





## IN BRIEF

**Cop held after friend shoots man with his service pistol**

**New Delhi:** A Delhi Police constable was arrested after his friend used his service pistol to allegedly fire at a 26-year-old man following an argument with him in a road rage incident, police said on Sunday. The incident, which was caught on a CCTV camera, took place in the national capital's Baba Haridas Nagar area on Thursday night, they said. Constable Surender, posted at Jahangirpuri police station, was subsequently arrested along with his friend Rajesh, the police said. The incident took place when Surender was returning home after duty on Thursday night. He was accompanied by Rajesh, who works as a cluster bus driver, they said. When they reached Baba Haridas Nagar area, they noticed that a motorcycle was lying on the road. They asked two men, who were travelling on another motorcycle ahead of them, to remove the bike from the road, the police said. An argument broke out between the two sides over the matter. It escalated into a fight after the men on the motorcycle called two of their friends to the spot, a senior officer said. During the fight, Rajesh picked up Surender's pistol and fired at one Lakshman. He also threatened the other men, he said. The victim sustained a bullet injury in his stomach and was taken to a nearby hospital where he is undergoing treatment. His condition is stated to be stable, he added. Lakshman works with a bank and is a resident of Baba Haridas Nagar area, the officer said. A case has been registered under Section 307 (attempt to murder) of the Indian Penal Code, the police said. — PTI

**Doctor completes 60th half-marathon at 60**

**New Delhi:** A city doctor completed 60th Half Marathon in seven years at the age of 60 years.

A senior neurosurgeon at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Dr. Rajesh Acharya, a avid runner and fitness enthusiast, had started running after 50 years of age and has successfully completed more than 60 half-marathon in last seven years. On Sunday, Dr Acharya ran his 60th Half Marathon of 21 kilometers on his 60th Birthday. Dr. Acharya has shared his tips for attaining physical fitness and avoiding stroke, specially during this Covid pandemic. Last year on World Heart Day (29th September 2019), to motivate the community he organized 'Delhi Fitness Run' in which about thousand runners and doctors participated. According to Dr Acharya, it has been proven that neurological complications in Covid patients can be prevented by keeping oneself fit and running. "I would suggest all individuals irrespective of age to indulge in moderate or vigorous physical activity. Running marathons help one to increase vital capacity of lungs, pumping action of heart and builds strong bones and muscles," said Dr Acharya. He pointed out that stroke occurs when blood supply to any part of the brain is reduced, brain cells beginning to die in minutes. One in four people are at risk of suffering from stroke. "We are seeing an increase in the incidence of stroke due to Covid virus," he added.



Rajesh Acharya

**Man found hanging from tree in Noida**

**Noida:** The body of a 20-year-old man was found hanging from a tree in Uttar Pradesh's Greater Noida on Sunday in a case of suspected suicide, police said. The body was found in Jarcha town and the deceased hailed from nearby Hapur district, they said. "The family members told the police that the man had a tiff with his mother after which he took the extreme step," a police spokesperson said. In a separate incident, the body of an unidentified man was found in Noida on Sunday morning, police said. The deceased appeared to be around 28-30 years old and the body was found near the roundabout of sectors 31 and 25, the spokesperson said. Efforts are on to ascertain the identity and establish the cause of his death, police said. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem, they added. — PTI



Toxic foam floats on the surface of Yamuna at Kalindi Kunj in New Delhi on Sunday. The national capital is battling with toxic water after a spike in ammonia content in the Yamuna and solid waste near its banks. — PTI

**Steady rise in home isolation cases since October 21****Delhi records 5,664 cases, 51 Covid deaths in 24 hrs**

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
With agency inputs  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 1

Delhi recorded as many as 5,664 fresh coronavirus cases on Sunday. With this, the tally of Covid-19 cases in the state has reached over 3.92 lakh, while the death toll mounted to 6,562. Fifty-one fatalities have been recorded in the last 24 hours, according to the latest bulletin issued by the Delhi health department. According to a health bulletin issued by the Delhi government, 44,623 Covid-19 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours. The case tally stands at 3,92,37 in the national capital, including 3,51,635 patients who have either been discharged, or have migrated or recovered.

The number of active cases is 34,173, of which 20,732 are in home isolation.

The number of Covid-19 patients under home isolation in Delhi has jumped by a margin of over 5,800 in the last ten days, even as crowding due to festivities, rise in pollution and other factors have led to a massive surge in daily cases lately.

The count of home quarantined cases on October 19 was 14,164 which fell marginally on October 20 to 14,046. However, since then, these cases showed an upward trend, and on October 31 the figures stood at 20,093, according to official data. In this period, the number of containment zones have also increased from 2,724 on October 21 to 3,274 on October 31.

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After showing a gradual decline since September 22, except on two days, the number of patients under home quarantine, had again risen on October 1, the count being 15,899.

However, from October 2-13 the cases of home isolation gradually dipped, except on two days when it registered a minimal rise. On October 2, the count was 15,852 which came down to 12,176 on October 13, as per the official data.

But the count of home quarantined cases rose again the next day to 12,360 and it steadily rose per day till October 19, when it stood at 14,164. It fell again the next day to 14,046, rising again to 14,227 on October 21.

**Public buses resume plying with full seating capacity**

**New Delhi, Nov. 1:** The DTC and cluster buses resumed plying with full seating capacity on Sunday with transport minister Kailash Gahlot urging travellers to wear masks and observe Covid-19 appropriate behaviour.

In a tweet, the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) said intra-state movement of buses has been permitted with full seating capacity on a trial basis, subject to condition that no passenger will travel standing and without mask.

Owing to closure of offices, the number of passengers who travelled on buses on Sunday was relatively low. However, at some crowded bus stands like ITO and Dhauha Kuan, drivers and conductors had to struggle to manage the commuters who were trying to board the buses.

"It is difficult to maintain



Passengers occupy all seats in a DTC bus in New Delhi on Sunday. — PTI

the required social distance of six feet in a bus even if no one is standing in the corridor because seats are very close.

"But there is no other option because how long can you sit at home and not go out to earn for your family," said Ram Sajivan, a daily wageer who was travelling in a bus from Anand

Vihar to Badarpur border. Mr Gahlot tweeted: "I would appeal to all passengers to wear mask and observe Covid appropriate behaviour."

The number of passengers is likely to increase on Monday when more people use the public transport buses to commute to work and other purposes. — PTI

**Delhi witnessed season's lowest temperature at 11.4°C: IMD**

**New Delhi, Nov. 1:** The national capital recorded a minimum temperature of 11.4 degrees Celsius on Sunday morning, the lowest this season so far, according to the India Meteorological Department.

Normally, the Safdarjung Observatory, which provides representative data for the city, records a minimum of 15 to 16 degrees Celsius in the first week of November. The mercury dips to 11-12 degrees Celsius by the last week of November, it said.

Kuldeep Srivastava, head of the regional forecasting centre of IMD, said the absence of cloud cover was the major reason for the low minimum temperature.

Clouds trap some of the outgoing infrared radiation and radiate it back downward, warming the ground. Another reason is calm winds, which allow formation of mist and fog, Srivastava said. — PTI

**Air quality 'very poor' in Delhi-NCR due to high farm fires: Safar**

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 1

The national capital's air quality remained "very poor" on Sunday with an "unusually high" number of farm fires negating the effect of better ventilation, according to a government forecasting agency. However, the situation is likely to get better by Monday. The city recorded an air quality index (AQI) of 366 at 8:30 am. The 24-hour average AQI was 367 on Saturday, 374 on Friday, 395 on Thursday, 297 on Wednesday, 312 on Tuesday, and 353 on Monday. An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".

Calm winds and low temperatures trap pollutants close to the ground, while favourable wind speed helps in their dispersion. The city's ventilation index – a product of mixing depth and average wind speed – was expected to be around 8,500 metre square per second on Sunday – favourable for dispersion of pollutants.

The share of stubble burning in Delhi's pollution rose to 40 per cent on Sunday as 3,216 farm fires were spotted over Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, said ministry of earth sciences' air quality monitoring agency SAFAR.

Last year, the stubble contribution to Delhi's pollution had peaked to 44 per cent on November 1, according to SAFAR data. SAFAR said air quality has not improved much despite improved ventilation due to high stubble-related intrusion and trapping of pollutants during night time due to low wintertime boundary layer height. "However, it has not deteriorated further despite favourable North-North-Western boundary level wind direction. The highly favourable conditions for fire-related intrusion in Delhi is expected to continue," it said.

— PTI

**India rejects Pak's attempt to modify status of Gilgit-Baltistan**

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 1

India on Sunday rejected Pakistan's attempt to modify the status of the Pakistan Occupied Kashmir's areas of Gilgit-Baltistan by according it provisional provincial status.

In response to media queries on remarks by Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan in Gilgit in October regarding his government's decision to accord "provisional provincial status" to the Gilgit-Baltistan, the official spokesperson of ministry of external affairs

Anurag Srivastava said: "The Government of India firmly rejects the attempt by Pakistan to bring material changes to a part of Indian territory, under its illegal and forcible occupation. I reiterate that the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including the area of so-called 'Gilgit-Baltistan', are an integral part of India by virtue of the legal, complete and irrevocable accession of Jammu and Kashmir to the Union of India in 1947. The Government of Pakistan has no locus standi on territories ille-

gally and forcibly occupied by it."

The Spokesperson added that such attempts by Pakistan, which are intended to camouflage its illegal occupation, cannot hide the grave human rights violations, exploitation and denial of freedom for over seven decades to the people residing in these Pakistan occupied territories.

"Instead of seeking to alter the status of these Indian territories, we call upon Pakistan to immediately vacate all areas under its illegal occupation," the Spokesperson said.

**Nitish will quit NDA after polls, challenge PM in 2024: Chirag**

**Patna, Nov. 1:** Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar may ditch the BJP after the assembly poll results are out, join the RJD-led Grand Alliance and make yet another attempt at posing a challenge to the NDA in the 2024 general elections, Lok Janshakti Party president Chirag Paswan claimed on Sunday.

Paswan, who has chosen to plough a lonely furrow in the ongoing assembly elections, reiterated that the LJP was and will remain loyal towards the BJP, which was staring at the spectre of yet another "paltimaar" (volte face) by the JD(U) president.

"Nitish Kumar has earned the epithet 'palturam' (turncoat) by virtue of his frequent acts of paltimaar. He came to power in Bihar after a long political battle with RJD chief Lalu Prasad. A few years later,

he snapped ties with the BJP, an old ally and ended up forging an alliance with his arch rival," he told a news channel.

Paswan, whose late father and LJP founder Ram Vilas Paswan, joined the NDA ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, recalled "criticisms heaped on (Prime Minister) Narendra Modi" by Kumar, who had been opposed to his then Gujarat counterpart.

"Fancying himself as a potential challenger to the prime minister nationally, Kumar, with Lalu Prasad by his side, spewed so much venom against Modi in the assembly polls held just five years ago. It took him just two years to dump Lalu and return to the NDA," he said with a hint of sarcasm.

"Mark my words, he has been very caustic against Lalu Prasad during his



Chirag Paswan

election campaign, but given his disposition he may once again cross over, try to form the next government with the Grand Alliance, and even try to project himself as an alternative to Modi in 2024," Paswan, who is the MP from Jamui, said.

Earlier, the LJP chief addressed a press conference where he repeated the allegations of corruption in 'saat nishchay' (seven resolves) which included, among other things, schemes for bringing piped

water to every household and fortifying alleys and ditches with concrete.

"Corruption in these schemes ought to be thoroughly probed and we must not be surprised if the complicity of the chief minister himself comes to the fore," he added.

The LJP has fielded its candidates in over 140 seats of the 243-strong assembly, mostly against those fighting on a JD(U) ticket. Paswan's party has shied away from taking on the BJP in most of the 110 seats being contested by the saffron party.

It has also made an exception in the JD(U)'s case at Hassanpur, where interestingly, it is being felt that the LJP wants to help Tej Pratap Yadav, RJD supreme Lalu Prasad's elder son, who is pitted against the sitting MLA belonging to the chief minister's party.

**Secularism as principle and practice in India is in 'danger': Tharoor**

**ASIM KAMAL**  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 1

Secularism as principle and practice in India is in "danger" and the ruling dispensation may even try to remove the word from the Constitution, senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said, but asserted that "forces of hatred" cannot alter the country's secular character.

Secularism is only a word and even if the government takes it out of the Constitution, it would still be a secular Constitution because of its basic structure, Tharoor told PTI in an interview on his new book *The Battle of Belonging*.

He also asserted that the Congress party cannot risk trying to become "BJP Lite" as it may end up making it "Congress Zero" and said his party was not offering a watered-down version of the BJP's political messaging and the spirit of Indian secularism was very much "alive and

well" in the grand old party.

Asked about his party being accused of peddling in soft Hindutva, Tharoor said he does recognise that there's a very real and tangible concern for some liberal Indians over the issue, but asserted that "we in the Congress party are very clear that we cannot allow ourselves to become a BJP-lite".

"I have long argued that any attempt to emulate 'Pepsi Lite' by 'BJP Lite' will end up with us becoming like 'Coke Zero' — that is, 'Congress Zero'," the former Union minister said.

"Congress is not BJP in any shape or form, and we should not attempt to be a lighter version of something we are not. Nor are we trying to, in my view," he said.

Underlining that the Congress makes a distinction between Hinduism and Hindutva, Tharoor said the Hinduism that "we respect is inclusive and non-judgemental",

whereas Hindutva is a political doctrine based on exclusion.

"So we are not offering a watered-down version of the BJP's political messaging: Rahul Gandhi has made it explicitly clear that, for all his avowing his personal Hinduism by going to temples, he does not support any form of Hindutva, neither soft nor hard," the MP from Thiruvananthapuram said.

Asked if the Congress needs to talk about secularism more often than it has been doing of late, Tharoor said he disagrees with the assertion that the Congress has not talked about secularism enough and the party on every opportunity has stressed its unshakable commitment to secularism.

On Maharashtra governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's recent dig at Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray over secularism, the Congress leader said he did suggest that Koshyari should be given a



Shashi Tharoor

different letterhead to express such ideas, rather than the official "Raj Bhavan notepaper".

On whether the word 'secularism' in the Constitution was in imminent danger, he said, "The word is only a word; but even if the government takes the word 'secularism' out of the Constitution, it is still a secular Constitution."

After all, freedom of worship, freedom to profess and propagate your religion, freedom of expression, minority rights, and

equality of all citizens, are all part of the basic structure of the Constitution, and they can't disappear by deleting a word, he asserted.

"The ruling dispensation may well try to do that: there is certainly a concerted effort to erode secularism and replace it with a sectarian way of being that offers no place to religious minorities in Indian society," Tharoor said.

"Secularism as principle and practice is in danger, but I do not see it falling anytime soon: India embodies tolerance and pluralism in its very essence, and I do not believe that forces of hatred can permanently overcome our fundamental secularism," he said.

However, Tharoor cautioned that people must not let their guards down and must continue to oppose such regressive ideas wherever they arise.

In the book, Tharoor makes a stinging critique of the Hindutva doctrine, asserting that it is a politi-

cal doctrine, not a religious one.

He argues in the book that the Hindutva movement is the "mirror image" of the Muslim communalism of 1947 and its triumph would mark the end of the Indian idea.

Talking about the controversy over a Tanishq advertisement which showed an inter-faith marriage and had to be withdrawn after social media backlash, Tharoor told PTI that it offered yet another illustration of how "reactionary and bigoted certain right-wing fringe elements" have become, even as the ruling dispensation was quick to distance itself from the episode.

"But let us not forget that this is a Frankenstein's monster that they have created, sustained through organised and vicious social media trolls, and it's just one more reminder of the appalling power of the full-throated communal hatred that is so often unleashed in today's India," he said.

"As I have said, if such people are so infuriated by Hindu-Muslim 'ekavam', why not boycott the world's longest-surviving symbol of Hindu-Muslim unity: India itself?" he asked.

On whether Hindutva had gained mass popularity, Tharoor said the BJP holds a commanding parliamentary majority, but it has worked overtime to suppress dissenting voices and in that sense, it is difficult to get an accurate gauge of support for Hindutva among ordinary Indians.

Asked about Congress leader P. Chidambaram's recent remarks calling for the restoration of Article 370 and its criticism by the BJP, Tharoor said he has articulated his stand clearly within Parliament.

"It's not just an issue of abrogating 370 — even (Jawahar) Nehru ji had said the provision was a temporary one. But the Constitution specifies how it is to be done," he said.

— PTI



## SHORT TAKES

## Covid cases cross 18K-mark in Noida

**Noida:** Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddh Nagar recorded 173 new Covid cases on Sunday, pushing the district's infection tally to 18,012, official data showed. The number of active cases reached 1,261 from 1,225 on Saturday, according to the data released by the state health department for a 24-hour period. On the brighter side, 137 more patients got discharged during the period and the overall number of recoveries in the district reached 16,683, sixth highest in the state, it showed. The district's death toll stood at 68 with a mortality rate of 0.37 per cent. The recovery rate of patients dropped to 92.62 per cent from 92.75 per cent the previous day, the statistics showed. Meanwhile, the number of active cases in the state came down to 23,323 from 23,768 on Saturday. — PTI

## UP: 6 held, over 1K kg cannabis seized

**Fatehpur/Lucknow:** Six men were arrested and over 1,000 kilograms of cannabis recovered from their possession in three separate incidents in Uttar Pradesh on Sunday, police said. In a statement, the UP Special Task Force said two men were arrested in Jhansi and 708 kg of the contraband worth ₹1.70 crore was recovered from them. The accused have been identified as Pushpendra Singh and Anil Pratap, both residents of Etah district of the state. A case has been registered against them under the NDPS Act at Navabad police station in Jhansi, police said. In a separate incident, the STF along with local police in Fatehpur district arrested two men and recovered nearly 290 kg dry 'ganja' from their possession. SHO Khaga Rakesh Kumar Singh said the STF and the local police intercepted a truck which was going to Haryana from Andhra Pradesh. — PTI

## Top Hizb man is killed in fire in Srinagar area

■ **Continued from Page 1** peripheries of Srinagar. Another person who had been holed up with him at a private house during the security forces' cordon-and-search operation was taken into custody, and according to officials is being intensively interrogated. The operation was initially started by the J&K police counterinsurgency Special Operations Group and the CRPF, but later when fighting broke out, a column of the Army's 53 Rashtriya Rifles also joined it. The police said the operation was started on specific input about the presence of a militant in the Rangreth area.

It said: "During the search operation, as the presence of the terrorist got ascertained, he was given opportunity to surrender. However, he fired indiscriminately at the search party, which was retaliated to, leading to an encounter."

The police claimed the slain militant commander was involved in many "terror crimes and civilian atrocities", besides instrumental in recruiting local youth into the militant fold. "Dozens of cases in connection with his involvement in terror crimes stand registered against him in different police stations," the police statement said.

Earlier, speaking to reporters near the encounter site, IGP Kumar said: "We have killed one militant and we are, on the basis of intelligence inputs, 95 per cent sure of him being Hizb-ul-Mujahideen operational chief Saifullah. It is a huge success for the police and security forces. This is not a small achievement."



Union minister of state for finance Anurag Thakur during a roadshow in support of BJP candidate from Bankipur, Nitin Navin, ahead of the second phase of Bihar Assembly elections in Patna on Sunday. — PTI

## India reports 46,963 new Covid cases, tally now 81L

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 1

With 46,963 fresh cases, India till Sunday logged in a total of 81.86 lakh cases of novel coronavirus while the overall fatalities crossed 1.22 lakh with 470 fresh deaths in the last 24 hours. Among those who died was Tamil Nadu's agriculture minister R. Doraikkannu, who had tested positive for Covid on October 13.

However, a steady decline in active cases continues and for the third consecutive day after the active cases fell down below the 6 lakh mark after nearly three months. Presently India's total active cases are 5.70 lakh and the number of recovered 74.92 lakh. In the last 24 hours, 58,684 people were discharged from medical supervision. Higher number of recoveries has aided the national Recovery Rate to further improve to 91.54 per cent.

"The active cases have dropped substantially and are only 6.97 per cent of the total positive cases of the country demonstrating a steady falling percentage of the total cases... With the consistent decline in the active cases, the cases per million in India are among lowest in the world. India's average cases per million stand at 5,930," union health ministry officials said.

## Govt to delink land of sick PSUs to speed up closure

■ **Continued from Page 1** inordinate delay in disposal of land belonging to these PSUs, as the Centre has so far managed to dispose of only 41 per cent of the total land owned by the identified 19 sick units. Despite the fact that the list of sick PSUs that had to be disposed of was notified first in 2016 and later in 2018, the Centre failed to complete the process owing to delay in disposal of land.

Of the 13,000 acres of land which belonged to the 19 PSUs, around 5,400 acres or 41 per cent could not be disposed of. Any sick unit cannot be completely disposed of till its assets and liabilities

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 1

Union home ministry is closely monitoring the Covid situation in the country particularly in cities like Delhi where cases have been rising again for the last four days. In view of winter and festive season, Covid cases are expected to show a sharp increase all over the country and both home and health ministries are working along with the states to contain the spread.

Senior home ministry officials said that a team headed by home secretary Ajay Bhalla was reviewing the situation regularly and is likely to

## MHA closely monitoring nationwide Covid spurt

**RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY**  
BHOPAL, NOV. 1

The high voltage campaigning for the November 3 by-elections to 28 assembly constituencies in Madhya Pradesh, which may decide fate of Shivraj government, ended on Sunday.

Chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, state Bharatiya Janata Party president Vishnu Dutt Sharma and senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader Jyotiraditya Scindia held road shows at different places in the

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come out with some additional guidelines to ensure common people strictly follow the Covid related health protocol.

Home secretary has been holding a series of high-level meetings to review the corona situation in the country particularly in places like

Delhi, Bihar and some other northern states where the situation has deteriorated due to a number of factors like increasing air pollution, festive season, Assembly elections and the so-called "Covid fatigue" among the people.

Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also requested people to be extremely careful during the coming festive and winter season to ensure that the spread of the deadly virus can be contained.

PM Modi had urged the public to follow safety norms like wearing make, washing hands regularly and social distancing.

## Code of conduct violation robbed Kamal Nath of his star campaigner status High voltage campaign ends for MP byelections

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election-bound constituencies in the state to drum up support for their party in the by-elections on the last day of electioneering on Sunday.

Similarly, former chief minister Kamal Nath staged road shows and addressed election meetings at different places in the state before winding up his campaigning for Congress in the by-polls.

Violation of the model code of conduct has robbed Mr Nath of his star campaigner status.

The assembly by-elections may decide the fate of the Shivraj government since the ruling

■ **THE ASSEMBLY** by-elections may decide the fate of the Shivraj government since the ruling BJP needed 9 more seats to gain a simple majority in the 230-member state assembly

Bharatiya Janata Party needed 9 more seats to gain a simple majority in the 230-member state assembly.

Bharatiya Janata Party currently has strength of 107 in the state assembly whose effective strength has reduced to 202 following resignation of 25 Congress MLAs and demise of 3 sitting legis-

■ **We have kept our doors open to induct all:** Ghosh

## Adhikari invited to join BJP in Bengal

**RAJIB CHOWDHURI**  
KOLKATA, NOV. 1

After inducting Mukul Roy, Sovan Chatterjee, and many other key Trinamul Congress leaders in recent years, BJP has kept its door ajar now for another heavyweight of chief minister Mamata Banerjee's party and Cabinet, Suwendu Adhikari, for his entry into its fold ahead of the Assembly election next year in West Bengal.

Mr Adhikari is the minister of three important portfolios—transport, environment and water resources investigation, and development of the state government—at present.

Known to be the face of Nandigram movement during the Left rule against forcible land acquisition, which helped Ms Banerjee to come to power in 2011, he was a two-time TMC MP of Tamluk in East Midnapore earlier and was seen as the CM's trusted lieutenant in the



Suwendu Adhikari

western belt of the state once.

BJP's plan about Mr Adhikari comes in wake of his growing distance with the Trinamul supremo and senior party leaders and programmes in the past few months over his rebellion which came to light on more than one occasion.

The state minister was seen attending events held by a local forum, floated by his followers, neither under the Trinamul banner nor with Ms Banerjee's symbolic photo.

The relations between Mr Adhikari and TMC has soured so much that Trinamul minister Firhad Hakim, during a visit to Mr Adhikari's home turf,

sarcastically asked him to stay put better at state BJP headquarters in Kolkata.

On Mr Hakim's jibe, state BJP president Dilip Ghosh, on Sunday, said: "That means they will send him (Mr Adhikari) to BJP! We have also kept our doors open and wide to induct all into our party. If they send him and if any politician wants to continue in the field of politics, BJP will give him the opportunity."

When asked about talks, if any, with Mr Adhikari for his induction to BJP, the Midnapore MP added, "I did not have any discussion." Sources, however, indicated of constant communication between Mr Adhikari and BJP in recent times.

Mr Adhikari, who is the son of TMC MP (Kanthi) Sisir Adhikari and elder brother of TMC MP (Tamluk) Dibyendu Adhikari, is also one of the accused TMC leaders in the Narada sting operation case which allegedly exposed cash for favour.

## Man's body found hanging from tree

**Kalyani, Nov. 1:** The body of a 34-year-old man was found hanging from a tree near his house in West Bengal's Nadia district on Sunday, police said.

The BJP claimed that Bijoy Sil, a resident of Gayeshpur, was their member and killed by goons owing allegiance to the Trinamool Congress, a charge dismissed by the state's ruling party.

"He had left the TMC before last year's LS elections. He was murdered for switching over to the BJP.

His role in increasing the BJP's influence in his ward in Gayeshpur Municipality was the reason for the killing," said Bijoy's nephew Bappa Sil, who is the vice-president of Gayeshpur town BJP Yuva Morcha.

Gayeshpur Municipality chief and TMC leader Maran Kumar Dey refuted the allegation, saying Bijoy died by suicide.

A senior police officer said that the body of Bijoy, who was missing since Saturday evening, has

been sent for post-mortem. The body has a ligature mark, he said.

The BJP has given call for a 12-hour shutdown in Kalyani sub-division on Monday over the death.

"Bijoy Sil, member of BJP has been cruelly murdered. The pattern remains the same. This time it is in Gayeshpur constituency. Nadia Kalyani. The law and order of West Bengal has totally gone awry," said Mukul Roy, the BJP's national vice-president. — PTI

## MP: Scindia has a slip of tongue, seeks votes for Congress

**RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY**  
BHOPAL, NOV. 1

Senior BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia created a flutter when he, in a slip of tongue, sought vote for Congress while campaigning for his party in Dabra in Gwalior district in Madhya Pradesh late on Saturday evening.

A video in which Mr Scindia was seen appealing to the people to vote for 'Hand', the symbol of Congress while addressing an election meeting in Dabra, has gone viral.

Maintaining flow of his speech, Mr Scindia suddenly called upon people to press the button on 'Hand' while casting their votes on November 3, when by-elections to 28 Assembly constituencies in Madhya Pradesh were scheduled. However, after realising his mistake he promptly corrected it saying that they should dump Congress and press the button on 'Lotus'.

His faux pas had evoked laughter in the gathering, which included BJP candidate for Dabra constituency Imarti Devi.

"We assure Mr Scindia that people will vote for Congress in by-elections", Congress spokesman here Narendra Saluja said.



National Cadet Corps students appear for the B certificate examination at a school in Prayagraj on Sunday. — PTI

## Modi targets Tejashwi, Rahul as 'double yuvraj'

■ **Continued from Page 1** Yadav and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, referring to them as "double yuvraj", and saying that they are fighting against the "double engine government" in Bihar (BJP and JD-U) to save their thrones.

"The double engine government is working for the development of Bihar but the double yuvraj are fighting the election only to save their thrones", Mr Modi said.

Cautioning people to vote against the Opposition coalition in Bihar, he said that "there used to be double yuvraj during the UP elections also, but you saw

what happened to them. These two are going to meet the same fate and you should be careful as one of the yuvraj has now joined hands with the yuvraj of jungle raj in Bihar".

During his public meetings, he also reminded people of the "jungle raj" during the 1990s when the RJD was in power and said that several development projects were stuck for many years due to the policies of the previous government in Bihar.

Continuing his attack on the RJD, Mr Modi said that "earlier mothers used to get worried that their children would get kidnapped

for ransom. I ask you whether you want the state to return in the same era".

While making an indirect reference to the RJD and the Congress, he said that "out of frustration they are saying bad things about me. I don't care what they have been saying against me, but I want to tell them not to show anger against the people of Bihar".

The PM also launched a veiled attack on the Congress over its remarks on the Pulwama attack. He said that the Pakistanis had recently accepted their involvement in the attack, which exposed those who doubted the valour of the

sons of Bihar. "You have to beware of such forces that can go against the national interest for their political gains", Mr Modi said while addressing a rally in Chapra.

Invoking "Chhath Puja" in his public meetings to seek votes from the people of Bihar, especially women, he said: "Mothers should prepare for Chhath Puja without any worry because their son is there in Delhi. I assure you that we will take care of all your needs until Chhath Puja."

He said that the Opposition only remembers the poor and needy

during the elections but after the polls are over they turn their focus back on the welfare of their own families. He also referred to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel during his speech and alleged that Congress leaders had failed to remember him on his birth anniversary on October 31.

The first phase of elections was held in Bihar on October 28. In the second phase, voting for 94 seats will be held on November 3. In the third phase, 78 seats will go to the polls on November 7. The results for all 243 Assembly seats will be declared on November 10.

## TEMPORARY CANCELLATION OF TRAIN DUE TO NON-INTERLOCKING WORK

In order to upgrade the infrastructure, Railways will undertake the Non-Interlocking work in connection with doubling work between Turekela Road-Harishankar Road-Lakshna under Titlagarh-Raipur section Doubling project in Sambalpur Division. To execute this work suitable traffic blocks of different durations from 02.11.2020 to 08.11.2020 will be taken. During this Period following train will temporarily be affected as under :-

CANCELLATION OF TRAIN		
Train No.	Train Name	Date of Cancellation (from originating station)
02888	H. Nizamuddin - Visakhapatnam Special Express	from 02.11.2020 to 07.11.2020
02887	Visakhapatnam - H. Nizamuddin Special Express	from 03.11.2020 to 08.11.2020

Note: For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in)

Security Helpline No. 182 and Integrated Helpline No. 139

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## SHORT TAKES

## MISSION TO FIX DIVERSITY GAP FOR WOMEN

**London, Nov. 1:** A British-Indian financial expert, recently honoured in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for her work in the field of inclusion and diversity, says she is on a mission to fix the diversity gap within the financial services sector, especially for women.

Dr Bijna Kotak Dasani, an Executive Director at global investment bank Morgan Stanley, was awarded an MBE by Queen Elizabeth II for "Services to Diversity and Inclusion in Financial Services" last month.

She now wants to make use of that platform to support women in India as she advocates the upskilling of women in the financial services workforce.

"This fix in the diversity gap needs to be a firm partnership between both men and women and the shared responsibility discussion needs to extend beyond the boardroom and into the home environment," said Dasani.

"My primary focus is on promoting women into senior roles and I will be extending mentoring capabilities to India with a focus on helping as many young women as possible thrive and progress in their career trajectories," she said.

## TURKISH FM IN AZERBAIJAN AS TENSIONS MOUNT

**Baku, Nov. 1:** Turkey's foreign minister arrived in Azerbaijan on Sunday for talks over the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh after Baku's arch-enemy Armenia requested security assistance from Russia. "We are once again in Baku with our brothers to renew our strong support for dear Azerbaijan and exchange on the latest developments in Nagorno-Karabakh," Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Twitter.

On Saturday, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan formally asked Russian President Vladimir Putin to begin consultations on security assistance, invoking the two countries' defence pact.

Pashinyan said hostilities were approaching Armenia's borders and reiterated that Turkey was backing Baku.

Moscow's defence pact with Armenia does not extend to Nagorno-Karabakh and Russia said Saturday that "necessary" help would be provided if the fighting reaches Armenian territory. At the same time, Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said "concrete formats" of assistance to Armenia would be discussed.

Armenia's request for assistance from Moscow further raised fears of Russia and Turkey getting sucked into the decades-old conflict over Karabakh.

## HK LAWMAKERS ARRESTED FOR LEGISLATURE RALLY

**Hong Kong, Nov. 1:** Seven pro-democracy Hong Kong politicians were arrested on Sunday over protests and scuffles that broke out in the legislature earlier this year, the latest prosecutions targeting Beijing's opponents in the deeply divided city.

The seven politicians — four of them sitting lawmakers — were arrested on charges of "contempt" and "interfering" with members of the city's Legislative Council in early May, police said.

The chamber passes semi-autonomous Hong Kong's laws, but only half of its seats are directly elected and a complex appointment system ensures the city's pro-Beijing establishment is all but guaranteed a handsome majority.

Scuffles and protests routinely break out, with the pro-democracy minority often resorting to filibustering, chanting and obstruction to try and halt bills they oppose. On May 8, confrontations broke out in a committee that decides which bills come up for debate.

The opposition had used months of filibustering to stop the appointment of the committee's leader. The pro-Beijing camp responded by forcibly installing one of their politicians to the committee chair.

That prompted angry scenes and protests in the chamber with lawmakers from both sides displaying placards amid boisterous heckling and physical obstruction.

Security guards and pro-Beijing lawmakers eventually dragged most of the pro-democracy politicians from the chamber and the installation of the committee chair went ahead.

## US polls: Focus turns to key states

Trump, Biden, running mates, converge on Pennsylvania; Covid failure major election issue

## US ELECTION IN NUMBERS

**THE RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE CONTINUES TO BREAK NEW GROUND AND SET RECORDS IN 2020 — ON EARLY VOTING, AD SPENDING AND MORE. THESE FIGURES BREAK DOWN THE CAMPAIGN IN NUMBERS.**

## 3 NOVEMBER

That's the date for the US presidential election, congressional races, Senate contests and several state and local races. Election Day is traditionally set for the Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

## 10 KEY STATES:

The presidential election is expected to come down to results in 10 states where residents tend to vacillate in their support between one party and the other.

Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan, Florida, Iowa and Ohio were essential for Donald Trump's victory in 2016. Polls show that Joe Biden could disrupt Republican electoral power in Georgia, Arizona, North Carolina and Texas this year.

**35+435**

Besides voting for president, millions of American voters will also be choosing members of the country's 117th Congress. There are 35 Senate seats up for grabs, as are all 435 in the House of Representatives.

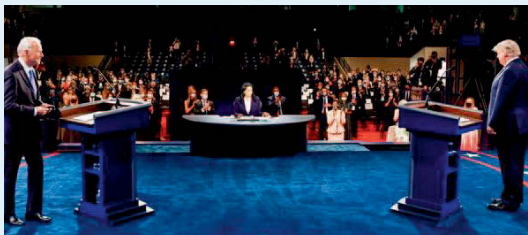
If Biden is elected president and Democrats take control of the Senate, the party will have its hands on all of the biggest levers of federal power in Washington for the first time since the early days of Barack Obama's presidency.

**2,30,000,000**

There are 230 million Americans who are eligible to vote in the presidential election, although a large portion often sit it out. But the 2020 election could see record-high turnout.

Early voting has already exceeded previous years' numbers, with many voters preferring to fill out their ballots in advance to avoid long lines on an Election Day taking place in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic. As of Friday midday nearly 84 million people had cast their ballots early.

Some 138 million Americans voted in 2016.



**IN THREE DAYS**, we can put an end to a presidency that has divided this nation. In three days, we can put an end to a presidency that has failed to protect this nation. In three days, we can put an end to a presidency that has fanned the flames of hate all across this nation.

— JOE BIDEN

**IT'S THE STATE** where the American Constitution was signed. Three days from now, this is the state that will save the American Dream. On November 3, we're going to win Pennsylvania. We're going to win four more years in that very beautiful White House.

— DONALD TRUMP

exhausting Sunday schedule with successive rallies in Michigan, Iowa, North Carolina and Georgia before an unusual 11:00 pm rally in Florida.

On Monday, both Trump and Biden, as well as their

running mates, will converge on Pennsylvania, which Trump won in 2016 by less than one percentage point.

Amid the surge of mail-in ballots to be counted, and with legal challenges

likely, Pennsylvania is expected to be a focus of prolonged uncertainty — and anxiety — for days after the election.

Democrats have dominated in early voting, but polls show many

## UNPRECEDENTED ELECTION

This is the first time a woman of colour has been nominated by a major party. It's the first time both presidential nominees are in their 70s. It is the first time a presidential election has been held in the throes of a pandemic.

The 1918 midterm election, in the midst of the Spanish flu pandemic and World War I, saw voter participation drop 20%. The pandemic has sparked an unmatched shift to early voting, by mail or otherwise. President Donald Trump has seized on concern about mail voting to repeatedly suggest that the election is beset by fraud.

There are rising fears that days or weeks might pass before the outcome is known. Until 1937, Presidents were inaugurated in March, partly because it took so long to report and count the vote. The 2000 election was not resolved until Dec. 12, when the US Supreme Court made George W. Bush the winner by ruling that Florida must stop counting votes. One more pandemic-inspired departure from the norm: While Trump has campaigned furiously, jetting from town to town, until recently Biden stayed in or near his home in Delaware.

## ROAD TO 270: BIDEN HAS OPTIONS, TRUMP WALKS NARROW PATH



Democratic presidential candidate former vice president Joe Biden and former President Barack Obama greet each other with an air elbow bump, at the conclusion of rally at Northwestern High School in Flint, Mich.

— AP

1. President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden each has a path to the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win the White House. Biden's is appreciably wider.

2. Biden is competitive in all the battleground states Trump won in 2016, and has put a handful of traditional Republican states, including Georgia and Arizona, in play.

3. Trump is putting his hopes for reelection on two of the most populous swing states (states that could vote either way) — Florida and Pennsylvania.

4. Biden can win an electoral majority by carrying the three states where Trump stunned Hillary Clinton in 2016: Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, and either Arizona and North Carolina.

5. They would give Biden 279 electoral votes, as long as he wins all the other states where Hillary won. Under this scenario, Biden would not need to win any other states Trump won in 2016.

6. The fiercest struggle among the three is in Pennsylvania. Biden has had a slight advantage in most polls, while some suggest Trump remains within striking distance.

9. The Arizona alternative supposes that he also wins Nevada, last won by a Republican in 2004.

12. There's one more big prize on the table: Texas, where Democrats have struggled.

7. If Biden loses Pennsylvania, it would require him to find 11 electoral votes elsewhere.

8. Once reliably Republican Arizona, offering exactly 11, and North Carolina, with 15, are states Trump won four years ago that are well within Biden's reach.

10. The race for North Carolina appears tighter. Barack Obama won from there in 2008 but Republicans have taken the state in 2012 and 2016.

13. Trump almost certainly cannot reach 270 electoral votes without carrying Florida, where polls show a tight race.

14. Even if Trump nets Florida and holds battlegrounds he won in the South and Southwest, he would still be short of 270.

15. The President is waging much on Pennsylvania as the best chance of moving within striking distance of that threshold. He has held seven rallies there in two weeks.

16. Trump could nose ahead in Ohio, long one of his strongest states, but would still need to cobble together a series of states he won in 2016, such as Iowa, and some he lost narrowly and continues to trail.

17. That more complicated path would include flipping Minnesota, Nevada and New Hampshire.

## Suspect arrested after 2 killed in Quebec stabbing

## Quebec City, Nov. 1:

Police in Quebec City early on Sunday arrested a man on suspicion of killing two people and injuring five others in a stabbing rampage on Halloween near the provincial legislature in Quebec City.

They say a man in his mid-20s has been arrested in connection with the Halloween night attacks and taken to a hospital. Quebec police said in a tweet their initial information indicates the motive is personal.

Police had earlier warned residents to remain indoors as they hunted for a man dressed in medieval clothing and armed with a bladed weapon who had left "multiple victims."

## Spokesman Etienne

Doyon said police were first notified of the stabbings near the National Assembly shortly before 10:30 pm on Saturday.

The five injured victims were taken to a hospital, and a spokeswoman said their lives do not appear to be in danger.

Police have asked any potential witnesses to contact them. Doyon declined to offer any information about the two people who were killed, saying only that "Our thoughts are with the family of the people who died today."

Carlos Godoy, who lives in the area, said police K-9 units had searched his backyard as they hunted for the suspect.

— AP

## UK braces for complete lockdown as Covid -19 tally crosses 1m mark

**London, Nov. 1:** The UK has crossed the grim milestone of 1 million Coronavirus cases as it prepares for a second complete lockdown in an attempt to curb the rapid spread of infections.

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson declared the latest stay-at-home rules for England, to take effect from Thursday and last until at least December 2, during a 10 Downing Street briefing on Saturday evening.

As the experts ran through the latest figures and statistics showing a surge in the numbers being infected by the deadly virus, Johnson declared that "no responsible PM can ignore the message of those figures" and must be humble in the face of nature, even as he faced a backlash from sections within his

## ISRAEL REOPENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSES AFTER SIX WEEKS

**Jerusalem, Nov. 1:** Israel reopened elementary school classes after a six-week shutdown on Sunday as the country eases restrictions following a nationwide lockdown that began in September.

First to fourth grade students will attend school four days a week, with up to 20 students in each class. Students and teachers are required to wear face masks in class.

Group prayers are also now allowed with up to 10

people indoors and 20 in open spaces. Hairdressers and beauty salons across the country have too been allowed to reopen.

Other businesses, including street shops, will remain closed until next Sunday. Israel imposed a second nationwide lockdown on Sept. 18 as the country saw one of the highest per capita infection rates. Israel's Health Ministry has recorded over 3,14,000 cases of the Coronavirus and 2,541 deaths.

— AP

own Conservative Party and the Opposition Labour Party — the former opposed to the harsh measures and the latter

accusing him of acting too late.

"In this country alas, as across much of Europe, the virus is spreading

even faster than the reasonable worst-case scenario of our scientific advisers whose models suggest that unless we act we could see deaths in this country running at several thousand a day. A peak of mortality alas far bigger than the one we saw in April," said Johnson.

The UK prime minister stressed that a complete lockdown was the only answer to prevent the overrunning of the country's state-funded National Health Service (NHS), which would be a "medical and moral disaster" beyond the raw loss of life. The new rules, which will be debated in Parliament before a vote on Wednesday, will be enforced from midnight on Thursday until the start of December.

— PTI

## FRANCE MAKES NEW ARRESTS OVER ATTACK

**Paris, Nov. 1:** French police have made two new arrests in the probe into an attack on a church in the southern city of Nice that left three dead, as authorities seek to understand the profile of the suspected killer, judicial sources said on Sunday.

Authorities are now holding a total of six people for questioning to understand if they were linked to Tunisian Brahimi Issaoui, who prosecutors say carried out the knife rampage early Thursday morning in the Notre-Dame Basilica.

It so far remains unclear if he had outside help for the attack, which French President Emmanuel Macron has described as an act of "Islamist" terror and was the latest of a string of attacks in recent weeks in France.

The latest people to be detained are aged 25 and 63 and were arrested on Saturday at the residence of an individual detained earlier in the day, a judicial source said, asking not to be named. Three others detained earlier over suspected links to Issaoui remain in custody.

Issaoui was shot by police multiple times and is currently in a serious condition in hospital. Investigators have been unable to question him and his precise motivations remain unclear.

"It is still too early to say if there were others complicit, what his motivations were in coming to France and when this idea took root in him," another source close to the inquiry who asked not to be named said Saturday.

— AFP

## BEING COUNTED Around 7 million community volunteers will drive the two-month data collection

## China starts census of world's largest population

**Shanghai, Nov. 1:** Millions of census-takers began knocking on doors across China on Sunday for a once-a-decade head count of the world's largest population that for the first time will use mobile apps to help crunch the massive numbers.

Around seven million community workers and volunteers will drive the two-month data-collection effort, visiting homes ranging from residential skyscrapers in downtown

Shanghai to remote Tibetan mountain villages.

China conducts the census every ten years to determine population growth, movement patterns and other trends, using the findings to apportion resources for education, health, transportation, labour, elderly care and other services.

The previous tally in 2010 counted 1,339,724,852 persons, an increase of 5.83 percent, or 73,899,804 people — equal to adding

more than the population of France over 10 years.

Much of the attention on this year's census — expected to take two years to fully compile — will focus on whether it indicates any population bump from China's relaxation of its former "one-child policy".

The policy was introduced in the late 1970s to slow rapid population growth amid concerns over too many mouths to feed, but was relaxed four years ago to allow two chil-

dren due to fears over China's fast-ageing society and shrinking workforce.

But the change has not yet resulted in a baby boom. The national birth rate last year was the slowest since the founding of Communist-ruled China in 1949, with many Chinese today choosing smaller families amid rising living costs.

The government estimates the 2020 census could update the population to 1.42 billion, a 5.99 percent increase.



Census workers collect information from a woman in Lianyungang, in Jiangsu province on Sunday.

— AFP



## SHORT TAKES

## TURKEY EXTENDS E. MED VESSEL MISSION AGAIN

**Istanbul, Nov. 1:** Turkey on Sunday extended once again a research ship mission in contested waters of the east Mediterranean, ignoring Greek warnings such moves undercut efforts to resolve their dispute.

The Turkish navy said in a message on the international maritime alert system NAVTEX that the Oruc Reis vessel would stay in the area until November 14.

It had previously said the ship would remain until November 4, Wednesday.

The latest deployment comes as the two NATO allies have toned down some of their bellicose rhetoric in the aftermath of a deadly earthquake that hit both countries.

The Oruc Reis, escorted by military ships, has become the symbol of Ankara's quest for natural gas in the eastern Mediterranean, where recent discoveries have triggered huge interest and competition.

Athens says Ankara is breaking international law by prospecting in Greek waters.

Turkey in August sent the ship into the disputed zone, alarming both Cyprus and Greece, which carried out military drills in response.

Tensions subsided after Turkey withdrew the ship in mid-September for what it said was maintenance work and agreed to exploratory talks with Greece.

But Ankara sent the ship back into the area on October 12, angering Greece which said there could be no talks until it is withdrawn.

## BIOFUEL POLICY WILL HIT NEXT U.S. PREZ

**New York, Nov. 1:** Both U.S. President Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger Joe Biden have tried to clinch rural votes ahead of the election by voicing support for corn-based ethanol.

But big questions remain over how either would administer the nation's biofuel law, the U.S. Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), and the stakes are high for both the nation's farming and oil refining industries.

Under the RFS, refiners are required to blend billions of gallons of ethanol and other biofuels into their fuel each year or buy credits from those who do.

Farmers support the regulation because it has created a huge market for corn, but the oil industry opposes it because it represents increased regulatory compliance costs for refiners, and competition for fossil fuels.

After the coronavirus outbreak, US fuel demand tanked and since has struggled to recover, leading the refining industry and its political backers to ask that the RFS requirements for 2020 be relaxed.

If granted, that would mean that refiners could be allowed to hand in credits that account for less than the total 2020 bio-fuel volume mandate when they come due next spring.

## NORWAY: HARD TO FIND RIGHT GREEN ENERGY PROJECTS

**Oslo, Nov. 1:** Norway's \$1.1 trillion sovereign wealth fund, the world's largest, is having trouble finding suitable unlisted renewable-energy projects to invest in due to the paucity of projects and strong competition for stakes in them, its new CEO said.

Such investments are new for the fund which, until this year, was only allowed to invest in stocks, bonds and real estate.

"In our experience so far, there are many investors looking for these investments and pricing is thus not always as attractive for us," the fund's new CEO, Nicolai Tangen, told a parliamentary hearing on Friday.

"These investments are subject to the same risk and return requirements as the (fund's) other investments. In the near term, finding projects that meet these requirements may be demanding."

In March, the fund said it was looking to invest some 100 billion crowns (\$10.83 billion) between 2020 and 2022 in unlisted renewable projects such as wind parks and solar farms, looking first at North America and Europe.

That remains the strategy, Tangen said on Friday, though there were relatively few projects available.

"They are few and they are big. It is difficult to know when they are coming... There is a lot of competition for these projects," he told the hearing.

## 70-yr-old pulled out alive in Turkey as quake toll hits 60

Quake triggered a small tsunami that hit Samos and the Seferihisar district

**Izmir, Turkey, Nov. 1:** Rescue workers extricated a 70-year-old man from a collapsed building in western Turkey on Sunday, some 34 hours after a strong earthquake in the Aegean Sea struck Turkey and Greece, killing at least 60 people and injuring more than 900.

It was the latest series of remarkable rescues after the Friday afternoon earthquake, which was centered in the Aegean northeast of the Greek island of Samos. Search-and-rescue teams were working in nine toppled or damaged buildings in Izmir, Turkey's third-largest city, but appeared to be finding more bodies Sunday than survivors.

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan raised the death toll Sunday in Izmir to 58. Two teenagers were killed Friday on Samos and at least 19 others were injured.

There was some debate over the magnitude of the earthquake. The U.S. Geological Survey rated it 7.0, while the Istanbul's



Rescue teams look for victims in the rubble of a collapsed building on Sunday, in Izmir, after a powerful earthquake struck Turkey's western coast and parts of Greece. — AFP

Kandilli Institute put it at 6.9 and Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) said it measured 6.6.

Ahmet Citim, 70, was pulled out of the rubble in the middle of the night and was hospitalized. Health Minister Fahrettin Koca tweeted that Citim said: "I never lost hope."

The minister visited the survivor and said he was doing well.

The quake triggered a small tsunami that hit Samos and the Seferihisar district of Izmir, drowning one elderly woman. The tremors were felt across western Turkey, including in Istanbul as well as in the Greek capital of Athens. Hundreds of

aftershocks followed. Turkey's disaster agency said 930 people were injured in Turkey alone.

Turkish Vice President Fuat Oktay said 26 badly damaged buildings would be demolished in Izmir. "It's not the earthquake that kills but buildings," he added, repeating a common slogan.

Turkey has a mix of

older buildings and cheap or illegal construction, which can lead to serious damage and deaths when earthquakes hit. Regulations have been tightened in light of earthquakes to strengthen or demolish buildings and urban renewal is underway in Turkish cities but it is not happening fast enough.

Two destroyed apartment buildings in Izmir where much of the rescues are taking place had received reports of "decay" in 2012 and 2018, according to the municipal agency in charge of such certificates.

Turkish media including the Hurriyet newspaper said one of the buildings, which was built in 1993, was at risk of earthquake damage because of its low quality concrete and the lack of reinforcements. However, the building continued to be occupied.

Turkey's justice minister said prosecutors have begun investigating several collapsed buildings and promised legal repercussions if experts identified neglect.

— AP

## Tropical storm Eta expected to become hurricane

**Miami (US), Nov. 1:** Forecasters expect the newly-formed Tropical Storm Eta to become a hurricane by Monday, shortly after the system formed in the Caribbean and tied the record for more named storms in a single Atlantic hurricane season.

The system had maximum sustained winds of 40 mph (65 kph) early Sunday, the US National Hurricane Centre said in an advisory. It was centred 205 miles (330 kilometres) south-southeast of Kingston, Jamaica, and 500 miles (805 kilometres) east of Cabo Gracias a Dios on the Nicaragua/Honduras border.

Forecasters expect Eta to become a hurricane by Monday. The system is forecast to be near the northeastern coasts of Nicaragua and Honduras by Tuesday morning. A hurricane watch was issued for parts of both

countries. Eta was moving west at about 15 mph (24 kph).

Rainfall totals could reach 15 inches (38 centimetres) in parts of Jamaica, the Cayman Islands and the southern coast of Hispaniola by Thursday evening. Local amounts of up to 30 inches (76 centimetres) could fall in portions of Honduras and Nicaragua, forecasters said. Eta is the 28th named Atlantic storm this season, tying the 2005 record for named storms.

However, this is the first time the Greek letter Eta is being used as a storm name because in 2005, after the season ended meteorologists went back and determined there was a storm that should have gotten a name, but didn't. Hurricane season still has a month to go, ending November 30. And in 2005, Zeta formed in the end of December.

— AP

## France in court for 2nd time over air pollution

**Brussels, Nov. 1:** The European Commission will take France to the EU Court of Justice for flouting limits on air pollution for more than a decade, the EU executive said on Friday.

Air pollution contributes to more than 4,00,000 premature deaths in Europe each year, but despite EU laws requiring countries to limit pollution, most of the bloc's 27 members are set to miss targets this year to tackle dirty air.

France will face legal action for breaching EU limits on particulate matter pollution in Paris for 12 years, and in Martinique, a French island in the Caribbean, for 14 years, the Commission said.

The EU's top court already ruled in 2019 that France had breached limits on nitrogen dioxide pollution in 12 regions.

Other countries, including Germany, Italy, Hungary and Romania have also previously faced legal action from the EU Commission over their failure to respect air quality rules.

Particulate matter is

churned out in industry and vehicle emissions, as well as some agriculture. The pollutant has been regulated by legally-binding EU limits since 2005.

The Commission said data from France confirmed a "systematic failure" to comply with the rules. The French government was also warned by the country's highest administrative court in July, that it would be fined 10 million euros (\$11.8 million) every six months if it does not reduce air pollution in line with the law.

Prolonged exposure to pollutants can cause diabetes, lung disease and cancer, and early evidence suggests air pollution may be linked to higher death rates among Covid-19 patients.

Pollution levels across Europe plummeted earlier this year during lockdowns to control the COVID-19 pandemic. But any dip this year is expected to be temporary, unless countries and cities put in place lasting measures to limit pollution from traffic and factories.

— Reuters

## DUTCH SET TO MISS 2030 CLIMATE GOALS, SAYS GOVERNMENT ADVISER

**Amsterdam, Nov. 1:** The Netherlands, one of the European Union's biggest polluters, looks set to miss its own target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions this decade despite new climate initiatives, its main environmental advisory body said on Friday.

Emissions are set to drop 34% relative to their 1990 level by 2030, the advisory body PBL said, well short of the government's target of a 49% reduction by the end of

the decade.

"The rate at which emissions are reduced needs to double in the next 10 years in order to reach the goal," the researchers said.

Emissions, which were 17% below their 1990 level last year, would also fall short of European targets. The EU currently strives for a 40% reduction of emissions by 2030, and the European Commission has proposed to increase that goal to 55%.

— Reuters



A rescue worker escorts a child to a waiting vehicle during an evacuation of informal settlers living along coastal areas in Manila on Sunday, as Super Typhoon Goni moved towards the Philippine capital. — AFP

## Super typhoon weakens after slamming Philippines, 7 dead

**Manila, Nov. 1:** A powerful super typhoon slammed into the eastern Philippines with ferocious winds on Sunday, killing at least seven people and causing volcanic mudflows to bury houses before weakening as it blew toward Manila, where the capital's main airport was shut down, officials said.

Typhoon Goni hit the island province of Catanduanes at dawn with sustained winds of 225 kilometres (140 miles) per hour and gusts of 280 kph (174 mph). It was barreling west toward densely populated regions, including Manila, and rain-soaked provinces still recovering from a typhoon that hit a week ago and left at least

22 people dead. Gov. Al Francis Bichara said at least four people were killed in his hard-hit province of Albay, including a father and son who were in a rural community that was hit by mudflows and boulders swept down from Mayon Volcano by heavy rains.

Villagers fled to safety as the typhoon approached, but the two apparently stayed put, he said. "The child was found 15 kilometers (9 miles) away," Bichara told DZMM radio, adding that the child was swept away by mudflows and floodwaters. Three other villagers, including one pinned down by a tree, were killed in Albay, the Office of Civil Defense

said. Ricardo Jalad, who heads the government's disaster-response agency, said the typhoon's destructive force was capable of causing major damage.

"There are so many people who are really in vulnerable areas," he said. The Philippine weather agency reinforced those concerns, saying that within 12 hours after the typhoon blasted into shore, people would experience "catastrophic, violent winds and intense to torrential rainfall."

Residents were warned of likely landslides, massive flooding, storm surges of up to 5 meters (16 feet) and powerful winds that can blow away shanties. But as in past storms,

some refused to heed the warnings. In Quezon province, villager Diane Joco scrambled with her husband, parents, siblings and cousin out of their flimsy houses on stilts on the shore of Calauag town, but stayed close by in a neighbor's sturdier house near the coast to guard their own homes.

"We should be nearby to be able to repair any damage to our house quickly, otherwise it will fall apart and be blown away. We have no other house," Joco said by phone. She suddenly yelled as she spoke, saying that a part of the tin roof of her neighbor's house was nearly ripped off by a frightening gust.

— AP

## NEW INITIATIVE

Her growing collection includes ones from New York and the old Soviet Union

## Glasgow artist launches plastic bag museum

**Glasgow, Nov. 1:** Katrina Cobain unwraps a parcel and removes its precious contents, slowly and delicately as if she were handling an ancient scroll of papyrus.

But the items she places on the table of a makeshift studio in an old tobacco pipe factory in the east end of Glasgow are rather more mundane — plastic carrier bags.

Yet, to many, they are considered historical items, representing the consumer excesses of the 20th and 21st centuries.

For Cobain, 24, every plastic bag tells a story of the modern age and so, two years ago, she became a collector and plans to start a museum.

"The original idea start-

ed because I felt that landfill sites could be archaeological digs of the future and for our civilisation they would be filled with plastic," she said.

"They reveal so much about our lifestyle in the last 60 years in terms of consumerism and social history."

"They can document or reveal key shifts in our lifestyles, key historic events and also changes in graphic design styles." When Cobain put the word out that she intended to start a museum she was inundated with bags from around the world.

Her growing collection includes ones from New York and the old Soviet Union.

Others commemorate



British artist Katrina Cobain, 24, poses for photographs with some of her collection of plastic bags from which she intends to start The Plastic Bag Museum in Glasgow. — AFP

the supersonic passenger jet Concorde, and even the marriage of Queen Elizabeth II's eldest son and heir Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer in 1981.

"Why they were making bags commemorating the royal wedding, I don't know," said Cobain.

"It shows you the level of production of plastic bags

at that time that such events were being printed onto bags." Cobain's most prized bag is one she bought from a Woolworths store where as a child she would buy CDs.

She remembers "Woolies", which once had more than 800 stores in the United Kingdom, completely disappearing after the credit crunch in 2008 and classes it as a key moment in her life.

Cobain's plans to hold an exhibition were scuppered by the Coronavirus pandemic, prompting her to move online.

The lockdown proved an ideal time to photograph her collection, build a website and to launch plasticbagmuseum.com. A physical exhibition is still

in the pipeline.

Despite her affection for plastic bags, which are increasingly attracting charges for use, Cobain is looking forward to a time when they are consigned to history.

"They are obviously very damaging for the environment," she said.

"Photographs show how many bags there are in the oceans and how disruptive they are for other natural habitats for animals and so on."

"And they are just incredibly unsustainable to produce and use."

"So by making a plastic bag museum, it kind of helps people along to the idea that these are objects that do belong in the past."

— AFP



# THE ASIAN AGE

2 NOVEMBER 2020

## A change in Washington to be a test for New Delhi

The result of the November 3 elections in the United States is likely to bring about changes in focus, emphasis, or orientation in the conduct of America's foreign and military policies, as well as trade, technology and economic outlook toward the major countries of the world in the event that President Donald Trump falls short, of which many analysts do see a possibility, and his Democratic challenger and former vice-president Joe Biden makes it to the White House.

But in the event of America's leader receiving a fresh endorsement, in India we would do well to look for points of emphasis rather than change in direction. Trade relations between the two countries need to look better if the comprehensive global strategic partnership between the two countries is not to remain confined to India picking up American military hardware off the shelf. If India's exports of goods and services are not permitted to find a stable footing in the US market, we may just begin to look like a client state.

**Should Mr Biden prevail, and this seems the likelier possibility at this juncture, Indian diplomacy may have to tidy up. The ideological strain that he represents is quite different from that of the Indian leader and his party who appear to be near soul mates of Mr Trump on the ideological side.**

New Delhi played up this country's natural geo-strategic advantages, although Mr Trump has persisted with his predecessor Barack Obama's "pivot to Asia" approach, which has seen the shift of America's strategic and military focus to the Far East.

In the event of a Trump victory, these have to be worked on while working to strengthen India's position in relation to a possibly uncertain or dangerous situation materialising in Afghanistan. Of course, the current Republican administration has been more understanding of India in this dynamic and in relation to the Pakistan theatre more broadly than a Democratic administration might have been, looking at the historical record.

Should Mr Biden prevail, and this seems the likelier possibility at this juncture, Indian diplomacy may have to tidy up. The ideological strain that he represents is quite different from that of the Indian leader and his party who appear to be near soul mates of Mr Trump on the ideological side.

A Democratic win in America will please the Western world greatly but for India it is likely to be more bittersweet. At the civil society level, constituencies that are critical of the majoritarian steamrolling on view today will have something to be glad about. On the important matter of Iran, with which we ought to be good friends, a Biden victory can be more facilitating although the Trump administration has not been as obstructive as may have been expected.

In the end, if we are sensible, we can do business with a Republican or a Democrat in the White House provided we know how to remain united internally and where to pitch ourselves in the world.

## The first and best Bond

A man's man, that's how his co-stars remember him. As 007, no doubt, he had had many a close shave, but the death of the legendary Sean Connery at the ripe old age of 90 finally brings the curtain down on the first and best James Bond ever to have lit up the big screen. A tall and muscular bodybuilder, footballer and streetfighter, the then-working-class Connery's rugged charisma contributed to the barely controlled menace he brought to the character of the M16 spy which, along with a bit of method acting and some well-coached mannerisms, managed to make over the British secret agent's movie persona into something far more vital and immediate than what his creator Ian Fleming had written. It ended up securing a global appeal for Fleming's originally lanky and blue-eyed English hero.

The charismatic Scottish actor starred in seven Bond films, beginning with *Dr No* (1962) and returning twice for encores with *Diamonds are Forever* (1971) and *Never Say, Never Again* (1983), the title of the last being contributed by his wife, Michelle Roquebrune, who has survived him. He wore his Scottish nationalism as a tattoo just under his sleeve and rarely changed his accent. Connery was also a character artiste and won award — one Oscar, two Bafta and three Golden Globes — and acclaim for many more memorable films, *The Untouchables*, *The Name of the Rose*, *The Hunt for Red October* and *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* among them. *Murder on the Orient Express* and *The Man Who Would Be King* were but two of his best-loved films, and he was finally knighted for his services to film and drama in 2000.

Globalisation, technology and a change in sensibilities have all conspired today to strike the last nail in the coffin of the larger-than-life action hero. There is no more space for male fantasy, no new civilisations left to explore. The last bastion has been conquered. Cinema, too, has, meanwhile, evolved, from the exuberant adventures of yore, turning realist and/or experimental.

To that effect, Connery's death spells the end of an era. The world is shaken, not stirred by its demise.

### THE ASIAN AGE

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Kishwar Desai  
London Diary



## Why Covid stress affects the young; UK gets ready for a digital Diwali

Since there has been very little to cheer about during the pandemic — here is something a little uplifting. Hopefully enough to make our desi hearts beat faster: we are going to have new statues in Leicester Square, of Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol from *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* on the 25th anniversary of its release. Of course, the movie itself was a globe trotting romance, and Leicester Square was part of it. So Kajol and SRK will join Paddington Bear, Harry Potter and Mary Poppins in 'Scenes in the Square'. These statues will be lit up every evening — and will no doubt push the Indian community to troop down to the square and pose for selfies with the stars.

The Director of Destination Marketing at Heart of London Business Alliance, Mark Williams, said in a statement: "It's fantastic to be adding such titans of international cinema to our trail as Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol. This statue is a fitting tribute to the global popularity of Bollywood and the cultural bridges that cinema can help

build, and we're in no doubt it will attract fans from all around the world."

The weather is definitely turning wintry. Even on the Covid front, things are getting worse rather than better. The second attack of the infection is now here to stay. There is a deep division across the country on how to handle it. There is no nationwide circuit breaker (a short total lockdown) that many want imposed. A more complicated system like a traffic light signal has been worked out — and only some parts of the country are in lockdown, as in the North. London has no lockdown, but just a few rules such as restrictions on pubs, which have to close early and no more than six people meeting at once. Or it may be only two. It is very difficult to know what the rules are as they keep changing! Better to just stay at home and go through the albums remembering what it was like to meet people!

At this rate, we are gearing up for a digital Diwali. The restrictions on

people getting together from different households means some relatives will be left out, and this will definitely impact our relationships. Who do you invite and who do you leave out? Things may not improve by winter and it promises to be a blue Christmas... Fortunately the Scottish government has ruled that Santa Claus does an 'essential' job so he is allowed to go down chimneys and deliver Christmas presents to children. The "six or less" rule does not apply to him. The reindeers must be Covid-free of course!

School-meals have now raised a political storm. There are many children here from poor families who depend on these free meals. (Yes, even in the UK!) Marcus Rashford a young talented football player who plays for Manchester United had persuaded the government that the scheme for free lunches be continued during the holidays. He was reflecting on his hard childhood. This was done (or so we thought). He even got an honour from the Queen for his bril-

liant suggestion. Alas, the government is refusing to continue the free meals during half term. But the community has risen to the challenge. Local councils are paying up and restaurants and hotels are chipping in. McDonalds have donated a million Macs to feed these marginalised children. Britain has a big heart!

With online viewing an essential part of our survival kit, BBC has revived their very popular show, *Strictly Come Dancing*. This is where serious dancers pair up and get judged for executing some really complicated routines. The audience also votes by e-mail or phone to select the winners. The show has offered a great revival to the sagging careers of retired politicians and journalists and made their popularity soar: Ed Balls who was a Cabinet minister under the Labour government and an economist had a successful stint going through many rounds. Now Jacque Smith (Home Secretary in the Tony Blair government) is trying her luck. At

least we know that there is life after politics and it is called dance!

Mental health has become a big problem during the pandemic as people find staying at home very tough. It has specially impacted the youth who have found that their school, college and job participation has fallen apart. The British Asian Trust has launched an emergency appeal to help the sufferers of mental health problems. Rakesh Chauhan has composed a music video Neelam's Song — shown on YouTube, where through some very Indian-style dance and song the problems of mental health have been flagged. Prime Minister Boris Johnson has praised Rakesh for his 'tremendous efforts'. But we need to do more for all age groups. Covid stress will stay on for a long time — and there is no vaccine against it.

*Kishwar Desai is an award-winning author. Her latest book, The Longest Kiss: The Life and Times of Devika Rani, will be out by November.*

Subhani



## TMC realpolitik, BJP & future of 'Gorkhaland'



Shikha Mukerjee

Playing the politics of divisiveness by raising expectations that indeed a "permanent political solution" will be found on the demand for a separate "Gorkhaland", carved out of West Bengal, to fulfil aspirations for a "Bas Bhoomi", or homeland, or a heartland all Nepali-speaking Indian citizens can call their own, is a signal that the West Bengal Assembly polls, due before May 2021, will be fiercely competitive. Realpolitik is back in the chronically volatile politics of Darjeeling.

Unlike in the past, when the demand for a separate state was always initiated by Darjeeling's leaders to muster the masses and warn off ambitious challengers, this time the spark was lit by the October 7 invitation to talks to "discuss issues related to Gorkhaland" by the Union home ministry. The ambiguity was deliberate: the use of "Gorkhaland" to describe the political space of the Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Kurseong subdivisions and the Gorkha-dominated areas in Siliguri, Jalpaiguri, Naxalbari was a signal that the BJP and its government in New Delhi were preparing to use fissiparous politics to outflank Mamata Banerjee.

In retaliation, Ms Banerjee rescued absconding Gorkha Janamukti Morcha leader Bimal Gurung and his aide Roshan Giri, from oblivion and struck a deal later in October, just before Durga Puja. This ended the Gurung-led Gorkha Janamukti Morcha's 2016 alliance with the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance and signalled the champion's return to the centrestage of Darjeeling politics and a revival of its entente with the Trinamul Congress. It also ended the heft the

GJM's support gave to the BJP and helped it win the Darjeeling Assembly seat in the 2019 bypolls, and more significantly delivered the parliamentary seat to an outsider, though a Gorkha, Raju Bista from Manipur.

Mr Gurung's return is effectively his reinstallation, thanks to Ms Banerjee, as leader of the GJM in Darjeeling. It obviously destabilises, if not unseats, the leadership of Binay Tamang, who stepped in when Mr Gurung fled. It may trigger a period of ugly infighting in the GJM. It may also prove a dud card, if Mr Gurung's popularity dips as a result of his deal with Ms Banerjee's TMC as the price for his return to the heartland of Gorkha politics.

His return does other things, too. It puts a spoke in Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma's National Peoples Party's expansionist plans and his ambitions as a champion of a "Bas Bhoomi" or homeland for all Nepali-speaking Indian citizens, otherwise identified as "Gorkhas," an omnibus description that includes the multiplicity of communities who are demanding Schedule Tribe status as part of a permanent political solution. As the first Northeast party to be recognised as a national party by the Election Commission, the NPP's aspirations to lead in places other than Meghalaya could suffer a setback with Mr Gurung's resurfacing. The NPP's alliance with the BJP as part of the NDA also positions it as a proxy for the BJP. Without a base in Darjeeling, the NPP's expansionist plans would automatically serve as an alternative space for local leaders disaffected with the parties to which they currently belong. There are indications

that Mr Gurung's return will be perceived by many as an opportunistic sell-out to the West Bengal government and a move that, even if temporarily, irretrievably pushes the demand for separate statehood deeper into a pit. Whether that is the verdict of the masses, who till his re-emergence hailed him as a leader, is open to speculation.

The anticipation that there will be widespread disaffection because he has teamed up with the TMC could be, however, offset if New Delhi decides to hound him as a wanted person in a UAPA case. It could also be that a maturing electorate, having experienced the vicissitudes that unsatisfactory bargaining with the government in West Bengal and in New Delhi have produced on the Gorkhaland issue, will make choices that could be surprising. There could be a surge of support for the BJP, so that there is, theoretically, a better chance of striking a deal on a "Bas Bhoomi", or territorial space that would be a "heartland" for all Gorkhas. Or a mature electorate may be as enamoured of Mr Gurung, as the Bihar electorate seems to be of Lalu Prasad Yadav's heir Tejashwi, despite his legacy of corruption, prosecution and a long jail term.

The irreconcilable minimum in the search for a permanent political solution is a separate state, however many intermediate entities are created that stop short of conceding the ultimate goal of a movement that has gone through several stages of evolution over the past four decades. It is a

**The othering of the Bengali in West Bengal for the Gorkha cause would probably destroy all parties that facilitated it. Knowing this, the Trinamul Congress has stepped forward regardless of what its critics make of it.**

demand that chills political leaders of parties with roots in West Bengal's 22 other districts, because the cost of conceding to the demand for a separate state of Gorkhaland would be an effective division of the state and dangerously risky because partition is an idea that is intensely subjective for millions of Bengalis, who went through the pain of separation in 1947. The othering of the Bengali in West Bengal for the Gorkha cause would probably destroy all the parties that facilitated it.

Knowing this, the Trinamul Congress has stepped forward, regardless of what its critics make of it for ignoring the criminal charges against Mr Gurung. The BJP may have attacked Mr Banerjee over her ruthless realpolitik, but it too knows that its promises of a permanent political solution must stop short of "any split in Bengal", as minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy had declared at the October 7 meeting.

The present phase of politics over Gorkhaland and the return of Bimal Gurung are not about finding a permanent political solution acceptable to all sides in the issue. The politics is over the number of seats where voters who are Nepali-speaking Indian citizens in West Bengal could significantly influence outcomes. By one estimate, there are 16 seats across North Bengal in Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar and Cooch Behar districts as well as in and around Siliguri where the pockets of Nepali voters could be the difference between a win and a loss. In 2019, of the BJP's tally of 18 Lok Sabha seats, seven were from North Bengal, where Gorkha voters have a significant impact. Mr Gurung's return under the aegis of Mamata Banerjee unsettles the BJP's gains of 2019 and could give the Trinamul Congress a return that is worth the mud that the Opposition slings at it for doing so.

*Shikha Mukerjee is a senior journalist in Kolkata*

### LETTERS DOUBLE STANDARDS

After a series of attacks in France, it's now Canada's turn. Two people are dead and five are injured in Quebec after a man, armed with a long blade and dressed in medieval clothing stabbed them near the regional parliament building. Québec is a predominantly French-speaking province. The attack comes at a time when fancy dress parties and masquerades are taking place across Canada on the occasion of Halloween. Why is the Indian Prime Minister silent this time around? Is it because the Canadian government is leftist?

**Bhagwan Thadani  
Mumbai**

### LESSON FOR INDIA

COVID-19 has been wreaking havoc across the globe for over nine months now and the misery is never-ending. Europe, including London, was in a relaxed mood and now face the music. The UK PM is considering a month-long nationwide re-lockdown amid a rising number of Covid-19 cases in the country with an announcement expected any time. At the height of pandemic earlier in the year, deaths in the UK reached more than 1,000 a day. People took things lightly and the government was not able to arrest the spread. India must take note.

**M.R. Jayanthi  
Navi Mumbai**

### WELL-PLAYED GEHLOT

FOLLOWING PUNJAB'S lead, the Rajasthan government has passed three bills to negate the impact of the central farm laws. These are similar to the laws enacted earlier by the Punjab government. It is very likely that the governor will not give his assent to them. It is also very likely that state governments will approach the judiciary. One can only hope that the Supreme Court will deliver a fair verdict. Still, well-played Rajasthan government.

**D.B. Madan  
New Delhi**

₹500 for the best letter of the week goes to Sankar Paul (Oct. 27). Email: asianage.letters@gmail.com.





quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	39,614.07	-0.34
Nifty 50	11642.40	-0.24
S&P 500*	3,269.96	-1.21
Dollar (₹)	74.10	98.9
Pound Sterling (₹)	96.27	-0.20
Euro (₹)	86.94	-0.14
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	50,700.418	0.83
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	37.35	-0.30
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.881	0.023
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.859	0.022

As of Friday/Saturday

FPIs turn net buyers, invest ₹22,033 cr in Oct.

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) turned net buyers in October in Indian markets by putting in Rs 22,033 crore. In September, FPIs were net sellers at Rs 3,419 crore. As per depositories data, overseas investors invested a net Rs 19,541 crore into Indian equities and Rs 2,492 crore into debt during October 1-30. Total investment on a net basis stood at Rs 22,033 crore in October.

SpiceJet plans to expand seaplane services



Buoyed by the response to the Ahmedabad-Statue of Unity seaplane service, SpiceJet said it plans to start a similar service connecting Surat in south Gujarat with the 182-metre tall statue near Kevadiya. Other routes under consideration for the seaplane service are Port Blair to Havelock, Delhi to Haridwar, Delhi to Rishikesh and Naini lake, Udaipur, Dal lake, Leh and Kerala backwaters, Spicejet CMD Ajay Singh said.

Trading in green certificates may resume on Nov. 25

The trading of renewable energy certificates (RECs) is likely to be resumed after a gap of four months on November 25, as electricity tribunal APTEL has completed all hearings and may issue the final judgement soon on the REC pricing issue. Trading of RECs or green certificates is done on the last Wednesday of every month on the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) and the Power Exchange India (PXIL).

Settlement time for illiquid stock options extended

The Sebi has extended till December 31 the one-time settlement scheme for entities that executed reversal of trades in the stock options segment of the BSE during 2014 and 2015. The settlement scheme, introduced by the regulator in July, commenced on August 1, 2020 and was supposed to end on October 31. As per the notice issued by Sebi in July, erring entities will be liable for action.

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October shakes off Covid blues

■ Mopup hits pre-Covid level, jumps 10% YoY GST collections cross ₹1 L crore

FC BUREAU NEW DELHI/CHENNAI, NOV. 1

After over eight months, the goods and services tax (GST) collection has crossed the Rs 1-lakh crore mark in October. The last time GST collections crossed Rs 1 lakh crore was in February.

The total mop-up stood at Rs 1,05,155 crore in October against Rs 95,480 crore in September.

The revenues collected last month are 10 per cent higher than the gross GST revenues of Rs 95,379 crore gathered in October 2019, according to data released by the finance ministry on Sunday.

During the month, revenues from import of goods was 9 per cent higher and the revenues from domestic transactions, including import of services, were 11 per cent higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year.

GST collections had dropped well below the targeted level of Rs 1 lakh crore since the lock-down. After making a recovery to Rs 90,917 crore in June, collections had dipped in July and August. In the past two months, collections have once again improved, mostly due to the festive season demand and normalisation of businesses.



POWER CONSUMPTION RISES 13%

K K SHANKAR NEW DELHI, NOV. 1

India's power consumption grew 13.38 per cent to 110.94 billion units (BU) in October this year, driven by buoyancy in industrial and commercial activities. Electricity consumption was recorded at 97.84 BU in October 2019, showed the power ministry data.

Experts earlier last month had exuded confidence that the power consumption would grow by

double digits in October on the basis of the extrapolation of half-month data.

The power consumption had grown 11.45 per cent to 55.37 BU during October 1 to 15, against 49.67 BU, in the corresponding period a year ago.

A double-digit growth in power consumption in October, experts said, gives sufficient indication that commercial and industrial demand has perked up. —PTI

Of the total mop-up in October, CGST was Rs 19,193 crore, SGST Rs 25,411 crore, IGST Rs 52,540 crore, including Rs 23,375 crore collected on import of goods and Cess was Rs 8,011 crore.

A total of 80 lakh GSTR-3B returns were filed for the month of October, according to ministry data.

The central government has settled Rs 25,091 crore to CGST and Rs 19,427 crore to SGST from IGST as regular settlement.

The total revenue earned by the central government and the state governments after regular settlement in October 2020 is Rs 44,285 crore for CGST and Rs 44,839 crore for SGST.

Diesel and petrol sales bounce back

NIDHI VERMA NEW DELHI, NOV. 1

India's diesel consumption in October rose 6.6 per cent from a year earlier, the first such increase since Covid-19 restrictions were imposed in late March, preliminary data showed on Sunday, signalling a pick-up in industrial activity.

Diesel sales by the country's three state fuel retailers totalled 6.17 million tonnes in October, according to provisional data compiled by Indian Oil Corp, the country's biggest refiner and fuel retailer.

Month-on-month, sales of diesel, which account for about two-fifths of India's fuel demand, rose 27.5 per cent from September.

Rising diesel sales in the world's third-biggest oil consumer and importer should help refiners, who had to cut crude-processing runs during the coronavirus crisis.

IOC hopes to operate refineries at full capacity in a couple of months.

Petrol sales in October rose above pre-pandemic levels for a second month in a row. Petrol sales rose 4 per cent from a year earlier to about 2.4 million tonnes, about 8.6 per cent higher than September, the data showed. —Reuters

Carmakers ring in festive cheers with higher sales

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, NOV. 1

Major car makers in India, the world's fourth biggest automobile market, have rung in festive cheer, with Maruti Suzuki, India's biggest carmaker, Hyundai, the second largest, Mahindra, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, Honda Cars, and MG Motor reporting higher sales in October to cash in on the festive demand for cars.

Automakers beefed up their dealer inventories across the country last month in anticipation of festive demand. They consider factory-gate dispatches of passenger vehicles to the dealerships as sales.

But the ground reality would be known only when retail sales are made available later this month by dealers' association, Fada.

Sales at Maruti Suzuki jumped 17.6 per cent at 1,63,656 units in October. Its six-car pack of the Wagon R, Swift, Celerio, Ignis, Baleno and Dzire cumulatively added 95,067 units, up 26.6 per cent compared with last year.

Hyundai, the Korean car maker, reported a 13.2 per cent rise in sales last month at 56,605 units.

"With the advent of the festive season, Hyundai shares the spirit of happiness and celebration with our customers through



our super-performer brands—all new Creta, Verna, Venue, Aura, and Nios, achieving landmark sales of 56,605 units in October 2020," Tarun Garg, director (sales, marketing & service) at HMIL, said.

The October sales have a positive tone for overall business environment, he pointed out.

Similarly sales at Mahindra and Mahindra also increased 1 per cent at 18,622 units, up from 18,460 units it sold last year.

"For Mahindra, the festive season has started on a positive note with deliveries and bookings being higher than last year," Veejay Nakra, CEO, automotive division at M&M, said.

Sales at Toyota Kirloskar Motor also grew 4.27 per cent at 12,373 units last month, up from 11,866 units it sold last year.

"October has been our best month so far since

March 2020. The festive season has proved to be bullish as we witness demand surging, month on month. This has been true of our retails too as order flow has been smooth, from the very beginning," Naveen Soni, senior vice president, sales & service at TKM, said.

Sales at Honda Cars rose 8.3 per cent at 10,836 units in October against 10,010 units in corresponding month last year.

"We have seen positive sales momentum in line with market sentiment and our October results have been as per our plan. The festive buying picked up from Navratri in mid-October and we are focusing on maximising deliveries during this period," Rajesh Goel, senior vice president and director, marketing & sales at Honda Cars India, said.

Sales at MG Motor India grew 6 per cent at 3,750 units last month. "With festive demand, we have registered 48 per cent growth vis-à-vis last month. We expect continued traction because of Diwali in November and are ramping up supplies to cater to the increasing demand. There has been a good response for MG Gloster SUV which has crossed 2,000 bookings at its initial launch price," Rakesh Sidana, director-sales at MG Motor India, said.

Hotels await loan restructuring

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 1

Despite a bank credit exposure of over Rs 48,000 crore, none of the hospitality companies have got their loan restructured yet.

According to the industry body of hoteliers, many companies had evinced interest in getting their loans restructured. But the stringent criteria laid down by the Kamath committee have made things tougher for them.

As per RBI data, tourism, hotels and restaurants have a total bank credit exposure of Rs 48,378 crore as of September-end.

"The eligibility conditions suggested by the K. V. Kamath Committee are found to be more stringent than what the banks used to have earlier, thus, making the entire restructuring process a futile exercise. Further, companies are considered as defaulters. We are just victims of the pandemic and lockdown," said Pradeep Shetty, honorary secretary of the Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Associations of India.



The Kamath committee has set sector-specific benchmarks on five parameters like total outside liabilities/ adjusted tangible net worth, total debt/Ebitda, current ratio, debt service coverage ratio and average debt service coverage ratio.

The total debt/ Ebitda has been prescribed to be less than or equal to 5. According to the FHRAI, during the pre-covid period, the ratio was more than 6. In order to meet the said parameter, hotels need to achieve higher financial metrics than the pre-covid by 2022, which is not possible and practically defeats the whole purpose of providing the said relief.

Further, total outside liabilities/adjusted tangible net worth should be less than or equal to 4. The capital investment (land/building/plant and

machinery) in hotels are reflected at their historical cost in the accounting books whereas the intrinsic market value of such assets is almost 2-3 times of the historical book value of that asset. Many hotel companies are unable to meet this criterion.

The committee also prescribed the current ratio to be greater than or equal to 1. In the hospitality industry, this ratio generally is in the average range of 0.75.

According to the association, banks are not keen on restructuring the loan amount of the hospitality sector, as they have to make a provision of 10 per cent. Moreover, the industry is finding it difficult to mobilise working capital loans since the financial institutions have marked the industry in the negative list.

NBFCs seek extension of ₹3L crore MSME scheme

FC BANKING BUREAU MUMBAI, NOV. 1

The Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC), a representative body of non-banking finance companies, has written to the government requesting to extend the operation of the Rs 3-lakh crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) by another two months, that is to allow guarantee cover on eligible loans sanctioned till December 31, 2020, besides also requesting that the time to complete disbursement of such loans be till March 31, 2021.

"The scheme is officially closing today in terms of loan sanctions. We understand from our members that estimated 4 lakh to 5 lakh customers are still being contacted by them and educated on the benefits of the scheme, and the process of getting the necessary documentation done may take some more time. You may recall that categories of borrowers such as individuals and societies were included in the scheme a few weeks later and hence the time



available to cover all eligible customers was short," said FIDC in a letter on Saturday.

"In the best interest of these small and marginal borrowers, we request the government of India to kindly extend the operation of the ECLGS scheme by another two months i.e., allow guarantee cover on eligible loans sanctioned till December 31, 2020 and also request that the time to complete disbursement of such loans till March 31, 2021. Of course, the guarantees provided under the scheme would be subject to the limit of Rs 3,00,000 crore as announced earlier," said FIDC.

Under the Rs 3 lakh crore scheme, banks have sanctioned Rs 1.88 lakh crore, out of which Rs 1.36 lakh crore were disbursed to Rs

27 lakh business units till October 5. The sanctioned amount is only 63 per cent of the targeted Rs 3 lakh crore for stressed MSMEs, while disbursements were at 45.38 per cent of the total amount.

Credit growth of scheduled commercial banks continues to remain slow despite availability of liquidity in the banking system and has been mainly supported by disbursements in ECLGS from June to September 2020.

The overall bank credit growth in September also continued to decline and was the lowest in the last three years. The retail segment registered a growth of 9.2 per cent in September 2020 on year-on-year basis and accounted for 28.2 per cent share of the total credit during the period as compared to 27.3 per cent during the period one year ago. As of September 2020, services segment outstanding credit grew by 9.1 per cent followed by agriculture & allied segment (growth of 5.9 per cent). Industrial segment registered a nil growth during the same period.

Elections, earnings, Covid to keep stocks volatile

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, NOV. 1

The stock market is poised for more volatility ahead, as the US elections outcome after the November 3 voting will be in focus globally. The second wave of Covid-19 infections has intensified in many countries, forcing lockdown till December in several European nations like Germany, France, Belgium, Czech Republic, Ireland and the UK; in the US too fresh cases have risen to above 1 lakh daily.

"Nearly eight months after the WHO first declared Covid-19 a global pandemic, the virus continues to blaze across the world. The current resurgence of Covid-19 in countries like France, which were thought to have successfully curbed the outbreak, highlights the fact that the global economy is still far from being stable," law firm Nishith Desai Associates observed.

Reliance Industries and ICICI Bank earnings and Bihar assembly elections are also going to impact market movement. The Bihar results will be announced next week. Both US and Bihar elections are unpredictable so far.

Considering index heavyweight Reliance Industries' not so good second quarter performance in oil & gas as well as retail businesses, the stock may prove a drag on the benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty-50. However, stellar second quarter result by another heavy weight ICICI Bank will neutralise the impact to some extent.

The market will remain under pressure as political developments related to the US election will act as an overhang amidst higher volatility. The Supreme court is expected to pass its verdict next week on the much awaited moratorium case of the Banking sector. Indian markets are awaiting major economic data points such as PMI, banking business data, Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services said.

CLIPPED | WINGS

Prolonged travel curbs could shave \$4.7 tn off global GDP

Global tourism may see 174m job loss this year

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 1

A global travel body has revised the job loss predictions for the industry, lowering it to 174 million in 2020, while India stands to lose around 13 million jobs in this sector.

If the current restrictions to international travel continue through to the end of 2020—resulting in a limited recovery—the impact will be devastating, with as many as 174 million jobs lost globally. In June, the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) had projected a total job loss of 197 million, which has now been revised down to 174 million.

This positive gain is mostly driven by the



return of domestic travel in countries such as China, which has shown a particularly strong recovery. WTTC's analysis also shows that if current travel restrictions are removed sooner, globally, about 31 million jobs could be saved by the end of 2020.

Prolonged travel restrictions could also eliminate \$4.7 trillion in the sector's contribution to global GDP, equating to a loss of 53 per cent compared to 2019.

"Our latest data reveals the gravity of the long-term negative impact facing the global Travel and

Tourism sector, if we don't work together to resume international travel immediately. The sector's recovery will be delayed even further, with more jobs lost, unless quarantines are replaced with rapid, cost-effective testing at airports on departure, and air corridors. The longer we wait, the more the ailing travel & tourism sector faces total collapse," said Gloria Guevara, president and CEO, WTTC.

A few weeks back, WTTC had come out with a plan to recover 100 million jobs and save the already crippled travel and tourism sector. This included, among other measures, eliminating quarantines and other travel barriers through the implementa-

tion of an international testing regime, combined with rigorous health and safety protocols, to enable the world to adapt to living with the Covid-19 virus while minimising the risk of it spreading further. WTCC, in its earlier analysis, had projected a job loss of 33 per cent or 59.7 million in the Asia-Pacific.

According to the Global Tourism Council, India stands to lose around 13 million jobs in the travel and tourism sector. "As many as 48 million people are employed in the travel and tourism sector. We expect at least 26 to 28 per cent of them to have turned jobless due to the pandemic," said Iqbal Mulla, chief consul, Global Tourism Council.



## SHORT TAKES

## Harris, Pucovski share record stand

**Adelaide:** Test batsman Marcus Harris and rising star Will Pucovski have combined to record the biggest batting partnership in the history of Australia's Sheffield Shield domestic first class competition. The pair put on 486 in an opening stand for Victoria against South Australia, breaking the 30-year-old record set by brothers Steve and Mark Waugh. The partnership finally ended when Harris was out on Sunday for 239. The Waugh twins had owned the record since 1990 when they put on 464 for New South Wales against Western Australia. Harris and Pucovski's partnership now becomes the largest since the Sheffield Shield began in 1892. — *AP*

## Dar 1st to umpire most ODIs on-field

**Rawalpindi:** Aleem Dar on Sunday broke the record for most ODIs as an on-field umpire when he stood for his 210th match in the series' second match between Pakistan and Zimbabwe here. The 52-year-old from Pakistan surpassed South African Rudi Koertzen's record of officiating in most ODIs. Dar also holds the record of umpiring in most Test matches. He achieved the feat when he officiated in his 132nd match last year — Australia vs New Zealand in Perth in December — to go past Jamaican Steve Bucknor's mark. The record for officiating in the most international matches — 387 — is also in the name of Dar. He has also umpired in 45 T20 internationals, one behind his countryman Ahsan Raza. — *PTI*

## Iftikhar, Babar star in Pak series win

**Rawalpindi, Pakistan:** Spinner Iftikhar Ahmed grabbed a maiden five-wicket haul while Babar Azam notched a half-century as Pakistan thumped Zimbabwe by six wickets to win the second one-day international in Rawalpindi on Sunday. Ahmed spun a web around Zimbabwe's batsmen with figures of 5-40 to wreck them for a paltry 206 before Azam knocked an attractive 74-ball 77 not out to chase down the target in 35.2 overs. Zimbabwe needed early wickets, but a solid opening stand of 68 between Imam-ul-Haq (49) and Abid Ali (22) ensured Pakistan were set up nicely. The win gives Pakistan an unsailable 2-0 lead after they won the first game by 26 runs on Friday. — *AFP*

## Barcelona held by 10-man Alaves

**Madrid:** Barcelona made it four La Liga games without a win on Saturday after failing to beat 10-man Alaves, a 1-1 draw leaving Ronald Koeman's side sitting 12th in the table. Luis Rioja put Alaves in front at Mendizorrotza after an error from Barca goalkeeper Neto, with Antoine Griezmann equalising in the second half, a minute after Jota Peleteiro was sent off. But with almost half an hour left and an extra man, Barcelona were still unable to find a winner, instead settling for a draw to go with recent defeats by Getafe and Real Madrid, and another draw against Sevilla. — *AFP*

## Live on TV

## CRICKET

**IPL:** Delhi Capitals vs Royal Challengers Bangalore from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

## TENNIS

**ATP Paris Masters:** Day 1 action from 3.30 pm on Sony Six

## FOOTBALL

**English Premier League:** Fulham vs West Brom Albion from 11 pm; Leeds United vs Leicester City from 1.30 am (Tuesday) on Star Sports Select 2

**Italian League:** Verona vs Benevento from 1.15 am (Tuesday) on Sony Ten 2

## WWE

**RAW:** Bouts from 6.30 am (Tuesday) on Sony Ten 1

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## Dhoni &amp; Co end on high

CSK finish season with 9-wicket win, KXIP too knocked out

**Abu Dhabi, Nov. 1:** Chennai Super Kings crushed Kings XI Punjab by nine wickets to end their worst-ever IPL season here on Sunday on a positive note, with Ruturaj Gaikwad's third successive half-century providing hope for a bright future.

The result also cut short KXIP's campaign in the 13th season of the lucrative event.

KXIP needed a win in their final league game to remain in contention for the play-offs besides depending on other results. But CSK had other ideas. Bringing his big-hitting prowess to the fore, Deepak Hooda lifted a floundering KXIP to 153 for six with a counterattacking 30-ball 62 after being invited to bat.

In reply, the returning Faf du Plessis (48) provided CSK the impetus at the top with young Gaikwad playing second fiddle.

The seasoned South African hit four boundaries and two sixes in a first-wicket stand of 82 with Gaikwad in just under 10 overs.

As he looked to put the match beyond KXIP's grasp, du Plessis got out after going for a premeditated scoop off Chris Jordan, who, smartly took the pace off the ball.

The needless shot, notwithstanding, CSK never looked in trouble with the duo of Gaikwad and Ambati Rayudu taking them home with seven balls to spare.

Gaikwad remained not

## SCORECARD

**Kings XI Punjab:** K.L. Rahul b Lungi Ngidi 29, M. Agarwal b Lungi Ngidi 26, C. Gayle lbw Tahir 12, N. Pooran c Dhoni b Thakur 2, M. Singh b Jadeja 14, D. Hooda (not out) 62, J. Neesham c Ruturaj Gaikwad b Lungi Ngidi 23, C Jordan batting 4. Extras (b-1, w-1) 2. **Total (for 6 wkts, in 20 overs) 153.** **FoW:** 1-48, 2-62, 3-68, 4-72, 5-108, 6-113

**Bowling:** Chahar 3-0-30-0, Curran 2-0-15-0, Thakur 4-0-27-1, Ngidi 4-0-39-3, Tahir 4-0-24-1, Jadeja 3-0-17-1.

**Chennai Super Kings:** Ruturaj Gaikwad (not out) 62, Faf du Plessis c Rahul b Jordan 48, Ambati Rayudu (not out) 30. Extras (lb-7, w-7) 14. **Total (for 1 wkt, in 18.5 overs) 154.** **FoW:** 1-82

**Bowling:** Jimmy Neesham 3-0-26-0, Mohammed Shami 4-0-29-0, Chris Jordan 3-0-31-1, Ravi Bishnoi 4-0-39-0, Murgan Ashwin 4-0-17-0, Chris Gayle 0.5-0-5-0.

out on 62 off 49 balls after striking six boundaries and a six, while Rayudu made a run-a-ball 30.

Earlier, Hooda smashed four sixes and three fours during his entertaining stay in the middle.

Thanks to Hooda, KXIP managed 40 runs in the last three overs after CSK, opting to field, choked their middle-order for runs.

— *PTI*



Ruturaj Gaikwad of Chennai Super Kings raises his bat after scoring a fifty against Kings XI Punjab in an Indian Premier League match at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Sunday. — *BCCI*

## RCB, DC aim to arrest slide

**Abu Dhabi, Nov. 1:** Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bangalore are both expected to go all out against each other on Monday to arrest their rapid slide in the IPL and, more importantly, secure a top-two finish in the points table.

DC and RCB go into the virtual quarterfinal, having lost four and three games on the trot respectively, showing that things can change rather quickly in the highly-competitive IPL.

At stake is a top-two finish which provides a couple of attempts to make it to the final. The loser of Monday's game could still end up making the play-offs but it will be then at the mercy of other teams.

DC, who were bossing most teams in the first half of the tournament, has had a dramatic fall from grace with their last win coming two weeks ago. Their batsmen have come a cropper since then and the bowling doesn't look as potent as it was in the first half.



Shikhar Dhawan

Problems started with DC unable to find a stable combination at the openers' slot. Both Prithvi Shaw and Ajikya Rahane have been paired up with Shikhar Dhawan but either of them has not provided the much needed consistency.

In fact, Dhawan, who was flying high with back-to-back hundreds,

has managed 0, 0, 6 in the last three games.

RCB too are smarting from a string of losses, most recently against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Saturday. The three losses on the trot has reignited the debate on the team's dependency on its star players — Virat Kohli and AB de Villiers.

— *PTI*

## NUMBERS GAME

## HEAD TO HEAD

## OVERALL:

- Matches: 24
- Bangalore: 13
- Delhi: 9
- Tied: 1
- No Result: 1 (Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Delhi Capitals in Super Over after match ended in a tie)

## MEETING IN 2019

- DC beat RCB by 4 wickets in Bangalore.
- DC beat RCB by 16 runs in Delhi.

## MEETING IN 2020

- Delhi Capitals beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 59 runs in Dubai.

## FOR THE RECORD

- Yuzvendra Chahal with 20 wickets in 13 innings of as many matches, is the highest wicket taker for RCB in this IPL
- Shikhar Dawan with 471 runs in 13 innings of as many matches is the second highest run-getter in this IPL. He received two successive ducks in last two matches.

— *S. PERVEZ KAISER*

## IPL PLAY-OFF IS A TOURNAMENT IN ITSELF FOR ROHIT

**Abu Dhabi, Nov. 1:** His first target accomplished, defending champions Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma has not set his sights on the IPL play-offs, which he considers as a "small little tournament".

MI (18 points from 13 games) has ensured a top-two finish in the IPL league table with a clinical nine-wicket win over Delhi Capitals on Saturday and will take on Sunrisers Hyderabad in their final game on Tuesday in Sharjah.

"Now that we know we have qualified, it's a good achievement. All the hard work that we did before we came here and also when we came here, it all paid off.

"So, one hurdle which is being crossed, another small little tournament to play for us and before that we still got one more game against SRH," Rohit said in a video posted on MI's official Twitter page.

— *PTI*

## MSD confirms he will be back in '21

**Abu Dhabi, Nov. 1:** Mahendra Singh Dhoni will be back in the IPL next year. The World Cup-winning captain confirmed it himself at the toss of Chennai Super Kings' final game of the season here on Sunday.

Dhoni made the customary toss tradition a memorable one for his countless fans by confirming that he will be back in the yellow jersey next season.

"Definitely not," said Dhoni when asked by former New Zealand pacer Danny Morrison if the game against Kings XI Punjab was his last for CSK.

As expected, his terse response sent social media into a frenz.

However, the 39-year-old Dhoni was expected to play the IPL for at least two seasons after announcing his international retirement on August 15 after the T20 World Cup, to he held in Australia in October-November, was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dhoni's final India appearance happened to be the 2019 World Cup semifinal against New Zealand.

CSK have had their worst season ever this year and are set to finish at the bottom of the table. It is the first time that the three-



Mahendra Singh Dhoni

time champions have not made the play-offs, showing their remarkable consistency over the years.

The IPL next year is scheduled to be held in the usual April-May window but the dates could change due to the evolving COVID-19 situation around the world. — *PTI*

## Knights stay in play-offs mix

**Dubai, Nov. 1:** Kolkata Knight Riders comprehensively beat Rajasthan Royals by 60 runs in an IPL encounter on Sunday.

Batting first, KKR scored 191 for 7, riding on skipper Eoin Morgan's unbeaten 68 off 35 balls.

Morgan top-notch knock was studded with six maximums and five fours as KKR amassed 59 in last five overs.

For Royals, leg-spinner Rahul Tewatia (3/25) and Kartik Tyagi (2/36) were the most successful bowlers.

In reply, Royals only managed 131 for 9 with Pat Cummins grabbing 4 for 34 in four overs.

KKR finished with 14 points from 14 games with a net run-rate of -0.214 and will now wait for the results of the last two fixtures between DC and RCB followed MI against SRH to know if they will make it

to the last four.

Earlier, Shubman Gill (36) and Rahul Tripathi (39) shared a 72-run stand for the second wicket, while Andre Russell had a 11-ball-25 to his credit.

Sent in to bat, Nitish Rana fell for a first-ball duck after he edged a Jofra Archer delivery and was caught behind. But the opener went for a review only to waste it early.

Gill (36), however, looked in good touch as he blasted three boundaries off Varun Aaron and then sent spinner Shreyas Gopal soaring over the ropes twice.

Rahul Tripathi (39), who looked uncomfortable against pace early on, also got into the act, smashing Gopal for a couple of fours as KKR scored 17 runs in the fourth over. Ben Stokes then went for 11 runs with Tripathi pulling him for a six in the last ball. — *PTI*

## SCORECARD

**Kolkata Knight Riders:** Shubman Gill c Jos Buttler b Rahul Tewatia 36, Nitish Rana c Samson b Jofra Archer 0, Rahul Tripathi c Uthappa b Shreyas Gopal 39, Sunil Narine c Stokes b Rahul Tewatia 0, Eoin Morgan (not out) 24, Dinesh Karthik c Steven Smith b Rahul Tewatia 0, Andre Russell c (sub) Miller b Kartik Tyagi 25, Pat Cummins c Samson b Kartik Tyagi 15, Kamlesh Nagarkoti (not out) 1. Extras (lb-5, w-2) 7. **Total (for 7 wkts, in 20 overs) 191.**

**FoW:** 1-1, 73-2, 74-3, 94-4, 99-5, 144-6, 184-7.

**Bowler:** Jofra Archer 4-0-19-1, Varun Aaron 2-0-22-0, Shreyas Gopal 3-0-44-1, Ben Stokes 3-0-40-0, Rahul Tewatia 4-0-25-3, Kartik Tyagi 4-0-36-2.

**Rajasthan Royals:** R. Uthappa c Nagarkoti b Cummins 6, B. Stokes c Karthik b Cummins 18, S. Smith (c) b Cummins 4, S. Samson c Karthik b Shivam Mavi 1, J. Buttler c Cummins b Varun 35, R. Parag c Karthik b Cummins 0, R. Tewatia c Karthik b Varun 31, S. Gopal (not out) 23, J. Archer c Shivam Mavi b Nagarkoti 6, Kartik Tyagi c & b Shivam Mavi 2, VR Aaron (not out) 0. Extras (lb-1, w-4) 5. **Total (for 9 wkts, in 20 overs) 131.** **FoW:** 1-19, 2-27, 3-32, 4-32, 5-37, 6-80, 7-105, 8-125, 9-129

**Bowling:** P.J. Cummins 4-0-34-4, Shivam Mavi 4-1-15-2, C. Varun 4-0-20-2, S.P. Narine 4-0-37-0, K. Nagarkoti 4-0-24-1.

## Hami bags record 7th title for Merc

**Imola (Italy), Nov. 1:** Lewis Hamilton made the most of his luck to lead team-mate Valtteri Bottas home in Sunday's Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix as Mercedes sealed a record seventh consecutive constructors' championship triumph.

The six-time champion capitalised on pole-sitter Bottas's ill fortune in picking up a debris-damaged floor to win with a near-flawless tactical drive and the fastest lap of a incident-filled race at Imola.

Hamilton recovered from a poor start, when he dropped to third, to fight back with a long first stint and the aid of a timely Virtual Safety Car (VSC) intervention to grab the lead on a memorable day for the 'silver arrows'.

Daniel Ricciardo finished

third for Renault ahead of Daniil Kvyat of Alpha Tauri and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc after Max Verstappen had crashed out of the race in his Red Bull in the closing stages.

Sergio Perez was sixth for Racing Point, Carlos Sainz finished seventh ahead of his McLaren team-mate Lando Norris and the two Alfa Romeos of Kimi Raikkonen, in his 325th Grand Prix race, and Antonio Giovinazzi.

It was Hamilton's record-increasing 93rd victory in a race that saw him complete 5000 laps as a race leader. The Mercedes one-two finish also not only secured the teams' title, but also ensured that a Mercedes driver will take the drivers' championship.

— *AFP*

## Jota caps Reds fightback as Blues win

**London, Nov. 1:** Diogo Jota capped Liverpool's dramatic fightback as the Premier League champions beat West Ham 2-1 to move three points clear at the top, while Manchester City and Chelsea both won to keep in touch with the leaders on Saturday.

Jurgen Klopp's side were rocked by Pablo Fornals' early strike at Anfield as the West Ham midfielder punished a poor header from Joe Gomez in the 10th minute.

The Reds drew level in the 42nd minute when Mohamed Salah was fouled by Arthur Masuaku and the Egyptian stepped up to convert the penalty for his eighth goal of the season.

Liverpool thought they had claimed the lead with just over 10 minutes remaining when substitute Jota turned in a loose ball.

## THE RESULTS

**Burnley** 0  
**Chelsea** 3  
(Ziyech 26, Zouma 63, Werner 70)

**Liverpool** 2  
(Salah 42-pen, Jota 85)  
**West Ham** 1  
(Fornals 10)

**Sheffield United** 0  
**Manchester City** 1  
(Walker 28)

Jota had pounced after Lukasz Fabianski saved Sadio Mane's shot but after a lengthy delay that saw referee Kevin Friend make use of the pitchside monitor, the goal was ruled out for a foul by the Senegalese winger.

In the 85th minute, Jota ran onto Xherdan Shaqiri's pass to score his fourth goal since joining



Liverpool's Diogo Jota celebrates after he scores against West Ham in their Premier League match at the Anfield Stadium in Liverpool on Saturday. — *AP*

from Wolves in September.

It was Liverpool's fourth successive victory since

influential defender Virgil van Dijk was sidelined for several months with a serious knee injury suf-

fered against Everton.

Title rivals City have yet to hit the free-scoring form of Pep Guardiola's side at their best, as for the third consecutive league game they were held to a solitary goal.

But Kyle Walker's long-range strike against his former club was good enough to earn a 1-0 win at goal-shy Sheffield United.

It was his first goal for a year in his 100th Premier League appearance for City.

A fourth win in five games in all competition edges City up to eighth, five points behind Liverpool.

Chelsea are also finding their form after a slow start to the season as Frank Lampard's men ran out 3-0 winners at Burnley to stretch their unbeaten run to nine games.

— *AFP*