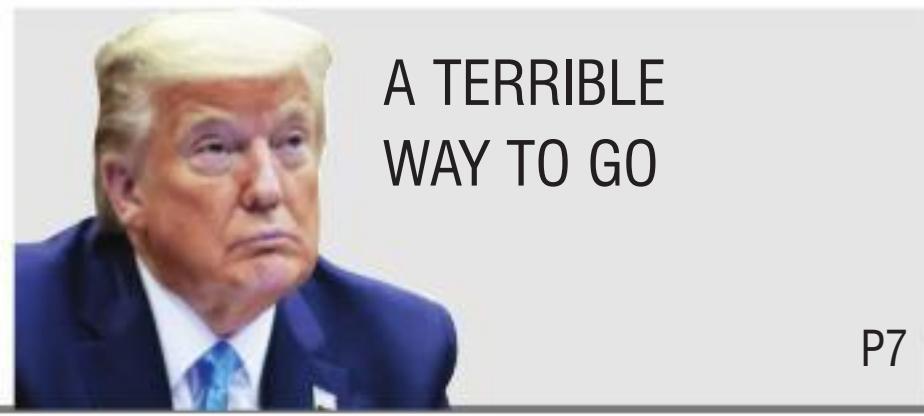


CHINESE  
SQUEEZE

P6



A TERRIBLE  
WAY TO GO

P7



PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION

SHARIF A JACKAL,  
TRYING TO CREATE  
RIFT IN ARMY: IMRAN

P11



'LET THEM GIVE  
KOHLI THE  
BUM'S RUSH'

P12

WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. Mist/shallow fog in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 30 and 11 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: NIL

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 91% Min: 39%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 30.0°C (+1) Min: 11.8°C (-2)

SUN RISES

06:39 hrs SUN SETS

MOON RISES

23:57 hrs MOON SETS

THUMBNAILS



A social awareness campaign about Covid-19, an initiative by NDMC, depicts the importance of wearing face masks. In the Capital on Saturday.

SUBRATA DUTTA

Modi to come face-to-face with Xi, Imran:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will come face-to-face with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan at the virtual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) next week. The SCO summit, to be chaired by Russian President Vladimir Putin, is scheduled for 10 November. It will also see the participation by leaders of four Central Asian countries—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

**Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha is new CIC:** Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha was appointed as the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) on Saturday, according to a Rashtrapati Bhavan statement. President Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath of office to Sinha as the Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, it said. The post of the chief of transparency watchdog was lying vacant for over two months after Bimal Jitka completed his term on 26 August.

## J&K's Gupkar alliance to fight upcoming DDC poll

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 7 NOVEMBER

The recently formed People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) on Saturday announced its decision to contest the upcoming elections for District Development Councils (DDC) that will be held in 8 phases from 28 November in Jammu and Kashmir.

The decision was taken in the meeting of the PAGD here at the residence of sitting MP and former chief minister Farooq Abdullah.

This was the first meeting of the PAGD in Jammu where elaborate security arrangements were made around the venue of the meet in view of

demonstrations by various political outfits against the organisation that is demanding restoration of Article 370.

Spokesman of the PAGD, Sajad Lone said that modalities for fielding common candidates will be worked out.

However, the list of candidates will be released by National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, who is heading the PAGD.

Besides Farooq Abdullah, those present in the meeting included former chief ministers Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah, Mohammad Youssuf Tarigami (CPI-M), Awami National Conference leader, Muzaffar Ahmad Shah and Sajad Lone (Peoples Conference).

Today's Chanakya-CNN News18 projected 180 seats for the RJD-led grand alliance, 55 for the NDA and eight for others. The majority mark is 122.

Most of the exit polls also predicted the RJD would emerge as the single largest party in the 243-member Assembly, along with diminished numbers for chief minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U).

At least 57.58 percent of voters cast their ballots in 78 seats spread in 15 districts in the third phase, higher than

polling percentage witnessed in the previous two rounds, according to Election Commission data. In the first two phases, the voting percentage was recorded at 55.69 and 55.70 respectively. The counting of votes will be done on 10 November.

Exit polls are typically based on feedback from a limited number of voters in select areas and none of them have a 100 per cent accuracy record.

Today's Chanakya-CNN News18 projected 180 seats for the RJD-led grand alliance, 55 for the NDA and eight for others. The majority mark is 122.

India Today-Axis My India poll showed the RJD-led block winning 139-161 seats, as against 69-91 for the NDA. It predicted 3-5 seats for LJP and also 3-5 for others.

The ABP-CVoter exit poll predicted NDA would get 104-128 seats and 108-131 seats for the opposition grand alliance.

The ABP-CVoter exit poll predicted Chirag Paswan-led LJP would get 1-3 seats.

A similar trend was predicted by Times Now-CVoter, which

## Delhi largest contributor to single-day Covid spike

SNS & PTI  
NEW DELHI, 7 NOVEMBER

**Delhi sees 6,953 new virus cases, 79 deaths:** Delhi Saturday recorded 6,953 new coronavirus (Covid-19) cases and 79 Covid-linked fatalities ~ worst in the last several months ~ according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

These fresh coronavirus cases were detected out of 57,433 tests. The city's Covid caseload mounted to 4,30,784 while its coronavirus toll climbed to 6,912.

SNS (SEE P2)

rashtra at 6,870 new cases on Friday, the Ministry said.

India's Covid-19 case-load mounted to 84,62,080 with 50,356 infections being reported in a day, while the number of people who have recuperated from the disease crossed 78 lakh pushing the national recovery rate to 92.41 per cent.

The coronavirus death toll climbed to 1,25,562 with 577 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 a.m. showed.

The trend of India's daily new Covid-19 recoveries

exceeding the single-day cases for the last five weeks played a pivotal role in pushing down the active caseload which is presently pegged at 5.16 lakh cases and comprises 6.11 per cent of total cases, the Ministry said.

"This trend has been observed for the last five weeks. This also played a pivotal role in pushing down the active caseload which is presently pegged at 5.16 lakh," the Ministry said.

The coronaviru

death toll

updated at 8 a.m. showed.

The trend of India's daily new Covid-19 recoveries

## FACT FILE

TOTAL CASES

**84,62,080**

ACTIVE CASES

**5,16,632**

NEW CASES

**50,356**

NEW RECOVERIES

**53,920**

TOTAL DEATHS

**1,25,562**

UNION HEALTH MINISTRY FIGURES AS OF 8.00 A.M.

SATURDAY 07 NOVEMBER 2020

## Bihar election: Exit polls project edge for RJD-led alliance

SNS & AGENCIES  
PATNA/NEW DELHI,  
7 NOVEMBER

With the completion of the third and final phase of the Assembly elections in Bihar today, several exit polls gave the RJD-led opposition alliance an edge over the ruling NDA while at least three of them predicted a clear majority for the 'Mahagathbandhan' which has projected Tejashwi Yadav as its chief ministerial face.

Most of the exit polls also predicted the RJD would emerge as the single largest party in the 243-member Assembly, along with diminished numbers for chief minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U).

At least 57.58 percent of voters cast their ballots in 78 seats spread in 15 districts in the third phase, higher than

## SEATS: 243 MAJORITY: 122

SOURCE	NDA	MGB	LJP	OTHERS
CNN News 18-Todays Chanakya	55	180	0	8
Dainik Bhaskar	120-127	71-81	12-23	19-27
India Today-Axis My India	69-91	139-161	3-5	6-10
News X-Dvresearch	110-117	108-123	4-10	8-23
Republic TV-Jan Ki Baat	91-117	118-138	5-8	3-6
Times Now- C Voter	116	120	1	6
POLL OF EXIT POLLS	99	128	6	10

The ABP-CVoter exit poll predicted NDA would get 104-128 seats and 108-131 seats for the opposition grand alliance. It projected Chirag Paswan-led LJP would get 1-3 seats. A similar trend was predicted by Times Now-CVoter, which

for others. Republic TV-Jan Ki Baat exit poll also gave a clear majority to the RJD-led alliance with 128 seats, while it projected 104 seats for the ruling NDA, seven seats for LJP and four for others.

TV9 Bharatvarsh projected NDA to win 115 seats, the grand alliance 120, and four each for LJP and others.

In terms of vote share, Today's Chanakya projected 44 per cent for the RJD-led opposition alliance and 34 per cent for the NDA. However, ABP-CVoter projected a higher vote share for NDA at 37.7 per cent followed by the grand alliance with 36.3 per cent and 26 per cent for others. India Today-Axis My India poll showed 44 per cent of respondents prefer Tejashwi Yadav as the next chief minister, while 35 per cent would like to give another chance to Nitish Kumar.

## ISRO launches earth observation satellite in 2020's 1st mission

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
SRIRAKIOTA, 7 NOVEMBER

India successfully launched its latest earth observation satellite EOS-01 and nine international customer spacecraft on board a Polar rocket from the spaceport here on Saturday, in its first mission this year amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Indian Space Research Organisation's workhorse Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C49) injected EOS-01, intended for applications in agriculture, forestry and disaster management support and other satellites one by one in orbit around 20 minutes after lift-off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), about 110 km from Chennai, at 3.12 p.m.

This is ISRO's first mission this year after the Covid-19 pandemic induced lockdown disturbed 10 missions being planned by the agency and the nine customer satellites are from the USA, Lithuania and Luxembourg.

ISRO Chairman K Sivan described the mission as a "success" and termed it as "unusual" for ISRO as a rocket launch cannot happen like "work from home" and all engineers and technicians had to travel from different centres and work together at Sriharikota for rocket launches.

"Today, I am extremely happy to declare that PSLV-C49 successfully placed earth observation satellite EOS-01 as well as nine customer satellites precisely

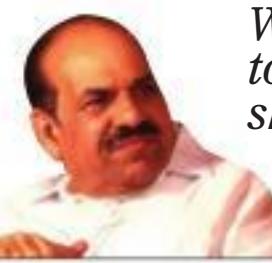


into 575 kms orbit" he said at the mission control centre. Subsequent to the successful launch, the primary satellite commenced operating its own functions including deployment of solar panels, Sivan said.

In view of the pandemic, ISRO implemented precautions for Covid-19 and scientists, mission directors, project directors, were seen with face masks and maintaining social distancing at the mission control centre. There was no gathering of media persons and the public viewing gallery too was closed.

ISRO made arrangements for live telecast of the launch on its website and social media sites. In a text book sequence, the four stage 44.5-metre tall PSLV-C49, in its 51st flight, blasted off from the first launch pad of SDSC at 3.12 p.m. at the end of the 26-hour countdown and soared into the sky.

We wish to say to other parties that they should at least give the option to decide who should lead his party, to the party. Do we suggest who should lead the Congress party?



KODIYERI BALAKRISHNAN  
KERALA CPI-M SECRETARY

# Capital reports 6,953 new corona cases, 79 deaths

Satyendar Jain says Delhi is reeling under 3rd Covid wave, hoping that cases should start declining soon

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 7 NOVEMBER

**D**elhi today recorded 6,953 new coronavirus (Covid-19) cases and 79 Covid-linked fatalities - worst in the last several months - according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

These fresh coronavirus cases were detected out of 57,433 tests, the health bulletin said, adding that a total of 15,409 RT-PCR tests and 42,024 rapid antigen tests were conducted for the purpose.

The national capital's Covid caseload mounted to 4,30,784 while its coronavirus toll climbed to 6,912.

The total active and recovered cases were 40,258 and 3,83,614 respectively now, the bulletin stated. The city's Covid recovery rate stood at 89.05 per cent.

Delhi had yesterday recorded over 7,000 new coronavirus infections for the first time, logging 7,178 new Covid cases - its highest single-day spike so far - which were detected out of 58,860 tests. It had then recorded 64 Covid fatalities.

The national capital had on 5 November reported 6,715 coronavirus infections, which were identified when 52,294 tests were conducted. This was then the third consecutive day when the number of daily Covid cases had crossed the 6,000-mark in the national capital which recorded 6,842 cases on 4 November and 6,725 cases on 3 November. It was the first time on 3 November when the number of daily Covid cases crossed the 6,000-mark in Delhi.

Amid the current festive season, increased gathering,



Two men walk past a graffiti urging people to wear masks to defeat the coronavirus pandemic. In the Capital on Saturday.

SUBRATA DUTTA

**These fresh coronavirus cases were detected out of 57,433 tests, the health bulletin said, adding that a total of 15,409 RT-PCR tests and 42,024 rapid antigen tests were conducted for the purpose.**

ings, lax public attitude, and soaring air pollution, Delhi has been witnessing a fresh surge in coronavirus cases for the past few weeks.

Earlier today, Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain said that the national capital is currently reeling under the "third

wave" of the Covid-19 infection, hoping that coronavirus cases should begin to come down in the city soon.

He told reporters that the AAP-led Delhi government has filed a special leave petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court after the high court did not allow reserving 80 per cent ICU beds for Covid patients in many private hospitals here.

Jain said, "Yesterday, we issued an order to add 1,185 beds for Covid patients in both Delhi government hospitals and many private hospitals," adding that "five hundred beds are to be augmented at Delhi government-run Covid facilities, including 110 ICU beds".

Asked about the spike in

coronavirus cases in the city, the minister said Delhi had seen "first Covid wave" around June 23, second wave around September 17 and that the current one was the third wave which should begin to come down as it has been a spell of rising cases in the last five-six days.

"Also, we had made preparations and issued orders to reserve 80 per cent ICU beds at many private hospitals, but the high court has stopped that, so we have filed an SLP in the Supreme Court," he said.

Asked about the factors behind the third wave of the coronavirus infection in Delhi, Jain said among other factors, it could be because of easing of restrictions and the "festive season", while

stressing on the importance of wearing masks.

"Many people are going to the market to shop because it is a festival season. Markets are crowded in many places...there are many reasons," Jain said.

The minister again appealed to Delhiites to treat wearing masks as a vaccine, till the real medication is developed.

On rising level of pollution and increasing cases of Covid in Delhi, he said pollution is not the cause of latter. "But both are dangerous. The biggest reason for the increase in infections is our lax behaviour. If we do not wear masks, don't follow social distancing, then it is the main reason for the surge," Jain said.

Capital's hospital beds begin to fill up fast due to surging Covid & pollution

PTI

NEW DELHI, 7 NOVEMBER

The twin factors of rising air pollution and a surge in COVID-19 cases have increased the burden on Delhi's hospitals with the number of vacant beds shrinking fast and out patient departments (OPDs) witnessing a spike in footfall, doctors said on Saturday.

Besides, the ICU beds with ventilators at most top private hospitals and major Centre-run facilities are also getting filled up with spiralling cases in the last few days.

Delhi recorded over 7,000 COVID-19 cases for the first time, taking tally to over 4.23 lakh on Friday, while the toll rose to 6,833 with 64 more deaths, authorities said.

The 7,178 fresh cases came out of the 58,860 tests conducted on Thursday, while the positivity rate stood at 12.19 per cent amid the festive season and rising air pollution in the city, according to the bulletin issued by the Delhi health department.

The previous highest single-day spike was 6,842 cases recorded on Wednesday.

The number of daily cases had crossed the 6,000-mark for three consecutive days from November 3-5.

Sixty-four new fatalities were recorded, pushing the death toll in the national capital to 6,833. On Thursday, 66 fatalities were reported from COVID-19. The air quality in the national capital has also deteriorated and greater movement of people in public places, especially crowded areas such as markets and shops, and laxity in adhering to safety norms, have led to surge in cases, experts have said.

Rana A K Singh, Medical Superintendent at RML Hospital said, there is a rise in the number of patients visiting the hospital with complaints of respiratory problems probably due to spike in pollution levels and because of change in weather.

13 pc of Delhi Covid spike due to air pollution: IMA



Swab samples being collected for Covid testing. In the Capital on Saturday.

DEEPAK

complications due to the high concentration of particulate matter (PM) 2.5 in Delhi's air, the doctors' body said.

"N-95 masks and air purifiers may not provide full time protection. An AQI of above 300 makes it difficult not only for people with respiratory problems, but healthy people as well. Hence, it is advisable that people do not go out early in the morning when pollution levels are the highest. Elderly and children are more likely to develop infections and allergies due to smog," the IMA said.

Air pollution damages the inner lining of the lungs and hence increases the severity of the Covid infection.

"Increased air pollution leads to increased inflammatory response. In the last few days, Delhi has reported more than 6000 Covid-19 cases per day. 13 per cent of the increase has been estimated to be due to pollution," the IMA reportedly stated.

In recent days, the national capital and its neighbouring areas have seen a sharp spike in their air pollution levels as well.

Delhi's air quality deteriorated to 'severe' category today as Punjab and nearby regions recorded the highest number of stubble burning incidents this season, officials said.

According to a senior Delhi Police officer, 138 licences for firecracker shops were issued this year. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has said the COVID-19 situation in Delhi is deteriorating due to rising air pollution. He has termed the sudden spike in coronavirus cases in the city as the "third wave" of the pandemic.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi today remained above 400 while its safe limit is 0-50. The WHO's ambient air pollution data shows that the levels of PM 10 and PM 2.5 in Delhi are way above the normal levels, the IMA said.

The banning of crackers and stubble burning are helpful public health measures.

"Implementation of long-term measures is important," the IMA stated.

## JOBS & CLASSIFIEDS QUEST

### ADMISSION NOTICE

**Gitarattan Institute of Advanced Studies & Training**  
Sector - 7, Rohini, Delhi  
(Recognized by NCTE & Affiliated to GGSIP University, Delhi)

**ADMISSION NOTICE**  
Applications are invited for Management Quota Seats in B.Ed. (10 seats) programme. The application forms are available free of cost at Institute's reception between 9:00am to 1:00pm from 08.11.2020 to 25.11.2020.  
For further details visit Institute's website: www.giast.org or Contact: 011-27057722/27057733.

**PRINCIPAL**

**EDUCATIONAL**

### B.ED ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

Online Application Forms will be available from the College Website: www.acrainingcollege.org / online\_admission on 09.11.2020 for 2 years B.Ed. Course (Session 2020 to 2022). The filled in Application Forms must be submitted online along with mark sheets, admit card (for age proof) and other relevant documents.

**Principal**

A.C. Training College, Jalpaiguri  
Note: For details of Online Admission Procedure please visit our website: www.acrainingcollege.org / online\_admission Contact No.: (03651) 230244, M: 9434317744.

Ref.No. VU/R/971/2020

Date: 06.11.2020

A position of Junior Research Fellow is available at the Department of Microbiology, VU, in the DST SERB sponsored project entitled "Nanoparticle mediated delivery of Acorus calamus rhizome extract: a new insight in the treatment of allergy". PI: Dr. Nandini Ghosh, Co-PI: Prof. Amiya Kumar Panda and Prof. Chandradipa Ghosh. Duration: Three years.

Essential qualification, Age and Fellowship: As per DST rules. Interested candidates

**SITUATION WANTED**

are requested for an online interview through Google meet on 18th November, 2020 at 12 noon. Interested candidates may submit their biodata in advance to Dr. Nandini Ghosh (mail ID: nandini.ghosh14@gmail.com / nandini@mail.vidyasagar.ac.in); the meeting link will be sent accordingly.

Registrar

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**SILIGURI**

13A

# 115 students test Covid positive in Himachal

It has led to a section of people questioning the HP govt's move to reopen schools

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

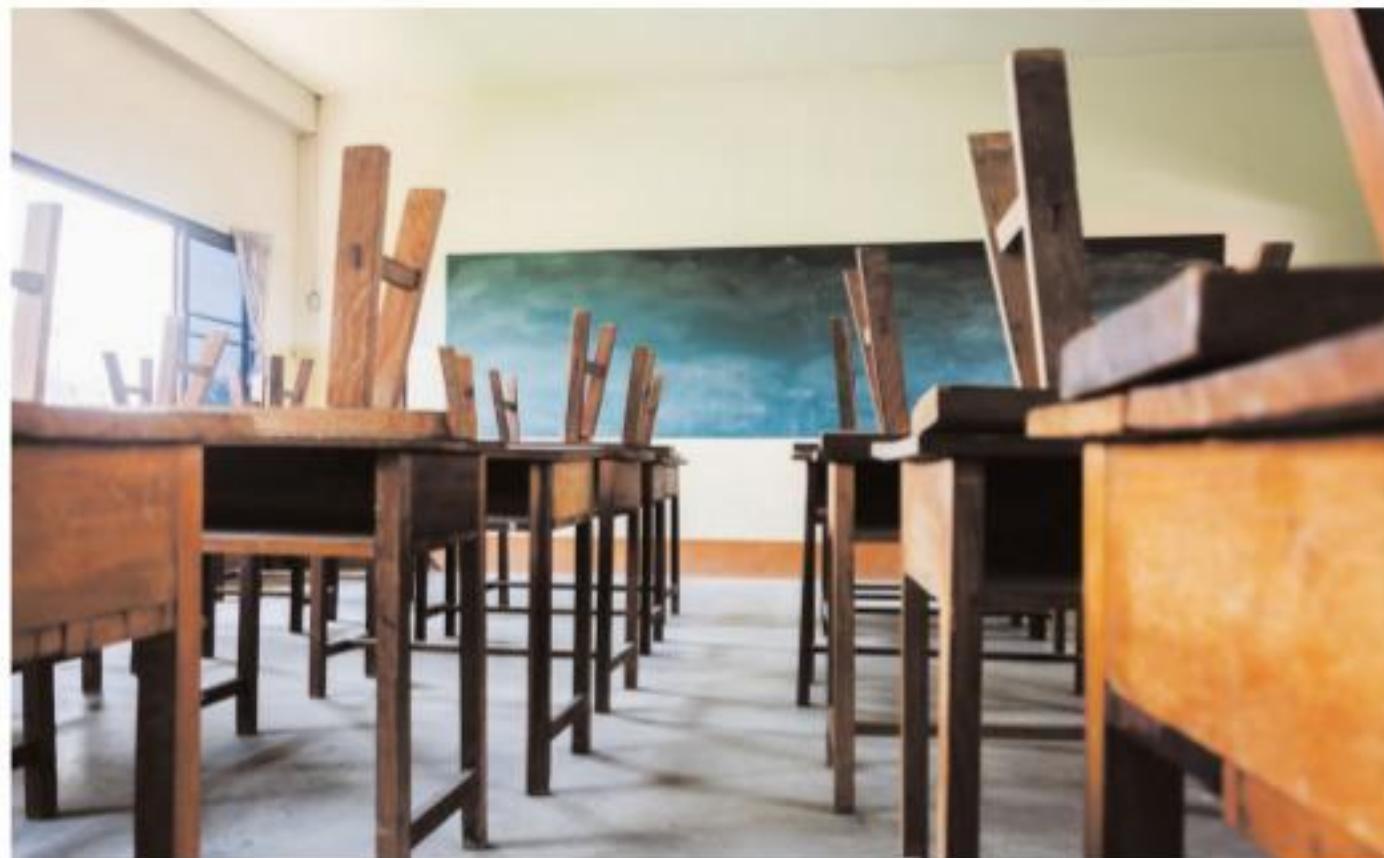
SHIMLA, 7 NOVEMBER

**F**ive days after schools in Himachal Pradesh were reopened for students of 9-12 classes, 115 students in Mandi district today tested positive for coronavirus infection (Covid-19). The development led to a section of people questioning the state government's decision to reopen schools in the state.

The majority of these infections were reported from Tibetan School in Jodhgarh area in Mandi district, where 101 students were found to be coronavirus positive.

The residential Tibetan School has enrolled students from across the country, including Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Ladakh, and they tested positive for the highly infectious viral disease after they returned to the school.

About 350 students had returned to this school from various parts of the country



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

after the HP government gave permission to hold regular classes for students of 9-12 classes in the state from 2 November. The authorities had taken their samples for Covid testing as a precautionary measure.

Mandi's chief medical officer Devender Sharma confirmed the number of students who tested positive for coronavirus and said the school had been converted into a Covid Care Centre with doctors closely monitoring the

health of the students. Three students of a government school in Kot and four students of the Industrial Training Institute in Padhar in Mandi district also tested positive for coronavirus. This had led to some peo-

ple of the state questioning the decision of the government on reopening of schools at a time when there were fears of a second wave of coronavirus in Himachal Pradesh as well as the country.

A spokesperson of the HP health department said 330 persons tested Covid positive, which took the state's case-load to 24,569, while 188 coronavirus patients recovered today.

The number of deaths due to this deadly viral disease increased to 362 while a total of 20,204 patients had been cured of it. There were 3,979 active cases in the state now, he added.

The highest number of Covid cases have been reported from Solan district (3,783), followed by Mandi (3,597), Kangra (3,306), Shimla (3,079), Sirmour (2,340) and Kullu (1,837).

Shimla district accounts for the highest number of Covid fatalities with 83 deaths, followed by Mandi (46), Solan (41), Kullu (33), Chamba (19) and Sirmour (18).

## HP Cong holds protest against price rise



HP Congress chief Kuldeep Singh Rathore submitting a memorandum to DC Mandi over price rise. SNS

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 7 NOVEMBER

The Himachal Pradesh Congress Saturday held a protest in Mandi district against the unprecedented price rise of essential commodities.

It accused the BJP-led government of acting as a "puppet" in the hands of a few big businessmen.

State Congress chief Kuldeep Singh Rathore attacked the BJP government in state and Centre on the issue of price rise and

said both the governments had failed in bringing Indian economy on track to give respite to the common man. "Despite cheapest crude oil prices in the international market, the prices of the petroleum products are being hiked by Prime Minister Narendra Modi government," he added.

Rathore said PM Modi government was busy in selling public sectors firms to businessmen while Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur too hadn't given relief to the people of the state in the pandemic. Instead the Himachal Pradesh government had burdened the general public by increasing water, power tariffs and bus fares in the state, he said.

He called on the party workers to work in a coordinated manner and said the preference should be given to grassroots workers in the party while urging all to protest unitedly against rising unemployment and anti-people policies of state and Centre government.

## HPCM calls on Nadda to discuss party matters



HP CM Jai Ram Thakur with BJP president JP Nadda in New Delhi on Saturday. SNS

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 7 NOVEMBER

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Saturday met BJP national president P Nadda in New Delhi and discussed various issues pertaining to the party unit in the state.

A state government spokesperson said Thakur discussed various matters pertaining to the state with Nadda.

It is worthwhile to mention here that there was infighting between the party in Kangra district, especially in Jwalaji constituency

## 34 kg crackers seized, shop owner held

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 7 NOVEMBER

Over 30 kg of illegal firecrackers were recovered from a shop in Delhi's Dabri area and its owner arrested, police said on Saturday.

Rakesh Bansal was arrested on Friday after two policemen on patrolling duty received information that illegal firecrackers were stored in a shop in Raja Purin in Dabri, they said. On reaching the spot, the police found 34.6 kg of unauthorised crackers in possession of Bansal, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Santosh Kumar Meena.

The shopkeeper has been arrested and a case registered in this regard under sections of the Explosives Act at Dabri police station, the police said. Amid rising pollution levels and a spike in daily COVID-19 cases, the Delhi government on Thursday imposed a blanket ban on firecrackers, including green crackers, from November 7 to 30.

Given the significant relationship between air pollution and respiratory infections, bursting of firecrackers is not favourable for the large cause of community health, the government had said in its order. PTI

## IIPR regional centre to be set up in Himachal

This was decided at a meeting chaired by Vice-Chancellor of the varsity, Professor Harinder Kumar Chaudhary, which was attended by Dr NP Singh, Director, IIPR, and others

not got adequate attention.

D Singh said that the regional centre will cater to all north hill states and IIPR will start nursery raising work in this very season at the facilities offered by the University.

In another meeting with the officers of National Med-

icinal Plant Board (NMPB), Union Ministry of AYUSH, Prof. HK Chaudhary, the Vice-Chancellor said that his University will try to popularize the concept of "One District, One Medicinal Plant" beginning with Krishi Vigyan Kendras situated in different districts of

the state.

He said that the University in collaboration with other stakeholders will submit a comprehensive proposal on medicinal plants to the Board to propel research and conservation work on these valuable plants.

He said that the University will also submit a roadmap on seabuckthorn development in high altitude Himalayas. He advised the scientists to work for the release of seabuckthorn variety at the national level and

simultaneously work for the introduction and cultivation of exotic Russian varieties. It can help the local youth in improving their economy. Even the Prime Minister has emphasized the importance of seabuckthorn.

Chief Executive Officer, NMPB, Dr JLN Shastri, assured of extending all possible support to the University in carrying out these projects. He empathized the need to involve local small entrepreneurs.



National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)



Corporate Office: 3rd Floor, PTI Building, 4 - Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001

F.No. NHIDCL/2(7)/Recrt Tech & Fin/2020/HR

National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited has been set up by the Government of India as a Corporation under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways to fast pace construction/ up-gradation/ widening of National Highways in the North-Eastern Region and areas that share International boundaries with neighbouring countries.

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Sl. No.	Name of the Posts & place of postings	No. of Vacancy*	Pay matrix Level in CDA pattern
1.	Executive Director (T/P) [Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in North Eastern States, A&N Islands etc.]	02	Pay Matrix Level-14 of 7th CPC [Pre-revised PB - 4 of Rs.37,400-67,000/- plus Grade Pay Rs.10,000/-]
2.	General Manager (T/P) [Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in North Eastern States, A&N Islands etc.]	20	Pay Matrix Level-13 of 7th CPC [Pre-revised PB - 4 of Rs.37,400-67,000/- plus Grade Pay Rs.8,700/-]
3.	Deputy General Manager (T/P) [Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in North Eastern States, A&N Islands etc.]	20	Pay Matrix Level-12 of 7th CPC [Pre-revised PB-3 of Rs.15,600-39,100/- plus Grade Pay of Rs. 7,600/-]
4.	Manager (T/P) [Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in North Eastern States, A&N Islands etc.]	20	Pay Matrix Level-11 of 7th CPC [Pre-revised Pay Band-3 of Rs.15,600-39,100/- plus Grade Pay of Rs. 6,600/- in CDA Pattern]
5.	General Manager (Land Acquisition & Coordination) [For NHIDCL HQs]	01	Pay Matrix Level-13 of 7th CPC [Pre-revised PB- 4 of Rs.37,400-67,000/- plus Grade Pay Rs.8,700/-]
6.	Deputy General Manager (Fin) [Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in North Eastern States, A&N Islands etc.]	06	Pay Matrix Level-12 of 7th CPC [Pre-revised PB-3 of Rs.15,600-39,100/- plus Grade Pay of Rs. 7,600/-]

\* The number of vacancies in the Posts may vary, depending upon the requirement. Further, NHIDCL reserves the right to prepare Panels (one for Roads Sector and another for Infrastructure Sector) of selected Candidates for filling up the indicated and future vacancies that may arise in NHIDCL. Panel would be valid for a period of 12 months, unless further extended.

Last date for submission of Application: 01.12.2020 (Tuesday) up to 18.00 hrs.

For detailed Terms and Conditions please visit [www.nhidcl.com](http://www.nhidcl.com).

NOTE 1: Officers presently serving in the Central Government Ministries/ Departments, Army, Navy, Airforce, Autonomous Bodies, Public Sector Undertakings, State Government Departments and State Government Public Undertakings and satisfying the prescribed eligibility criteria may also apply for the post on Deputation basis in the prescribed proforma along with copy of ACRs/APARs for last five years, No Objection Certificate (NOC) and Vigilance Clearance (VC). Those applying for appointment on deputation basis can be of any age. Subsequent to their retirement they may be allowed to continue in NHIDCL on contract basis subject to both party agreeing to it. If their parent organisation need them to revert back for retirement formalities, they may be allowed to do so for a period up to one week. Thereafter they can continue on contract basis on the terms and conditions applicable to Contract employees.

NOTE 2: Any change or amendment in this Vacancy Circular will be posted on the NHIDCL Website only.

NOTE 3: Incomplete applications or those received after the prescribed date shall be summarily rejected.

Dy. General Manager (HR)

## CLOUD OF SMOKE



A plume of smoke billows after a fire broke out in a shop at Lower Bazaar in Shimla on Saturday. It was doused by firefighters with the help of local residents. There was no report of any casualty in the incident. LALIT KUMAR

## HP Guv appeals to people to take preventive measures against Covid

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, 7 NOVEMBER

HP Governor Bandaru Datatrattaray on Saturday said the state government was making efforts in the fight against the Corona pandemic and that many social organisations were also engaged in it.

He said that such organisations should be encouraged.

He was speaking on the occasion of honouring Corona warriors through Lakshmi Narayan Welfare Society at Raj Bhavan.

The Governor said there has been a lot of change in these eight months and people are working cautiously and are now prepared to fight the pandemic. He appealed to the people to take preventive measures against

Covid-19 during the upcoming festive season and strictly follow the guidelines issued by the government. He said that no laxity should be allowed until the vaccine is out and urged the people to wear masks and maintain physical distancing. He said that the corona pandemic has taught the lesson of adopting healthy habits such as maintaining hygiene, clean-

liness, practicing yoga along with nutritious and balanced diet. He said that the pandemic has also brought a change in the lifestyle of the people.

The Governor appreciated the efforts of the Society and said that such efforts would also inspire others.

President, Lakshmi Narayan Welfare Society Ravi Kant detailed about the social activities of the Society.

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE, BUILDING THE NATION

## FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2020

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Deepawali and Chhath Puja Festivals, Northern Railway has planned to run the following Festival Special Trains as per schedule given below:-

Passengers are requested to note that all these Festival Special Trains will have reserved accommodation only. Passengers are therefore requested to get their accommodation (berths/seats) booked beforehand. Passengers having reserved tickets will only be allowed to enter the platform to board the train.

### LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS ORIGINATING/TERMINATING IN NORTHERN RAILWAY

Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Frequency / Day	Period
04998	Bathinda	20:50	Varanasi Junction	16:30	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04997	Varanasi Junction	21:20	Bathinda	16:50	MON	Up to 30.11.20
04612	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	23:30	Varanasi Junction	23:35	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04611	Varanasi Junction	06:35	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	06:50	TUE	Up to 01.12.20
04422	Anand Vihar Terminal	20:20	Lucknow	04:20	WED, FRI, SUN	08, 22, 25, 27 & 29.11.20
04421	Lucknow	21:20	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:45	MON, THU, SAT	09, 23, 26 & 28.11.20
04924	Chandigarh	23:15	Gorakhpur	16:00	THU	Up to 26.11.20
04923	Gorakhpur	22:10	Chandigarh	14:15	FRI	Up to 27.11.20
04090	Anand Vihar Terminal	16:55	Bhagalpur	11:00	MON, WED, FRI	Up to 30.11.20
04089	Bhagalpur	13:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:20	TUE, THU, SAT	Up to 01.12.20
04012	Anand Vihar Terminal	07:30	Jogbani	08:30	TUE, FRI	Up to 27.11.20
04011	Jogbani	20:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	21:00	WED, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
02237	Varanasi Junction	12:40	Jammu Tawi	11:05	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02238	Jammu Tawi	14:00	Varanasi Junction	12:30		Up to 01.12.20
02231	Lucknow	22:25	Chandigarh	10:05	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02232	Chandigarh	21:05	Lucknow	08:30		Up to 01.12.20
04092	New Delhi	09:20	Jaynagar	11:15	WED, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04091	Jaynagar	15:30	New Delhi	19:30	THU, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04030	Delhi Junction	13:45	Muzaffarpur Junction	08:00	WED, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04029	Muzaffarpur Junction	15:30	Delhi Junction	10:30	THU, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04624	Amritsar Junction	05:45	Saharsa Junction	10:30	WED, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04623	Saharsa Junction	14:30	Amritsar Junction	19:45	THU, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04656	Firozpur Cantt	19:00	Patna Junction	21:25	FRI	Up to 27.11.20
04655	Patna Junction	23:25	Firozpur Cantt	23:55	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04084	Delhi Junction	23:00	Katihar Junction	22:00	FRI	Up to 27.11.20
04083	Katihar Junction	23:50	Delhi Junction	22:50	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04401	New Delhi	23:50	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:35	MON, THU	09, 23 & 26.11.20
04402	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	23:30	New Delhi	11:15	TUE, FRI	10, 24, 27.11.20 & 01.12.20
04418	H. Nizamuddin	21:35	Pune	21:25	TUE	Up to 24.11.20
04417	Pune	05:15	H. Nizamuddin	05:35	THU	Up to 26.11.20
02422	Jammu Tawi	18:10	Ajmer Junction	12:20	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02421	Ajmer Junction	14:05	Jammu Tawi	08:15		Up to 01.12.20
04041	Delhi Junction	22:25	Dehradun	08:25	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
04042	Dehradun	21:20	Delhi Junction	07:25		Up to 01.12.20
02448	H. Nizamuddin	20:10	Manikpur Junction	08:45	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02447	Manikpur Junction	17:05	H. Nizamuddin	05:25		Up to 01.12.20
04515	Kalka	12:10	Shimla	17:20	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
04516	Shimla	10:40	Kalka	16:10		Up to 01.12.20
04854	Jodhpur Junction	09:10	Varanasi Junction	10:30	MON, THU, SAT	Up to 30.11.20
04853	Varanasi Junction	17:15	Jodhpur Junction	18:50	MON, WED, SAT	Up to 30.11.20
04864	Jodhpur Junction	09:10	Varanasi Junction	08:45	TUE, FRI, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04863	Varanasi Junction	18:15	Jodhpur Junction	18:50	TUE, FRI, SUN	Up to 01.12.20
04866	Jodhpur Junction	09:10	Varanasi Junction	08:50	WED	Up to 25.11.20
04865	Varanasi Junction	18:15	Jodhpur Junction	18:50	THU	Up to 26.11.20
05115	Chhapra	11:15	Delhi Junction	11:20	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
05116	Delhi Junction	14:00	Chhapra	13:20	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
02581	Manduadih	22:30	New Delhi	12:15	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02582	New Delhi	22:35	Manduadih	11:10		Up to 01.12.20
06229	Mysore Junction	07:20	Varanasi Junction	12:00	TUE, THU	Up to 26.11.20
06230	Varanasi Junction	21:05	Mysore Junction	02:35	THU, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
07323	Hubballi Junction	17:50	Varanasi Junction	12:00	FRI	Up to 27.11.20
07324	Varanasi Junction	21:05	Hubballi Junction	13:00	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
02587	Gorakhpur	14:20	Jammu Tawi	13:10	MON	Up to 23.11.20
02588	Jammu Tawi	22:45	Gorakhpur	20:30	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
05097	Bhagalpur	23:50	Jammu Tawi	13:10	THU	Up to 26.11.20
05098	Jammu Tawi	22:45	Bhagalpur	10:15	TUE	Up to 24.11.20
05251	Darbhanga Junction	03:25	Jalandhar City	05:10	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
05252	Jalandhar City	09:50	Darbhanga Junction	11:35	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
02397	Gaya	14:15	New Delhi	04:30	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02398	New Delhi	12:10	Gaya	03:20		Up to 01.12.20
03255	Patliputra	20:35	Chandigarh	17:35	WED, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
03256	Chandigarh	21:30	Patliputra	18:50	MON, THU	Up to 30.11.20
02355	Patna Junction	07:25	Jammu Tawi	10:37	TUE, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
02356	Jammu Tawi	17:45	Patna Junction	20:55	WED, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
02595	Gorakhpur	20:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:50	MON, TUE, THU	Up to 30.11.20
02596	Anand Vihar Terminal	20:00	Gorakhpur	07:50	TUE, WED, FRI	Up to 01.12.20
02331	Howrah Junction	23:55	Jammu Tawi	13:10	TUE, FRI, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
02332	Jammu Tawi	22:45	Howrah Junction	11:30	MON, THU, SUN	Up to 30.11.20
02819	Bhubaneswar	15:40	Anand Vihar Terminal	20:50	WED, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
02820	Anand Vihar Terminal	07:05	Bhubaneswar	12:20	TUE, FRI	Up to 27.11.20
02549	Kamakhya	10:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	19:20	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02550	Anand Vihar Terminal	06:45	Kamakhya	16:35		Up to 02.12.20
02530	Lucknow Jn	05:00	Patliputra Junction	14:50	Except-SUN, THU	Up to 30.11.20
02529	Patliputra Junction	15:50	Lucknow Jn	02:35	Except-SUN, THU	Up to 30.11.20
02033	Kanpur Central	06:00	New Delhi	11:20	Except-SUN	Up to 30.11.20
02034	New Delhi	15:50	Kanpur Central	20:45	Except-SUN	Up to 30.11.20
08215	Durg	09:00	Jammu Tawi	21:40	WED	Up to 25.11.20
02458	Bikaner Junction	22:30	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	06:10	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02457	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	23:35	Bikaner Junction	07:30		Up to 30.11.20
02485	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	07:05	Jodhpur Junction	18:05	Daily	Up to 01.12.20
02486	Jodhpur Junction	11:00	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	22:10		Up to 30.11.20
09027	Bandra Terminus	12:15	Jammu Tawi	01:25	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
09028	Jammu Tawi	09:30	Bandra Terminus	22:25	MON	Up to 30.11.20
02887	Visakhapatnam	06:25	Hazrat Nizamuddin	16:45	Except-Mon, Fri	Up to 29.11.20
02888	Hazrat Nizamuddin	08:35	Visakhapatnam	18:10	Except-Sun, Wed	Up to 01.12.20
08237	Korba	11:35	Amritsar Junction	08:10	TUE, WED, FRI	Up to 27.11.20
08238	Amritsar Junction	16:10	Bilaspur	12:15	THU, FRI, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04887	Rishikesh	18:05	Barmer	20:30	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
04888	Barmer	06:45	Rishikesh	10:30		Up to 01.12.20
04519	Delhi Junction	14:00	Bathinda Jn	21:15	Daily	08, 09, 10, 21.11.20 to 30.11.20
04520	Bathinda Jn	05:00	Delhi Junction	12:15	Daily	08, 09, 10, 11, 22.11.20 to 30.11.20
02471	Shri Ganganagar	05:55	Delhi Junction	13:35		Up to 30.11.20
02472	Delhi Junction	13:05	Shri Ganganagar	20:35		Up to 30.11.20



Atrocities on farmers in garb of pollution caused due to stubble burning is extremely condemnable

URGING THE UP GOVT TO MAKE FARMERS AWARE ABOUT STUBBLE BURNING AND ITS IMPACT ON AIR POLLUTION

## THUMBNAILS

Properties of BSP MLA Mukhtar Ansari's wife attached: The district magistrate of Ghazipur has ordered the attachment of properties belonging to the wife and brothers-in-law of gangster-turned-politician and BSP MLA Mukhtar Ansari while the Mau administration demolished an illegal construction of two of his aides. Land and building worth Rs 28.58 crore belonging to Mukhtar Ansari and brother-in-law Anwar Shahzad and Sharjeel Raza were attached under section 14(1) of the Gangsters Act, Additional Chief Secretary Aravish Awasthi said. Meanwhile, illegally constructed building of close associates of the gangster, Irshad and Maqsood, on a government land on the Bandha road, police got the illegal construction demolished.

# J&K Panthers Party ousts Bhim Singh for meeting PAGD leaders

Bhim Singh clarified that he was invited for morning tea by Farooq Abdullah at his residence.



Patron of Panthers Party Bhim Singh at Farooq Abdullah residence in Jammu.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 7 NOVEMBER

had assembled here at the residence of MP and former CM Farooq Abdullah to discuss their strategy for seeking restoration of the Article 370.

Chairman of the party, Harshdev Singh confirmed that Bhim Singh has been expelled from the post of the party after he met leaders of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) who

Bhim Singh had founded the party in 1982 after quitting the Congress party.

Temper in the party ran high this morning when Omar Abdullah, vice-president of the National Conference, posted pictures of Bhim Singh on the Twitter interacting with leaders of the PAGD that is considered in Jammu as a Kashmir-centric organisation. Thereafter, it was decided to remove him from the post of patron. This was first meeting of PAGD in Jammu after two meetings in Srinagar.

In a press release, Bhim Singh clarified that he was

## Jitendra: National Conference misusing Maharaja Hari's name for politics in Jammu

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 7 NOVEMBER

Union minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday accused the National Conference (NC) of misusing Maharaja Hari Singh's name for its survival in Jammu and said wrong facts are being attributed to the Late Maharaja which amounts to showing utter disrespect and disregard to the rich heritage and legacy of the last Dogra ruler of Jammu & Kashmir.

Addressing the BJP office bearers and party workers here, Jitendra Singh said, the leadership of NC has been trying this trick with the people of Jammu ever since it was ousted from power but now this "misguided craft"

is meeting its natural fate of diminishing returns. One of the biggest blasphemies committed by NC is to drag the name of Maharaja Hari Singh whenever they wish to defend the State Subject Law of the erstwhile state which was "masterminded" by Sheikh Abdullah.

Singh said, there is no

comparison between the State Subject Law that existed before 5th August, 2019 and the one which was introduced by Maharaja Hari Singh in 1927. Elaborating further, he said, Maharaja's State Subject Law was quite porous and left enough room for giving citizenship to settlers from outside who could benefit Jammu & Kashmir in terms of entre-

preneurship, science promotion, education, arts etc. It was under this clause, he recalled, that Sir Ram Nath Chopra was invited to settle in Jammu and established the first ever Drug Research Laboratory while the entire Chopra family of Bollywood fame including Ramanand Sagar and Vidhu Vinod Chopra settled here.

Singh also contradicted the rhetoric raised by NC and PDP that the provisions of Article 370 were envisaged by Maharaja Hari Singh. Citing facts and figures, he said, history bears out that Hari Singh signed the same Draft of Instrument of Accession which was signed by the other heads of erstwhile princely states.

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Singh said, there is no

## Pakistani troops shell villages, forward posts along LoC, IB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JAMMU, 7 NOVEMBER

firing along the IB in the Hiranagar sector continued throughout the night, the officials said. They said there was no report of any casualty or damage on the Indian side. "About 2:30 a.m., Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling mortars along the LoC in Mankote sector. Army retaliated befittingly," a defence spokesman said. Officials said the firing and shelling between the two sides stopped around 4 a.m.

**'India will give you ease of doing business, you work for providing ease of living'**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 7 NOVEMBER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the country will ensure 'ease of doing business' for its youth while they should work for providing 'ease of living' to people, particularly the poorest of the poor, through innovations.

Addressing the 51st annual convocation of IIT Delhi via video conferencing, he said the post-Covid-19 world is going to be very different and technology will play the biggest role in it.

Technology has made last mile delivery of services efficient and reduced the scope of corruption, the prime minister said.

"You may be disappointed why Covid-19 pandemic happened during our term, but think differently. You have the first advantage to adapt to new norms emerging in the workplace and world. I have realised in every corner of India, some innovation is taking place and it directly correlates with the ideology of Atmanirbhar Bharat, the prime minister told the students.

A total of 2,019 graduating students were awarded degrees on Saturday.

The institute awarded President's Gold Medal, Director's Gold Medal, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma (former President of India) Gold Medal, Perfect Ten Gold Medals and Institute Silver Medals to the graduating students at the convocation.

"Your work will give global recognition to our products. Your efforts will lead to swifter recognition of Indian products," Modi said, referring to students as "brand ambassadors" of "brand India".

The nation has seen how technology can provide good

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority has permitted/ sanctioned on 21.05.2014, the map of M/s Royal Hometown Planners (P) Ltd, Plot No. GH-G2, SDZ Sector-25, Gautam Buddha Nagar. The builder has applied on 07.02.2020 for Occupancy Certificate/ Completion Certificate for Tower B & D, in which amendments have been made in the design/ sizes of the units which were allotted earlier. It is further notified that Allottee/Allottee(s) has given their consent for the same. If anybody has any objection, he/she can file the same. The planning section will declare this amendment on display on any working day between 9:30 am to 6:00 pm. The objections are invited if any according to the U.P. Apartment Act 2010, within the period of 30 days of notice to the Allottee/ Organization.

The Objection (if any) can be filed within 30 days of notice with allotment letter, name, address and phone number on any working day during working hours to Incharge G.M. (Planning) at the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority, Chief Administrative Office Commercial Complex, Block P-2, Sector Omega 1, Greater Noida City-201308.

Incharge GM (Planning)  
Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority

**DEBTS RECOVERY APPELLATE TRIBUNAL**  
Apartment No. 318 IIrd Floor, Hotel Samrat, Kautilya Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021  
IA. 479/2020 In Appeal No. 87/2020 in SA. 219/2019 DRT, III, Delhi  
Bank of Baroda (Erstwhile Vijaya Bank) Vs. M/s. Satya Sai Fabric & Ors.  
To,  
1. M/s Satya Sai Fabric Plot No 158, Block-B-4, Yamuna Vihar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032  
2. Sandeep D-IV/55, Ground Floor, Old Double Storey Market, Lajpat Nagar, Delhi-110024  
3. Oriental Bank of Commerce (Now Punjab National Bank) Resolution, Recovery & Law Cluster Office, 91/E-1, RK Market, Munirka New Delhi-110067  
Whereas the notice that an appeal from the order passed by the Presiding Officer of DRT in the above case has been presented by the appellant on 05/08/2020 and is registered in the tribunal. The matter was listed before Tribunal D.R.A.T on 03.11.2020 Whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 10.12.2020 before the Registrar through Video Conferencing. Whereas take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence Given under my hand and the Seal Of the Tribunal, this 06th day Of November, 2020  
By Order of the Tribunal  
Registrar

procedures for Haj 2021 keeping in view the corona pandemic. He also launched Haj 2021 Guidelines in Hindi, English and Urdu languages and online Application Form 1442 (H)-2021 for Haj and the latest issue of the Haj magazine to be held during the months of June-July 2021, and the entire Haj process is being held according to the necessary guidelines issued by Saudi Arabia Government and the Government of India in view of Corona Pandemic. This is to ensure the health and well-being of the people in India and Saudi Arabia. The Haj 2021 process has been chalked out after deliberations among Ministry of minority affairs, Ministry

of health, Ministry of external affairs, Ministry of civil aviation, Haj Committee of India, Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia and India's Consul General in Jeddah and other agencies keeping in view all aspects of the pandemic challenges, the minister said. Giving details of the pilgrimage, Naqvi said arrangements for Haj 2021 had been made under special circumstances with special norms, rules and regulations, eligibility criteria, age restrictions, health and fitness requirements and other relevant conditions of the Saudi Arabia government amid the Corona pandemic. Each pilgrim will have to undergo Corona test 72 hours before undertaking Haj travel in accordance with prevailing international air travel protocol. Each pilgrim will have to submit a PCR test certificate issued by approved laboratory with a negative result before journey to Saudi Arabia," the minister said.

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transportation, health and other facilities both in India and Saudi Arabia had been made in view of the pandemic. "All the necessary guidelines for Haj 2021 amid Pandemic position from the Saudi Arabia government will be implemented strictly. There may be changes in age criteria for performing Haj due to the Corona pandemic. Each pilgrim will have to undergo Corona test 72 hours before undertaking Haj travel in accordance with prevailing international air travel protocol. Each pilgrim will have to submit a PCR test certificate issued by approved laboratory with a negative result before journey to Saudi Arabia," the minister said.

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## Introspection needed

The churning in Europe following the attacks in France and Austria continues, as officials in these two countries, and in Germany, Switzerland and Sweden prepare for possible violent reactions. They will have to introspect on what their police forces must do to avoid other such incidents. Certainly, the apparent apathy that Vienna's anti-terror chief showed to a clear threat could prove catastrophic. Austrian authorities have announced that the chief of their anti-terror unit has been suspended for having failed to monitor gunman Kujtim Fejzulai, despite his having been part of a deradicalization programme after release from prison. It now emerges that Germany had warned Vienna of Fejzulai's contacts with those on its terrorism radar while authorities in Slovakia had informed that the gunman had tried to buy ammunition in that country earlier this year. But all these warnings were apparently ignored, culminating in the horrific attack last Monday. Austria has since admitted that these inputs should have led to a different threat assessment and had that happened, there would have been a "different outcome." It has meanwhile ordered the closure of two mosques ~ one of them unregistered ~ in Vienna where it suspects the gunman, who had been jailed last year for attempting to join ISIS, had been further radicalised. Authorities in other European countries too have reacted to the events. Germany's federal police has conducted searches on homes of men known to have associated with Fejzulai. Switzerland has announced arrests of two men who it believes had links with the attacker. Sweden has placed its police force on high alert following the attack.

But Europe is no stranger to violence of this nature, having seen repeated attacks over the past several years. Possibly, the worst such outrage had occurred in Paris in 2015 when gunmen killed 130 people. The following year, a gunman drove a truck through Bastille Day revellers in Nice, killing 86. In 2017, there were attacks in Manchester and London in the United Kingdom and in Barcelona and Cambrils in Spain. Between them, they claimed nearly 50 lives and injuries to nearly 200 people. The central theme underlying the various attacks in Europe is what Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz has called "hatred for our way of life, our democracy." He went on to say this week the battle was not between Christianity and Islam, but "between civilisation and barbarism." Similar statements have been issued by different European leaders, including by French President Emmanuel Macron, after the beheading of a schoolteacher. But while Europeans may like to see the conflict as one between libertarianism and dogma-bound fundamentalism, clearly this alone cannot explain the deep schism in society. When the Europeans gave up on multiculturalism, respect for the diverse cultures of their citizens, they widened the cleavage. Instead of viewing liberty as a right to cause offence, Europe must introspect on better ways to manage its diversities. The "barbarians" aren't going away.

## Chinese squeeze

The first concrete evidence of a Chinese reaction to the military exercises off India's coast ~ involving the navies of India, the United States, Australia and Japan ~ may be emerging. Reports from Australia suggest that China has asked its buyers not to purchase seven categories of goods from Australia. These cover coal, wine, barley, copper ore, sugar, timber and lobster and while China has denied any official ban, its spokesperson did go so far as to say that any measures taken by Beijing were "legitimate, reasonable and beyond reproach." According to news reports, Chinese importers were called in and told to stop buying the goods from Australia in an instruction that was couched as a suggestion but accepted as an order. A wine importer, for instance, was reportedly told that Chinese customs would not process Australian wine shipments from this week. For Australia, these are worrying signs for nearly a third of its exports are to China. Canberra first drew Beijing's ire for its support to calls for an international investigation into the source of the coronavirus in Wuhan. Thereafter, the relationship has deteriorated steadily, with China having launched anti-dumping investigations on Australian wine, levied dumping tariffs on barley, banned import of some Australian timber saying it was pest-ridden and held up clearance of lobster shipments, leading to the death of the marine crustaceans before they could reach markets. That the actions are premeditated has been made clear by state-run Chinese media, with an English-language daily issuing a thinly veiled threat saying the investigations thus far cover only a small part of Australia's exports to China. The editorial warned Canberra to "steer clear of Washington's brinkmanship with China before it is too late." It said: "Choosing sides will be a decision Australia will come to regret as its economy will only suffer further pain". Australia, for the moment, has chosen to ignore links between its strategic decisions and trade relations with Trade Minister Simon Cunningham opting to rely on ~ admittedly with some scepticism ~ the official Chinese position that no coordinated action is being taken against the country. "They deny any discriminatory actions are being taken," he was quoted as saying. Another minister said Australia was a rules-based global trading partner and hoped others would follow the same rules. But the steady and relentless attacks on imports from Australia suggest this may not be the case. With Chinese power plants not using Australian coal, and with beef importers switching orders to South America in spite of higher shipping costs, it seems Beijing is determined to make Canberra pay for what a state-owned newspaper termed "aggressively sending warships to China's doorsteps". India is already locked in a tense border situation; Taiwan has been in a state of alert and now Australia is being hit where it hurts. Beijing is clearly on the warpath.

# Civil society's role

We pay lip service to the accountability principle. It is not translated into law. For any allegation of abuse of power by the judges, an accountability law is a solution to some extent. Civil society activists need to be up in arms for a sound legislation on accountability



If civil society activism is steel and concrete, media is the sand and cement of the fourth pillar. The impact of public movements led by leaders of civil society in shaping laws and institutions is considerable. During 2013-14, the anti-corruption movement launched by Anna Hazare influenced the passing of the Lokpal law and a threat of repeat of the agitation in 2018 led to the establishment of the Lokpal.

Civil rights groups and concerned citizens exercised considerable influence in the birth of Right to Information Act, 2005. Even before the Act came into existence, openness of governance and restructuring of party and government was advocated by the former President of Soviet Union, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev. The RTI Act is only one facet of openness in administration and perestroika means restructuring of party and government. Glasnost means transparency in government.

The RTI Act is only a part of glasnost. It is the beginning of openness. Openness in administration means that administration is carried to the doorstep of a common man. The District Collector and Superintendent of Police can visit a cluster of villages every month, listen to people's problems and solve them at the earliest (less than a month). It is not the same as endorsing a petition to a subordinate, who in turn endorses it to his junior and further down the channel. Time is the essence of problem resolution.

If the Director, Anti-Corruption Bureau visits district headquarters, more complaints will come forth and there will be awareness and a sense of fear in corrupt officials of key departments. Secondly, the District Collector and Superintendent of Police need to address the media including electronic media every fortnight and apprise the public of the various facets of the administration. For want of space I am not going into details. They should take care to give a true picture of crime and various aspects of the working of the Revenue and other departments.

The Assistant Commissioners of Police in cities need to move out in their jurisdiction at least twice a week to solve people's grievances instead of citizens doing the rounds of police stations.

It is also equally important that senior officers are accessible on phone to the common man. Their phone numbers need to be easily available. There should not be rank and status consciousness in attending to people's problems. After all, Gandhiji went to Champaran village (when communications were poor) to listen to sharecroppers' grievances and then took it up with the District Collector. If crimes are in the millions, grievances will be in the billions. A legislation modeled as "openness in administration" can provide a platform to address people's problems. RTI Act (even if information is furnished) can only expose a wrongful omission or commission and no more.

If a gun licence is to be renewed, why not deliver it at the doorstep by collecting the fee.

Why should senior citizens etc., need to go to the bank, pay the challan and then go to the Deputy Commissioner's office for a simple renewal? The same logic holds true for renewal of passport and municipal building permissions. Openness of administration is the key to good governance. Many crimes occur daily. Some are reported, others are not reported, and some are not registered. Not registering (not taking cognizance of an offence) is a bigger malaise in administration. Police, tax authorities, CBI, ED, ACB etc., are public authorities and are paid from public exchequer. They are duty bound to act.

For genuine transparency, all public authorities including judges of higher judiciary need to make annual disclosure of their assets public. There is nothing unreasonable or undemocratic in demanding representation to civil society in the "collegium"

system of appointments to higher Judiciary since the system lacks a legal base.

Civil society includes media. Civil society movement lead by late Jayaprakash Narain against the emergency rule of Late Indira Gandhi and the media campaign against it led by newspapers like the Indian Express and the Statesman impacted its repeal. While unelected public institutions like the bureaucracy, police and Supreme Court could not oppose the authoritarian rule, civil society and media took up the cudgels.

Unselfishness is God said Swami Vivekananda. This trait is a supreme virtue. We have seen the best and most honest Presidents of the Republic and Governors succumbing to selfishness and swearing in the crime-tainted as Ministers. If they refuse, there may be temporary setback in the formation of Ministry, but it will have the effect of eliminating the evil of inducing the crime-tainted into the Council of Ministers.

Here too, civil society needs to step in and leaders like Anna Hazare should take the initiative to launch a movement to cleanse public life of crime-tainted politicians.

We pay lip service to the accountability principle. It is not translated into law. For any allegation of abuse of power by the judges, accountability law is a solution to some extent. Civil society activists need to be up in arms for a sound legislation on accountability since the principle is critical for functional democracy and good governance. The political value of democracy needs to promote public values of integrity and efficiency in administration, judiciary, police etc.

Late Chowdhary Charan Singh, former Prime Minister, while he was Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh introduced a Lok Ayukta bill in the Assembly which made nepotism and favo-



G. RAMACHANDRA REDDY

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

## Inexplicable outbursts

SIR, Frankly speaking, I do not know whether the arrest of Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami was as per the laws of the land or was a blatant misuse of power by the Maharashtra government.

Whatever may be the case, it pains the heart to see a man once so elevated, plummet to such lows and why would it not? He is, after all, one of Assam's favoured sons, who in his formative years as a journalist made not just our state but the entire country proud.

But, it's not his arrest that I want to comment on today (as I'm confident that the law will take its course). Rather, it is the inexplicable outburst by one after another BJP leader that we saw that has compelled me to pen this.

I'm baffled by the manner in which the party has come out in support of a journalist who in recent years has probably been the loudest custodian of 'Independent' journalism in India and apparently has zero

political affiliations.

Yes, any citizen or political party has every right to speak up against any injustice happening anywhere in the country. However, was the arrest as big a deal as the BJP made of it? The Honourable Union Home Minister Amit Shah believes that the arrest is an attack on the freedom of press.

A notion that is hard to fathom also because Arnab has been arrested for

allegedly abetting a suicide and not for his journalism (or lack of it).

So brazen was the BJP's support for Arnab that it seems as if it is only the Prime Minister of India who's now left to come out denouncing the arrest.

Yours, etc., Fahd Hazarika, Guwahati, 4 November.

### SPECULATION

SIR, Apropos your editorial, 'No easy answers' published

today, I am inclined to say that in general common people look at journalists with reverence and any attack upon them is viewed as an attempt to curb the democratic right of freedom to expression.

As a journalist Mr Arnab Goswami should prove that he had no involvement in the death of Anvay Naik and his mother and that he has been falsely implicated with charges of abetment to suicide. There have been several instances when the ruling government

arrested journalists for criticizing their undemocratic acts and that is why the arrest of Goswami is being seen by many from that angle.

But till the time the verdict of the court comes, there will be only speculation and therefore, your editorial correctly says there are no easy answers.

Yours, etc., AK Deb Biswas, Hooghly, 6 November.

### SUPPORT GOVT.

SIR, In response to your news report, 'Delhi govt

bans crackers in view of pollution, Covid' (6 November), I strongly feel that the complete prohibition of firecrackers is a novel decision made by the Delhi Government.

One must act responsibly this Diwali or else we will have to bear severe consequences in the forthcoming days. It's time to support the Government's decision and burst the 'Covid19' firecracker at once.

Yours, etc., Ankita R Kandade, Mumbai, 6 November.

### HIGH-SPEED ACCESS

SIR, This is with reference to Govind Bhatacharjee's article "Unenforceable right" (*The Statesman*, 4 November). He has raised a few important points. Now internet connection, and high-speed internet connection is a necessity despite most of the citizens not availing it, but they must use it. In J&K, we see people being denied high-speed internet access for security reasons.

Amidst lockdown and closure of schools, when teaching has been carried on online, they have been denied the facility as we know high-speed internet connection is required for this.

Yours, etc., Abhijit Chakraborty, Kolkata, 4 November.

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**  
ASIAN VOICES

## Thai monarchy needs reforms

The current political unrest in Thailand has proved the failure of the 2014 military coup to bring about long-lasting stability. The military at the time had pledged national reform but it did not live up to its promise. A military-sponsored Constitution and related laws enforced over the past six years have been the major causes of the pro-democracy protests across the country and by overseas Thais. Many of those who used to support the military-backed government have now joined the youth-led pro-democracy movement. One of the key demands of the protesters is a reform of the monarchy. The unprecedented call foreshadows a fundamental change in the existing legal and political system as well as how economic policy should be framed and implemented.

The pro-democracy protesters are trying to strengthen the rule of law, which has arguably been substantially weakened by the 2017 military-sponsored Constitution, especially related to Palace affairs. Changes in the highest law and other related laws such as Crown Property Bureau's management allowing His Majesty the King to take direct control raised questions of transparency and pointed to a disproportionate expansion of the monarch's power.

The Ministry of Defence transferred two military units in Bangkok to be under the supervision of the Palace, which again raised questions about propriety. With massive numbers of the country's population struggling with the Covid-19-induced economic crisis, protesters asked for more transparency in the annual budget allocation for the Palace.

Due to the severe punishment imposed by the lese majeste law, the public have long restrained from

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openly criticising annual budget allocations for royal projects or Palace affairs, raising questions of transparency in taxation and expenditure management of the Palace. The protesters' demand to reform the monarchy has been widely supported by democracy supporters nationwide, ranging from schoolchildren to senior population.

Some ultra-nationalists, however, have interpreted their demand as a move to overthrow the monarchy. Pro-democracy protesters deny such motives and have made it clear that they only want to reform the highest institution. The government has used legal means to suppress protester voices, but has not offered a reasonable counterargument for why the monarchy should not be reformed. Instead, the government has in recent days mobilised its supporters in the form of royalists, aiming to counter the democracy movement.

Under high pressure from protesters, civic groups and the international community, the government lifted the state of emergency imposed earlier in Bangkok and agreed to hold an extraordinary parliamentary session. While critics are sceptical about the potential of the parliamentary debate to achieve any breakthrough, appointed senators and ruling party MPs have sent a message that there will be no change to the Constitution provisions related to the monarchy's role.



ATANU BISWAS

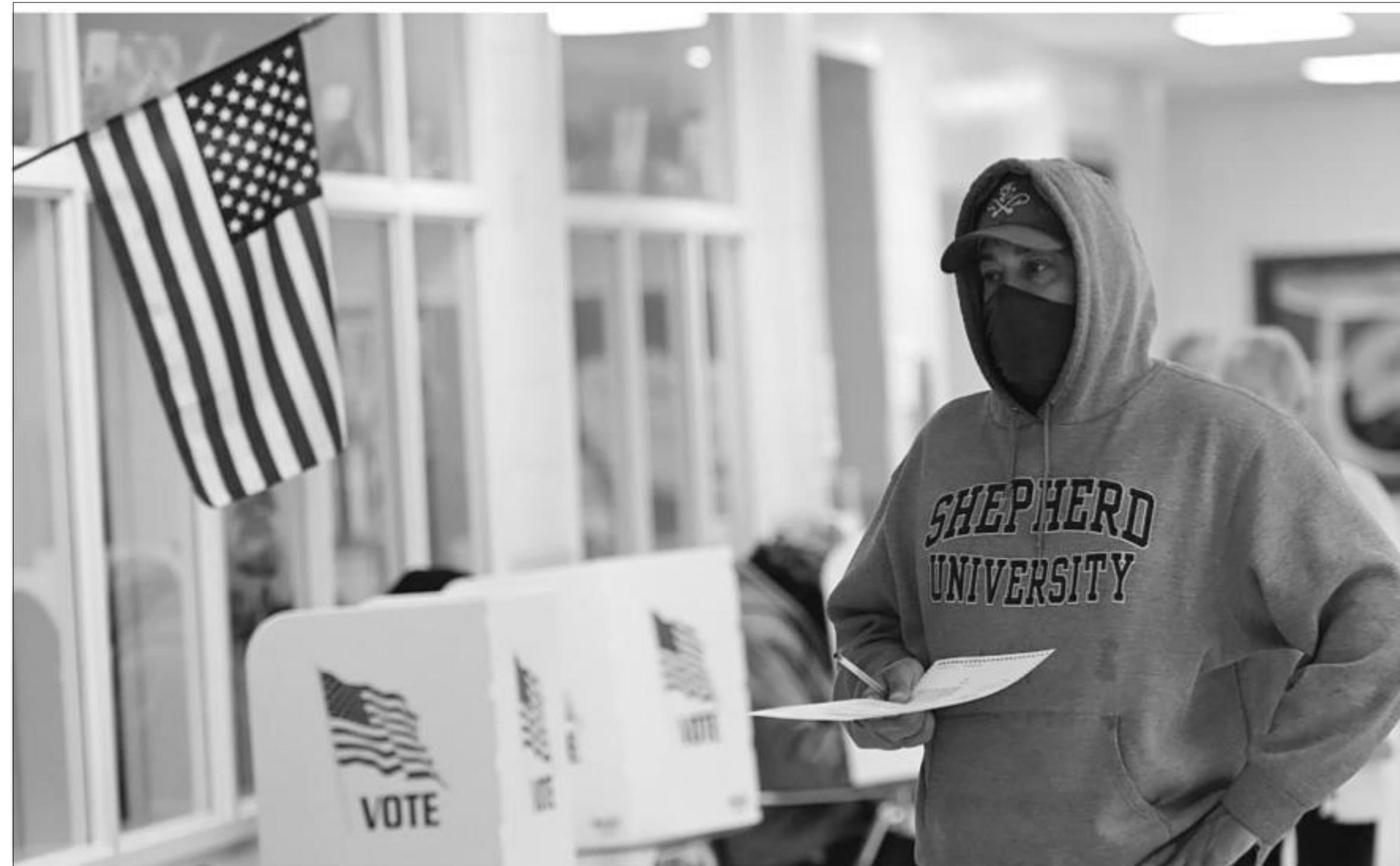
One of the most interesting books that I read during the lockdown was 'How to Rig an Election' by Nic Cheeseman and Brian Klaas. The authors – one British and the other American – illustrated several ways with respect to a full spectrum of regimes covering 'electoral democracy' through 'competitive authoritarian' to the 'closed authoritarian'. While the possible role of the digital frontier and the spread of fake news in an attempt to rig the 2016 US election was discussed, along with examples of political bribery, violence, ballot-box stuffing, etc. in different parts of the globe, the focus of the authors was mostly on flaws in the developing world and the post-Soviet countries.

It is apparent that the 2020 US presidential election might provide more material should they decide to revise their book. For example, if Donald Trump is asked, they'd learn more about possible "illegal" votes and how ballots can be found "at four in the morning" in Pennsylvania. On the other hand, the Biden campaign may illustrate how a sitting president can try to stop counting of the ballots! Weren't all these characteristics of competitive authoritarian countries where a ruler is often reluctant to lose power?

It is certainly a tense battle for the White House in 2020. However, it was 'too close to call' twenty years ago, which is undoubtedly one of the most significant periods in US history, when a prolonged bitter legal battle sealed the electoral fate of the state of Florida, and, in effect, that of the US presidential election. There was no allegation of "stealing" the election in 2000 though. Two decades on, the world has changed a lot – this is truly a post-truth world where an incumbent American president tells his nation: "If you count the legal votes, I easily win. If you count the illegal votes, they can try to steal the election from us." He even tried to convert any suggestion that he had lost to "a fraud on the American public".

Possibly Trump was not very comfortable with the idea of his electoral defeat. Earlier, on multiple occasions, he refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power in case of an election defeat. However, how to accept a defeat is of utmost importance in every aspect of life, and in politics too. Certainly, not many sitting American presidents failed in

## A terrible way to go



their re-election bid – Trump is going to be only the 11th in the 231 years of US presidential history.

How disgraceful were Trump's false victory claims and lawsuits to preventing the counting of votes? Let's see how others faced defeat in the past. Jimmy Carter conceded defeat to Ronald Reagan in 1980 with grace and class by pledging his "fullest support" to Reagan and saying: "The people of the United States have made their choice and I of course accept their decision. But I have to admit not with the same enthusiasm I accepted it four years ago." Fair enough, Mr. Carter.

Republican president George HW Bush also conceded defeat to Bill Clinton in 1992 by telling supporters that "the people have spoken" and that he respects "the majesty of the democratic system". Again, it was not long back when Republican presidential candidate John McCain, not a sitting president

though, accepted his defeat to Barack Obama in the presidential race in 2008 with the reaction: "The American people have spoken, and they've spoken clearly." These are in sharp contrast to the pronouncements of Trump.

The present election has exhibited multiple loopholes and vulnerabilities of American democracy, for sure. Trump's comments would invariably shed doubts among millions of common Americans on their institutions and democratic system. Also, it might undermine America's standing in pointing out electoral irregularities in different Asian, African, post-Soviet and East European countries.

Certainly, even not every Republican is buying Trump's ideas. For example, the Texas congressman Will Hurd tweeted: "A sitting president undermining our political process & questioning the legality of the voices of countless Americans

without evidence is not only dangerous & wrong, it undermines the very foundation this nation was built upon." Yes, Mr. Trump, please listen also to the Republican strategist Karl Rove: "Stealing hundreds of thousands of votes would require a conspiracy on the scale of a James Bond movie. That isn't going to happen."

A Donald Trump locking the door of White House from inside, refusing to go out or let Biden enter, trying to stop counting ballots, and knocking on the doors of courts in multiple states on all sorts of allegations may be an aberration, and the democratic system of a nation should not be judged by that. However, here is a sitting American president apparently showing signs of authoritarianism – as commented by a part of the American media itself – by refusing to concede defeat. He is demeaning the democratic foundation and democratic institutions of the country instead. The

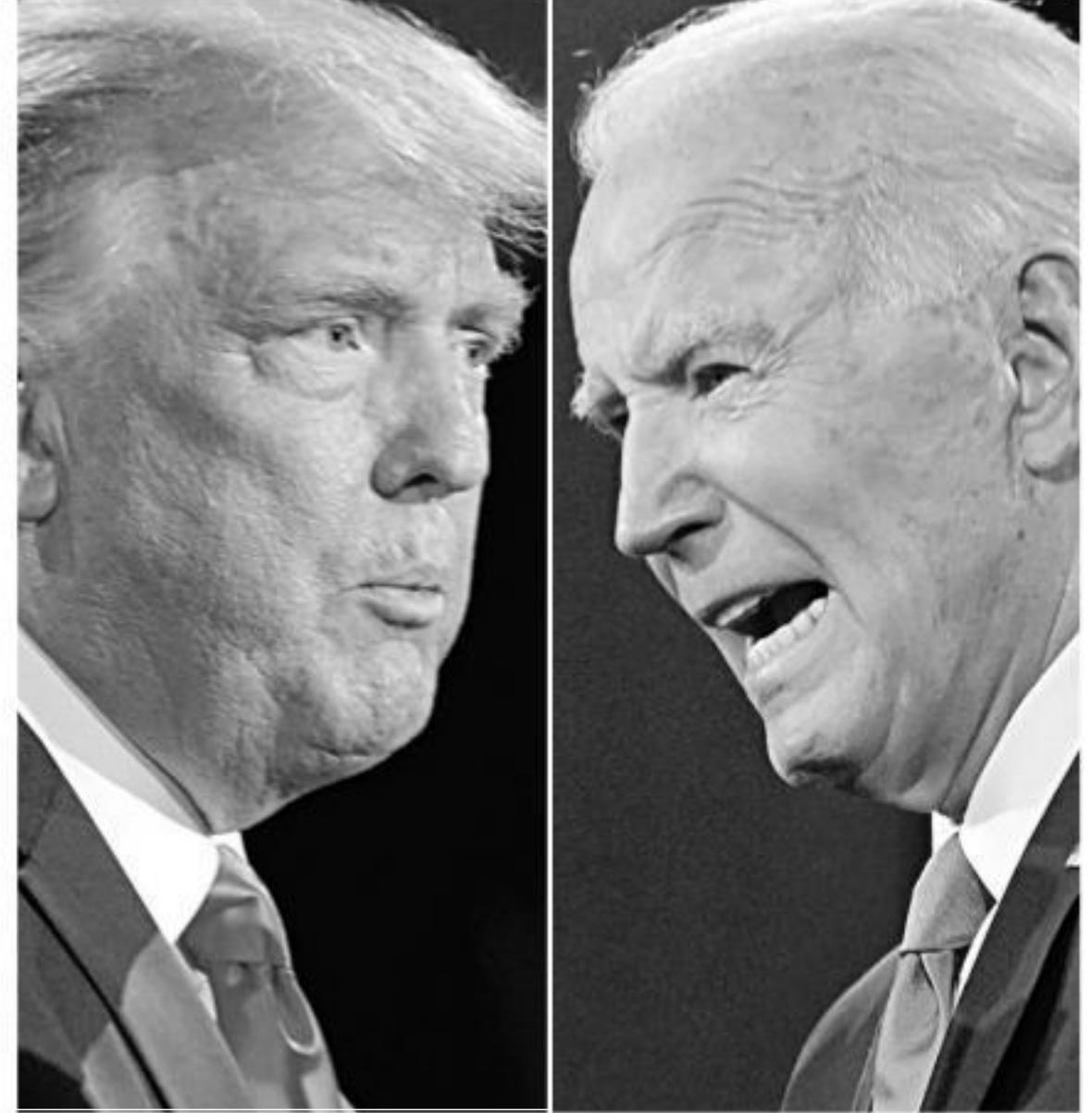
reality is that nearly half of the Americans have endorsed Trumpism in his re-election bid despite his poor handling of the coronavirus crisis and his having injected discord in a society which is already polarised along partisan and racial lines.

When a 5-4 ruling of the US Supreme Court against a vote recount sealed the fate of Florida (and effectively of the US) in 2000, unsurprisingly the recently-deceased Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg – the 'Notorious RBG' – was amongst the four justices who dissented. Justice Ginsburg chose to simply sign off with "I dissent" without writing the word "respectfully". In order to uphold the glory of its institutions, America badly needs the dissenting spirit and style of Justice Ginsburg in its present-day society.

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**POLITICAL DIARY | KALYANI SHANKAR**

## India-US ties will remain strong



How would a Biden administration treat India? There is no need for apprehensions as New Delhi would stretch its hand out for a handshake to continue the smooth relationship and Washington will reciprocate.

New Delhi has an advantage

because there is bipartisan support for India and there is an India caucus among lawmakers, comprising Democrats and Republicans. Also Biden is not new to India. As Obama's vice president, Biden had visited India in 2013 and was known as a keen supporter of India during the Indo-US nuclear deal as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations committee.

It should be noted that a new pragmatic relationship between India and the US began from the time of Bill Clinton's presidency, which had been taken forward by his successors since 2000. The relationship should be seen from the bilateral visits of Clinton, Bush, Obama and Trump in the past two decades. Obama visited twice. President George W Bush went out of the way to clinch the Indo-US Nuclear deal in 2008, which was strengthened by Obama. Even Trump realised the importance of India.

Another important thing is that Biden, in his policy platform document called "Joe Biden's Agenda for the Indian American Community" pledged to "work with India to support a rules-based and stable Indo-Pacific region in which no country, including China, is able to threaten its neighbors with impunity." This was the first time an American presidential candidate released a separate vision for India and Indian Americans.

As Senator, as Chairman of the

Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and as Vice President, Biden has supported India and a strong friendship between India and the United States. He has asserted that he will "increase the number of visas offered for permanent, work-based immigration based on macroeconomic conditions and exempt from any cap recent graduates of Ph.D. programs in STEM fields."

At a personal level, the relations between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Obama and Trump have been quite good. Trump openly acknowledged Modi as his friend, after the 'Howdy Modi' rally in Houston in September 2019 and the 'Namaste India' show in Ahmedabad. Modi will soon need to build up a good relationship with Biden.

Not every Trump policy is likely to be overturned by Biden administration. However, Biden as well as vice presidential nominee Kamala Harris have been critical of Kashmir, the Citizenship Amendment Act, the plight of migrant labour and the National Register for Citizens etc. However, they are also addressing their domestic constituency because it contains some human rights activists who demand action. Even President Obama during his visit to New Delhi had made some critical remarks on religious intolerance at a town hall like meeting.

There are some sensitive trade-related issues between India and the US. Tariffs have been imposed on steel and aluminum imports from

India. The U.S. has removed GSP benefits from India and has imposed restrictions on H1-B visas. During Trump's visit last February there were expectation of a trade deal but it did not happen,

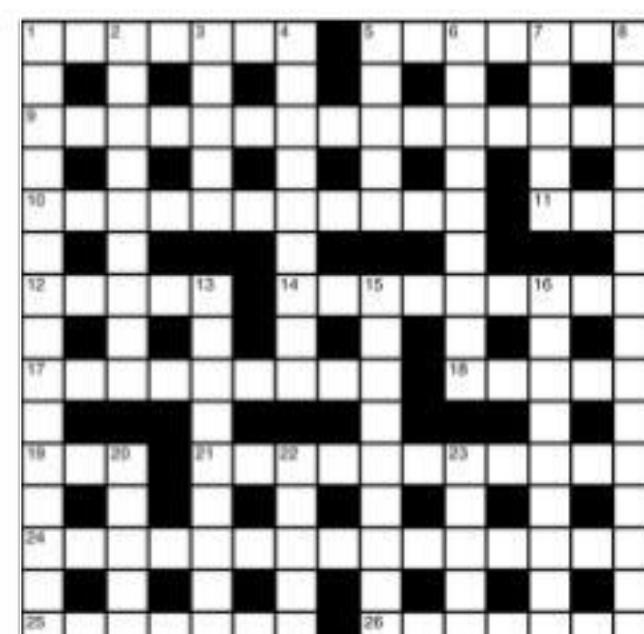
Kashmir is another sensitive issue. Preventing peaceful protests or shutting or slowing down the Internet weaken democracy. The Indian government should take all necessary steps to restore rights for all the people of Kashmir," notes the Biden campaign site.

On immigration and H1B visas, Biden has been sympathetic and will try to be more flexible than Trump. He said, "Immigration is essential to what we are as a nation, our core values, and our aspirations for our future." He has also promised to deepen ties on defense and trade, possibly without the tariffs Trump has imposed. He will restart cooperation on clean energy, which Trump dropped when he pulled out of the Paris climate agreement. A bipartisan view on containing China will also make India an important player. China is yet another important issue and Biden too is interested in India playing an important role.

Biden is likely to deliver on his long-standing belief that India and the United States are natural partners and a Biden Administration could place high priority on continuing to strengthen relations. In his vision for the future of U.S.-India relations, Biden had announced: "My dream is that in 2020, the two closest nations in the world will be India and the United States."

NO 28128

**CROSSWORD**



### SOLUTION FOR 01 NOVEMBER

#### ACROSS

- 1 Sex position daughters came to see (7)
- 5 British trains losing time in seaside places (7)
- 9 Distinguished academic: one in Four progresses improperly (6,9)
- 10 Tees is for ambassador abandoning urgent upgrade (11)
- 11 Old man needing year to travel west in bark (3)
- 12 An extra page a day for teachers (5)
- 14 Doctor Spooner's French cheese grab (3,6)
- 17 Treated as canards – her prophecies were! (9)
- 18 Thus female crosses river in satirical

#### DOWN

- 1 Climber untested: a recipe for disaster on Eiger's flanks (8,7)
- 2 Initial jobs for travel guides (9)
- 3 See torn-up root in odd places (5)
- 4 Enduring blues performance, crowd confined (9)
- 5 Drink, black, to leak out slowly (5)
- 6 Ace forward, certain to delay header, finds gaps (9)
- 7 Dog with a sore throat? (5)
- 8 Needing bread with ingredients taken up, a chef drops bananas (8,3,4)
- 13 These we may require, or one as pot's boiled (9)
- 15 Advanced paper turns up containing a device that's similar (9)
- 16 River keeps running at speed, being clear (9)
- 20 American on journey no longer anchored (5)
- 22 Love shown by wise man in Siouan language (5)
- 23 Old car in failing to start brings hot displeasure (5)

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

NOW AND AGAIN

## Battle for a name

KRISHNENDU BHATTACHARYYA

When the Bard had Juliet ask, "What's in a name", he must have been joking. I suspect he wasn't frightened pleased with his own name, and by playing down the importance of names for all time to come, he was simply getting his own back on the person who christened him. Ask a rose if she would care to smell as sweet with any other name. If you are still in doubt, try naming a newborn.

The day my brother's son was born, my mother asserted in the nursing-home itself that the little one be called Ayan on the ground that the day before she had had a dream in which not only was the sex of the child revealed to her, but its name too. Now, if you must know, my mother is one of an endless line of females who, having spent a lifetime wishing to be heard, and having failed, have developed into a potent weapon in the craft of shedding tears. She unleashed her weapon now with all the old vim, her "Ayan" finding no takers.

My father has always responded to a situation such as this with stoic silence. That his silence now was a cover for deep background activity we were soon to discover. In five minutes he emerged from his brown study and announced that nothing short of "Pundariksha" would do for his grandson's name.

Others soon joined in the fray. My brother is a deep thinker, and like all deep thinkers, is a slow thinker. He took all of three days to advance, well, Saurav. Geoff Boycott's Prince of Calcutta, besides being his favourite cricketer, was for a while his classmate too. His suggestion of course was summarily dismissed.

My sister-in-law spent six days in the nursing-home, the bulk of her time being spent, it later transpired, in mulling over a suitable name. For she came up with not one, not two, but five names. Her name being Rupa, and my brother's Debrup, the "rup" factor played a critical role in her line of thinking. From the bare "Roop" to the solemn "Rudrarup", her package had them all. My mother all this while kept up her tearful fight for Ayan, but my father, sniffing trouble, had withdrawn from battle.

The scene shifted to Rupa's paperbari now, which was to be home for mother and child for a stretch. The dramatis personae were Rupa's father and mother, her elder brother Pratik and his wife Mala, and their seven-year old son Shan. Pratik, having just returned from the US, supplied "Neil", to be spelt that way. Mala put forward "Rishav". And while Rupa's father battled for "Arya", her mother kept mum; my father having put her wise to the futility of the effort.

The impasse continued. Danger was looming large that the child might have to go without a name. Then young Shan spoke. What we, the elders of the two families with more than four hundred years between us could not achieve, the seven-year-old did. He suggested drawing lots. At first nobody seemed open to the idea. But they soon saw this was the only way one could lose with one's dignity in place.

A date was fixed and everyone gathered in my father's study. My computer-savvy brother complicated matters by suggesting that the drawing of lots be done by a computer program. The elders staunchly protested, taking this seemingly innocent suggestion to be a dirty trick to push "Saurav", as indeed it was, I later learnt. Finally, the names were written on small pieces of paper that were promptly crushed into non-committal balls, and after a spirited shuffle inside a box, one piece was picked up.

Lo and behold! It was Ayan. My mother, my dear, dear mother finally had her say.

### 100 YEARS AGO

#### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

To The Editor Of The Statesman

SIR, - Anyone reading the leaderette in The Statesman of November 5, would gain the impression that Christian Science is almost at one with Spiritualism and Theosophy, or at any rate closely allied in its tenets, whereas the reverse is the case. In quoting from the encyclical letter it is stated in regard to the three "heresies" that "they draw much of their strength from a new knowledge of the extent of psychic powers with which human nature is endowed." Further from Christian Science it is impossible to go as Christian Science insists in its teachings that it is the human or carnal mind with its so-called psychic powers which causes all the trouble in the world, and that it is only as one attains the "mind of Christ" that it is possible rightly and effectually to combat the ills of the human family. This teaching is Biblical and manifestly has nothing in common with that imputed to it.

C.A. CARR,  
Christian Science Publication  
Committee for India, Calcutta.

#### AN INDIAN VIEW OF MR. GANDHI

To The Editor Of The Statesman

SIR, - Mr. Gandhi, the Ali brothers and other agitators of the same school are doing a great disservice to the country by their present campaign of political agitation. They are leading the ignorant masses to chaos and ruin when all should heartily cooperate in the Reform scheme so benevolently granted to Indians by the benign British Government. The liberty given by the British Government is so wide that they have forgotten that their heads would have been long before placed on the scaffold had they been conducting only a part of their present campaign of revolution in the Moghul period. But thanks to the British Government who is forgiving them for the love of liberty and kindness! In the interests of my countrymen and the motherland which I love, I would beseech the Government that some sort of restraint be placed on the leaders of the Khilafat and non-cooperation school.

TAROK RAY CHOWDHURY.  
Johdpur.



*Need to set up an all India coordinated research project on bamboo to promote the growth of the sector*

SURESH PRABHU  
FORMER UNION MINISTER

## THUMBNAILS

**CEO Roundtable:** Reliance Industries head Mukesh Ambani and Indian Oil chairman Shrikant Madhav Vaidya will join over 30 world leaders from oil, gas and petrochemical industries to discuss post-Covid-19 economic recovery at the 6th Abu Dhabi CEO Roundtable, ADNOC said on Saturday. World leaders will on 11 November "discuss critical issues facing the industry including how oil and gas companies are building resilience in response to Covid-19 and the role of the industry in the energy transition," Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, the event organiser, said in a statement. PTI

**Divi's Lab profit:** Drug firm Divi's Laboratories today reported a 45.63 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit at Rs 519.59 crore for the quarter ended 30 September 2020, mainly on account of robust sales. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 356.78 crore for the corresponding period of the previous fiscal. Divi's Laboratories said in a filing to BSE. Consolidated total income of the company stood at Rs 1,762.94 crore for the quarter under consideration. It was Rs 1,492.60 crore for the same period a year ago, it added. PTI

**MSMEs registration:** Over 11 lakh MSMEs have registered on the new online system of Udyam Registration launched in July, the government said on Saturday. Out of these, 3.72 lakh enterprises have registered under manufacturing category whereas 6.31 lakh enterprises under service sector. The share of micro enterprises is 93.17 per cent whereas small and medium enterprises are 5.62 per cent and 1.21 per cent, respectively. PTI

**Piaggio offer:** Piaggio India has announced special benefits and offers on its Vespa and Aprilia range of products. The new offer for the festive season will be available till 16 November, during which the customers can avail benefits up to Rs 10,000 on purchase of any Vespa and Aprilia variants, said a Press release. SNS

**Vivo commitment:** Smartphone maker Vivo has expanded its Vivo V20 series line-up with the launch of V20 SE in West Bengal. Continuing Vivo's commitment to "Make in India", Vivo will manufacture all V20 SE devices at the Greater Noida facility that employs nearly 10,000 men and women ensuring all Vivo devices sold in India are made by fellow Indians, said a Press release. SNS

**PepsiCo initiative:** As part of its ongoing efforts to fight the Covid-19 outbreak, PepsiCo India on Saturday announced a unique initiative of providing hygiene kits and conducting awareness sessions on personal hygiene for the truckers' community in Howrah district of West Bengal, according to a Press release. SNS

# Recovery in domestic air traffic continues: Icra

October passenger volume witnesses 33 per cent growth to 52 lakh passengers over September

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 7 NOVEMBER

**D**omestic air travel demand continued on an upward trajectory month-on-month, with the October volume witnessing a 33 per cent growth to 52 lakh passengers over September, Icra said.

On a year-on-year basis, however, the domestic travel demand declined by 58 per cent and internationally the fall was 87 per cent, it said.

The Indian aviation industry has witnessed continued recovery in domestic passenger traffic in October with a sequential growth (over September) of around 33 per cent to around 52 lakh passengers, Icra said in a release.

Icra further noted that the capacity deployment in October 2020 at around 52 per cent over the same month last year, is a significant increase over the around 33 per cent capacity deployed in August and around 46 per cent capacity in September this year.

The capacity is expected to go up to 70-75 per cent in the coming days in view of the festive season, the government

had said.

According to Icra, the cumulative domestic passenger volumes since the resumption of domestic flight services in a graded manner from 25 May till 31 October, was around 16 million.

"The number of flights departing has also gradually increased from 416 on Day 1 to 1,749 on Day 156 (26 October 2020). For October, the average daily departures were

from 416 on Day 1 to 1,749 on Day 156 (26 October 2020). For October, the average daily departures were around 1,574, significantly lower than the average daily departures of 3,031 in October 2019, though better than around 1,311 in September 2020.



around 1,574, significantly lower than the average daily departures of 3,031 in October 2019, though better than around 1,311 in September 2020," said Kinjal Shah, vice-president, Icra.

Also, the average number of passengers per flight during October 2020 was 106, as against an average of 131 passengers per flight in October 2019, she said.

Therefore, it is expected that

the domestic aviation industry operated at a passenger load factor (PLF) of around 68 per cent in October 2020, as against 83.6 per cent in October 2019, that too on a low capacity.

PLF or seat factor is a measure of how much of an airline's passenger carrying capacity is used (average percentage of seats filled in an aircraft).

According to Shah, the PLF for October was higher than 63.2 per cent in September, despite the increase in capacity deployment by around 24 per cent.

Under the Vande Bharat Mission, the international passenger traffic, both (inbound and outbound), was 10,96,709 between 7 May (when the services commenced) and 31 October, as per Icra.

The international passenger traffic declined by 87 per cent to 255,075 year-on-year, though sequentially it improved by about 22 per cent, Icra said in the release.



will take some time to pickup.

"Average capacity utilisation among the corporates is around 69 per cent. Investment demand from corporates will take some time to pickup. The cash-rich PSUs will initially embark upon capital expenditure plan which will generate investment demand," he said.

The corporate sector will become "very careful about borrowings" and use their internal resources initially.

He said the core sectors of the economy, such as steel and cement, have been doing well throughout the period starting from April 2020, and they are in a position to tap the export markets.

However, the travel, tourism and hospitality are the worst-hit sectors in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak.

## Goldman Sachs infuses ₹1,125 cr in Biocon arm

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 7 NOVEMBER

Biocon today said its subsidiary Biocon Biologics has approved a Rs 1,125 crore investment from Goldman Sachs. This capital injection by Goldman Sachs will enable Biocon Biologics to make prudent investments in research & development, high-quality manufacturing, as well as establish a global commercial footprint.

The board of Biocon Biologics has approved a Rs 1,125 crore (\$150 million) capital injection from Goldman Sachs, Biocon said in a statement. As per the terms of the proposed agreement, Goldman Sachs will be issued optionally convertible debentures at a post-money equity valuation of \$3.94 billion, it added.

"We are extremely pleased to welcome a capital injection by Goldman Sachs at this inflection point of Biocon

## Adani wins coal block in Jharkhand

NEW DELHI, 7 NOVEMBER

Biocon's journey in its quest for global leadership in providing affordable access through Biosimilar drugs," Biocon executive chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw said.

This transaction is a part of the overall strategic plan of value creation for the company's shareholders through Biocon Biologics, she added.

Biocon Biologics CEO Christiane Hamacher said: "With three of our products commercialised in the US market, we continue to strive towards expanding access for our patients and unlocking value for our shareholders. This capital injection by Goldman Sachs will enable us to make prudent investments in R&D, high-quality manufacturing, as well as, establish a global commercial footprint." The company is confident of achieving aspiration of serving 5 million patients and attaining a revenue target of \$1 billion by 2021-22, he added.

Adani Enterprises Ltd today won Gondulpura coal mine in Jharkhand on the sixth day of commercial mining auction. Companies like Vedanta Limited and EMIL Mines and Mineral Resources Limited were also vying for the coal block.

Adani Enterprises made a final offer of 20.75 per cent revenue sharing for Gondulpura coal mine which has a geological reserves of 176.33 million tons, the coal ministry said in a statement.

The mine will generate annual revenue of Rs 520.92 crore, the coal ministry said.

The ministry said that one coal mine of Jharkhand was put up for auction on day six of commercial coal mine auction.

The e-auction witnessed strong competition amongst the bidders with the mine attracting good premium over the floor price, it said.

PTI

Jewellers are betting on recovery and are optimistic that a rebound in the economy and pent-up demand will help boost sales during this Dhanteras and the industry is likely to do up to 70 per cent of last year's business.

Notwithstanding the ruling high gold prices and ongoing Covid-19 uncertainties, jewellers are expecting a revival in retail sales this festive season as the yellow metal has always been an integral part to festivals in India, particularly so during Dhanteras, Diwali, and the ensuing wedding season.

"There has been a gradual growth in both footfalls and sales since the beginning of the festive season which has grown even more since the last few days despite the ongoing uncertainties over Covid. This has made us hopeful that we will be able to do 70 per cent of last year's business during Dhanteras," All India Gems

## Jewellers bet big on Dhanteras

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 7 NOVEMBER



and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJF) chairman Anantha Padmanabhan said.

Gold prices have been ruling in the range of Rs 52,000 per 10 grams in the country.

"Millions of Indians believe that purchasing gold during the auspicious occasion of Dhanteras will usher in good fortune and wealth. Reflecting this sentiment, this year, Dhanteras is likely to mark the onset of a modest buying period, providing some respite after a prolonged phase of suppressed demand and sub-

to gold."

PNG Jewellers chairman and managing director Saurabh Gadgil stated that this festive season the footfalls are fairly regular and the market seems to be in a revival mode.

"We are seeing a clear trend of agri-business backed families spending more. Rural India is showing more consumption appetite than the metros.

"Gold is still the most favoured purchase for the festive season. A lot of people including millennial and first-time investors are favouring gold as an investment option. We are also seeing strong bookings in light-weight and wearable jewellery to be picked up for Dhanteras and Diwali besides bullion products," he said.

Senco Gold and Diamonds CEO Suvarkan San said, this Dhanteras, we are expecting similar sales levels in value terms as last year. In volume terms there might be a 15-20 percent decrease compared to last year.

## Gland Pharma garners ₹1,944 crore from anchor investors ahead of IPO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 7 NOVEMBER

The anchor investors include Government of Singapore, Nomura, Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, SBI Mutual Fund, Axis Mutual Fund, SBI Life Insurance Company, Fidelity, ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund, HSBC Global Investment Funds, Small Cap World Fund and The Scottish Oriental Smaller Companies Trust PLC among others.

The Hyderbad-based company, backed by China's Fosun Pharma, develops, manufactures and markets complex injectables.

The company has fixed a price of Rs 1,490-1,500 per share for the initial public offering (IPO), which will be open for public subscription during 9-11 November.

The IPO comprises issuance

of fresh shares worth up to Rs 1,250 crore and an offer of sale (OFS) of up to 3,48,63,635 shares.

The OFS consists of sale of up to 1,93,68,686 shares by Fosun Pharma Industrial Pte Ltd, 1,00,47,435 shares by Gland Celsus Bio Chemicals Pvt Ltd, 35,73,014 shares by Empower Discretionary Trust and 18,74,500 shares by Nilay Discretionary Trust.

The IPO will fetch Rs 6,479.5 crore at the upper end of the price band. This could probably be the first big Indian company with a Chinese parent to go for public listing.

The company's promoters are Fosun Singapore and Shanghai Fosun Pharma.

The proceeds from the fresh issue of shares will be

utilised for working capital, capital expenditure and general corporate purposes, as per the draft papers.

Gland Pharma was founded by PVN Raju in 1978 and Fosun Pharma acquired 74 per cent stake in the company in 2017.

Shares of the company are proposed to be listed on the BSE and the NSE.

Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Ltd, Citigroup Global Markets India Pvt Ltd, Haitong Securities India Pvt Ltd and Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Pvt Ltd are the book running lead managers to the IPO.

The company sells its products primarily under a business-to-business model in over 60 countries.

## Cairn Oil gets extension of licence for Rajasthan block

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 7 NOVEMBER

for Rajasthan (RJ) block on same terms with effect from 15 May 2020."

The government had in October 2018 agreed to extend by 10 years the contract for Barmer fields in Rajasthan after the expiry of the initial 25-year contract period on 14 May 2020.

This extension was subject to the Vedanta Group firm agreeing to raise the share of the government's profit from oil and gas produced from the block by 10 per cent.

While Cairn protested against the additional payout to the Vedanta Group, the extension was subsequently held up due to the government claiming additional profit petroleum after re-allocating Rs 2,723 crore

common cost between different fields in the block and disallowance of Rs 1,508 crore on a pipeline.

The government wants the company to clear the dues before the extension is granted.

"One of the conditions for extension relates to notification of certain audit exceptions raised for FY16-17 as per PSC provisions and provides for payment of amount, if such audit exceptions result into any creation of liability," it said.

Vedanta said it has disputed such demand.

"The company has reasonable grounds to defend itself which are supported by independent legal opinions," it said.

## Forex reserves rise to \$560.71 billion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 7 NOVEMBER

The country's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$183 million to touch a record high of \$560.71 billion in the week ended 30 October, Reserve Bank data showed. In the previous week ended 23 October, the reserves had jumped by \$5.412 billion to \$560.532 billion.

In the reporting week, the reserves rose due to an increase in foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves.

Foreign currency assets rose by \$815 million to \$518,339 billion, the RBI's

## Smartphone shipment increases by 17%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 7 NOVEMBER

India's smartphone shipment grew by 17 per cent with record shipments of 54.3 million units in the September quarter.

Xiaomi led the tally with 25 per cent share of September quarter shipment, followed by Samsung (22.3 per cent), Vivo (16.7 per cent), Realme (14.7 per cent) and Oppo (11.3 per cent).

A total of 25 million feature phones were shipped in the September quarter, down 30 per cent y-o-y.

### XIAOMI LEADS TALLY

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share, IDC said.

Navkendar Singh, research director (client devices and IPDS) at IDC India, said the



healthy growth in smartphone shipment in the September

# Odisha COVID caseload surpasses three-lakh mark

3% growth in November, one lakh infections in 42 days

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, 7 NOVEMBER

**A**midst declining trend of virus infection, Odisha's COVID-19 count on Saturday breached the 3-lakh-mark. There has however been a rise in fatalities with 17 more succumbing to the virus today.

While the overall tally crossed three lakhs, the fact remains that there has been a steady decline in fresh cases with positive cases registering less than three per cent growth rate in the past week.

The virus infection rate has dropped since the past one week with the detection of 8,315 positive cases at a low growth rate of 2.77 percent.

On 26 September, the caseload had surpassed 2 lakh-mark. It took 42 days for the tally to surpass 3 lakh from two lakh mark.

Odisha, which recorded its first COVID case on 15 March, took 169 days to cross the one lakh mark on August 30. However in an exponential spike, it took 27 days for the tally to reach 2 lakh mark.

Over the past 24 hours, the state recorded 1,372 fresh cases and 17 deaths which took the caseload to 3,00,140 and the death toll to 1,410.

## Sundargarh dist uses DMF for skill education

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
ROURKELA, 7 NOVEMBER

The district administration of Sundargarh, under its skill development program, supported 17 migrants and youth of the district to join courses in hotel management.

In the first phase, 17 candidates have enrolled in various courses at the State Institute of Hotel Management in Bolangir, a government of Odisha run institution. All fees including admission, courses and hostel charges will be paid from the District Mineral Foundation, DMF Sundargarh funds.

The program was recently announced by the district administration to provide

## COVID action plan needed for likely 2nd wave

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, 7 NOVEMBER

With apprehensions of a second Covid wave in December and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik sounding the warning bell, the need for an action plan is being stressed by public health experts.

First, the warning was to beware of monsoon, now it is winter that has been flagged. In fact, till an effective vaccine is available the pandemic related apprehensions will continue irrespective of the weather, noted eminent virologists.

Delhi and Kerala have already entered a second wave. We need a well thought out action plan in place for December and January 2021 even as we repeatedly assert

79 Covid deaths were reported in the past one week at 5.60% growth rate while the contagion grew at 2.77% during the period.

Of the new cases reported today, 796 were reported in quarantine centres, while 576 infections were detected during contact tracing.

Khurda district, including state capital Bhubaneswar

on wearing face masks and maintaining social distancing norms, they said.

The CM had also referred to Europe and nations which have reverted back to lockdowns and shutdowns.

The first thing that the Odisha government did after the CM's statement on a possible second wave in December, was to extend the closure of schools till the year end.

Seen in this context, quite a few health professionals feel that the government needs to consider reverting to night curfew or regulated traffic and market places as well as travel from states which have shown high incidence of COVID in the last few weeks.

Economic considerations weigh heavily against any

, has reported the highest number of new cases at 145, followed by Cuttack at 121.

Odisha now has 13,503 active coronavirus cases, while 2,85,174 people have recovered from the disease so far.

The state has so far tested 48,88,509 samples for COVID-19, including 50,385 during the past 24 hours.

sort of a fallback on 'restrictions and regulations'. But a balance has to be struck, they noted before adding that it is a question of two more months as hopefully the vaccine will be available by then.

Night curfew in December, for instance, can reduce emission levels and air pollution. The fog and smog factors need to be taken into account.

A few countries have shut down pubs, malls etc, we can even think of micro level regulations of market places with a time schedule, they said.

Garbage burning, dust and air pollutants in construction sites and industries need to be monitored and controlled during December-January 2021, they noted.

While high recovery rate and low death rate are reassuring features of otherwise gloomy COVID scenarios, a large percentage of local or community contact cases have become a major cause of worry for State's COVID managers.

In the current month, 40% cases were detected during contact tracing.

## BJP-BJD are together, says Dash

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, 7 NOVEMBER

the BJD. He promptly resigned from the party.

Besides stating that the BJD and BJP are working together, Dash has also alleged in the tape that extortion and corruption will return to Balasore.

Opposition Congress was quick to charge that the tape has only confirmed what has all along been a cosy working relationship between the BJD and BJD. The chit fund case and other mega corruption cases are under wraps in Odisha as the BJD is with the BJP, charged the Congress.

The BJD dismissed the allegations while the BJD parroted the line - we are equi-distance from the BJP and Congress.

All expenses related to their enrolment and training will be borne by the administration. Moreover, an additional Rs 5,000 per annum will be given to each candidate.

Candidates keen on availing the facility have been asked to contact their respective block office of DMF office in Sundergarh.

The administration has also provided a helpline number 011-41182138 or 18003457461 for more information.

In the first phase, 17 candidates have enrolled in various courses at the State Institute of Hotel Management in Bolangir, a government of Odisha run institution. All fees including admission, courses and hostel charges will be paid from the District Mineral Foundation, DMF Sundargarh funds.

The program was recently announced by the district administration to provide

employment opportunities to unemployed youth and residents of the district.

The State Institute of Hotel Management offers degree, diploma and certificate courses.

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enrolment and training will be borne by the administration. Moreover, an additional Rs 5,000 per annum will be given to each candidate.

Candidates keen on availing the facility have been asked to contact their respective block office of DMF office in Sundergarh.

The administration has also provided a helpline number 011-41182138 or 18003457461 for more information.

In the first phase, 17 candidates have enrolled in various courses at the State Institute of Hotel Management in Bolangir, a government of Odisha run institution. All fees including admission, courses and hostel charges will be paid from the District Mineral Foundation, DMF Sundargarh funds.

The program was recently announced by the district administration to provide

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*Just as Lord Rama and his wife Sita found their way home after the defeat of the demon king Ravana, their way lit by many millions of lamps, so too we shall find our way through this, and we shall do so triumphantly*

UK PRIME MINISTER BORIS JOHNSON

AHEAD OF DIWALI

## WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	29°C	25°C H
HONG KONG	26°C	20°C H
TOKYO	18°C	12°C CL
LONDON	17°C	9°C S
DUBAI	30°C	25°C S
SAN FRANCISCO	13°C	04°C C H
NEW YORK	10°C	07°C C S
MOSCOW	16°C	09°C H

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

## THUMBNAILS



Russian women wearing mask in Moscow. The country has confirmed 1,753,836 cases of coronavirus and 30,251 deaths. IANS

No cases in Oz's Victoria: The Australian state of Victoria had its eighth day in a row of no new virus cases or deaths, ahead of another move back to normal living including no limits on travel outside of Melbourne and the resumption of flights to New Zealand. AP

N-waste shipment: A shipment of reprocessed nuclear waste arrived at a port in northern Germany, and authorities were braced for likely protests as it is transported across the country to a storage site. A ship carrying six containers of waste from the Sellafield reprocessing plant in England docked in Nordenham, news agency dpa reported. AP

Depp not in Fantastic Beast: Hollywood star Johnny Depp will no longer play Gellert Grindelwald in Warner Bros' Fantastic Beasts franchise after he lost his libel case. In a statement posted on Instagram, he said that he was asked by Warner Bros to leave the franchise and he has accepted the request. AP

FDA panel urges rejection of experimental Alzheimer's drug use

WASHINGTON, 7 NOVEMBER

Government health advisers sharply criticised a closely watched Alzheimer's drug on Friday, concluding there wasn't enough evidence that the experimental drug slowed the brain-destroying disease.

The panel of outside experts for the Food and Drug Administration agreed that a pivotal study in patients failed to show strong evidence that the drug worked. The experts warned of multiple red flags with the data, which did not initially show any benefit until another analysis with later results.

Friday's meeting follows months of scepticism about the drug, developed by Cambridge, Massachusetts-based Biogen Inc. and Japan's Eisai Co.

Alzheimer's treatments is a huge, urgent, unmet need," said panelist Dr Joel Perlmutter, of Washington University School of Medicine. "But if we approve something with data that is not strong we have the risk of delaying good, effective treatments.

He was one of eight panellists who voted against the drug's evidence; one voted that the drug showed strong evidence and two members said they were undecided. The panel also rejected the merits of a second study of the drug. The FDA is not required to follow the group's guidance but their negative opinion could weigh heavily on the agency's decision on whether to greenlight the drug. The FDA is expected to make a decision by March.

The Biogen drug, known as aducanumab, does not cure or reverse Alzheimer's; the claim is that it modestly slows the rate of decline. AP

# Nations long targeted by US chide Trump's claims of fraud

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BOGOTÁ (COLOMBIA), 7 NOVEMBER

Demands to stop the vote count. Baseless accusations of fraud. Claims that the opposition is trying to steal the election. Across the world, many were scratching their heads on Friday especially in countries that have long been advised by Washington on how to run elections wondering if those assertions could truly be coming from the president of the US, the nation considered one of the world's most emblematic democracies. Who's the banana republic now? Colombian daily newspaper Publimetro chided on the front page with a photo of a man in a US flag print mask. The irony of seeing US

President Donald Trump cut off by major media networks Thursday as he launched unsubstantiated claims lambasting the US electoral system was not lost on many. The US has long been a vocal critic of strongman tactics around the world. Now, some of those same targets are turning around the finger.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro laughed as the vote dragged on past Tuesday, briefly breaking into the hymn of his nation's annual beauty contest on state TV, singing, On a night like tonight, any of them could win.

In Africa long the target of US election guidance Kenyan commentator spun out satiric tweets, drawing freely from clichés that long have described troubled elections

and questioning the strength of democracy in the US Kenya

Over the last two days, Trump has leaned in to the idea that the high court should get involved in the election as it did in 2000. Then, the court effectively settled the contested election for Presi-

dent George W Bush in a 5-4 decision that split the court's liberals and conservatives.

Today, six members of the court are conservatives, including three nominated by Trump.

cartoonist Patrick Gathara

tweeted that Trump has bar-

not to leave unless he is declared the winner, with a mediator currently trying to coax him out with promises of fast food. Along with the mockery comes dismay. Many people in Africa see the US as a bellwether for democracy and, after troubled votes in Tanzania and Ivory Coast in recent days.

Chief Justice John Roberts, for his part, is not likely to want the election to come down to himself and his colleagues. Roberts, who was not on the court for Bush v Gore in 2000 but was a lawyer for Bush, has often tried to distance the court from the political branches of government and the politics he thinks could hurt the court's reputation.

ricated himself inside the presidential palace vowing

a pluralistic system with a free and fair vote for political leaders. These tactics have generated both allies and enemies, and this year's presidential vote perhaps more than any other is testing the strength of the values it promotes around the world.

Few places on Earth have been on the receiving end of US election advice as the African continent, where the US has encouraged nations to have independent electoral commissions, a uniform voters' roll and other standards aimed at ensuring an equitable vote. In Mexico, some commentators called on the media to follow the lead of US colleagues in cutting off transmissions when their own country's president begins spreading falsehoods.

# Assured of victory, Democrats focusing on health, economy

Biden announces that he will introduce his plans to contain the pandemic on his first day in office

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WASHINGTON, 7 NOVEMBER

Confident of their victory in the US presidential election, Democratic candidate Joe Biden and his running mate Senator Kamala Harris have begun working on the task ahead by focusing on two critical areas of public health and economy, both battered by the raging Covid pandemic.

According to latest projections, Biden had 264 of the 538 electoral college votes up for grabs. He only requires another six electoral college votes to reach the magical number of 270, to be declared elected as the next US president.

Whilst we're waiting for the final results, I want people to know we are not waiting to get to work, Biden said in an address to the nation from the campaign headquarters in Wilmington, Delaware late on Friday night.

I want everyone to know that on Day One, we are going to put our plan to control this virus into action. That can't save any of the lives that have been lost, but it will save a lot of lives in the months ahead, the 77-year-old former US vice president said.

Biden urged his fellow countrymen to remain calm and patient as the vote counting process is still going on in some key battleground states.

And let the process work out as we count all the votes. We are proving again what we have proved for 244 years in this country. Democracy works.

Your vote will be counted. I don't care how hard people try to stop it. I will not let it happen. The people will be

heard and our journey to a more perfect union goes on, he said.

In America we hold strong views and we have strong disagreements. And that's okay. Strong disagreements are inevitable in a democracy, and strong disagreements are healthy. They're a sign of vigorous debate, of deeply held views, he said.

But we have to remember: The purpose of our politics isn't total, unrelenting, unending warfare. No. The purpose of our politics, the work of the nation, isn't to fan the flames of conflict but to solve problems. To guarantee justice. To give everybody a fair shot. To improve the lives of our people. We may be opponents but we are not enemies. We are Americans, he said.

Observing that the vast majority want to get the vitriol out of the politics, he said: We're certainly not going to agree on a lot of the issues but we can at least agree to be civil to one another. We must put the anger and the demonisation behind us. It is time for the nation to come together as a nation and heal.

It won't be easy, but we must try. My responsibility as President will be to represent the whole nation. And I want you to know that I will

work as hard for those who voted against me as for those who voted for me. That's the job. It's called a duty of care. For all Americans, he said in a message for unity.

We have serious problems to deal with from Covid to our economy to racial justice to the climate. We don't have any more time to waste on partisan warfare. And more than that, we have such an incredible opportunity to build the future we want for our kids and grandkids, Biden said.

Biden said that he has never been more optimistic about the future of the nation. There is no reason we can't own the 21st Century. We just need to remember who we are. This is the United States of America. And there has never been anything we've been unable to do when we've done it together, he said.

The US central bank chief Jerome Powell on Friday said a full economic recovery is unlikely until people are confident that it's safe to resume their normal activities. The reopening of the economy has led to a rapid rebound in activity and real GDP rose at an annual rate of 33 per cent in the third quarter.

Perdue, Ossoff head to Georgia US Senate runoff

ATLANTA, 7 NOVEMBER

Trump's White House chief of staff tests +ve: White House chief of staff Mark Meadows has tested positive for Covid-19, becoming the latest Trump administration official to contract the disease. It was not immediately clear how 61-year-old Meadows - who has often appeared at public events without a face mask - was infected. A White House official told Fox News that Meadows was doing well. AP

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Perdue sought to cast Ossoff as backing a radical socialist agenda, while Ossoff portrayed Perdue as a corrupt Washington insider who has been part of a botched pandemic response.

Perdue, Ossoff head to Georgia US Senate runoff

ATLANTA, 7 NOVEMBER

Two heavily armed men "coming to deliver a truck full of fake ballots" have been arrested near the Philadelphia convention center where election workers were counting votes from the undecided US presidential election, police said.

Antonio LaMotta, 61, and Joshua Macias, 42, both of Chesapeake, Virginia, were arrested on Thursday night outside the center on suspicion of carrying handguns in Pennsylvania state without permits, according to US media reports.

Philadelphia police said they found the men on Thursday night after receiving a tip that people with firearms were heading to the Pennsylvania Convention Center in a silver Hummer truck. Both men were carrying loaded handguns, and police found an AR-type rifle in the Hummer. PTI

have all said they see no widespread voting irregularities, no major instances of fraud or illegal activity. The count is slow - but that was to be expected, because a record number of people voted by mail this year.

Meanwhile, Republican national chairwoman Ronna McDaniel appearing at a rally with Georgia Trump supporters, without offering specifics, said the GOP has heard reports of irregularities in Georgia.

Books? Hairdressers? Europeans split on lockdown essentials

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
HALLE (BELGIUM), 7 NOVEMBER

In times when a pandemic unleashes death and poverty, the concept of what is essential to keep society functioning in a lockdown is gripping Europe. Beyond the obvious food stores and pharmacies some answers in the patchwork of nations and cultures that make up Europe can approach the surreal. What is allowed on one side of a border can be banned just a brief stroll down the road, on the other.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said that while it might seem fairest to just shut everything down, it's perhaps not the most practical solution.

If people are only satisfied when everything possible is shut down, then that's a view which naturally doesn't make economic sense, Merkel said.

That's why Germany is keeping car dealerships open this time, after their closure in the first, spring lockdown hurt the country's huge automobile industry.

In Belgium, of course, chocolate shops are staying open. Chocolate is very much an essential food around here, said chocolatier Marleen Van Volsem at the Prealeen chocolaterie south of Brussels.

It has to be. Because chocolate makes you happy." Happiness would seem no subject to split hairs about. Yet con-

sider how differently Italy and Britain treat a service that gladdens many a heart.

In the country that coined the term bella figura the art of cutting a fine figure hairdressers are deemed essential.

For the love of books is unquestioned. No country has more Nobel Prize-winners in Literature, and a book review program on TV like Apostrophes used to be watched by millions every week. But walk the streets of Paris and you will find bookshops closed.

Sylvia Whitman, who runs the famed Shakespeare and Co. bookstore on the Left Bank, seethes at the prospect of giant online platforms gobbling up business while her shop is shuttered. Her sales have dropped 80% since the spring lockdown.

Find it really tiring that the bigger you are the more you can ignore laws, you can avoid taxes, you can find loop-

holes," she said. The smaller you are, the more expensive and the more complicated things are.

Across the border in Belgium, books were deemed essential. Even then, Wouter Cajot, owner of the 't Stad Leest in the port of Antwerp finds it a mixed blessing. The lockdown has reduced passing shoppers to a trickle and he will have to decide whether heating and personnel costs make it worth his staying open.

But when essential goods cannot be bought in a store they can still be delivered. During the first lockdown we had to invent a website in three days and nights," said Cajot, and he got new logistical equipment a cargo bike," to the delight of his Antwerp clients who get books delivered within hours of placing their order.

So why order books at an international online giant when the corner bookstore can deliver same-day by bike?" That's also become a question of government policy. With smallshops often forced to suspend operations, and drifting closer to bankruptcy as a result, the door is wide open for supermarket chains and online giants to pounce. Several countries have taken steps to ensure supermarkets during lockdown cannot sell many products that provide the livelihood of closed shops.

Yet for European nations battling the resurgence of Covid, the assignment is critical. These measures save lives, Catalonia police chief Eduard Sallent said. We are enforcing a measure that is meant to prevent deaths and the collapse of our health care system.

Without tourists around to clog Barcelona's Ciutat Vella,

Spain cops on curfew patrol to fight nightlife infections

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BARCELONA, 7 NOVEMBER

At 10:00 pm each night, Barcelona's professional crime fighters become wet blankets in uniforms.

Police officers fan out across the coastal city in northeastern Spain to break up clandestine parties and to clear the streets of young adults drinking alcohol, enforcing a nationwide curfew the Spanish government ordered to slow down the spread of coronavirus.

Associated Press journalists accompanied officers from the Mossos d'Esquadra, the police force for Spain's Catalonia region, on curfew patrol. Compared to the killings, bar brawls or domes violence calls the officers are used to handling, busting people for being out after hours is easy work.

They focused on spotting youths who had sneaked out to share a bottle, since the city's bars and nightclubs closed completely due to the virus.

Spanish officials cited the Spanish youth custom of gathering on parkbenches to drink cheap liquor mixed with soft drinks a practice called botellón, as a potential source of infections when Spain first emerged from its strict spring home confinement.

Without tourists around to clog Barcelona's Ciutat Vella,

Rapper King Von killed in Atlanta shooting

ATLANTA, 7 NOVEMBER

Chicago rapper King Von was among three people shot and killed in a shooting early Friday outside a nightclub in Atlanta that also left three



People wearing facial masks walk past the Jeronimos Monastery in Lisbon, Portugal, on Saturday. AP

**Egypt election:** Egyptians began voting Saturday in the second and final stage of the country's parliamentary elections, after a relatively low turnout in the first stage that embarrassed the government of President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi. Polling centers opened at 9 a.m. in 13 of Egypt's 27 provinces. PTI

**Iranian lawyer released:** A leading Iranian human rights lawyer has been released from prison, Iran's state-run news agency reported, after she was earlier hospitalised amid a hunger-strike conducted from her cell. Nasrin Sotoudeh was taken to hospital in mid-September, a month after launching her hunger strike seeking better prison conditions and the release of political prisoners amid Covid. PTI

**Ex-Af TV presenter killed:** A bomb attached to the vehicle of a former presenter on Afghanistan's TOLO TV exploded early on Saturday, killing the journalist and two other civilians, Kabul police said. The death of Yama Siawash is being investigated and the identity of the other victims was not immediately known. AP

**UAE announces relaxing of Islamic laws for personal freedoms**

DUBAI, 7 NOVEMBER

The United Arab Emirates announced on Saturday a major overhaul of the country's Islamic personal laws, allowing unmarried couples to cohabit, loosening alcohol restrictions and criminalising so-called honour killings.

The broadening of personal freedoms reflects the changing profile of a country that has sought to bill itself as a skyscraper-studded destination for Western tourists, fortune-seekers and businesses despite its legal system based on a hard-line interpretation of Islamic law.

The changes also reflect the efforts of the Emirates' rulers to keep pace with a rapidly changing society at home. The announcement also follows a historic US-brokered deal to normalise relations between the UAE and Israel, which is expected to bring an influx of Israeli tourists and investment.

Changes include scrapping penalties for alcohol consumption, sales and possession for those 21 and over. The legal reforms were announced on state-run WAM news agency and detailed in state-linked newspaper The National.

Previously, individuals needed a liquor license to purchase, transport or have alcohol in their homes. The new rule would apparently allow Muslims who have been barred from obtaining licenses to drink alcoholic beverages freely.

Another amendment allows for cohabitation of unmarried couples, which has long been a crime in the UAE. Authorities, especially in the more free-wheeling financial hub of Dubai, tend to look the other way when it comes to foreigners, but the threat of punishment still lingered for such behaviour.

The government also decided to get rid of laws protecting honour crimes. The reforms come as the UAE gets ready to host the high-stakes World Expo. AP



The latest statistics show UK-China bilateral trade has exceeded the 76 billion pound mark for the first time and our digital tech sector is the fifth biggest exporter of services in the world.

UK MINISTER FOR DIGITAL AND CULTURE CAROLINE DINENAGE

AS THE UK CREATED TECH HUB FOR MORE 'ETHICAL' BUSINESS WITH CHINA

The Sunday Statesman  
NEW DELHI, 08 NOVEMBER 2020

11

## A look at Myanmar's election & Suu Kyi's expected victory

ASSOCIATED PRESS

YANGON, 7 NOVEMBER

Myanmar holds national and state elections on Sunday in which Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party will be looking to hold on to power.

More than 37 million of Myanmar's 56 million people are eligible to vote. More than 90 parties are fielding candidates for seats in the upper and lower houses of Parliament.

The NLD's landslide victory in the last election in 2015 came after more than five decades of military or military-direct-

ed rule. Those polls were seen as largely free and fair with one big exception: the army-drafted constitution of 2008 automatically grants the military 25% of the seats in Parliament, enough to block constitutional changes. That provision still holds true.

Overshadowing the polls is the coronavirus and restrictions to contain it, which are likely to lower turnout despite government plans for social distancing and other safety measures.

Suu Kyi's party is heavily favoured to win again, though probably with a reduced majority. Suu Kyi is by far the coun-



try's most popular politician, and the NLD has a strong national network, reinforced by holding the levers of state power.

Nevertheless the NLD has been criticised for lacking vision and adopting some of the more authoritarian methods of its military predeces-

sors, especially targeting critics through the courts.

Suu Kyi's party has lost the cooperation of many ethnic minority parties, which are popular in their border-area homelands. In 2015, those parties were tacit allies with the NLD and arranged not to compete strongly where splitting the vote might give victory to the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party, or USDP.

Suu Kyi's failure to come through with an agreement giving ethnic minorities the greater political autonomy they have sought for decades has disenchanted them, and

this year they will be working against the NLD rather than with it. There are around 60 small ethnic parties.

The main opposition USDP was founded as a proxy for the military and again is the NLD's strongest competitor. It is well-funded and well-organised. Whether voters still see it as tainted by its association with previous military regimes is not clear.

To a large extent, the polls are seen as a referendum on Suu Kyi's five years in power, just as the 2015 election was seen as a judgment on military rule. There has been economic growth, but it benefit-

ed a tiny portion of the population in one of the region's poorest countries, and fell short of popular expectations.

Not only were ethnic minority groups disappointed by Suu Kyi's failure to grant them greater autonomy, but in the western state of Rakhine, the well-trained and well-armed Arakan Army, a group claiming to represent the Buddhist Rakhine ethnic group has risen to become the biggest military threat in years.

The Election Commission's cancellation of voting in some areas where parties critical of the government were certain to win seats has drawn sharp

criticism. The move is estimated to have disenfranchised more than 1 million people. Critics have accused the Election Commission of conspiring to do the NLD's bidding. The topic that gets the most global attention, the oppression of the Muslim Rohingya minority, is not much of an election issue except for anti-Muslim politicians. A brutal 2017 counterinsurgency campaign drove about 740,000 Rohingya to flee across the border to Bangladesh, but they have long faced systematic discrimination that denies them citizenship and the right to vote.

## 'Sharif a jackal trying to create rift in Army'

Khan slams Maryam Nawaz for openly accusing Army of interfering in politics

PTI/THE DAWN

ISLAMABAD, 7 NOVEMBER

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday lashed out at three-time former premier Nawaz Sharif, describing him as a "jackal" who is trying to create "rebellion" in the Army by accusing it of involvement in the country's politics and calling for a change in the military as well as the ISI leadership.

Sharif, the 70-year-old supreme leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) who was ousted from power in 2017 by the apex court on graft charges, had last month for the first time directly named Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa and ISI head Lt Gen Faiz Hameed for interfering in the general elections of 2018 to ensure victory of Khan.

Sharif had made the comments virtually on October 16 during a joint rally organised by the Opposition parties under the banner of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), formed to oust the Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government.

Prime Minister Khan said that Sharif is sitting in London like a "jackal" and targeting the Army.

Hitting out at Sharif, Khan said the former prime minister was trying to stir up a rebellion in the Pakistan Army by alleging it is involved in politics and calling for changing the Army and ISI chiefs,



Khan said while addressing a public gathering in Mingora in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province. The powerful army, which has ruled Pakistan for more than half of its 70 plus years of existence, has hitherto wielded considerable power in the matters of security and foreign policy.

However, the Army has denied meddling in the country's politics. Prime Minister Khan also denies that the Army helped him win the election in 2018.

Khan said that Sharif had run away from the country under the pretext of illness, adding that he was a money worshipper and had amassed his wealth by looting the country, the Dawn newspaper reported.

The PML-N chief, currently out on bail, is facing multiple corruption charges. The Islamabad High Court had allowed him to go to London for medical treatment in November last year for a period of eight weeks for medical treatment. But he did not come back, while his lawyers told the court that he was still

recovering. Khan said Pakistanis would never allow corrupt politicians to hurl allegations against the Army. Rebutting the corrupt political leaders who have gathered under the Pakistan Democratic Movement, Khan said a group of thieves and looters have gathered who were asking for special concessions after looting the country.

Two major political parties looted the country during the past 30 years but now it is a decisive time to take action against the corrupt and looters, he claimed.

Meanwhile, he said PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz was getting away with using offensive language against the country's military leadership because women are respected in Pakistan.

Addressing a public gathering after inaugurating the Sehat Sahulat Cards programme in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Swat district, he once again vowed not to give any "NRO" (National Reconciliation Ordinance-like concession) to the opposition, saying its leaders had all joined hands to protect their "theft". He said Maryam, by taking advantage of the respect for women, was using inappropriate language against an army that was giving sacrifices for the nation on a daily basis and at a time when an "extremist Indian prime minister" who hated Muslims was oppressing Kashmiris, and his national security

adviser was threatening Pakistan. "I assure you, if it had been another country, she would have been thrown into jail. But because we respect women here, she is allowed to speak openly," he added.

Referring to the opposition's Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) alliance, the premier said all of Pakistan's biggest thieves had gathered on one platform because they thought they were above the law.

"One goes to London and acts like he is very ill and we all feel sorry for him," he said, referring to PML-N supremo and Maryam's father Nawaz Sharif. "Even the courts felt sorry for him and asked the government to allow him to go abroad. I asked the courts to at least take guarantee of Rs7 billion from him but eventually he went abroad."

Imran said after going to London, Nawaz and his daughter were initially silent and tried their best to gain an "NRO" but when the PML-N leader realised the government would not give him any relief despite "blackmail", he (Nawaz) started attacking the armed forces.

"The game he has started to attack the Pakistan Army and the Pakistani judiciary... he is asking the armed forces to replace their army and ISI chiefs, meaning he is asking the army to revolt against the army chief to protect his own money. Who could be a bigger enemy of the country?" the prime minister said, referring to Nawaz.

Experts and diplomats are watching in dismay as two heavily armed forces clash in one of the world's most strategic yet vulnerable regions, the Horn of Africa. Observers warn that a civil war in Ethiopia, Africa's second most populous country with 110 million people, could suck in or destabilise neighbours such as Sudan, Eritrea and Somalia. A statement posted Saturday on the Facebook page of the Tigray

prime minister asserted that "criminal elements cannot escape the rule of law under the guise of seeking reconciliation and a call for dialogue."

Neither side appeared ready for the dialogue that experts say is needed to avert disaster. The upper house of parliament, the House of Federation, voted to set up an interim administration, giving Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed the power to carry out measures against a Tigray leader whose government regards as illegal. Those include appointing officials and facilitating elections.

The Nobel Peace Prize

winning prime minister asserted that "criminal elements cannot escape the rule of law under the guise of seeking reconciliation and a call for dialogue."

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feeling marginalized, and it broke away last year when Abiy sought to turn the coalition into a single Prosperity Party. Tensions spiked when the Tigray region, objecting to the delay of the national election until next year and Abiy's extended stay in office, held a local election in September that the federal government called illegal.

Clashes began early Wednesday when Abiy accused the TPLF forces of attacking a military base in Tigray. In a major escalation on Friday, Abiy announced that airstrikes in multiple locations around the Tigray capital "completely destroyed rockets and other heavy weapons" and made a retaliatory attack impossible.

The military operations will continue, the prime minister said, and he warned the Tigray population: "In order to avoid unexpected peril, I advise that you limit group movements in cities." Communications remain almost completely severed with Tigray, making it difficult to verify either side's assertions and leading to pleas from aid groups and human rights groups to warn of a brewing humanitarian disaster. Tigray is increasingly boxed in by Ethiopian federal forces and a six-month state of emergency that curbs public gatherings and movement.

Tigray is preparing for a major offensive to come tomorrow or the day after from the federal government," Kjetil Tronvoll, a professor at Bjorknes University College in Norway and a longtime Ethiopia watcher, said. The changes left the TPLF

## Colombia Prez, ex-rebels meet to curb violence

BOGOTA, 7 NOVEMBER

Colombian President Ivan Duque's government and former guerrillas who signed an historic peace deal four years ago ending Latin America's longest-running conflict are pledging to work together to stop violence against ex-combatants.

The head of state is a critic of the accord - welcomed a group of ex-rebels to the presidential palace Friday, less than a week after a caravan of over 200 former combatants arrived in the capital to raise awareness that claimed dozens of lives from Mexico to Panama.

In southern Mexico, across the border from Guatemala, 19 people died as heavy rains attributed to Eta caused mudslides and swelled streams and rivers, according to Chiapas state civil defense official Elías Morales Rodríguez.

The worst incident occurred in the mountain township of Chenalhó, where 10 people were swept away by a rain-swollen stream; their bodies were later found downstream.

The government's 2016 accord with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia remains contentious in the South American nation. Detractors feel the agreement is far too generous to ex-rebels, who can avoid jail time so long as they fully confess their crimes and are also entitled to 10 seats in congress. Supporters contend such concessions were necessary to end a brutal conflict that left hundreds of thousands dead.

The former rebels said that Fredy Ramos, who signed the accord, was murdered in the Cauca province, making him the 238th rebel killed since the peace agreement went into effect. AP

## Eta aftermath: Guatemala digs through landslide where 100 believed buried

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PURULHA, GUATEMALA, 7 NOVEMBER

Guatemalan search brigades pulled the first bodies Friday from a massive rain-fueled landslide where at least 100 people are believed to be entombed, as the remains of Hurricane Eta moved across Caribbean waters, strengthening en route to Cuba.

Governments worked to tally the displaced and dead, and recover bodies from landslides and flooding caused by Eta, now a tropical depression, that claimed dozens of lives from Mexico to Panama.

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Residents traveling on a pickup truck wait on a road blocked by debris brought on by a landslide in the aftermath of Eta, in Purulha, Guatemala on Saturday. AP

west-southwest of Grand Cayman. It was moving northeast at 19 kph and had maximum sustained winds of 55 kph.

Hurricane Eta's arrival Tuesday afternoon in northeast Nicaragua followed days of drenching rain as it crawled toward shore. Its slow, meandering path north through Honduras pushed rivers over their banks and pouring into neighborhoods where families were forced onto rooftops to wait for rescue.

Wendi Munguía Figueroa, 48, and nine relatives huddled Friday morning on the corrugated metal roof of her home in Honduras surrounded by brown floodwaters, but with little drinking water remaining.

"We can't get off our houses' roofs because the water is up to our necks in the street," Munguía said. She managed about two hours of sleep Thursday night between the intermittent rain and damp chill. The neighborhood flooded in 1998 during Hurricane Mitch — a storm that killed more than 9,000 people in Central America — but Munguía said there is more water this time.

## BACK TO NEW NORMAL



Visitors wearing face masks line up to enter an exhibition held at the Forbidden City in Beijing, on Saturday.

AP

## B'desh opens first madrassa for transgenders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DHAKA, 7 NOVEMBER

A madrasa has been opened for transgenders in Bangladesh's capital city Dhaka, believed to be the first-of-its-kind initiative for the community in the Muslim-majority country.</



**BARCA SLIPPING**  
Former Barcelona defender Dani Alves (in photo, left) says the club have lost some of their identity by becoming focused only on commercial ventures. The Brazilian, currently playing for Sao Paulo, iterated he did not get the respect in the Spanish club he deserved.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

**THUMBNAILS**

**Start delayed:** Sri Lanka delayed the Lanka Premier League cricket tournament on Friday for a third time and cut the number of venues to one from three as coronavirus infections surged. The start of the 23-match league was put back six days to 27 November.

**Fresh charge:** Alexander Zverev, tennis' world No 7, is facing further allegations of violence from his former girlfriend, Olga Sharapova. She alleged she had injected herself with insulin in an attempt to take her own life after Zverev punched her during an argument.

**Neymar injured:** Neymar will miss Brazil's 13 November World Cup qualifier against Venezuela because of a thigh injury, but will travel with the team in hopes he will be fit to play later against Uruguay. "We will be monitoring his condition closely," Brazil said.

**Cup crunch:** Paris Saint-Germain winger Angel Di Maria has been recalled to the Argentina squad announced by coach Lionel Scaloni on Friday ahead of World Cup qualifiers against Paraguay and Peru. He has not played for his country since the 2019 Copa America.

**League lead:** Southampton moved into first place in England's top flight for the first time since 1988 after a 2-0 home victory over Newcastle United in the Premier League on Friday. Che Adams volleyed the hosts into the lead and Stuart Armstrong struck later on.

**Spurs uncomfortable:** Spurs' Jose Mourinho is "not comfortable" that Gareth Bale's time on the pitch with Wales during the international break will be managed by an Arsenal coach. Albert Stuivenberg, who is also on Mikel Arteta's staff, will assist Robert Page.

**Handball rule:** Uefa is reported to have asked Fifa president Gianni Infantino to change the handball rule to stop "growing frustration" following a spate of penalties in recent games awarded for the offence. In several instances, the action fuelled protracted controversies.

**Page deleted:** The International Shooting Sport Federation says it is experiencing an "unpleasant situation" as Facebook has deleted the global body's page from its platform without any intimation. It has started a campaign, #unlock\_ISSF\_facebook.

**Pilot project:** Tokyo's ability to cope with the coronavirus pandemic and stage next year's Olympic Games safely will undergo a major test this week with gymnasts from four nations gathering in the Japanese capital for a friendly tournament. It starts on Sunday.

**Balu, Diljith win:** Veteran Arjun Balu and T S Diljith stole the show on the opening day of the second round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI National Car Racing Championship here as competition resumed after a nine-month break behind closed doors and in compliance with COVID-19 safety protocols.

**I-League**

NEW DELHI, 7 NOVEMBER

The I-League's 14th edition will kick off on 9 January 2021, in Kolkata. Eleven teams will need to enter a bio-secure bubble 14 days prior to their first matches and the schedule will be announced in the near future. The matches will be telecast live. Owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, the tournament's previous edition paused abruptly before football action resumed in India with an I-League qualifying tournament in October. AGENCIES

## Sunrisers hold the competitive edge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ABU DHABI, 7 NOVEMBER

**P**eaking at the right time and with all their boxes ticked, Sunrisers Hyderabad are certain to hold the edge against an inconsistent Delhi Capitals in the second Indian Premier League qualifier here tomorrow. The past couple of weeks have been a picture in contrast for the two franchises. After an overwhelming first half, Hyderabad gained traction with the mercurial David Warner (in photo, right) utilising his resources well. Delhi looked like serious contenders in their first nine games, winning seven in that phase before an inexplicable slump saw them lose five of their next six matches with skipper Shreyas Iyer looking all at sea. The current situation notwithstanding, Hyderabad want to lead the Capitals to their first summit clash in 13 editions while Warner wouldn't mind adding another trophy to his 2016 triumph. In fact, if he can win the next

two games, Warner will have guided one of the inexperienced to the peak in this IPL.

Delhi have had their top-order woes, especially the first three slots where Shikhar Dhawan (525 in 15 games) has been the best. Prithvi Shaw's (228 in 13 games) technique against top quality fast bowling has left a lot to be desired and Ajinkya Rahane (111 in seven games) has had only one knock of some merit so far. Something that would definitely worry coach Ricky Ponting is the number of ducks made by the top order -- nine. Dhawan has four, Shaw has three and Rahane didn't bother the scorers twice. However, the bowling unit has done well barring a few occasions, like the first qualifier, when Mumbai Indians batting took them apart. Kagiso Rabada (25 wickets), Anrich Nortje (20) and Ravichandran Ashwin (13) have done exceedingly well in most of the games.

Hyderabad's batting line-up,



which has gathered momentum through the past few games, is well aware of that, and Orange Army's premier all-rounder Jason Holder acknowledged the fact. "What we have done in batting is that we have been aggressive upfront."

David has obviously led the charge, well supported by (Wridhiman) Saha. Jonny Bairstow has done an outstanding job and Manish Pandey (Pankey) has kept the momentum going," Holder said when asked about their strategy to face the DC attack.

"And then we have the level-headedness of Kane Williamson. Being good to come and finish games. So we don't play names, we see the ball and strike the ball," Holder said. Saha's groin injury,

which ruled him out of the "Eliminator," might also keep him out of the second qualifier. "We have faith in (Shreevats) Goswami. He has been around for some time and we need to give confidence," said Holder, whose 13 wickets in six games along with crucial middle-order contributions, has been the surprise factor for his side. Rashid Khan's economy rate of fewer than six runs an over, the unheralded T Natarajan's subtle variations and Sandeep Sharma's ability to get some swing only add to the strengths of Warner's team.

Delhi, though, might see their chance in the lack of experience of two rival middle-order players -- Priyam Garg and Abdul Samad. But Daniel Sams' poor show with the ball so far is a concern for Delhi, who could bring back Shimron Hetmyer in place of the left-arm seamer, which will also add some batting fire-power to their collective repertoire. If they do that, Marcus Stoinis might have to bowl his full quota of overs alongside Rabada, Nortje, Ashwin and Axar Patel.

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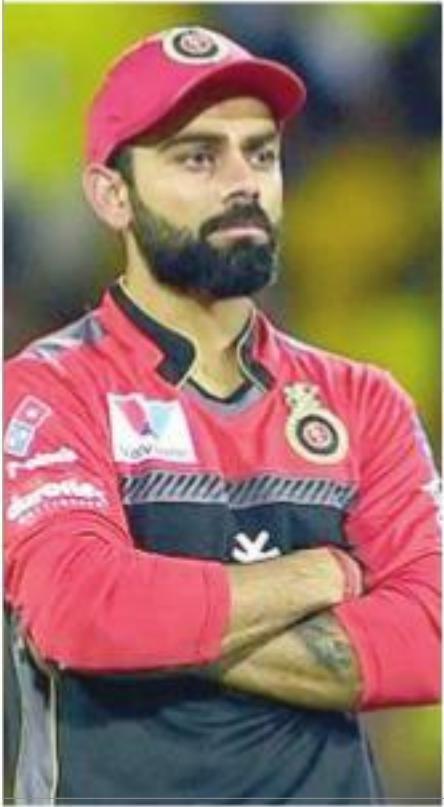
**Azam leads Pakistan to big win:** Captain Babar Azam hit a fluent half century and spurred Pakistan to a six-wicket victory over Zimbabwe in a Twenty20 international on Saturday. Azam made 82 off 55 balls to reach his 15th half century in Twenty20s as Pakistan eased to 157-4 in 18.5 overs for a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

PTI

## Give Kohli the heave-ho, says Gambhir

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI/ABU DHABI, 7 NOVEMBER



### 'Captain's failure'

DUBAI, 7 NOVEMBER

Former India opener and two-time Indian Premier League champion skipper Gautam Gambhir says Virat Kohli's (in photo) abject failure as Royal Challengers Bangalore captain should lead to his removal from the hot seat as it is now a question of accountability.

The hero of India's two global title triumphs made it clear that Kohli should not be mentioned in the same breath as Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Rohit Sharma, who were the IPL's most successful captains. Asked if Kohli should be removed from RCB's captaincy, Gambhir told a website: "100 per cent, because the problem is about accountability. Eight years into the tournament (without a trophy), eight years is a long time. Know any other player who would have got eight years without winning the title?"

Gambhir, who had led Kolkata Knight Riders to IPL titles in 2012 and 2014, said: "Somewhere down the line, he needs to put his hand up and say, 'Yes, I am responsible. I am accountable. Look at what happened to R Ashwin. Two years of captaincy (of Kings XI Punjab), he couldn't deliver and he was removed. Dhoni has won three (IPL) titles, Rohit Sharma has won four titles, and that's the reason they've captained for such a long time. They've delivered."

Gambhir said that it was irksome to see Kohli's reluctance to accept his failure.

"You're the leader, you're the captain. When you get the credit, you should take the criticism as well. You can keep saying 'We qualified for the playoffs and we deserved to qualify for the playoffs,' absolutely not. RCB actually never deserved to qualify for the playoffs." RCB, he said, had increasingly become a side about only two people -- Kohli and AB de Villiers.

"They should have had a

that's one of the reasons why RCB weren't able to go through," Gambhir told television, adding: "Because when he scores those big runs along with AB de Villiers, they invariably have big scores." Kohli made a little over 450 runs in 15 matches at a strike rate of 121.35 and his team often struggled to get going in the middle overs. PTI

### Australia Tour: Expectant father Kohli might miss last two Tests

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 7 NOVEMBER

India skipper Virat Kohli might skip the last two Tests of the highly-anticipated four-match series against Australia as he gears up for the birth of his first child in January which could pave the way for an in-form KL Rahul's entry into the middle order. Kohli's actor wife Anushka Sharma is due to give birth to the couple's first child in early January. An official word on the skipper's itinerary is not yet out but a BCCI source told PTI that Kohli can be expected to take paternity leave after the first two Tests of the series starting December 17. "The BCCI has always believed that family is priority. In case,

Williamson. "Maybe a bit of nerves, maybe a bit of hesitation, we needed to be more expressive with the bat. We didn't have any phases in the game where we got away from the opposition. We just allowed our bowlers to bowl to the areas they chose and didn't put enough pressure on them," said Kohli after losing.

"In the last two or three games we have seen a lot of good shots going straight to the fielders. It has been a strange kind of phase in the last four or five games. Tonight, we just didn't have enough runs on the board."

RCB, however, managed to play themselves back into the match by putting 2016 champions SRH batting line-up under pressure in the first 10 overs. SRH made it eventually, thanks to the unbeaten 65-run stand for the fifth wicket between Williamson and Holder.

While most of Rahul's runs for KXIP came in losing cause, Ganguly hoped that his runs for India would result in wins.

"Just as somebody who has played the game, I feel he

the skipper decides on avail- ing paternity break, he will then be available only for the first two Test matches," the senior source said on conditions of anonymity. The four Test matches will be held in Adelaide (D/N, December 17-21), Melbourne (Dec 26-30), Sydney (Jan 7-11, 2021) and Brisbane (Jan 15-19). The BCCI has, over the years, encouraged cricketers to take paternity breaks and it is no different for India's captain and best batsman. "Look, in normal times, he could have flown back for the birth of his first born, missed a Test and played the final one in Brisbane. However, if the 14-day quarantine is still in place, it will be difficult to go and come back again," the source added.

Rahul, who led Kings XI Punjab in the 13th IPL, is currently heading the run-scorer's chart in the lucrative T20 event but Ganguly, who has also been impressed by his captaincy, believed that the Karnataka man is cut out for Test cricket too. "I have a lot of time for KL Rahul in Test matches and I am saying that as a cricketer. But, at the end of the day, it is the selector that decides who plays and who doesn't play," Ganguly said on India Today's programme 'Inspiration'.

While most of Rahul's runs for KXIP came in losing cause, Ganguly hoped that his runs for India would result in wins.

"Rahul is someone, who will contribute in all forms of the game. I wish him all the luck. Hopefully, he contributes to the winning cause of India which is important." As he had stated earlier also, Ganguly stressed on the fact that the Virat Kohli-led team needs to perform better when they are playing in SENA (South Africa, England, New Zealand and Australia) countries. "He (Virat) must sit back and understand that he has to play better away from home. Yes, Australia was a good series that they had won (in 2018-19) but they should have done better in South Africa, England (both 2018) and New Zealand (2020),"

## United ease pressure on Solskjaer with win at Everton

AGENCIES

LIVERPOOL, 7 NOVEMBER

Manchester United eased the pressure on manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer with a 3-1 win at Everton in the Premier League on Saturday with Bruno Fernandes scoring twice and Edinson Cavani grabbing his first for the club.

United have failed to win at home in the league this season and there were questions over Solskjaer's future after the mid-week defeat to Istanbul Basaksehir in the Champions League.

But United, who move up to 13th and ten points, responded with a display which, while far from smooth, was full of character, epitomised by captain Harry Maguire's determined display at the back.

"We knew we had to get three

points today. It's early in the season and we don't look at the table but the points we have accumulated isn't good enough for this club," said Maguire.

"It's important to bounce back from setbacks. We've been questioned but we know we don't answer them in 90 minutes, we answer them day in, day out. The lads are working tirelessly for this club, everyone wants to improve and do better. The manager has to pull the lads off the training ground."

The pressure on Solskjaer intensified when Everton took the lead in the 19th minute with Brazilian winger Bernard's low drive through Aaron Wan-Bissaka's legs squeezing in the bottom corner.

Six minutes later though, United drew level when Fernandes met a Luke Shaw cross

from the left with a perfectly angled and firm header. Everton left back Lucas Digne then struck the post from a promising position but United were growing into the game and it was no surprise when they took the lead.

Fernandes floated in a cross from the left which Marcus Rashford rose to head into the bottom corner but although the striker failed to connect, the ball went in off the post.

Substitute Cavani added the third in stoppage time, finishing off a counter-attacked by Fernandes for his first goal since joining the club on deadline day last month.

The loss was the third straight defeat for Carlo Ancelotti's side who, after being the early season pace-setters, have now slipped to fifth in the standings.

## I have lot of time for KL Rahul in all formats of game: Sourav Ganguly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 7 NOVEMBER

Ganguly said.

The key to winning an overseas series lies in bat well, which happened in Australia during the previous tour.

"They are a capable side and they must have learnt from that. Everyone has to bat well. We lost in England because no one got Test match hundreds apart from Virat Kohli, Pujara."

"They need to fight hard and buckle down. This is a good side and everyone has to get together to beat Australia in Australia." Ganguly believed that the bowling unit has a lot of quality with three world-class pacers -- Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami and Ishant Sharma -- and two young quicks -- Navdeep Saini and Mohammed Siraj -- in its ranks. "So India has the attack, it's about Virat working with them and getting them to be at their best. It's for him to decide as captain whom he wants to attack with and which stage he wants to attack with -- whether it's an Ashwin or a Bumrah or Saini, or Sharma or Jadeja. It's his captaincy skills."

(Rahul) is someone, who will contribute in all forms of the game. I wish him all the luck. Hopefully, he contributes to the winning cause of India which is important."

As he had stated earlier also, Ganguly stressed on the fact that the Virat Kohli-led team needs to perform better when they are playing in SENA (South Africa, England, New Zealand and Australia) countries.

"He (Virat) must sit back and understand that he has to play better away from home. Yes, Australia was a good series that they had won (in 2018-19) but they should have done better in South Africa, England (both 2018) and New Zealand (2020),"

came up with the ISL, the rock-bottom was hit. The game is moribund today. The IFA Shield hobbles, you have long stopped hearing anything about the Rovers Cup and the Durand Cup has moved hither and thither eventually to find a sanctuary in Bengal.

But that the ISL has had to pin its hopes of staying relevant on the Kolkata duo is an acknowledgement of the failure of Indian football's so-called New Wave.

The Kolkata derby will not save the ISL as it still feels - and is - like an enterprise whose central objective is not boosting Indian football. One high-drama scene can hardly save a show planned ambitiously, but not very intelligently.

## Athapaththu scores 67 to take Supernova to 146/6

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

SHARJAH, 7 NOVEMBER

Chamari Athapaththu's 67 off 48 balls took Supernovas to 146/6 in their 20 overs against the Trailblazers in the third match of the Women's T20 Challenge on Saturday at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium.

Athapaththu put up an opening partnership of 89 runs with Priya Punia after which she put up 29 for the second wicket with captain Harmanpreet Kaur. Veteran Indian fast bowler Jhulan Goswami, spinner Harleen Deol and Bangladeshi spinner Salma Khatun all got a wicket each while three batswomen were run outs.

Supernovas, who are the defending champions, need to win the match to seal a place in the final.

Brief scores: Supernovas 146/6 in 20 overs (Chamari Athapaththu 6