bidders for supply of Medical Books to Central Library, Govt. Medical College, Anantnag :-

Important Dates and cost of EMD & Tender Fee:-

Sr. No.	Particulars</



For those of you seeking to become job creators, there cannot be a better place to implement your business ideas than India right now

VICE PRESIDENT M VENKAIAH NAIDU

WHILE ADDRESSING THE 13TH E-CONVOCATION OF ICFAI UNIVERSITY, SIKKIM, VIA VIDEO-CONFERENCE

The Statesman

05

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2020

Trade unions go on strike

Public services are likely to be affected; TN & Kerala have been hit the most

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 26 NOVEMBER

States of Kerala, Puducherry, Odisha, Assam and Telangana reported complete shutdown, Tamil Nadu in 13 districts, while there was complete industrial strike in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, according to the 10 national trade unions which called an all-India strike today.

A joint statement issued by the unions said that Anganwadi, ASHA workers, electricity employees, domestic workers, construction workers, beedi workers, hawkers, vendors, agricultural workers, self-employed in rural and urban India responded by holding demonstrations at various places.

The unions said buses were off road in Punjab and Haryana. Human chains were formed by workers in Mumbai and various districts in Maharashtra. At many places, auto and taxi drivers remained off the roads.

Public services are likely to be affected as central trade unions began a nationwide strike on Thursday, with a union representative saying that Tamil Nadu and Kerala have been affected the most so far due to the agitation.

A day-long strike has been called for by a joint platform of ten central trade unions, including Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC),



AITUC protests at Jantar Mantar during nationwide trade union strike. IANS

Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS), Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), All India United Trade Union Centre (AITUC), Trade Union Co-ordination Centre (TUCC) and Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA). Others are All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU), Labour Progressive Federation (LPF) and United Trade Union Congress (UTUC).

The unions also observed strike, the unions said.

They are protesting against the new farm and labour laws, among other workers-related issues, as well as to raise various demands. "The strike has begun. Kerala and Tamil Nadu are completely shut down. Similar situation is also developing in Odisha, Punjab, Haryana, Telangana and Goa. There is also a good response to the strike in Maharashtra," AITUC general secretary Amarjeet Kaur said.

BJP-aligned Bharatiya

Mazdoor Sangh is not participating in the strike. Kaur informed that that the services

at banks, LIC (Life Insurance Corporation), GIC (General Insurance Corporation) and the Income Tax Department are also likely to be hit severely. "Visakhapatnam steel plant is affected due to the strike. Besides, majority of workers in coal mines are also on strike. The work at copper plants, port and dock area are also affected. Delhi industrial areas are closed down. Workers would protest at Jantar Mantar," Kaur said.

The unions have also demanded expansion of MGNREGA, the rural employment guarantee scheme, to provide 200 days' work in a year in rural areas at enhanced wages and also extension of the employment guarantee to urban areas. Other demands of the unions include 'pension to all', scrapping National Pension System and restoration of earlier pension with improvement in EPS-95 (Employees' Pension Scheme-1995 run by retirement fund body EPFO).

in rural areas to express solidarity with the striking workers.

Scheme workers, domestic workers, construction workers, beedi workers, hawkers, vendors, agricultural workers, self-employed in rural and urban areas have also decided to come on to the streets for 'chakka jam'.

The federations of railway and defence employees have decided to have large mobilisation on Thursday to express solidarity with the striking workers. The National Secretariat of the CPI said that BJP workers had ransacked and completely destroyed the Tripura state council office of the CPI at Agartala today.

The demands of the joint platform include cash transfer of Rs 7,500 per month for all non-income tax paying families and 10 kilograms of free ration to every needy person per month.

The unions have also demanded expansion of MGNREGA, the rural employment guarantee scheme, to provide 200 days' work in a year in rural areas at enhanced wages and also extension of the employment guarantee to urban areas. Other demands of the unions include 'pension to all', scrapping National Pension System and restoration of earlier pension with improvement in EPS-95 (Employees' Pension Scheme-1995 run by retirement fund body EPFO).

Jaishankar, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince discuss post-Covid situation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ABU DHABI, 26 NOVEMBER

Will keep global spotlight firmly on cross-border terrorism: India

India said on Thursday that it will keep the global spotlight "firmly" on cross-border terrorism and on the epicentre of the global menace, in an apparent reference to Pakistan on the 12th anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has discussed the advancement of strategic cooperation between India and the UAE in the post-Covid era with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan during his visit to the Gulf kingdom.

The two leaders also exchanged views on important regional and international issues.

Jaishankar arrived here on

Wednesday night on the second leg of his six-day three-nation tour to Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Seychelles, which began on Tuesday. The visit is seen as important as it comes in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic that has wreaked havoc across the world.

"Thank HH @Mohamed-

BinZayed for receiving me on

arrival@AbuDhabi. Conveyed

the greetings and good wishes

of PM @narendramodi.

UAE's care and considera-

tion of its large Indian com-

munity is deeply appreciated,"

Jaishankar tweeted late

Wednesday night.

"Discussed advancing our

strategic cooperation in the

post-COVID era. Exchanged

views on important regional

and international issues," he

added.

The novel coronavirus has

infected over 163,000 people

and claimed 563 lives in the

UAE. More than 3 million

Indians live and work in the

UAE, the MEA had said in a

statement before the com-

menement of the minister's

visit.

According to the website of the Indian Embassy in Abu Dhabi, the Indian expatriate community of approximately 30.4 lakh is reportedly the largest ethnic community in the UAE, constituting roughly about 30 percent of the country's population.

Condemning the "thrashing" of deputy mayor SMC and other Corporators by Police, Dar said: "It is a blot on democracy. The entire process was nothing near to being an election, it was a selection. All the established democratic norms were played with and fine tuned to ensure that BJP's own man gets selected to the coveted position" he said. SNS

BJP bulldozing constitutional norms: NC

JAMMU, 26 NOVEMBER

The National Conference (NC) has termed the Mayoral election to Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) as a 'farce play' that bulldozed established democratic and constitutional norms setting a lowest benchmark in the country for immoral politics.

The NC's statement has come following comeback of Junaid Azim Mattu as Mayor with the support of BJP. Mattu was earlier the chief spokesman of NC and then joined the Peoples Conference. He lost a no-confidence motion earlier this year as a result of which he was removed from the post of mayor.

NC's spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar, while commenting on the election of Mattu, stated, "It neatly fits the Anti Kashmir agenda of BJP. RSS its ilk to have dysfunctional institutions in Kashmir, the farce Mayoral election to SMC has become a newest causality of the opportunistic politics played by BJP and its ilk which has undermined and played with all existing constitutional norms, and political propriety".

Among the Indian states, Kerala is the most represented, followed by Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. However, Indians from the northern states, all put together, also form a significant portion of the UAE Indian population, it noted.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is notified for the information of rail passengers that the timings of the following Special Trains will be revised due to operational constraints/speed enhancement as under:-

Revised Timings of 01107/01108 Gwalior - Manduadil - Gwalior Special Train (Daily)

Train No. 01107	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.	Train No. 01108	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.
---	20:55		Gwalior	08:30	---						
21:30	21:32		Dabra	07:07	07:09						
22:00	22:02		Datia	06:42	06:44						
22:40	22:45		Jhansi Jn.	06:15	06:20						
23:18	23:19		Niwari	04:37	04:38						
23:48	23:50		Mau Ranipur	04:06	04:08						
00:13	00:15		Harpalpur	03:30	03:32						
00:35	00:36		Belatal	02:51	02:52						
00:49	00:50		Kulpur	02:37	02:38						
01:08	01:10		Mahoba	02:17	02:19						
02:25	02:30		Banda Jn.	01:18	01:23						
02:55	02:57		Atarra	00:29	00:31						
03:23	03:25		Chitrakoot	00:01	00:03						
04:35	04:37		Manikpur Jn.	23:33	23:35						
05:31	05:32		Shankargarh	22:13	22:14						
06:19	06:20		Naini	21:39	21:40						
06:55	07:15		Prayagraj Jn.	20:55	21:20						
07:30	07:31		Prayag	20:33	20:35						
08:13	08:14		Phul Pur	19:34	19:35						
08:43	08:45		Janghai Jn.	18:36	18:38						
09:04	09:05		Suriawan	18:09	18:10						
09:18	09:20		Bhadoli	17:38	17:40						
---	---		Chaukhandi	16:59	17:00						
11:05	---		Manduadil	---	16:30						

Revised Timings effective from : 01107 Ex. Gwalior from 28.11.2020 to till further advice and 01108 Ex. Manduadil from 28.11.2020 to till further advice.

Revised Timings of 01841/01842 Khajuraho - Kurukshetra Jn. - Khajuraho Special Train (Daily)

Train No. 01841	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.	Train No. 01842	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.
---	18:25		Khajuraho	08:30	---						
18:57	18:59		Chhatarpur	06:38	06:40						
19:21	19:23		Ishanagar	06:14	06:16						
19:47	19:49		Khargapur	05:48	05:50						
20:37	20:39		Tikamgarh	05:03	05:05						
21:00	21:02		Udaip								

Critical moment

While his obituaries are still being written, the impact of the death of veteran Congressman Ahmed Patel on the party ~ and especially the leader ~ he served so long and so faithfully will take weeks to unravel. Mr Patel has departed from the scene at a time when the Congress is being torn apart by internal pressures, a situation characterised as a battle between the old guard and younger leaders but one that is essentially rooted in contrasting approaches to politics. Mr Patel's skill lay in managing these contradictions and of affably but deftly warding off challenges to his leader. But his greatest skill lay in being utterly committed to the cause of his party president, who he served for more than two decades, managing both her superintendence of Mr Manmohan Singh's government and of the decimated party she was forced to run for some of the time after 2014, including now. And while Mrs Sonia Gandhi was determined not to countenance any challenges to her reign and that of her son in the past six years, it was clear to observers that Mr Patel played the role of a bridge not just between the next rung of leaders and the family but between the mother and son as well.

It was in his performance of these delicate tasks that the Congressman from Gujarat excelled once he concluded that his religion could come in the way of any ambitions he might have nursed of assuming public office in either his home state or on the national stage. But it would be an overestimation to credit him with skills that he did not possess in the absence of evidence to the contrary. For instance, he may not have had a grand political vision for the party or, beyond a point, the strategic skills to ensure its success at the hustings. But in managing his party's leaders, and especially in ensuring that any threat they posed to Mrs Gandhi was neutralised, he was a master.

As the Congress enters a decisive phase, Mr Patel's departure from the scene is bound to alter power equations at the top of the party organisation. Mrs Gandhi had already indicated that her stewardship was interim in nature. The absence of a key lieutenant, especially one who was rumoured to have been a benefactor of the party's old guard, may now compel her to accept a generational change and hand over the reins. Her son, who had sought to cast the party organisation in a different mould, may find resistance to his ideas reduce with Mr. Patel's departure and may even find it possible to come into his own.

Whether or not that will cause a revival in the fortunes of the Congress is in the realm of conjecture. For while Mr Patel offered a steady hand to the Congress, younger leaders straining at the leash might find themselves energised by the emergence of a new style of politics.

Blinken first

India's handling of its relationship with US President-elect Joe Biden's choice for Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, will prove crucial in mitigating stresses that seem certain to appear in Indo-US ties going forward. Blinken, 58, served as Deputy Secretary of State in the second Barack Obama Administration and as National Security Advisor to Biden when he was the Vice-President. A foreign policy veteran despite his relatively young age, he has held key positions over three decades and helped lead US diplomatic efforts in the fight against ISIS, the re-balance in Asia, and the global refugee crisis. Already, recent interviews of Blinken ~ considered to be "Biden's alter-ego" ~ are being dissected by the Indian foreign policy establishment and his utterances seen as positive for bilateral ties.

But perhaps too much is being read into Blinken's no-blinking stance when it comes to pushing back against an aggressive China. It is also perhaps mistakenly being assumed that his talking up of India, in an oft-quoted interview on the occasion of a community outreach event organised by the Biden campaign on 15 August, as the great democratic bulwark against an increasingly assertive, totalitarian China in the Asia-Pacific is necessarily in the Indian interest. Especially as the likelihood of there being any follow-up action on this aggressive position is bleak given Blinken's priority will be to dial down the rhetoric and prevent an escalation of the trade war Donald Trump and Xi Jinping were engaged in. Global economic inter-dependence is the Biden playbook.

South Block mandarins have described Blinken variously as a "known quantity" and a "pragmatist" but New Delhi must guard against underestimating the strength of the Democrats' left-wing which has an ideological commitment to promoting and exporting its version of democracy where group rights trump the core liberal values of individual rights.

The sooner realisation dawns that it's on repairing the US' relationships with its European allies ~ which Trump's approach had ruptured to a significant extent ~ where Blinken's initial focus is likely to be, the better. It may also help focus New Delhi's mind on how to deal with the Biden Administration's priorities if it examines the delineation of Blinken's worldview in an interview he gave to the Hudson Institute in which he spoke on the Kashmir issue and the Muslim community in India. "We obviously have challenges now and real concerns, for example, about some of the actions that the (Indian) government has taken particularly in cracking down on freedom of movement and freedom of speech in Kashmir and some of the laws on citizenship," he said.

He did, of course, offer the palliative: "It's always better engaging with an important partner like India when you can speak frankly and directly about areas where you have differences even as you're working to strengthen the relationship". Doesn't leave much room for doubt, does it?

Empowering Elderly ~ I

In today's age of constantly changing technologies, elderly people are often left behind as they cannot keep up with the fast pace. This often leads to them being socially isolated



According to the United Nations Population Fund, the number of people over 60 years of age will reach one billion by 2020. While the trend of aging societies is a cause for celebration, it also presents huge challenges. People everywhere must age with dignity and security. The key question is: Are our latest technologies and computing platforms designed keeping in mind this 10 per cent (aged 65+) of the global population? Our lifestyle has changed quite a lot in the past decade and digital transformation is in full swing.

The youth segment has become the implied target market for the dazzling array of digital devices, apps and tools. However, the huge consumer base comprising elderly users has remained untapped. As per HelpAge India's annual report, by 2050, the number of India's senior citizens will be to equal its under-18 population. So, the elderly have immense potential to constitute an entirely new customer base.

The segment comprises over 110 million senior citizens with a literacy rate of 44 per cent, and the penetration of mobile phones and internet access in this segment has been growing.

With no smart phones and social media, senior citizens used to rely heavily on human interaction and personal attention. But the explosion of technology in the last 10 years has changed their world. Most businesses today have an infusion of technology in their services thus adding a lot of convenience to the user experience. For the younger generations that have grown up in these times, it is almost natural to accept these changes. Technology, no doubt, makes life easy. But these changes are daunting for seniors who are not acquainted with technology and evince a natural resistance to change. If we do not address this gap between seniors and technology today, life for them tomorrow with newer and bigger inventions will get even more daunting.

Technology can enrich senior citizens' lives in more ways than one. Most importantly, a digitally-savvy senior is in tune with the times. He or she can independently go about online business and will seldom depend

on people for help. It has been observed that seniors who have allowed technology into their daily itinerary live happier and more fulfilled lives than their counterparts who refuse to adapt to the new changes.

Technology has seamlessly transformed lives. It is high time modern technologies became inclusive and stop turning a blind eye to elderly users. We inherited this world from them. They told us stories, taught us lessons and ultimately helped us stand on our feet. Next time, if the elderly couple living right across your street requests your assistance in tweaking their mobile settings, readily lend a helping hand. As they stride along the twilight of their lives we might as well help them settle in this age of accelerating innovations.

The complex interplay of technology, economics and nature is releasing an extraordinary energy that is reshaping everything that we have ever dreamt of or built. It is miraculously transforming ways in which we hail a cab or to how we order our food. In fact, it has the potential to change the fate of the nations of the world to our very own intimate relationships. In this age when grey cells are exploding with ideas, the resulting innovations are revamping healthcare, education, politics, law and many other sectors.

Technology is creating fair and equal opportunities for individuals and small groups to save the world, or perhaps kill it. We need the creators and users of technologies to be diverse. Leaving the elderly behind will mean leaving out the most experienced and wisest voices amongst us from entering this innovation roller-coaster. Their advice and sentiments will have a huge impact on the way technology is going to be shaped. After all, humans shaped technology and now technology is shaping our common future.

The elderly would love to be in touch with their grandchildren and great-grandchildren, get real-time news updates. Besides, the significant downsizing of staff in banks does not augur well for a developing country that needs employment for its burgeoning population. While the government's National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM) aims to empower at least one person per household with crucial digital literacy skills by 2020, the elderly population seems to be missing from the plan. With computerization or digitalization of almost all basic services and facilities, Digital Literacy has become need of the hour especially for the vulnerable elderly population.

There are so many uses and benefits of digital literacy but digitally illiterate persons, particularly older persons (55+) find it very tricky to handle / operate their smart phones. In our country, most older persons are not computer literate, as they have never learnt computer skills.

Computers are still strange objects for most of them and they try to escape from computer technology. While most older persons are keen to learn basics

of smart phones, computers, laptops and other modern gadgets, they hardly get support from their younger family members, relatives or society due to hectic lifestyle of younger generations among other factors.

Data released by Pew Research Centre showed that only 61 per cent of internet users in the US bank online. Reason: lack of trust in digital banking. The hurdle is not just lack of familiarity with computers. Many senior citizens have failing eyesight and have to seek external help to manage an online account. Identity theft, technology hiccups and misuse of information only compound their apprehensions.

Given this reality, banks should stop pushing digitization for digitization's sake. Instead, they should provide one-on-one assistance to senior citizens who request it. Digitization may be convenient for the Government, but it has its downside. For elderly consumers, faceless banking contributes to substantial stress.

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of smart phones, computers, laptops and other modern gadgets, they hardly get support from their younger family members, relatives or society due to hectic lifestyle of younger generations among other factors.

Studies by Agewell Foundation have shown that digital literacy can be a boon for older persons, particularly for those who live alone, live away from their children/grandchildren, live with mobility constraints and want to live independently in old age. It not only makes their life smooth, comfortable and easier but also keeps them in the mainstream of society. The study also observed that there is a keen desire among older persons to keep them connected with the new world order, ruled by internet and information technology.

Agewell Foundation Survey shows approximately 85.8 per cent respondents were digitally and computer illiterate. Out of this, 76.5 per cent were elderly men and 95 per cent were elderly women. However, there are no dedicated programmes for digital literacy of elderly; NGOs like Agewell foundation and Help Age India are running such programmes, where the uptake is impressive as Agewell has already trained over 35,000 elderly in the last four years.

In today's age of constantly changing technologies, the elderly are often left behind as they cannot keep up with the fast pace. This often leads to them being socially isolated. Help Age and Agewell Foundation also get elderly connected via social media and teach them how to use Skype, WhatsApp, Google search, book cabs, browse YouTube and open Facebook accounts connecting them to old batch mates, friends and family.

It opens a whole new world of engagement for them and also provides them a ready source of news, entertainment and connects them to the outside world, besides making life easier for them. Often their own children or grandchildren don't get the time or in some cases don't have the patience to teach them. These Digital workshops become their window to independence and help in building their self confidence and improving their quality of life.

(To be Concluded)

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIAN VOICES

Being well through COVID-19

Surely hope is what is going to get us through this ever-present, ever-changing COVID-19 pandemic. Health in the proverb means wellness.

The secret of wellness for both mind and body is not mourning the past, worrying about the future, or anticipate troubles; but living in the present, wisely and earnestly. Nurturing yourself is not selfish ~ it's essential to your survival and your well-being.

Wellness is the "active pursuit" of activities and lifestyle choices leading to complete health. Wellness is not passive. It is associated with intentions, choices and actions. It is proactive health, versus reactive health as seen in the medical community.

COVID-19 is a wake-up call to the world. One moment people are going about their normal lives, and then in a matter of weeks, hundreds of thousands are dead, millions infected, and the world's population is in some form of lockdown.

Never has health and well-being declined so rapidly and simultaneously. We are living in fear and uncertainty, not only of physical illness and death but the crumbling of livelihoods,

The Island

communities, and economies. Our resilience as individuals is vital for survival. Healthy minds, healthy habits, strong families, a caring circle of friends, and supportive communities all strengthen our fortitude to cope with and emerge stronger from this crisis. Wellness has never been more important.

This integration of body, mind, and spirit; the need to take care of our total selves, is rooted in ancient philosophies and cultures. The first mention of this concept was 3000 BC (Hindu texts).

Wellness requires you to be intentional, proactive, responsible, and empowered to engage in healthy behaviors. Suffering related to COVID-19 can be lessened if you strengthen your wellness foundations. The difficult times show us where you should place your priorities for the future. Wellness can offer a road map for healing and growth.

Wellness is health. Human beings are more than the sum of our parts and cannot be divided. The sum of these parts is the Self, which is indivisible. Wellness is seen as a wheel composed of five elements with the Indivisible Self-being the hub...

PERSONAL
ANNUAL General Meeting of Calcutta Y.M.C.A. will be held on Saturday, the December 12, 2020 at 4-30 p.m. Keeping in mind the prevailing pandemic situation, meeting will be organized and held on a digital platform (Zoom) this year (Virtual mode). Mr. Terence John, President of the Association will be in the Chair.

ANNUAL Public Meeting of Calcutta Y.M.C.A. will be held on Saturday, the December 12, 2020 at 5-30 p.m. Keeping in mind the prevailing pandemic situation, meeting will be organized and held on a digital platform (Zoom) this year (Virtual mode). Mr. Bertram Devadas, National General Secretary, The National Council of YMCAs of India will bring the Anniversary Greetings.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR editor@thestatesman.com

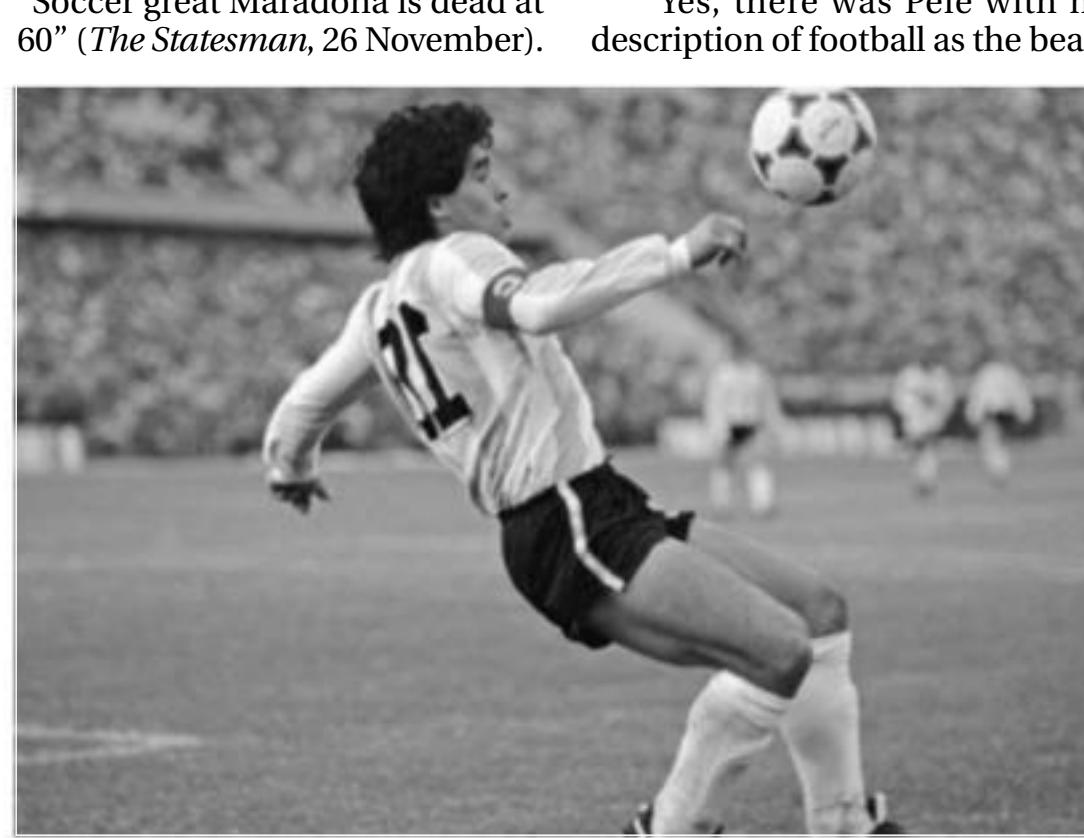
A giant bids adieu

SIR, This refers to the report "Soccer great Maradona is dead at 60" (The Statesman, 26 November).

passed in Argentina.

Yes, there was Pele with his

description of football as the beau-



tiful game. And in that pantheon of excellence with the Brazilian legend, the Argentinian wizard, the Boca Juniors maestro, the hero of Napoli or Sevilla, sauntered in, between fast legs and a ball, the art that fuses the dodge and the sprint while a sphere beats the goalkeeper ~ lost its heartbeat when news broke that Diego Maradona had

curly hair, stocky build, magic in his feet and never a politically correct word on his lips. This was genius with shades of the devil and strangely in 1986, Maradona was one with the gods. This was the fusion of extreme contrasts.

Great athletes impose their will on the game and Maradona was right up there. He believed that Argentina would win the World Cup at Mexico in 1986 and he backed that intuition with skill that was suffused with magic. Such was Maradona's dominance ~ dribble, feint, sell a dummy, score a goal and then grin like a child at a candy store. If you were a sporting fan of the 1980s, this was bliss multiplied by infinity.

Some years back, while in Kerala along with Indian legend I.M. Vijayan, the maestro juggled a football with his legs, took it on his chest, headed it a few times and stayed in control. Time was frozen, sporting paradise had descended to the Malabar coast and Maradona showed that genius was in his veins.

But on a Wednesday night in a year lost to coronavirus, football's maverick great breathed his last.

The sport is poorer while searing memories remain.

Yours, etc., Sanjay Chopra, Mohali, 26 November.

ONE-MAN ARMY

SIR, The God of Soccer, Diego Armando Maradona Franco has died, creating a never-to-be-filled void. Widely regarded as one of the all-time greatest footballers, Maradona took his country to the top of the world by winning the World Cup in 1986. His mesmerising skills, magical ball control, enviable left foot, unparalleled dribbling, ball passing, turn and half-turn, his presence and leadership and lastly, his solo run towards his opponent's goal made football and Maradona synonymous and urged several million people to follow the game and love it. His on-field presence always burdened his opponents with the thought of taking possession of the ball from him. His artistic touch glued spectators to their seats, urging their eyes to seek his presence where the ball was. Making his first senior appearance in 1976 at 15 for Argentinos Junior in the National Championship, Maradona

AUTOCRATIC

SIR, I refer to your editorial, "Roti Hindus" published today. It is quite clear that the UP government is determined to stop free mixing between people of different religions and to adopt oppressive measures in the name of discouraging "love jihad" which would tantamount to infringement of democratic rights of citizens. It leads one to assume that UP is going to be an autocratic state sooner or later.

Yours, etc., A K Deb Biswas, Hooghly, 26 November.

hypnotised soccer lovers around the globe over a career spanning well over two decades. He single-handedly won the World Cup for his country in 1986 and almost made it in 1990 when Argentina lost to West Germany in the final. His 1986 performance established the fact that one man's skill could win the World Cup.

Yours, etc., Biswanath Bhattacharjee, Bhadreshwar, 26 November.

SUNIL SHARAN

America is an empire, although the Americans will publicly not acknowledge it to be so. With the rapid change in American presidencies, America's policies too turn on a dime (to use an Americanism). How will Biden impact India?

First, of course there is China. As the factory floor of the world, and with its vast influence in Asia and Africa, China is indisputably the number two power in the world. Both Donald Trump and Narendra Modi tried to defang China by cozying up to its dictator, Xi Jinping. It's unclear what effect that had on China. Trump blew hot and cold with China on trade. India opened up trade with China in the hope of befriending the dragon, but that has just not happened.

Chief of Defence Staff Bipin Rawat has warned that a larger conflict with China cannot be ruled out. If India's fight with China escalates, how prepared is India to take on China? Pakistan is sure to enter any conflict between India and China. How prepared is India to take on a two-front war?

India has conducted naval exercises with America to deter China, but they are unlikely to have any effect. And why? Because how Trump behaved with Kim Jong-un of North Korea sent a message to the entire world. That America is simply not ready to fight a war in Asia now. First, Asia is not culturally or ethnically aligned with America, as the UK is for instance. Then, America has suffered severe beatings recently in many Asian and Middle-eastern countries - Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen and Syria. And the wounds of Vietnam are still rife on the American psyche.

America has a security pact with South Korea and Japan to protect them against aggression from China and North Korea. Trump's dalliance with Kim called America's pact with South Korea into question. As far as Japan is concerned, everyone knows

that Japan doesn't need protection from almost anybody.

The security pact with the US actually strangles Japan for it stops Japan from developing its own strength. India must immediately ask Biden to release Japan from his pact. An unfettered Japan will quickly enter a Sino-Indian conflict, and without doubt on which side. So just as China and Pakistan want to enclose India in a pincer, so too India and Japan will be able to put China in a bind.

Because of missteps by successive Indian governments, and in fact the lackadaisicality of the Indian public itself, China today has become far more powerful than India. But Pakistan is no match for Japan. Who will prevail? China and Pakistan or India and Japan? It's anybody's guess, but at least now China will have serious thinking to do before it bullies both India and Japan. The dragon needs to be defanged.

The second policy that Biden has promised to change is on the Iran nuclear deal. Obama entered the deal, antagonizing Israel and Saudi Arabia. Increasingly Iran is taking Pakistan's side on Kashmir, so it is no friend of India's anymore, which it was as recently as 1994 when it stalled an Organization of Islamic Countries' resolution in the UN condemning India on Kashmir. But now despite India's eagerness to import Iranian oil and gas, the Iranians have turned turtle on us.

Modi has made India come very close to Israel and Saudi Arabia. Biden reentering the Iran nuke accord will upset the power balance in Asia. Iran will become emboldened once again. The Israelis and the Saudis will move away from the US. India is firmly committed to its relations with Israel and Saudi Arabia. If they move away from the US, can India stay close to the US? And would it want to, with Iran constantly critiquing India on Kashmir?

Then there is the all-important question of Kashmir itself. Trump pushed Modi hard for a public mediation on Kashmir (a behind the scenes

Beware of Biden



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mediation by the Americans has been going on for a long time), but to his credit, Modi publicly chastised him for doing so. Trump visited Delhi the day the Delhi riots erupted, but when asked his views about them, he declined to comment and said that Modi was capable enough of taking care of them himself. And even on Kashmir, once his push for mediation went awry, he adopted a hands-off policy.

There is no need to exaggerate the impact of a US vice president on an American administration just because she has Indian genes. John

Garner was Franklin Delano Roosevelt's vice president from 1933-41. He famously described the vice presidency as being "not worth a bucket of warm piss". The vice president can often become like a loose cannon in the White House, even though she is only supposed to do what the president assigns her to do.

Kamala Harris is no friend of India's. On multiple occasions, she has backed the demand for US intervention in Kashmir. Because of her Indian heritage, Biden is likely to give her the India portfolio to run. Will she

continue to keep criticizing India's policies on Kashmir, notably the revocation of Article 370?

China-Japan, Iran and Kashmir, Biden's policies in all these spheres do not seem to augur well for India. Trump may have played havoc within his country, notably on the pandemic, but he was a friend of India's and of Modi's. Biden may calm waters in America, but for India he might prove to be a very difficult customer.

The writer is an expert on energy and contributes regularly to publications in India and overseas.

India and Nepal must recast ties



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MAHENDRA P LAMA

I notice six far-reaching changes unfurling in South Asia. Firstly, India-Nepal relations are once again warming up and ascending to a newer height. The tumultuous slide down had hit rock bottom. Secondly, India is largely able to put forth stiff terms of negotiation with China on issues of border skirmishes. Thirdly, the fruition of esoteric ideas like Indo-Pacific and Quadrilateral Security Dialogue has the potentiality to reorient the geopolitical alignments and regional responses in Asia. Fourthly, India's exit from the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership signals a new variety of economic competition and intra- and inter-regional decoupling wars. Fifthly, the novel coronavirus, while dismantling the state constructed geographical borders triggered a variety of human borders wherein far away from military and economic powers, the multinational pharmaceutical laboratories and individual vaccine inventors are emerging as new global messiahs. And finally, the end of the unpredictable, directionless and unreliable Trump regime in the US has rekindled the hope that multilateral institutions would be allowed to act freely once again.

At the core of all these newer trends, the decisive factor has been

the repositioning of the philosophy of interdependence. And the central dissipating agent is the sharp erosion of faith in the dictum of dominance along with critical questioning of the vanguards of dependency propagators.

India-China cooperation diversified, deepened and consolidated during the last three decades. However, it took a sharp turn to the dependence of India on China. The total volume of Sino-India trade increased from a mere \$3.4 million in 1970 to \$2.8 billion in 2000 and to a whopping \$90.16 billion in 2018. This led to a colossal trade deficit of \$53.56 billion in 2018-19 with China. Around 70 per cent of India's active pharmaceutical ingredients, 80 per cent of solar imports and 30 per cent of its power equipment come from China.

Smaller countries react to dominance in a different way. Nepal, after facing the acute degree of dependency impact as demonstrated by the 1989 and 2015 economic blockades imposed by India, consciously moved towards China. This was despite tough geographical terrains, established distance in cultural ecology and incomparably wider and deeper historical and day-to-day relations with India. Even the economic superpowers do not tolerate their sliding

towards dependency. They react violently and in a sweeping manner. They use sophisticated instruments like decoupling and even do away with multilateral institutions they themselves nurtured and built. The US attempt to make Chinese goods face high tariffs in its domestic market and the literal run down of the World Trade Organisation are examples. The Japanese government has set aside \$2 billion as incentives for its companies in China shifting production back to Japan.

It is historically observed that when the dominant partner makes the other reach a threshold of dependence, coercive activities by the former tend to increase. Though these provocative actions invariably tend to fall below the level of conflict, they do generate visible psychological damages and galvanise ultra-nationalism. US economic assistance to the Mujahideen in Pakistan to fight against the Soviet forces in Afghanistan in the 1980s and 1990s and the subsequent event of killing of al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden by its Navy SEALs near Islamabad in 2011 have been vivid examples.

India and Nepal have to consciously move towards a relationship aimed at interdependence. These two countries have the strongest basis,

rarest determining variables and unparalleled win-win matrices of interdependence. These variables range from culture to environment, water to open border, education and health to employment, biodiversity to a traditional knowledge base, technology to institutions and disaster to climate change management. The interdependence dynamics demand recognising each other's sovereignty and identity, promoting congenial constituencies and instruments, detaching their interactions and actions from third countries and making bold, far-reaching and inclusive moves.

Sovereignty and identity are size, power and alignment neutral. Sovereignty cannot be understood and interpreted through the angle of constituents of national power. India must recognise this core aspect of Nepal's sensitivity. Nepal while freeing itself from the conventional box of small nation syndrome may consciously delink its sharing of resources like river water with the erosion in its sovereignty and national power.

Both countries have recorded a sharp decline in their respective constituencies in each other's countries. For almost 50 years since 1950, Nepal had a strong constituency in India and vice versa. These constituencies spread from academics to writers, media to farmers, politicians to sportspersons, students to social activists, traders and industrialists to tourism agencies and professionals to cultural institutions. They absorbed the shocks of any bilateral downswings and stoutly advocated the upswings. These critical yet vanishing constituencies are today replaced by pariah commentators, superficial experts, fly-by-night operators and non-institutionalised agencies.

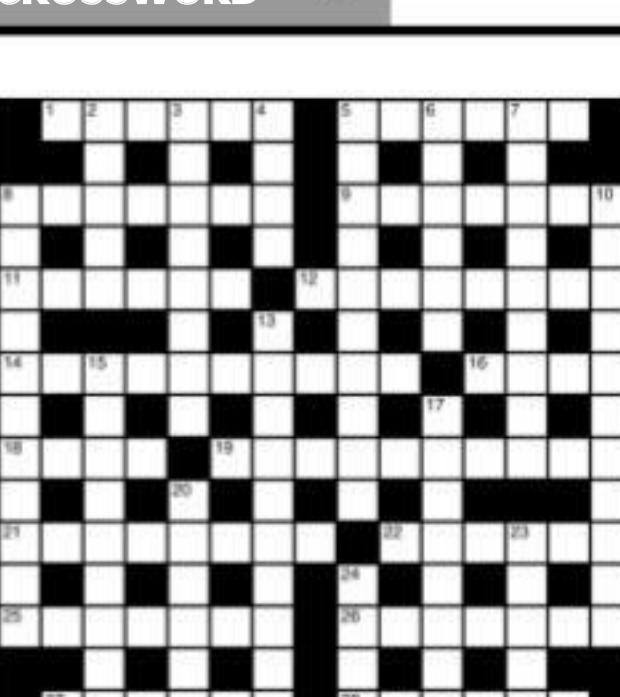
Why must India and Nepal consider China, the US and other countries in their relationship of such intimacy and interconnectedness? Over the years their actions are appearing to be more reactions to what other countries pronounce and denounce. A Nepali national working far away in Goa and an Indian in Pokhara cannot relate to this phenomenon of tagging

and pegging with third countries as, for both of them, China and the US are far away, and farfetched too. What matters to them is a smooth border crossing for their livelihood and growth. They cannot relate cross border environmental injury caused by the Koshi and the use of education and hospital amenities in each other's country with China and the US. For them, third-country consideration is a state construct drawn primarily from the realist paradigm of dominant and subtle power as prompted by the countries in the North to keep the Global South ever dependent. India and Nepal, being partners in the South-South Cooperation and Non-Aligned Movement, must keep these countries out which historically remained outside this conglomeration.

India must move into out of box matrix and zero-sum diplomacy. The key lies in India providing several alternative routes and market access to Nepal including through its India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway. This amounts to India negotiating and facilitating the incorporation of Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal in India's Act East Policy and Modi's 'neighbourhood first' mission. Besides other pivots like mountain ports and climate change cooperation, they could harness richly impending hydel power resources for cross border electricity trade through a common pool in the North East region of India.

This is where the forthcoming visit of India's Foreign Secretary to Nepal acquires unprecedented importance. Harsh Vardhan Shringla commands a new genre of respect, confidence and authority in Indian diplomacy. Besides working under the close stewardship of both the prime minister and the foreign minister, he has demonstrated effective skills to deliver something big and bold. An astute diplomat, Shringla's ability to grasp and reposition bilateral interests has been widely applauded in Bangladesh, the Maldives, Thailand and the US. His visit could pave the way for an early political confabulation between Prime Ministers Modi and Oli to revisit, renegotiate and reposition the age-old ties once again.

NO 28147



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

KEVINPIETERSEN
XMERITUO
THESMITHSEVENS
ACEEARDC
CORONERTANGELO
IASPZAR
TABLEMATA
LNB
APEMANDIASPO
RPGTUG
STRAUSSMIRANDA
EUNYQITI
NOMADCHUCKEDIN
TBETHTEU
CHARLIECHESTER

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

ACROSS

- 1 United, with excellent scoring shot, back in the perfect place to be (6)
- 5 Street's bare, with daughter leaving after greeting (6)
- 8 Church support overlooking holy man's tweet (7)
- 9 Gets thanks when filling ordinary containers (7)
- 11 Superior American performed in US city (2-2-2)
- 12 Enhancement for viewers almost crazy to get odd vegetable (8)
- 14 Temporary worker at home perhaps resentful about curtailed opening (4-6)

- 16 Network has me next to mum (4)
- 18 Item of poetry penned by William Blake (4)
- 19 Lot of material going off with TNT? It would cause explosions (10)
- 21 Island secures contract with Georgia for chemical quantity (5,3)
- 22 Record endorsements involving Judge back in Balkan capital (6)
- 25 Contralto's ending, say, in lower part of duet (7)
- 26 Old party to get excited endlessly, making a stink (7)
- 27 Legal document getting that chap to squirm (6)

- 28 Girl showing staunch character, mostly (6)

DOWN

- 2 Time in employment erasing end of idle interval (5)
- 3 Ideal place is available in March? (8)
- 4 Article promoted in drinks range? (4)
- 5 Clubs supporting distressed top goalie offering explanations (10)
- 6 Praises kinky sex, keeping a large number upset (6)
- 7 Describing some bonds slipping in value? Not yielding nothing (9)
- 8 Names rebel at work in street (4)
- 10 Son looks round that place, finding lots of pieces (11)
- 13 Unconnected item in Footwear - half a pair? Tip of toe to probe that (5-5)
- 15 Large amount of drink - reduced concern - one's driven wildly (6,3)
- 17 Vessel runs into catastrophe in developing area (8)
- 20 May possible Martian's origin (6)
- 23 Writing in support of case of sabotage (5)
- 24 Staff on both sides of a street (4)

INDIAN TRADE PROBLEMS

Commenting on the speech by Lord Meston on the problems of trade between Britain and India, in which, referring to the effect which the increasing measure of fiscal autonomy for India was likely to have on trade with Great Britain, Lord Meston said he did not fear a high general protective tariff, but expressed the belief that India would do her utmost to foster the growth of manufactures not demanding high technical skill. This is compatible with natural economic tendency which British trade has little cause to fear and from which it may ultimately benefit.

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2020

07

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

The question of vocational training for British and Indian soldiers has been under the consideration of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, having been suggested to the Chamber by the General Officer Commanding the Presidency and Assam District. Education being regarded as an integral part of the training of the army, both to increase the military efficiency of the soldier and at the same time to prepare him for his return to civil life, it is desired to offer to the soldier during his term of service with the colours, facilities to obtain instruction in such trades or businesses as he may elect to follow on the completion of his army service. Accordingly the inquiry was made by the General Officer Commanding whether Calcutta firms would be disposed to co-operate in the matter, giving training free or on payment of some slight fees. It appears from the monthly circular issued by the Chamber of Commerce that the members, as might be expected, are favourably disposed towards the scheme, but there is some doubt as to its practicability. It might be difficult in practice to combine efficient training with the military duties of the men, and doubts have been raised whether the training which a man would get in such circumstances would be sufficient to enable him to earn his living on leaving the army. Nevertheless some of the members of the Chamber are quite prepared to co-operate if the scheme should be proceeded with.

NEWS ITEMS

LONDON'S CIRCULAR RAILWAY

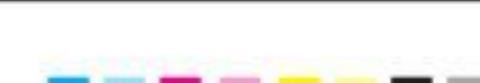
Consideration is being given by the authorities to a plan for the construction at a cost of £17,000,000 of an outer London Circular Railway, intercepting and making junctions with all the existing main line railways. The author of the scheme is Mr. Alexander Ross, formerly chief engineer of the Great Northern Railway, and the proposed line coincides closely with the twelve mile radius round Charing Cross. Passing over the Thames by a bridge at Kingston and under it by a tunnel at Purfleet, it would in its course circumscribe Hounslow on the west, Potters Bar on the north, Croydon on the south, and Dagenham on the east. The total length would be about 85 miles and Mr. Ross thinks that a complete double track could be provided at a cost of from £16,000,000 to £17,000,000.

PRESENTATION OF BUDDHIST RELIC

Yesterday was a memorable day for Buddhism in India marking as it did the occasion when His Excellency Lord Ronaldshay, Governor of Bengal, handed over to the Maha-Bodhi Society of Calcutta a well-authenticated relic of Buddha which was subsequently enshrined in the new Buddhist Vihara at College Square. In the summer of 1916 the Government of India through the Government of Bengal offered to make a present of a relic of the Buddha consisting of a small piece of bone contained in a rock crystal casket which was discovered in 1892 at Bhatiprolu in the Krishna District of the Madras Presidency, and was kept in the Government Central Museum, Madras. The relic is the oldest historic body relic of Buddha having been deposited in Bhatiprolu Stupa about 2,200 years ago.

PORT COMMISSIONERS' WORKSHOP STRIKE

The strike of the Port Commissioners' and Island workshop men which took place on 9th instant assumed rather serious developments yesterday, when Mr. Currie, the office superintendent, who was cycling to work was waylaid on Watgung Road and assaulted. Hitherto the strikers, who number over 2,000 men, have been fairly orderly, with the exception of having at the commencement of the trouble shrew a threatening attitude to the electric department hands who refused to throw in their lot with them. After the assault made on Mr. Currie, who was pounced upon by about a dozen men and thrown off his cycle, the assistants made good their escape through one of the lanes off Watgung Road. Mr. Currie was slightly injured. He immediately reported the matter to the local police and enquiries have been taken up.



Proposal to allow business houses into banking
a 'good-looking' step in 'bad direction'KAUSHIK BASU
FORMER CHIEF ECONOMIST OF WORLD BANK

THUMBNAILS

Gold futures gain on spot demand: Gold prices rose ₹227 to ₹48,740 per 10 gram in futures trade on Thursday as speculators created fresh positions on firm spot demand. On the Multi Commodity Exchange, gold contracts for December delivery traded higher by ₹227, or 0.47 per cent, at ₹48,740 per 10 gram in a business turnover of 3,003 lots.

NDBB confers awards to milk producers: The government's National Dairy Development Board (NDBB) on Thursday gave appreciation certificates and awards to 86 milk producers, 19 dairy cooperatives and 8 milk producer companies from 22 states for their efforts towards maximising digital bill payments.

Power sector employees protest: Power sector employees on Thursday held nationwide protests against the government's decision to privatise discoms, the All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF). They also demanded the withdrawal of Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2020 and scrapping of the standard bidding document (SBD).

Pranav Gupta to represent India at IPA: Pranav Gupta, the honorary joint secretary at the Federation of Indian Publishers and the managing director of Prints Publications Pvt Ltd, has been elected as a member of the executive committee of International Publishers Association (IPA). In a virtually conducted elections this month, the IPA declared the results of several decisions and elections in a conference. Pranav, 31, is the youngest to become the EC member at the IPA.

IKEA to begin work on biggest outlet in Noida: Swedish flat-pack furniture giant IKEA will soon begin work at its Noida outlet, touted to be its biggest store in India. The company had signed an MoU with the Uttar Pradesh government in December 2018 for Rs 5,000-crore investment in Noida and other cities in the state. It has committed to completing the project by 2025.

Pandemic hits crude oil, natural gas yield in India

Crude oil production slumped by 6.24 percent while that of natural gas by 13 percent

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 26 NOVEMBER

Production of crude oil and natural gas in India has seen a decline of 6.24% and 13% respectively over the last year apparently due to dip in demand in wake of Covid-19 pandemic.

According to the Union Petroleum Ministry, cumulative crude oil production during April-October was 17940 TMT as against the production of 19110 TMT during the same period in 2019-20. This is 6.24% less than last fiscal year.

The situation is equally bad in the production of Natural gas. As against the cumulative production of 18646.15 MMSCM during April-October, 2019-20, oil companies could only produce 16372.77 MMSCM in April-October, 2020-21 which is 13.90% lower than the target set for natural gas production. One of the main reasons for the decrease in production is low upliftment and the demand for gas by major customers.



Even the processing of crude oil and production of petroleum products have also seen a decline of 19.71%, and 16.37% against the cumulative production of crude oil and petroleum products during the corresponding

period of last year respectively, the Ministry said. Similarly, the cumulative production of petroleum products during April-October, 2020 was 126165.06 TMT is 14.97% and 16.37% lower than the target for the period of last fiscal year.

Cumulative crude throughput put during April-October, 2020 was 118555.33 TMT which is 18.41% and 19.71% lower than the target for the period and crude throughput during the corresponding

period of last year respectively, the Ministry said. Similarly, the cumulative production of petroleum products during April-October, 2020 was 126165.06 TMT is 14.97% and 16.37% lower than the target for the period of last fiscal year.

Production during April-October 2020 was 126165.06 TMT against 150856.75 TMT during April-October 2019, the Ministry said.

Adani Gas to change name to Adani Total Gas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 26 NOVEMBER

memorandum and articles of association, according to the firm's filing to stock exchanges.

After the French giant buying stake, Adani Gas is now a joint venture company of Adani Group and TOTAL Group.

France with 37.40 percent stake by each promoter and remaining 25.20 percent with public shareholders," it said.

Capital account convertibility will continue to be a process, rather than an event: RBI Guv

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 26 NOVEMBER

India will continue to approach capital account convertibility as a process rather than an event, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Thursday.

The central bank chief said the capital account is convertible to a great extent at present and enumerated the specifics on both inward and outward flows which are allowed.

It can be noted that capital account convertibility is a very sensitive subject as it deals with liberalisation of capital transactions into and out of a country. India, which started opening up on this front with the reforms of the early 1990s, is partially convertible right now with caps and other restrictions. Capital account

convertibility will continue to be approached as a process rather than an event, taking cognisance of prevalent macroeconomic conditions, Das said, speaking at an event organised by the Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association of India (FEDAI). He added that a long-term vision with short and medium-term goals is the way ahead on this. Das said foreign portfolio investment (FPI) in Indian debt markets has been expanded within calibrated macro-prudential norms and added that limits under the medium-term framework for investment by FPIs have been gradually increased and procedures rationalised. At present, inward foreign direct investment (FDI) is allowed in most sectors and outbound FDI by Indian incorporated entities is allowed as a multiple of their net worth, he said, pointing out that there has been a liberalisation in the external

commercial borrowing framework as well to include expanding eligible borrowers.

Internationalisation of financial markets can lower transaction costs with efficiency gains, he said. Over the last three decades, India has undergone a transformation from being a virtually closed economy to one that is globally connected and open to a much larger volume of international transactions and capital flows than before, he added. Das said allowing banks in India to deal in the offshore rupee derivative markets was a major milestone towards opening up of the markets and added that the move is expected to achieve the objectives of reducing the segmentation between onshore and offshore markets and also reducing volatility.

26/11: Ratan Tata calls for unity, act of sensitivity to continue in future



NEW DELHI, 26 NOVEMBER

Veteran industrialist Ratan Tata on Thursday called for "unity and acts of kindness and sensitivity" that Mumbai showed in response to the terror attack 12 years ago, to continue in the future.

In a social media post, the chairman emeritus of the Tata group said, "The wanton destruction that took place 12 years ago will never be forgotten." But, he said, what is more memorable is the way Mumbai people came together, casting aside all differences, to vanquish the terrorism.

"Today, we certainly can mourn the ones we lost and honour the sacrifice of the brave who helped conquer the enemy but what we must applaud is the unity and acts of kindness and sensitivity which we should cherish," Tata said. Hopefully, it will continue to shine in the years ahead, he added. Echoing similar sentiments, Mahindra & Mahindra Chairman Anand Mahindra tweeted,

"Mumbaikars won't forget the night of the #2611Attack when the air was filled with uncertainty and insecurity. I remember feeling as if the city and the country were being invaded." Quoting a remark by South African leader late Nelson Mandela -- "I learned that courage was not the absence of fear. But the triumph over it" -- Mahindra added, "But by the end of that week, we brought to life this quote by Mandela. Mumbai and India did triumph." PTI

RBL Bank to hold virtual cyclothon to raise funds for girl child education

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 26 NOVEMBER

Amid COVID-19 crisis, private lender RBL Bank is flagging off a virtual cyclothon on Friday wherein 127 shortlisted cyclists will race to finish 1,000 km in 14 days as part of its CSR initiative to raise funds for supporting girl child education.

This is for the seventh year it is organising the 'UMEED 1000 Cyclothon' but this year in challenging COVID-19 circumstances.

However, the bank has reinvented the format of cyclothon by going virtual, keeping in mind the strict safety measures for cyclists, the lender said.

The funds raised from the event will go towards setting up a second Udbhav RBL School for girl child education. The first school was set up in



Hyderabad from Rs 5.10 crore funds raised from last year's cyclothon. The bank aims to set up 10 such schools by 2030.

Speaking to PTI, RBL Bank Human Resources and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Head Shanta Vallury Gandhi said, "We went digital and tied up with an online App to track the journey of our cyclists. We have received an overwhelming response from our employees and people at large for the pre-event".

About 127 cyclists are qualified for this year's UMEED 1000 Cyclothon that will be flagged off on November 27, she said.

Last year, the cyclothon was flagged off at Udaipur, Rajasthan and culminated in a 1,000 km journey in Amritsar, Punjab. "We raised Rs 5.10 crore

for the cause and established the first Udbhav RBL School in Hyderabad," she added.

According to the bank, already Rs 70 lakh has been raised in the pre-event itself, wherein cycling enthusiasts - including RBL Bank employees donated miles in support of girl child education that's been monetised with a matching amount from RBL Bank's CSR funds.

More funds are expected to be raised after completion of the cyclothon with the participation of other corporates and organisations for the cause, it added.

Further, the bank said Hyderabad-based Udbhav RBL School serves the children of low-income families with high-quality education and nutritional support for their well-rounded development.

Asia needs to leverage stronger regional cooperation to boost Covid recovery: ADB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 26 NOVEMBER

Stronger regional cooperation strategies including in health, trade, finance, and disaster risk can help governments in Asia and the Pacific accelerate economic growth and a robust recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new book released by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

"Regional cooperation and integration has been an effective driver for strong economic growth and a sharp reduction in poverty," ADB vice-president for knowledge management and sustainable development Bambang Susantono said in a statement. Further, the COVID-19 pandemic is a wake-up call to all of us that our usual assumptions and approaches to regional cooperation and connectivity have to change in

ways that promote resilience and sustainability," it noted. Susantono highlighted the need for Asia and the Pacific to reassess its regional cooperation and integration strategies and pathways. This new book, Future of Regional Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, provides insights and a foundation for deeper and more effective regional cooperation for a world reshaped by the pandemic. The book provides a critical examination of regional cooperation initiatives and explores opportunities for economies in the region to work together to recover and rebuild from the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, the book examines approaches to strengthen regional trade and investment; improve intraregional infrastructure and connectivity; reduce financial risk; coordinate health systems

and approaches; and enhance coordination on cross-border issues such as climate change and ocean health.

Enhanced regional cooperation can, for example, help expand trade and investment by opening avenues and opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to participate more actively in local and global supply chains through better transportation and connectivity, it said. Innovative financing, which accepts collateral other than land, can empower women-led businesses, which currently suffer from approximately 2.5 times less access to credit than male-led businesses, it noted.

Noting that Asia and the Pacific remains as a hotspot for emerging diseases, natural disasters, and climate hazards, the book has recommended a range of multilateral interventions.

HMD Global looking at leveraging India for exports

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 26 NOVEMBER

Selling are 100 per cent manufactured in India. While they are designed in Finland, all the smartphones and feature phones for India are manufactured in India," HMD Global Vice President Sanmeet Singh Kochhar told PTI.

He added that the company has managed the supply chain well, both in terms of components and devices.

Handset vendors faced constraints in supply after the lockdown, and many players had to import devices to meet the heightened demand that was driven by trends like 'work from home' and 'study from home'.

"We are evaluating how India can be at the heart and centre of our sourcing and if we can look at catering not only



to the domestic demand but leverage India for exports as well," Kochhar said.

He added that while the

company itself did not apply in the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, some of its partners have received clear-

ance for the programme.

"...we are evaluating opportunities with some of these partners for our manufacturing. It's difficult to share details right now but India is a very important destination for us, for our sourcing requirements and we are always looking at what can be done in India," he said.

PLI scheme extends an incentive of 4 to 6 per cent on incremental sales (over the base year) of goods under target segments that are manufactured in India to eligible companies, for a period of five years subsequent to the base year (2019-20).

Last month, the government had cleared 16 proposals from domestic and international companies - includ-

ing iPhone maker Apple's contract manufacturers Foxconn Hon Hai, Wistron and Pegatron, apart from Samsung and Rising Star - entailing an investment of Rs 11,000 crore under the PLI scheme to manufacture mobile phones worth Rs 10.5 lakh crore over the next five years.

Talking about the new launch, Kochhar said the 2-series has been the most successful series in India for the company.

The Nokia 2.4 brings much loved features such as a two-day battery life, an AI-powered camera and pure, secure and up-to-date Android, all in an affordable and elegant package. We've included high-end features like the AI camera with Night mode and Portrait

mode," he said.

The device will strengthen the position of the company in the Rs 8,000-12,000 segment, which is one of the biggest in the Indian smartphone market. In 2018 and 2019, this segment saw sales of 3.3 million and 3.7 million units, respectively as per industry estimates.

"The segment is an important segment, driven by replacement and upgrades by users.

Kochhar said the festive season went off well for the company that had lined up devices at various price points. "...the response has been quite overwhelming. The demand has been quite resilient (since the lockdown was lifted) and this is one of the reasons that even after the festive season,

we are continuing to launch our devices and we are launching 2.4 right now," he added.

Kochhar noted that since the lockdown was lifted, there has been very strong demand, both in feature phones as well as in smartphone segments.

"We have seen that the overall demand has picked up and is very good, and we expect that the demand will continue to be at a certain baseline level."

"Of course, there is some uptake which happens during the festive season, but it continues at a baseline level, even after the festive season... We are seeing growth in our overall business as compared to what was there last year and in the pre-COVID levels," he added.



Our police and intelligence agencies do an extraordinary job every day to protect us all from terrorist activity

UK CHANCELLOR RISHI SUNAK

ALLOCATING FUNDS FOR UK'S NEW COUNTER TERRORISM OPERATIONS CENTRE

The Statesman

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2020

09

Tigray: Ethiopia PM orders final offensive

Move comes after Abiy Ahmed's 72-hour ultimatum ended for Tigray leaders to surrender; PM warns residents to stay indoors and disarm

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NAIROBI, 26 NOVEMBER

Ethiopia's prime minister said Thursday the army has been ordered to move on the embattled Tigray regional capital after his 72-hour ultimatum ended for Tigray leaders to surrender, and he warned its half-million residents to stay indoors and disarm.

The military offensive has reached its final stage after three weeks of fighting, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's office said. That means tanks and other weaponry can close in on Mekele, whose residents had been warned of no mercy if they didn't move away from Tigray leaders in time.

That caused international alarm as rights groups said such wording could violate international law and put

civilians in further danger.

Abiy's statement asserted that thousands of Tigray militia and special forces surrendered during the 72-hour period that ended Wednesday evening.

We will take utmost care to protect civilians, the statement said.

The United Nations has reported people fleeing the city, but communications and transport links remain severed to Tigray, and it's not clear how many people in Mekele received the warnings in time. Tigray regional leaders couldn't immediately be reached.

The international community is pleading for immediate de-escalation, dialogue and humanitarian access as Ethiopian forces have fought their way through Tigray to Mekele. But Abiy, last year's Nobel Peace Prize winner,



however, has rejected international interference". His government has said three high-level African Union envoys for the conflict can meet with Abiy, but not with the Tigray leaders.

It remains difficult to ver-

ify claims in the fighting that erupted November 4 between Ethiopian forces and the heavily armed forces of the Tigray People's Liberation Front, which once dominated Ethiopia's government but has been sidelined under

Abiy's rule. The two governments now regard each other as illegal.

The UN now says shortages have become very critical in the Tigray region as its population of 6 million remains sealed off.

Fuel and cash are running out, more than 1 million people are now estimated to be displaced and food for nearly 100,000 refugees from Eritrea will be gone in a week, according to its update released overnight. And more than 600,000 people who rely on monthly food rations haven't received them this month.

Travel blockages are so dire that even within Mekele the UN World Food Programme cannot obtain access to transport food from its warehouses there.

A statement this week from a civil society representative

in the region, seen by The Associated Press, described heavy bombardment of communities elsewhere that has kept many residents from fleeing.

Other people are frantically moving within the Tigray region from one district to another and living within church compounds, streets, schools, health centres, the statement warned, and it pleaded for a safe corridor to ship in aid as food runs out.

Human Rights Watch is warning that actions that deliberately impede relief supplies violate international humanitarian law, and that the complete shutdown of communications could amount to a form of collective punishment by imposing penalties on people without a clear lawful basis.

Another crisis is unfolding as more than 40,000 Ethiopi-

an refugees have fled into a remote area of Sudan, where humanitarian groups and local communities struggle to feed, treat and shelter them. Nearly half the refugees are children under 18. Many fled with nothing.

When it is cold, it hurts so much, said one wounded refugee, Alam Kafa. At night, I have to wrap tightly with a blanket so I can sleep. But I don't sleep at night.

Just to imagine for everything, literally for everything, starting from your food, ending with your water drinking, ending just to go for the toilet facilities and washing your hands, for everything you depend on somebody else, said Javanshir Hajiyev with aid group Mercy Corps. "This is really a very dire situation. I can't stress how difficult it is."

Pilots, civilians given life terms over Turkey's 2016 coup

ANKARA, 26 NOVEMBER

A Turkish court sentenced several military and civilian personnel at an air base to life prison sentences on Thursday, proclaiming them guilty of involvement in a failed coup attempt in 2016, the state-run news agency reported.

A total of 475 defendants, including generals and fighter jet pilots at the Akinci air base, on the outskirts of the capital Ankara, were on trial for the past three years, accused of directing the coup and bombing key government buildings, including a section of the parliament building. The massive trial was one of two main trials against suspected members of a network led by US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, whom Ankara accuses of orchestrating the failed attempt.

Gulen, who was also named among the defendants, has denied involvement in the coup that resulted in around 220 deaths and injured thousands. About 30 plotters were also killed.

The court convicted four men, civilians accused of being the go-between Gulen's movement and some military officers of crimes against the state, attempts to kill the president and murder, and sentenced them to 79 separate life sentences, the Anadolu Agency reported.

At least 21 defendants, pilots and commanders, were also given life sentences, Anadolu reported. Sentences for other defendants were still being read out.

The court ruled for Gulen, an alleged top operative in his movement, and four other defendants still wanted by the Turkish authorities to be tried separately over the charges. Prosecutors accused the coup-plotters of using Akinci air base as their headquarters.

AP

China's top diplomat touts S Korea ties amid row with US

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SEOUL, 26 NOVEMBER

China's top diplomat on Thursday stressed the importance of bilateral relations while meeting senior officials in South Korea, where there's growing concern the country is becoming squeezed between its biggest trading partner and military ally the United States.

After meeting South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yitold reporters that his visit amid a spreading coronavirus pandemic shows how much Beijing values its relations with Seoul. He called for stronger cooperation over anti-virus efforts, trade and finding a peaceful solution to a nuclear standoff with North Korea.

When asked whether Beijing was pressing Seoul to



choose a side amid rising US-China tensions over trade, security and other issues, Wang said America is not the only nation in the world. There are 190 countries and each of them are sovereign nations, he said. They include China and South Korea, which are close neighbours and should visit each other more often like relatives.

Wang, who arrived in Seoul following a visit to Japan where he met Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, was expected to meet South Korean President Moon Jae-in later Thurs-

day.

In Tokyo Wednesday, Wang told Suga that he wants the two Asian powers to have good relations and cooperate in fighting the coronavirus and reviving their pandemic-hit economies. But the two sides remain at odds over an island dispute.

South Korea has been eager to repair its relations with China, its biggest trade partner that reacted furiously to Seoul's decision to deploy an advanced US anti-missile system on its soil in 2016 to better cope with North Korean threats.

There's also concern in South Korea over a deepening row between Washington and Beijing over trade, security, human rights and other issues, which could force Seoul into a difficult balancing act.

China, which has claimed

that the US anti-missile system in South Korea could be reconfigured to peep into its territory, had been accused by Seoul of retaliating by limiting Chinese tour groups visits to South Korea.

Beijing also destroyed South Korean supermarket giant Lotte's business in China after the company sold a plot of land to the South Korean government where the anti-missile system was later installed.

South Korea had hoped to secure a visit by Chinese leader Xi Jinping this year in what Seoul officials describe as a key step in repairing relations, but the pandemic has complicated such plans.

When asked about a possible visit by Xi, Wang pointed to the face masks worn by reporters, saying that the coronavirus situation must first be contained.

Malaysian PM gains political lifeline with budget approval

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KUALA LUMPUR, 26 NOVEMBER

Malaysia's Parliament approved the government's proposed 2021 budget on Thursday, throwing a political lifeline to embattled Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin amid strong resistance to his 9-month-old leadership.

Opposition lawmakers as well as members of his governing coalition had warned during three weeks of debate that they would reject the budget, citing insufficient funding to fight a surge in coronavirus cases and help those hit by the pandemic.

Finance Minister Zafrul Aziz made some minor revisions to the 322.5 billion ringgit (USD 79 billion) budget, the biggest ever, in his con-

tinuing speech Thursday in response to the complaints. He insisted that this is a COVID-19 budget, a budget for survival and resilience." In the end, the budget was approved despite the dissenting voices.

A budget vote has always been a de facto vote of confidence or no-confidence in the government," said Ahmad Fauzi Abdul Hamid, a political science professor at Malaysia's University of Science.

Muhyiddin's government is temporarily secure but it will

continue to have to fight from bill to bill as it survives on a slender majority and on the goodwill of bigger parties in the (governing) coalition," he said. Had Muhyiddin failed to obtain Parliament's support for the budget, it would have triggered new calls for him to resign or spur him to seek a general election, which is not favored during the surge in coronavirus cases. Malaysia's cases have jumped fivefold in two months to nearly 60,000.

Muhyiddin, 73, has only a slim two-seat majority in Parliament. He has been challenged by opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, who last month said he has majority support to form a new government with defections from Muhyiddin's coalition.

Israelis pay respects to victims of 26/11 Mumbai attacks, demand justice for them

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JERUSALEM, 26 NOVEMBER

Israelis are holding ceremonies to pay respects to the victims of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, demanding that the perpetrators of the carnage be brought to justice and condemning "Pakistan-sponsored terrorism".

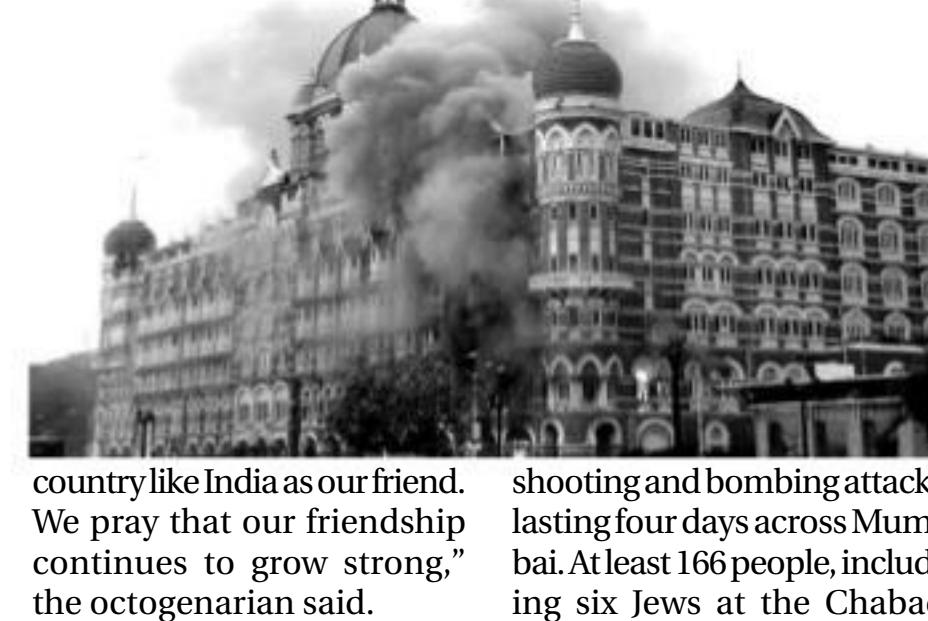
Israelis, and Indian students and caregivers paid respects to the victims in Jerusalem, Rehovot and Tel Aviv on Wednesday and ceremonies are planned in Beersheva and Eilat on Thursday.

A virtual ceremony on

Zoom is also planned for Thursday at 8 PM Israel time (11:30 PM IST). Hundreds have registered to take part in the event.

Israel opposes every country that provides financial and logistical support to terrorists. Peaceful countries should come together to boycott diplomatically and financially those countries that support terrorism. This will help deter acts of terror," Isaac Solomon from the southern Israeli coastal city of Eilat told PTI.

Ten terrorists of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) carried out 12 coordinated



shooting and bombing attacks lasting four days across Mumbai. At least 166 people, including six Jews at the Chabad House, and nine terrorists, were killed and over 300 others were injured in the attacks

which began on November 26, 2008.

Israelis in Eilat have requested that a memorial square be built for the victims of the Mumbai attacks.

"We have spoken to the Mayor of Eilat, Meir Itzhak Ha Levi, to set up a Memorial for the victims of Mumbai attacks. The Mayor said that he is on the committee which decides about street and square issues. He will be very happy to help," representatives of the Sitar Organisation for Immigrant Jews in Eilat told PTI.

"In addition, he suggested to even set up an India-Israel

friendship square or Mahatma Gandhi Square where a memorial stone for the victims of Mumbai attacks could also be placed," they said.

The Chabad Movement's Synagogue in the city will put up a plaque on Thursday in the memory of six Jewish victims.

The Telangana Association of Israel organised an interfaith ceremony to pay respects to the victims of 26/11. A Jewish Rabbi, a Hindu priest, a Christian pastor and a Sikh priest recited prayers in the memory of those who were killed in the attacks and

for peace.

"We believe in peace but shouldn't bow down to terror. Our policy of zero tolerance under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a welcome change," association president Ravi Soma told PTI.

Some 20 people from Telangana working in Israel gathered in Ramat Gan, next to Tel Aviv, as per permission granted to them in view of the coronavirus pandemic.

They carried posters and lit candles to pay respects to the victims of "the most heinous act of terror on Indian soil".

Students at the prestigious Weizmann Institute in Rehovot also lit candles and held a silent protest to condemn "Pakistan-sponsored terror".

"We have to learn from the Israelis and pre-empt attempts by Pakistan-sponsored terror outfits. We have to take the fight to their soil," said an agitated doctoral fellow, Vivek Singh.

Students at Ben-Gurion University in Beer Sheva and local Israelis will be organising ceremonies on Thursday evening to mark the 12th anniversary of the Mumbai terror attacks.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Long audible exhalation (4)	1 Body cavity (5)
3 Animal hair (3)	2 Cartilage in meat (7)
7 Contrive (8)	3 Weapon (7)
8 Honey drink (4)	4 Area of responsibility (5)
9 Adequate (12)	5 A smaller amount (4)
10 Feature (6)	6 Regular customer (6)
13 Breed of sheep (6)	11 Shake with cold (6)
15 Binoculars (5,7)	12 Wrestling duo (3)
19 Undergarment (4)	14 Breathe (7)
20 Cosmetic item (8)	16 Subsequently (5)
21 Alcoholic drink (3)	17 Prayer ending (4)
22 Something owed (4)	18 Perspiration (5)

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

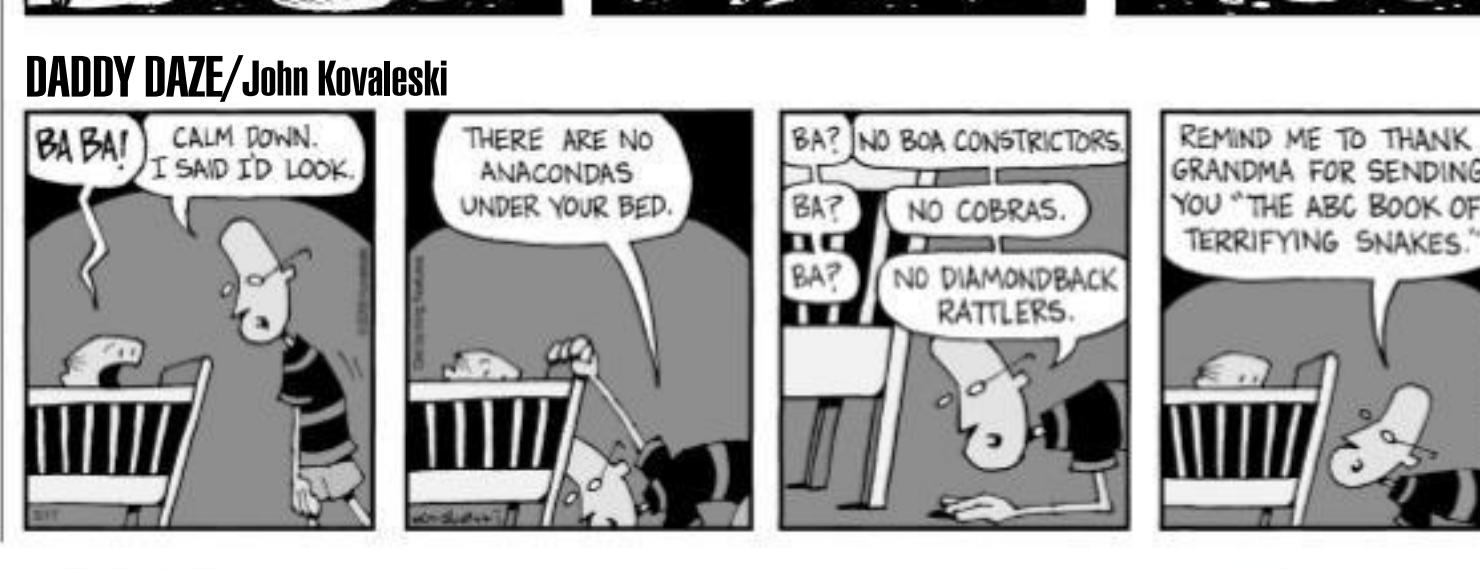
BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

- AIIMS 26588500, 26588900
- Moolchand Medcity (formerly Hospital) 42000000 & 24-hour Chemist Shop 42000447
- Vidyasagar Institute for Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences 26924300, 26924304
- Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre 29051280, 29958747
- Deen Dayal Upadhyay 25496320, 25494403
- Guru Tegh Bahadur 23717473, 23253230

RAILWAY INQUIRY

- General Inquiry: 139
- Toll Free Nos. 1800112511
- SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886, 54959, 5676747

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

- ISBT (General



Trump is again using the pardon power to protect those who lie to cover up his wrongdoing

US HOUSE SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI

WEATHER

CITY	MAX (°C)	MIN (°C)
SINGAPORE	29	24 H
HONG KONG	27	21 CL
TOKYO	17	8 H
LONDON	10	2 H
DUBAI	28	20 CL
SAN FRANCISCO	17	10 CL
NEW YORK	18	11 H
MOSCOW	2	-3 R

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

THUMBNAILS



A restaurant is seen closed after the government ordered the closure of eateries to curb the spread of Covid-19, in Nairobi, capital of Kenya. IANS

Deal to bring space trash home: The European Space Agency says it is signing a 86 million-euro (\$102 million) contract with a Swiss start-up company to bring a large piece of orbital trash back to Earth. The agency said that the deal with Clear-Space SA will lead to the first active debris removal mission in 2025. AP

British-Australian academic freed: Iran has freed a British-Australian academic who had been detained in the country for over two years in exchange for three Iranians held abroad, state TV announced. Kylie Moore-Gilbert, 33, was a Melbourne University lecturer on Middle Eastern studies when she was picked up at the Teheran airport as she tried to leave the country after attending an academic conference in 2018. AP

South Korea cases jump over 500: South Korea has recorded more than 500 new coronavirus cases for the first time in about eight months. 583 additional cases were reported in the past 24 hours. AP

'We're at war with the virus, not each other'

Joe Biden summoned Americans to join in common purpose against the coronavirus pandemic in his Thanksgiving-eve address

THE INDEPENDENT
WASHINGTON, 26 NOVEMBER



he

won a second-term. This week, the president and the federal agency overseeing the president-elect's transition to the White House finally agreed to begin the interim process.

"We find ourselves again facing a long hard winter," he said. "I know the country has grown weary of the fight ... We're at war with the virus, not with one another."

His remarks sought to fill the absence of Donald Trump's response to the Covid-19 crisis. Moments before the president-elect's address, in stark contrast to a message that sought to calm a nation seeing millions of new infections in recent weeks, the president amplified baseless allegations of voter fraud and rigged elections, insisting that

But the president-elect

I promise you." The president-elect reminded Americans that the nation's resilience in the face of challenges in the decades that preceded the public health crisis "can arm us from despair."

"Knowing the previous generations got through the same universal human challenges we face, the tension between selfishness and generosity, fear and hope, division and unity," he said.

What aligned the nation into its promise of equality, justice and prosperity, he said, "was love, plain and simple."

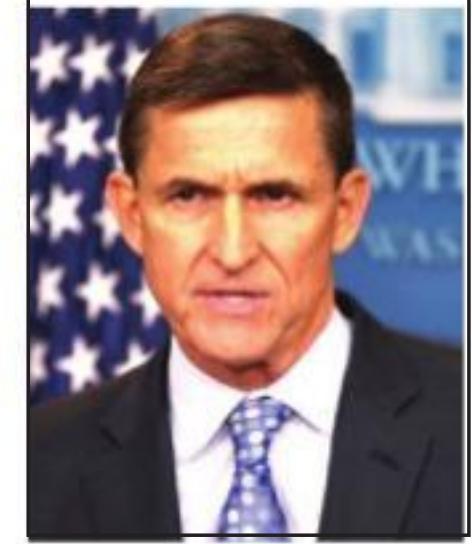
"Sounds corny," he said. "To love our neighbors as ourselves is a radical act, yet it's what we're called to do."

But the president-elect

frame his remarks in the

Russia probe: Trump pardons Flynn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 26 NOVEMBER



US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order granting pardon to his former national security advisor Michael Flynn, who had been charged with making false statements to the FBI over possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia during the 2016 presidential polls.

Trump signed the executive order on Wednesday.

"It is my Great Honor to announce that General Michael T. Flynn has been granted a Full Pardon. Congratulations to Gen Flynn and his wonderful family, I know you will now have a truly fantastic Thanksgiving!" Trump said in a tweet.

White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany said, "The President has pardoned General Flynn because he should never have been prosecuted. An independent review

of General Flynn's case by the Department of Justice conducted by respected career professionals, supports this conclusion."

In fact, the Department of Justice has firmly concluded that the charges against Flynn should be dropped, she said.

"This Full Pardon achieves that objective, finally bringing to an end the relentless, partisan pursuit of an innocent man," she said.

"General Flynn should not require a pardon. He is an innocent man. Even the FBI agents

who interviewed General Flynn did not think he was lying.

"Multiple investigations have produced evidence establishing that General Flynn was the victim of partisan government officials engaged in a coordinated attempt to subvert the election of 2016," McEnany said.

These individuals sought to prevent Donald Trump from being elected to the Presidency, to block him from assuming that office upon his election, to remove him from office after his inauguration, and to undermine his administration at every turn, she said.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in a statement said Trump's pardoning of Michael Flynn, who twice pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his dealings with a foreign adversary, is an act of grave corruption and brazen abuse of power.

"Trump is again using the pardon power to protect those who lie to cover up his wrongdoing, just as he did when he commuted the sentence of campaign advisor Roger Stone, who was convicted on seven felony counts," she said.

"Flynn's actions constituted a serious and dangerous breach of our national security. He must be held accountable. Yet Trump and his team continue to put the president over the country, as they politicize justice to shield Flynn and Trump from the law," Pelosi said.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler said the pardon is undeserved, unprincipled, and one more stain on President Trump's rapidly diminishing legacy.

"Michael Flynn was fired from the White House for lying to senior officials. He pleaded guilty twice to lying to federal investigators about his communications with a foreign adversary," he said.

We won the election by a lot: Trump

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 26 NOVEMBER



President Donald Trump has baselessly claimed anew that he had won the election and uttered repeated falsehoods as he called into an event held by Pennsylvania Republicans to investigate unproven allegations of voter fraud.

"This was an election that we won easily. We won it by a lot," Trump declared to the group gathered at a hotel in Gettysburg.

Trump, in fact, lost to President-elect Joe Biden by about 150,000 votes in the

grim realities of the present, warning that the US is averaging more than 160,000 new infections each day and hospital systems across the country "are at risk of being overwhelmed".

Warnings from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have urged Americans to avoid traveling

and stay home for Thanksgiving on 26 November. Travel officials reported that more than 2 million traveled by air on the previous weekend, one of the busiest periods for air travel since March.

On Tuesday, health officials reported more than 2,200 people died from the coronavirus, the single-highest daily

number of Republicans are recognising Biden as president-elect. Similar events have been scheduled in Arizona and Michigan.

Trump spoke for about 11 minutes via a phone held up to a microphone by his lawyer Jenna Ellis and insisted again that the election had been "rigged" for Biden.

"This election has to be turned around," he stated.

It was yet another stunning declaration from an American president advocating overturning a democratic election and the voters' will because he wants to stay in power.

death toll since early May. More than 230,000 Americans have died.

"As cases continue to increase rapidly across the United States, the safest way to celebrate Thanksgiving is to celebrate at home with the people you live with," according to CDC guidance.

Biden said Americans must

"try to slow the growth of the virus," calling it a "patriotic duty as Americans" in the face of the crisis. He urged people to wear masks and follow social-distancing guidelines.

He pledged on "Day One" of his presidency to "take steps that will change the course" of the pandemic.

The president-elect has committed to expanding testing capacity and supplying businesses and schools with protective gear, along with more guidance for reopenings.

He has also urged Congress to pass a relief package already approved by the House to address the crisis. Food banks have seen spikes in demand and millions of out-of-work Americans have been left without extended unemployment relief as they face looming evictions pending moratoriums set to expire in coming weeks.

That image became more clear as Americans who have lost family members to the disease observe the Thanksgiving holiday, as he reminded families to "forego many of the traditions that have long made this holiday such a special one."

US appeals order barring expulsions of migrant kids

ASSOCIATED PRESS
HOUSTON, 26 NOVEMBER

Since March, border agents have expelled 200,000 immigrant adults and children citing the pandemic and a need to prevent the spread of the virus

have expelled 200,000 immigrant adults and children citing the pandemic and a need to prevent the spread of the virus

Judge Emmet Sullivan issued a preliminary injunction on November 18 sought by advocates for immigrants that barred expulsions of unaccompanied children under public health laws.

Judge Emmet Sullivan ordered children who cross the border without a parent and not adults or parents and children. At least 8,800 unaccompanied children have been expelled without having a chance to seek asylum protections or speak to a lawyer.

Most people have been

expelled within hours or days, though the Trump administration detained hundreds of children for weeks in hotels near the US-Mexico border for days or weeks at a time until another judge barred that practice.

President-elect Joe Biden has said he will reverse several of President Donald Trump's immigration programs when he takes office in January. Biden has not stated whether he will stop expulsions of immigrants.

In its filing Wednesday night, the Justice Department cited the spread of the virus in border communities in Arizona and Texas. It warned that Sullivan's order likely will have an irreversible impact on public health by straining hospital capacity and forcing the government to move potentially infected children and teenagers through airports.

BTS becomes first K-pop group to earn Grammy nomination in major category

LOS ANGELES, 26 NOVEMBER

South Korean sensation BTS is one step closer to their dream of winning a Grammy Award as the band has been nominated in the best pop duo/group performance category by the Recording Academy for their chartbuster track "Dynamite".

The nominations for the 63rd Grammy Awards were announced on Tuesday night, according to Recording Academy's official website. "Dynamite", which released on August 21, is the group's first full-fledged English language single and their career's first Billboard Hot 100 No 1 hit.

BTS, whose full name is Bangtan Sonyeondan (Bulletproof Boy Scouts) or Beyond The Scene as they are known to global audiences, also became the first pop act from South Korea to top the Billboard Hot 100 chart with "Dynamite".

The septet, comprising RM, Jin, Suga, J-Hope, Jimin, V and Jungkook, thanked the ARMY a term for the band's fans, for their support in this journey to earning a Grammy nod. "Thank you to everyone who listened to and sympathized with our music during the difficult times. Above all, it is ARMY who made the miracle of being a Grammy candidate. We always appreciate and love you. Thank you @RecordingAcad for this great honor!" a tweet on the group's Twitter account read.

BTS has often described "Dynamite" as a song full of zest, positive vibes and dealing with life one step at a time as one feels "heavy" amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

HEARTBROKEN



Mourners embrace as they wait to see Diego Maradona lying in state outside the presidential palace in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on Thursday. AGENCE

NY virus limits on houses of worship blocked

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 26 NOVEMBER

SCARY

The UK capital of London along with most regions of England will move into Tier 2 of a three-tier COVID-19 restrictions system and remain at a high alert level at the end of the complete stay-at-home lockdown on December 2, the UK government announced.

The justices split 5-4 with new Justice Amy Coney Barrett in the majority. It was the conservative's first publicly discernible vote as a justice. The court's three liberal justices and Chief Justice John Roberts dissented.

The move was a shift for the court. Earlier this year, when Barrett's liberal predecessor, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, was still on the court, the justices divided 5-4 to leave in place pandemic-related capacity restrictions affecting churches in California and Nevada.

The court's action Wednesday could push New York to reevaluate its restrictions on houses of worship in areas designated virus hot spots. But the impact of the court's action is also muted because the Catholic and Orthodox Jewish groups that sued to challenge the restrictions are no longer subject to them.

lar areas are now designated as yellow zones with less restrictive rules neither group challenged.

The justices acted on an emergency basis, temporarily barring New York from enforcing the restrictions against the groups while their lawsuits continue. In an unsigned opinion the court said the restrictions "single out houses of worship for especially harsh treatment."

"Members of this Court are not public health experts, and we should respect the judgment of those with special expertise and responsibility in this area. But even in a pandemic, the Constitution cannot be put away and forgotten. The restrictions at issue here, by effectively barring many from attending religious services, strike at the very heart of the First Amendment's guarantee of religious liberty," the opinion said.

Americans risk travelling over Thanksgiving despite warnings

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 26 NOVEMBER



down dramatically from the same time last year, many pressed ahead with their holiday plans amid skyrocketing deaths, hospitalisations and confirmed infections across the US.

Some were tired of more than eight months of social distancing and determined to spend time with loved ones.

She brought snacks and her own hand sanitiser and said the flight was half full. She had a row of seats to herself.

As long as you're maintaining your distance, you're not touching stuff and you're sanitizing your hands, people should see their families right now," she said.

The US has recorded more than 12.7 million coronavirus infections and over 262,000 deaths. The country is still missing about eight infections for every one counted, according to a new government report Wednesday. Many people don't get tests, especially if they don't have symptoms.

More than 88,000 people in the US, an all-time high, were in the hospital with Covid-19 as of Tuesday, pushing the health care system in many places to the breaking point, and new cases of the virus have

been setting records, soaring to an average of over 174,000 per day.

Deaths have surged to more than 1,600 per day, a mark last seen in May, when the crisis in the New York area was easing.

The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and state and local authorities have begged people not to travel and urged them to keep their Thanksgiving celebrations small.

That'll make sure that your extended family are around to celebrate Christmas and to celebrate the holidays next year, Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear said.

But even Denver Mayor Michael Hancock flew to Mississippi to spend Thanksgiving with his wife and youngest daughter despite sending messages on social media

and to city staff asking them to avoid travelling for the holiday. He apologised, acknowledging that he went against his own public guidance.

I made my decision as a husband and father, and for those who are angry and disappointed, I humbly ask you to forgive decisions that are borne of my heart and not my head, Hancock said.</



As companies are embracing work from home, it is necessary that recruiters make themselves available to their employees for both emotional and professional support

SHEETAL NAIR

Since the pandemic has led to a flurry of job losses, as a recruiter, one might think that this is the right time to attract a huge number of talented job seekers. Contrary to what one might feel, it is not the case. The situations give rise to certain important questions - What is the "new normal" for a recruiter? What new skill sets should one be looking for in potential employees? Should one stick by the old templates of job responsibilities? Or is a new approach required?

What needs to be understood is that there is a whole set of changed skill sets one needs to focus on while hiring in covid or post-covid times, since the entire recruitment set has undergone a 360 degree change. The pandemic will reveal talent gaps (and then close once the pandemic is over) and have longer-term effects on the recruitment industry. These trends and challenges need to be

analysed.

Covid-19 is impacting the operation of every industry in the world in several ways. Social distancing is keeping people apart and changing working habits. Enforced isolation and sickness is side-lining large sections of every workforce. School closures are placing significant restrictions on workers with children. Specific industries are facing surging demands, such as grocery stores, medical care providers and delivery services. Sectors such as catering, outdoor events, and entertainment have been forced to close for the foreseeable future.

A large number of individuals are now out of work at the same time. They have little or no ability to relocate for work. The industries looking to recruit in large quantities often do not align with their track record or experience. An increasing number of people are opting to take part in short term career prospects.

Usually paradigm shifts take time to occur but, in this case, Covid19 has aided this transition. In the short term, talent acquisition teams are racing to find ways to make what has historically been a very high-touch human process a virtual one. They are figuring out how to effectively work from home, conduct video interviews, make successful offers (to candidates whom the hiring manager may not have met), and remotely onboard new hires.

And just as answers to those concerns bubble up, larger issues surface. In many companies, there has been a decline in hiring while at others the demand for new people has soared. Budgets, goals, and head-

count are all getting serious reconsideration. This leaves recruiting leaders wondering what to do with their teams, who are largely unprepared for a world of work in which they might have time on their hands.

Due to the impact of the coronavirus, many of such team's basic tactics and tools have been made somewhat or entirely irrelevant in the past few weeks. Recruiting events and conferences have been cancelled. Onsite interviews have been scrubbed. In-person onboarding is a no-go - we can't gather in groups and we can't go into the office. The work at hand feels different and poses some overarching challenges.

Many recruiters are now working at home for the first time and are figuring out how to both stay productive and stay connected. To help recruiters stay productive, team leaders can help by providing them with guides and tutorials on best practices. Also one can make sure that

one's teammates have the appropriate tools to work from home. Some companies are offering economic support to employees to help get their work from home setups right. Others have offered to reimburse for reasonable expenses, and asked employees to act like owners. The goal isn't a specific dollar figure but making sure that one's team know what help is available.

But helping recruiters to stay connected during the coronavirus crisis may be even more important than keeping them productive (particularly if their requisitions start shrinking). They revel in relationships, which is why they became recruiters.

The challenge is to encourage them to stay in touch with one another as they adjust to the new normal - whatever that is.

The writer is corporate head, DSS Group of Companies

PLUS POINTS

Strengthening bonds



Areum Middle School, Sejong City, South Korea delivered handmade masks and letters for the Indian students in sisterhood relationship recently. The school took the masks sending project initiative during corona pandemic to its sisterhood school Manthan based in Greater Noida, UP, India.

The masks were made by the students. Some parents also participated in it. The school tried to send all the masks to India through all possible ways. This was initiated just at the time when India declared complete lockdown. After being blocked for several months, with the help of Korean Cultural Centre India, the masks were delivered to the Manthan School in person to the principal.

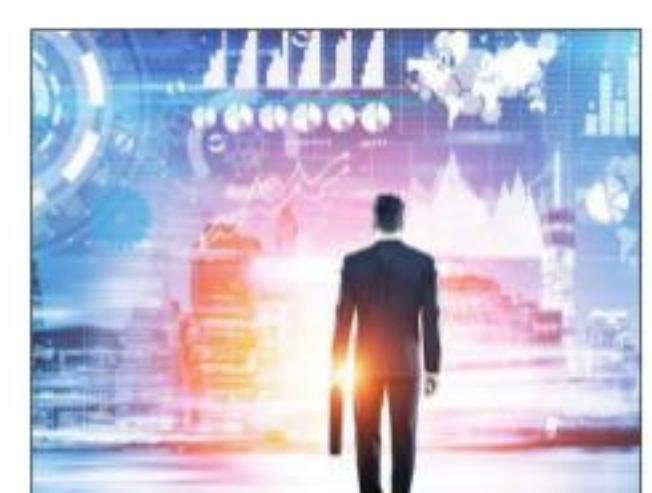
Korean Cultural Centre India has been operating school exchange projects as strategic object for Korean culture promotion since its beginning, and has supported international exchange programs between Indian and Korean schools since 2016.

Worthy webinar



IEEE Student Branch and Institute Innovation Council of IIIT-NR organised a series of seminars/webinars associated with "Patent and Practices of Modern Science and Technology" recently. In his inaugural address, Dr Pradeep Kumar Sinha, the vice-chancellor and director, IIIT Naya Raipur, thanked the speakers for taking time to provide insights related to intellectual property rights and patents. He also mentioned that in the present time, knowledge about intellectual property rights and patents are critical for fostering innovations, without which the innovator would not be able to reap the full benefits of his/her innovation. Nearly 60 participants registered at the event. Dr Maifuz Ali, assistant professor co-ordinated the webinar series.

Distinct scenario



A session on "Importance of Digital Transformation in Current Scenario" was recently organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) over a virtual platform, as a part of webinar "The future of HR: Re-imaging 2020 and beyond".

The session was moderated by Dr Jitendra Das, director, FORE School of Management, Delhi along with the panellists S K Jain, CHIRO, Jindal Stainless Limited, Sonali Chowdhry, director-marketing, Netcomm Labs Private Limited and Rahul Dhatriya, AVP Global Workforce Analytics and HR Technology Tata Communications Limited. Das shared his views on the growing concern of data security or the lack of it, in the current pandemic scenario. With the arrival of work from home culture, concern over data security has increased by many folds and is in every organisation's worry list these days said Das.

Learning re-designed

With the whole world going digital, innovative ways of teaching have emerged to impart skill sets required to succeed in the 21st century. Modernising the admission process, JK Business School (JKBS) introduced simulation gaming in its admission selection process for PGDM 2021-23. Simulation games hold tremendous potential when it comes to learning. Business simulation games can help students to harness their business decision-making skills in real-life scenarios. Realising this JKBS has taken a revolutionary step by introducing simulation gaming as important criteria with a weightage of 20 per cent in the upcoming admissions. This process will help in analysing the analytical skills across various functional areas of management.

THE RIGHT FIT



While selecting a candidate, it is necessary to focus on their attitude, besides taking into account their technical skills

VIBHAS MANDAL

As per the report of Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), only 20 per cent out of the five million students who graduate every year are employable in India. This implies that there is a substantial skill gap between the education system and the industry requirement, and there are some structural gaps in the education machinery, where the focus is more on imparting knowledge, and students are left on their own to figure out how this knowledge can be applied.

Recruiters entrusted with the responsibility of selecting the right fit amongst the several applicants find it difficult to hire the right candidate from this wide gap in the system. Most of them notice a candidate's potential and attitude while selecting them from a large pool of appli-

cants. Below are mentioned some of the qualities, which may help in identifying a candidate who has the potential to become successful in their career.

Drive

People who are successful have a strong drive, an unshakable desire to ensure that things get done in time. They take full charge of any given situation and cannot rest until they have successfully delivered their best. They are driven by the so called "fire in the belly" attribute, which comes across in their body language and personality. They also take absolute ownership of whatever task is assigned to them and do not wait for conditions to be perfect before taking a step. More than pondering or fretting over possibilities, these people are not only quick to take actions but also to modify them as per changing

conditions.

Willingness to learn

These are the people who are willing to learn and are quick to admit if they don't know something. They are motivated to upgrade their knowledge when they realise that there is a scope for improvement. They constantly strive to learn new skills and behaviours and are quite adaptive to changing technologies or market requirements. They believe in learning multi-dimensional skills, which go a long way in increasing their chances of taking up higher roles in an organisation.

Perseverance

Successful people exhibit realistic optimism. They believe in taking action and are always positive about the outcome. Their posi-

tivity allows them to be resilient even when things don't go their way. They don't take failure personally as they understand that failure is a part of the journey and have the foresight to learn from their mistakes. They have a lot of self-control and are high in their emotional quotient, which helps them to admit when they are wrong so that they can focus on the solution rather than wasting time in finding a scapegoat.

Excellence

This is a trait common in those who aspire to become the best in their field. They are thorough with their work, immersing themselves in the process most diligently. They are not ready to make compromises until they get what they aspire. They experiment a lot to try and figure out creative solutions to increase their efficiency.

Communication skills

The ability to effectively communicate is one of the strong attributes of high performers. They have the ability to use different communication tools as per the audience and achieve the outcomes they set for themselves. They have excellent listening skills, which help them understand the problems clearly and are articulate in providing solutions in a simple manner that can be easily understood by others.

Teamwork

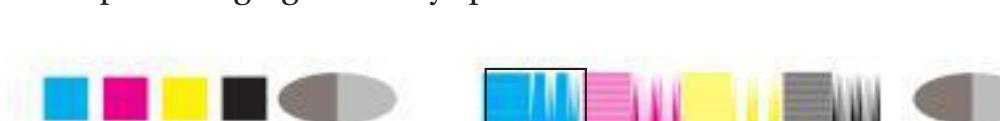
Successful people are good team players and have the ability to build a rapport with their peers. They go out of the way in helping their team and are easily approachable. They know the strength and weaknesses of their team and are able to align different capabilities of their team members towards the common objective.

Visionary

The ability to see the bigger picture is one of the key attributes that all successful people exhibit. They always begin a work with a purpose. They dream big and are able to think through different ways of achieving their dreams. The vision/dreams keep them excited and enthusiastic as they believe that each day they have the opportunity to work one step closer towards their dreams.

While there might be a minimum threshold level of technical skills required for undertaking any job, it becomes far easier to train a person exhibiting the above-mentioned attributes for the desired level of skills. Since most of the workforce completing formal education lacks the technical skills, the phrase "hire for attitude and train for skills" is becoming all the more relevant nowadays.

The writer is HR head, IFFCO Kisan





LUCKY ONE

Adam Lallana (photo, left) feels relief that his emerging years as a footballer happened before the explosion of social media scrutiny, which is impeding the natural development of young players on and off the pitch. The Brighton midfielder is angry at the added strain these hopefuls have to deal with.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Positive tests: Six members of the Pakistan's touring squad in New Zealand have tested positive for novel coronavirus, New Zealand Cricket said on Thursday. Some members of the touring side, currently in isolation, allegedly "contravened Covid-19 protocols."

Match-fixing bid: The International Cricket Council is investigating an alleged attempt to fix Sri Lankan Premier League matches. A former national cricketer approached a player and was being spoken to by the ICC's anti-corruption unit, the media reported.

Proteas' move: South Africa's squad to face England in a white-ball home series starting on Friday have released a statement explaining why they will not kneel before games - they refuse to appear to back the Black-Lives-Matter movement - after media criticism.



Steyn boost: The Lanka Premier League received a shot in the arm after it was confirmed that pace sensation Dale Steyn would be arriving shortly to turn out for Kandy Tuskers. He will miss the first two games of his outfit because of a mandatory isolation period.

Anti-discrimination plan: New The England and Wales Cricket Board has announced a series of measures to end discrimination, inclusive of "a new independent commission for equality in cricket," a forum for race in cricket" and "a new equality code of conduct."

Barclay's stand: International Cricket Council chairman Greg Barclay says his organisation must deliver its pinnacle events or there will be serious financial consequences. The Covid-19 pandemic has forced the rescheduling of three of the ICC's world tournaments.

Action-freeze: The bowling action of the USA's Nisarg Patel has been found illegal by the International Cricket Council and he cannot bowl in international cricket. The amount of elbow extension in Patel's action was still above the 15-degree level of tolerance permitted.



Formula One: UK parliamentarians have called on Formula One to use the sport's power to leverage Bahrain into respecting human rights ahead of its double-header in West Asia this weekend. A letter was sent to F1 chief executive Chase Carey on Tuesday.

Race row: Former West Ham and Queens Park Rangers footballer Anton Ferdinand has been racially abused on social media after releasing an anti-racism documentary. He was allegedly racially abused by former Chelsea and England captain John Terry in 2011.

Oz Open: The Australian Open will "most likely" be delayed by up to two weeks. Martin Pakula, sport and major events minister of Victoria, said he had seen reports that suggested the first Grand Slam of the year was "likely to be delayed by a week or two."