



INEPT
STUDENTS



'NGOs' WORTH
MUST BE
RECOGNISED'

P6



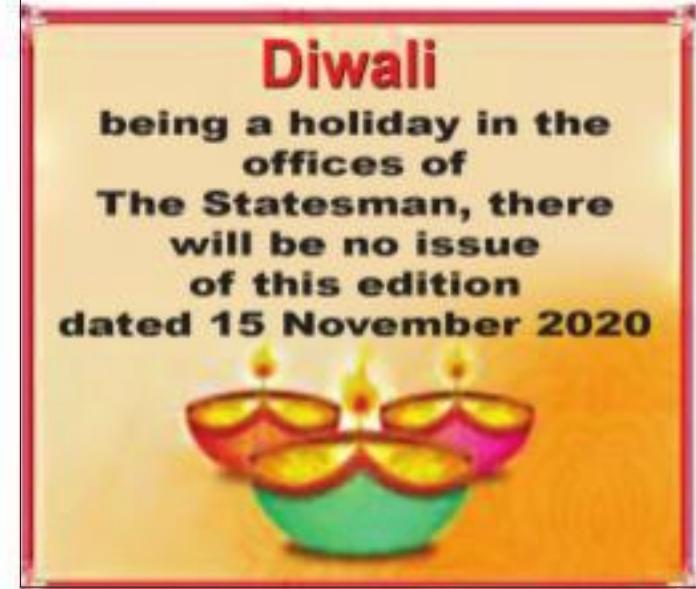
DOMINIC CUMMINGS
TO EXIT IN
DECEMBER

P10



LANGER LIFTS
KOHLI TO
TOP PERCH

P12



WEATHER

Partly cloudy sky. Mist/shallow fog in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 30 and 12 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 95% Min: 39%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 29.7°C (+1) Min: 12.3°C (-1)

SUN RISES SUN SETS

06:44 hrs 17:28 hrs

MOON RISES MOON SETS

06:34 hrs 17:00 hrs

THUMBNAILS



An idol of Goddess Kali being taken to a puja pandal from Kumartuli. In Kolkata on Friday.

BISWAJIT GHOSHAL

WHO to set up centre for traditional medicine: The World Health Organisation announced on Friday that it will set up a Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in India, with PM Narendra Modi expressing confidence that just like the country has emerged as the 'pharmacy of the world', the WHO institution will become the centre for global wellness. WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus made the announcement in a video message at an event in which PM Modi inaugurated two future-ready Ayurveda institutions in Jaipur & Jamnagar. PTI

This is to inform the GENERAL PUBLIC that our client is exploring investment or lending into M/s. SVP Builders (India) Limited, a public company incorporated and registered under the Companies Act, 1956, having CIN U74899DL2000P L104030, and having its registered office at A-32nd Floor, South Extension-I, New Delhi - 110049 and corporate office at 17 Kiran Enclave, Near Samrat Hotel, G.I. Road, Ghaziabad-201001 hereinafter referred to as "the Company".

The Company along with its group entities, (i) M/s. SVP Developers Limited, a public company incorporated and registered under the Companies Act, 1956, having CIN U74899DL1996PLC076211, and having its registered office at A-32nd Floor, South Extension-I, New Delhi - 110049; and (ii) M/s. JPG Builders, a partnership firm registered under the Indian Partnership Act, 1932 bearing no. 102/12021 in the register of firms, and having its office at A-3, South Extension, Part - 1, New Delhi - 110049 are collectively developing a residential group housing project by the name of "SVP Gulmohur Garden", at Rajnagar Extension ("Project 1").

Project 1 is being constructed on a land parcel having underlying Khasra Nos. 1131, 1133, 1139, 1143 and 1144 of village Noormohar, Rajnagar Extension, Ghaziabad. The total area of the said land parcel is about 82019.96 square meters or so ("Project 1 Land"), which is collectively owned by the Company (Khasra no. 1131 - area 6625 sq. mtr, Khasra no. 1133 - area 17670 sqm, Khasra no. 1139 - area 16666.64 sqm, Khasra no. 1143- area 1621 sqm, Khasra no. 1144 - area 2179 sqm), SVP Developers Limited (Khasra no 1139 - area 8333.32 sqm, Khasra no 1143 - area 9409 sqm and Khasra no. 1144 - area 3546 sqm) and JPG Builders (Khasra no 1133 - area 15970 sqm).

The Company along with Sh. Pawan Kumar son of Sh. Satpal, resident of II-C/135, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201001 has also developed a residential group housing project by the name of "SVP Gulmohur Residency" situated in Ahinsa Khand, Indrapuram ("Project 2"). Project 2 has been constructed on a land parcel having underlying Khasra Nos. 519 min and 527/1 of village Mahindarpur Kanawani, Ghaziabad. The total area of the said land parcel is about 12698.27 sq. meters which is owned by Sh. Pawan Kumar (Khasra 519 min (525.88 sq meters)) and the Company (Khasra 527/1 (12178.89 sq meters)) ("Project 2 Land").

In order to secure such investment/borrowing:

- (a) The Company along with SVP Developers Limited and JPG Builders have offered to mortgage all their respective rights, titles and interests in the unsold units in Project 1 along with pro-rata undivided indivisible rights in Project 1 Land and future developments in Project 1 and all receivables of Project 1; and
- (b) The Company along with Pawan Kumar have offered to mortgage all their respective rights, titles and interests in the unsold units in Project 2 along with pro-rata undivided indivisible rights in Project 2 Land and all receivables of Project 2.

Any person/entity (corporate or otherwise) having any right, title, interest, benefit, claim or demand in, or to Project 1 Land or Project 2 Land unsold units in Project 1 or Project 2 or any part thereof by way of sale, exchange, gift, allotment, lease, tenancy, license, assignment, mortgage, charge, lien, trust, family arrangement/settlement, encumbrance, inheritance, bequest, easement, possession, maintenance, development rights, order/decrees/ judgment of any Court, or any other agreement, understanding or otherwise, howsoever, to the aforesaid Lands or the Projects is hereby required to make the same known along with true copies of all documentary evidence to the undersigned within 10 (Ten) days from the date of publication of this notice. In the event no such claim is received, the same will be considered as if no such claim exists or that they have been waived or abandoned.

Claims and objections along with supporting documents may be sent to:

Madhav Hastagi, Advocate
Amicus
1 Block I, Jangpura Extension,
New Delhi 110014

Email: contact@amicuservices.in
Date: 14-11-2020

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE COURT OF
Sh. Madhur Bajaj
Civil Judge (Jr. Division),
Gurgaon

Notice to Defendant
through Publication
Publication Under Order 5,
Rule 20 C.P.C.

Case No. CS/1982/2019
CNR No. HRGR-02002473-
2020

Next Date: 02-12-2020 at
10:00 a.m.

Smt. Kailash Devi —Plaintiff

Versus

General Public Or.

Defendant

Suit for Declaration

Notice to:

General Public

—Defendants

In above titled petition the defendant no. could not be served. It is ordered that defendant should appear in person or through counsel on 02-12-2020 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to
<https://highcourtchd.gov.in>

Dated, this day of 03-11-2020.

Civil Judge
(Jr. Division)
Gurgaon

Seal of the Court

COURT NOTICE
U.S. 5 RULE 20 CPC
IN THE COURT OF
MS. SUYASHA JAWA
Civil Judge (Jr. Division),
Gurgaon

CNR No. HRGR02-002438-
2020

Next Date: 08-12-2020

Ruchi Malhotra —Versus

M/s. Spoty Technology India

Private Limited

Publication issued to:
1. M/s. Spoty Technology
India Private Limited. Through
its Director

Ankit Kapoor, Director of
M/s. Spoty Technology India
Private Limited.

3. Vishal Yadav, Director of
M/s. Spoty Technology India
Private Limited.

Registers Office- ALF- F
Empire Square Unit-1, 3rd
Floor, JMD Empire square,
Sector-28, M.G. Road, Gurugram,
Haryana.

Also at: Unit No. SF-209,
Second Floor, JMD Empire
Square, Sec. 28, M.G. Road,

Gurugram, Haryana.

In above titled petition the defendants/respondents could not be served. It is ordered that defendants/respondents should appear in person or through counsel on 08-12-2020 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to
<https://highcourtchd.gov.in>

notice&district=Gurugram

Dated, this day of 12-11-2020.

Civil Judge
(Jr. Division)
Gurgaon

Seal of the Court

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

Room No. 127, Tis Hazari
Courts, Delhi.

PC No./9/2020

Master Bhavya —Versus

State

CITATION UNDER SECTION

283(2) OF SUCCESSION ACT,
1925

Whereas an application
under the Indian Succession
Act, 1925, for grant of probate
of the Will or for letters of
Administration to the estate
of Late Sh. Nand Kishor, s/o
Late Sh. Chet Ram, in respect
of property bearing no. H. No.
2989/1-FB, III Floor, Gali No. 16,
Ranjeet Nagar, New Delhi,
died on 10th Sep. 2019 at New
Delhi has been made by Master
Bhavya (Through Natural
Guardian and Mother) Smt.
Neenu Chhoker, w/o Sh.
Dharamraj, r/o 2989/1-FB, Third
and Fourth Floor, Gali No. 16,
Ranjeet Nagar, New Delhi-110008.

Whereas the 05th day of
January, 2021 has been fixed
for hearing of the case. Notice
is hereby given that any person
having any interest in the
Administration of the estate
of the deceased may file
objection if he/she desires
so.

Given under my hand and
the Seal of this Court on this
05-12-2020.

Additional District Judge-01

East District

Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

Seal of the Court

IN THE COURT OF
Sh. Anil Kaushik
Addl. Civil Judge
(Sr. Division), Gurugram

Case No. GW/16/2020

CNR No. HRGR02-002878-
2020

Date of Institution: 02-11-
2020

Date of Hearing: 16-12-2020

Smt. Rajni, aged about 40
years, w/o Sh. Suryanarayana
C. Resident of Moolayil House,
Venginkkara Edapal, Malappuram,
Kerala- 679576, Ayikkad.

Petitioner

Versus

1. General Public

Respondent

PETITION U/S 8 OF HINDU
MINORITY AND GUARDIAN
SHIP ACT FOR PERMISSION
TO SELL THE

PROPERTY/APARTMENT OF
SHARE OF MINOR REHSMI,
AGED ABOUT 17 YEARS
(DOB: 28-08-2003).

To

General Public.

Whereas it has been proved
to the satisfaction of the Court

that the said minor is of
sound mind and has the
capacity to act for himself.

Given under my hand and
the Seal of this Court on this
05-12-2020.

Additional District Judge-01

East District

Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

Seal of the Court

IN THE COURT OF
Sh. Arun Singh

Additional District Judge-02

(West)

Room No. 127, Tis Hazari
Courts, Delhi.

PC No./9/2020

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objection if he/she desires
so.

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05-12-2020.

Additional District Judge-01

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Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

Seal of the Court

IN THE COURT OF
Sh. Arun Singh

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the Seal of this Court on this
05-12-2020.

Additional District Judge-01

East District

Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

Seal of the Court

IN THE COURT OF
Sh. Arun Singh

Additional District Judge-02

(West)

Room No. 127, Tis Hazari
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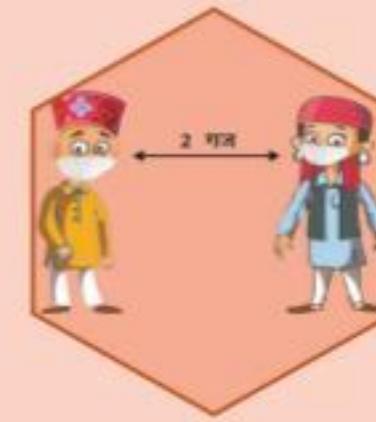


दीपावली की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं



जय राम ठाकुर
मुख्यमंत्री, हिमाचल प्रदेश

आओ! कोरोना के विरुद्ध लड़ाई में “जन आन्दोलन अभियान” का हिस्सा बन अपना कर्तव्य निभाएं सही से मास्क पहनें, सामाजिक दूरी बनाएं बार-बार हाथ धोएं, सुरक्षित दीपावली मनाएं कामना है दीपावली आपके जीवन में सुख-समृद्धि व खुशहाली लाये



www.himachalpr.gov.in HimachalPradeshGovtPRDept DPR Himachal dprhp

सूचना एवं जन सम्पर्क विभाग, हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार

WWW.HPPCB.NIC.IN

“Diwali is a festival of light not pollution !”

Do you know ?

FIRECRACKERS

cause

NOISE AND AIR POLLUTION

Chemicals in firecrackers cause serious health implications

Copper:
Irritates the respiratory tract.

Lead:
Harms the nervous system.

Cadmium:
Leads to anaemia by reducing the capacity of blood to carry oxygen.

Zinc:
Can cause metal fume fever and induces vomiting.

Sodium:
It is a highly reactive element and cause burns when it is combined with moisture.

Magnesium:
Metal fume fever is caused by Magnesium fumes.

Kind Attention

Directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT)
In compliance to the Hon'ble NGT directions vide OA-No.-249/2020 dated 09.11.2020 and Govt. of Himachal Pradesh notification No.-STE- E (3)-14/2020 dated 12/11/2020, all the cities/towns of the State where ambient air quality is 'moderate' or below, only green crackers are allowed to be sold and the timings for use and bursting of crackers are allowed between 8 pm to 10 pm on Diwali 2020.

CELEBRATE DIWALI

with
MASK &
SOCIAL DISTANCING

*Say NO
to
firecrackers*



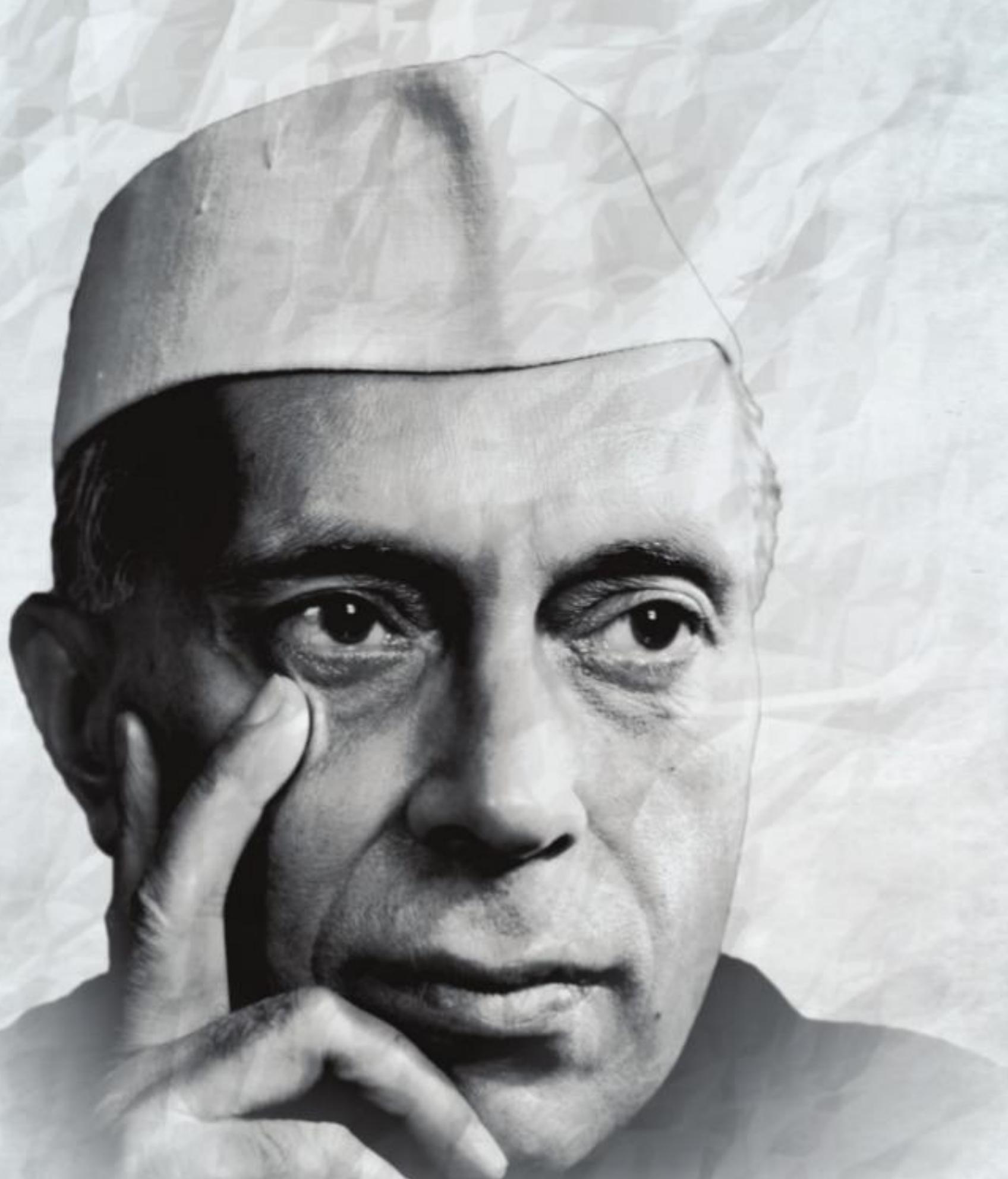
H.P. STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Him Parivesh, Phase-III, New Shimla -171009

Issued in public interest



Remembering
India's First Prime Minister
Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
on his
131st Birth Anniversary



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

Capt. Amarinder Singh
Chief Minister, Punjab

Issued by: Department of Information & Public Relations, Punjab





I have nothing to do with drugs. I am cooperating with the investigation and the NCB officials are doing a good job

BOLLYWOOD ACTOR ARJUN RAMPAL

AFTER THE ACTOR WAS QUESTIONED BY NCB IN A DRUG RELATED PROBE



Terminated IAS officer sent to 14 days judicial custody

RAIPUR, 13 NOVEMBER

A special court in Chhattisgarh has granted Enforcement Directorate the 14 days judicial custody of terminated IAS officer Babu Lal Agrawal in a money laundering case.

A special court set up under The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act in Raipur granted today, the 14 days judicial custody of terminated IAS officer BL Agrawal to the Enforcement Directorate on Friday. ED sleuths had demanded Agrawal's remand from the court. The court, however, rejected the demand and sent him to 14 days judicial custody. The court also rejected the bail application filed by his counsel. He will now appeal to the High Court for bail, but he will have to spend the festival of light in jail.

ED sleuths had arrested 1988 batch IAS officer Agrawal in a case related to money laundering and corruption. He is accused of abusing power during his tenure in world bank funded Malaria Control Programme and causing loss of revenue to the government exchequer. Earlier, the CBI in February 2017 had arrested him in money in another money laundering case.

He along with his brother Pawan Agrawal opened bank accounts in the name of 400 people from his native place Kharra and got Rs 46 transferred. Later, he was nabbed by the CBI again after he roped in a broker allegedly to fix the matter in Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The arrest led to the termination of his services by the Government of India.

SNS

SC modifies T'gana HC's order to ban sale & use of firecrackers

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 13 NOVEMBER

The Supreme Court modified the order of the Telangana High Court on complete ban on sale and use of firecrackers allowing two hours for bursting green crackers depending on the air quality even as BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar accused the TRS-led government of putting restrictions only on festivals of the majority community.

Telangana Fireworks Dealers Association filed an appeal before the apex court after the High Court had banned the sale and use of firecrackers in view of the pandemic pointing out that people's lives were

important.

Accordingly, the state government which did not take any decision prior to the High Court's intervention came out with an order banning the sale and use of firecrackers. However, the Supreme Court modified the order in line with the order of the National Green Tribunal which had allowed sale of green crackers and restricting the bursting of crackers to only two hours between 8pm and 10pm during various festivals including Diwali.

However, BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar criticised chief minister for imposing restrictions only on festivals of the majority community. He

alleged that the state government did not argue the case in the High Court which led to the directive on banning sale and use of firecrackers. "The state government has failed to protect the sentiments of the Hindus. The government acted against only Hindu festivals."

He went on to blame the state government for the plight of small traders who are suffering losses because the state government had demanded that assistance should be provided to them. "Earlier during Ganesh festival the BJP had taken a similar stand. But state health officials have warned people to stay at home during Diwali due to rising cases in Delhi.

FESTIVE MOOD



Artists decked up as Lord Ram in Ayodhya ahead of Diwali on Friday. IANS

TENDER

**Office of the Executive Engineer,
Transmission Line Maintenance Division-VI, Bemina, Srinagar-J&K**

Email: tlcldistpdd@gmail.com, psdfkpdtdtc1@gmail.com

Tel/Fax: 0194-2492429

EXTENSION NOTICE-III

e-NIT No: TLMD-VI/13 of 2020-21

Dated: 09/10/2020

(Extension Of Dates)

Name of the work: Dismantling of old defective towers, supply and erection of new HT grade GI towers, fabrication, shop drawings, including restoration of power on ERS during times of replacement of towers all allied jobs as per detailed scope of work in SBD.

Due to poor response the date of bid submission for above NIT is extended as below.

A. E-Bid Submission (end) date & Time :- 16.11.2020 upto 06.00 PM

B. Online Commercial and Technical e-Bid opening date & Time :- 17.11.2020 at 04.00 PM

C. Online financial e-Bid opening date & time (Only of the technically qualified bidders) :- Will be communicated to the Technically Qualified Bidders.

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per attached SBD, BOQ and other documents uploaded on site.

No:DIPK-NB-3788/20
Dated :- 12.11.2020

Sd/- Executive Engineer
TLMD-VI, JKPTCL Bemina Sgr.

EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Office of the Assistant Commissioner
Shahdara (South) Zone
Near Karkardooma Court, Shahdara, Delhi-110032
Press Advertisement

Shahdara South Zone, EDMC intends to auction of condemned items on 23.11.2020. Interested parties can download the auction details on MCD website www.mcdonline.gov.in

Sd/- Asstt. Commissioner
Shahdara (South) Zone
EDMC'S CITIZENS HELPLINE NO. 155303

EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (P.R)-I
SHAHDARA SOUTH ZONE
E-1/12, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051
Email: eprshahs@hotmail.com
No.EE (Pr)-I/Sh.S/2020-21/D-501 Dated 13/11/20
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer (Pr)-I Shah. South on behalf of Commissioner, EDMC invites tender for "Architectural Structural and other Engineering Design Consultancy for remaining work of construction of multi-storey office complex Zonal Office of Shah. (South) at Karkardooma Industrial Area, East Delhi" vide tender no. 319360 as per NIT No.EE(Pr)-I/Sh.S/T/C/2020-21/4 dated 13.11.2020 due on 07.12.2020. Further details can be seen on website <http://engineering.mcdtenders.com>

Sd/-
R.O. No. 61/DPI/EDMC/2020-21
EE (Pr)-I Shah. South
EDMC'S CITIZENS HELPLINE NO. 155303

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT e-procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer,HP.PWD. Division Sarkaghat H.P. on behalf of Governor of HP invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system, for construction of each of this following works from the eligible and approved contractors registered with HP.PWD.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	EMD	Cost of tender	Time limit	Eligible class of contractor
1.	Periodic maintenance on Fatehpur Chandpur Durgapur Road Km. 0/0 to 22/0 (SH:- Providing and laying bituminous concrete 30mm including profile correction for 2020-21 at RD 10/0 to 11/0) PMGSY	950919	19100	350	One Month	Class-D
2.	Construction of Link Road Balli to Balli Patta Km. 0/0 to 3/0 (SH:- Construction of 3.000mtr RCC slab culvert with both side wing wall at RD 0/985)	837527	16800	350	Two Months	Class-D
3.	Construction of Mahila Mandir Bhawan Kash Upper Janiyan Dumehar Road KM. 0/0 to 3/0 (SH:- Installation of W-Metal beam crash barrier at RD 0/0 to 2/00)	509874	10200	350	Two Months	Class-D

1. Date of release of invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 28.11.2020

2. Cost of Bid Form:- As Shown against work above (non-refundable) only in form of demand draft in favour of Executive Engineer,HP.PWD. Sarkaghat, payable at Sarkaghat.

Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:- The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website <http://htenders.gov.in>. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized certified Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPTW may obtain the same from the website <http://htenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to particulars in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in the tender.

Non-registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

3. Submission of Original Documents:- The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand draft towards the cost of bid document payable at Sarkaghat (b) Earnest Money - indicated in Schedule F (FDR duly pledged in favour of Executive engineer HPPWD Sarkaghat (c) Contractor Registration - Gen. Rule Sr. No. 23 and 26.3 (d) GST Registration- Refer Gen. Rule Sr. No. 21 and 26.4 (e) Labour License (f) Permanent Account No. (PAN) No. (g) Employees Provident Fund Number (h) Proof of Mandatory Machinery Tool and Plant as per Gen Rules 25 and Schedule F Sr. No. 6. 19 (i) Similar nature of work done Certificate on prescribed format given in bidding Document without liquidate. (j) Work in hand Certificate on prescribed format given in bidding Document without as per General Rule 19. (k) List of both Gazetted and non-Gazetted officer HPPWD employees related to him (General Rule 19) An affidavit that information furnished with the bid (Name of work) is correct in all respect (l) Affidavit regarding no litigation with the department. (m) An affidavit that the contractor has not more than two work in (General Rule No. 28.1) (Bidder should must be uploaded working programme. (n) form No. 8 duly signed by contractor with bid document as per provisions of general rule No-27 (o) Any other information bidder / firm may like to provide. (p) Affidavit regarding seen the site as per general rules and direction No. 29. (q) The radius distance of hot mix plant to site of work should be within 25 Km. (r) Those contractor who are having requisite machinery such as paver hot mix plant and vibratory road Roller etc. on production of those documents on BC only works. The contractor should have completed the similar nature double lane standard road work not less than 40% of estimated cost with Executive Engineer HP.PWD. Sarkaghat prior to the time of opening of technical qualification, failing which the bids will be declared non responsive. Financial turnover for the last five years duly certified by the chartered Accountant be uploaded 9Condition for more than (Fifty Lakh) only.

4. Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering w.e.f. 28.11.2020 at 11:00 A.M. to 08.12.2020 up to 11:00 A.M.

The site for the work is available.

5. Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore bids must be submitted online on website <http://htenders.gov.in>. The bids shall be opened on 08.12.2020 at 11:30 A.M. in the office Executive Engineer HP.PWD. Division Sarkaghat HP. by the authorized officer. In the interest of tenders are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than ninety days after the deadline date for bid submission.

7. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall be not held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

8. The bidder shall submit the details of HMP & others machinery required for tarring along with Bid.

Executive Engineer,
Sarkaghat Division,
HP.PWD.Sarkaghat.
For behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

Kerala CPM secretary steps down

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 13 NOVEMBER

A day after his son was sent to jail in connection with money laundering related to the Bengaluru drug trafficking case, CPI-M Kerala secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan stepped down on Friday, citing health issues. LDF convener A Vijayaraghavan has been given the temporary charge of the party secretary post.

The CPI-M in an official statement issued on Friday said that the party state Secretariat has approved Balakrishnan's request to grant leave for treatment.

He has been undergoing treatment for cancer for a while.

There have been reports that party central committee member MV Govindan would be given the post. However, the party secretariat chose A Vijayaraghavan, who is considered close to Kodiyeri. His son Bineesh Kodiyeri was remanded in judicial custody till 25 November on Wednesday by the Special Court for Prevention of Money Laundering Act cases in Bengaluru.

Opposition Leader Ramesh Chennithala opined that it was chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan who should have resigned from his post first. "For the first time in Kerala history, gold smuggling, hawala deals, dollar scam and many more scams have roots in CM's office. They found it challenging to face the electorate or campaign for the LDF at the hustings. The CPI-M sensed party workers were on the verge of mutiny and removed the party secretary," Chennithala added.

SNS

Delhi's Covid spurt to affect NCR dists

Third wave hits Capital with record numbers of cases being registered on a daily basis

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MEERUT, 13 NOVEMBER

Health officials in Meerut are alarmed in view of the possibility of rise in Covid-19 cases after the festive season ends. The alert has been issued particularly in view of the rising cases of Covid in Delhi.

A large number of people shuttle to Delhi from nearby districts of National Capital Region (NCR) area that includes Meerut, Ghaziabad, Gautam Budh Nagar, Hapur, Bulandshahr and Baghpat.

The frequency of people travelling from Delhi to these areas increases during the festival period. This could result in the rise in the number of Covid cases here as Delhi is again witnessing increase in the spread of the virus.

The third wave of Covid-19 has begun in Delhi with record numbers of cases being registered on a daily basis there. Due to this, the districts close to Delhi are also at risk. Hence, the health officials have been put on alert in the region.

The health officials here are of the opinion that Delhi's situation would have its impact on the coronavirus situation in NCR districts.

Divisional surveillance officer Ashok Taliyan said that officials have been put on alert and they have been sensitising people about Covid protocols, such as wearing masks, social distancing, maintaining body and hand hygiene.

Dr Taliyan said that major-

ity of people don't follow preventive measures of social distancing and they don't even wear masks. Their casual behaviour poses a threat to them if they come in contact with an infected person.

He further said that thousands of people commute between Delhi and the NCR districts on daily and weekly basis for work.

Their visits increase during festival season as small traders and people go there for shopping and mix in the crowds.

This could pose a threat to others who come in contact with them at home like their families and friends. So there is a need for people to be extra careful, he added.

In view of the situation in Delhi, district magistrate K Balaji had interacted with groups of traders, industrialists, welfare organizations etc to sensitise them about need to follow Covid prevention protocols and guidelines.

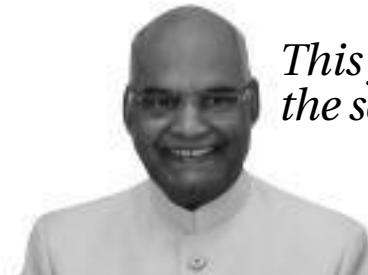
Dr Taliyan said that people are being sensitised to maintain social distancing, wear mask and to try not to go out if not necessary. We are trying to create awareness particularly amongst those who are in public dealing such as traders and business.

In Meerut, the Covid-19 test positivity rate which has shown a downward trend since September has now suddenly shown an upward trend in November, after the rise in cases in Delhi. On November 1 the positivity rate was 2.30 which shot up to 4.0 on November 11 in Meerut. By contrast, the positivity rate during the month of September was around 7 per cent which decreased to 3.5 in October.

There are in all 14,447 Covid-19 cases in Meerut district so far of which 1,465 are active cases and 831 patients are undergoing treatment in home isolation. A total of 328 patients have lost their lives due to Covid-19 in the district.

Will AIMIM eat into TMC's minority votes in 2021 polls?

SNS & PTI
KOLKATA, 13 NOVEMBER



This festival, celebrated by people of various religions and sects strengthens the sense of unity, goodwill and fraternity among the people of our country

PRESIDENT RAM NATH KOVIND
IN A MESSAGE TO FELLOW CITIZENS ON THE EVE OF DIWALI

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2020

05

At G-77 meet, India commits to work with developing nations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
UNITED NATIONS,
13 NOVEMBER

India's assistance to other nations does not create indebtedness, is without conditionalities and the country's cooperation is guided by its partners' development priorities. India has told the G-77 annual ministerial meeting, reiterating its commitment to work with developing country partners towards a resilient and sustainable recovery from Covid.

"In India's development cooperation, we will be guided by our partners' development priorities. Our assistance does not create indebtedness and is without conditionalities, India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti said at the 44th Annual Meeting of the G-77 Foreign Ministers on Thursday.

Tirumurti said the pandemic threatens to setback decades of progress made by developing countries and push millions back into poverty.

As G-77 countries, we cannot let this happen. We need to raise our collective voice for recovery, resilience and reform to ensure that

'As G-77 countries, we cannot let this happen. We need to raise our collective voice for recovery, resilience and reform to ensure that we go back to the path of development,' he said at the forum titled Global response to the pandemic and the obstacles it poses to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and achievement of the SDGs'

we go back to the path of development, he said at the forum titled Global response to the pandemic and the obstacles it poses to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and achievement of the SDGs'.

Tirumurti reiterated India's steadfast commitment to work with its partners from the global South in the G-77 towards a resilient and sustainable recovery from the pandemic and to build back better and stronger.

Giving the statement for external affairs minister S Jaishankar, Tirumurti emphasised that India's approach will be human-

centric, based on principles of mutual respect and national ownership with a commitment to sustainable development for all, in the spirit of 'World Is One Family'.

Underscoring the need for affordable health systems and resilient supply chains to fight the pandemic, he said India is assisting in urgent health and medical supplies to more than 150 countries.

India has pledged 15 million dollars for GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, and operationalised the Covid Emergency Fund for India's neighbours with an initial contribution of 10 million dollars.

He further noted that as the 75th anniversary of the UN is commemorated this year, the pandemic has laid bare the shortcomings of the world organisation and other multilateral institutions.

Tirumurti told that in its South-South cooperation, New Delhi has never let geography limit its approach to assist the developing world. The India-CARICOM Leaders Meeting, India-Pacific Islands Summit, India-ASEAN Summits and India-Africa Forum Summits have further strengthened the special bonding between India and fellow developing countries, he said.

The Jamnagar institute has been conferred the status of an Institution of National Importance (INI) by an act

WHO to set up centre for traditional medicine in India; PM says matter of pride

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

The World Health Organisation announced on Friday that it will set up a Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in India, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressing confidence that just like the country has emerged as the 'pharmacy of the world', the WHO institution will become the centre for global wellness.

WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus made the announcement in a video message at an event in which Prime Minister Modi dedicated two future-ready Ayurveda institutions in Jaipur and Jamnagar to the nation via video conferencing on the occasion of the 5th Ayurveda Day. The Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA), Jamnagar (Gujarat) and the National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Jaipur (Rajasthan) are both premier institutions of Ayurveda in the country.

The Jamnagar institute has been conferred the status of an Institution of National Importance (INI) by an act



PM Narendra Modi speaks at the virtual inauguration of Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda at Jamnagar, from New Delhi on Friday.

Modi for his commitment to the universal coverage under Ayushman Bharat and evidence-based promotion of traditional medicines to achieve health related objectives. Modi said Ayurveda is India's heritage whose expansion entails the welfare of humanity.

"It is a matter of pride for all Indians that the WHO has chosen India for establishing its Global Centre for Traditional Medicine. Now work will be done in this direction from India," Modi said. "I would like to thank the WHO and particularly its Director General Tedros for giving this responsibility to India."

I am confident that just like India has emerged as the pharmacy of the world, in the same manner this centre for traditional medicine will become the centre for global wellness," he said.

Modi informed that work is on to develop the National Sowa-Rigpa Institute for research and other studies related to Sowa-Rigpa in Leh. The two institutions in Gujarat and Rajasthan which have been upgraded are also an extension of this development, he added.

ditional Medicine in India to strengthen the evidence, research, training and awareness of traditional and complementary medicine." "This new centre will support WHO's efforts to implement the WHO traditional medicine strategy 2014-2023 which aims to support countries in developing policies and action plans to strengthen the role of traditional medicine

as part of their journey to universal health coverage and a healthier, fairer and safer world," he said.

Traditional systems of medicine such as Ayurveda can play an important role in integrated people-centric health services and healthcare, but they have not received enough attention, the WHO DG said. Ghebreyesus also lauded

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Sushil Kumar Khanna, S/o Om Prakash Khanna, R/o: House No. C-48 DDA Flat, West Gorakh Park, Shahdara, New Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 69/13, U/s 417/419/420/423/468/471/120B/34, registered at P.S. Dwarka North, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued (unexecuted), stating that the said Sushil Kumar Khanna cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Sushil Kumar Khanna has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. has been initiated in this case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said Sushil Kumar Khanna accused of FIR No. 69/13, U/s 417/419/420/423/468/471/120B/34, P.S. Dwarka North, New Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer said complaint on or before 21.12.2020

By Order
Sh. Deepak Kumar-II

Metropolitan Magistrate-06, Room No. 14,
Ground Floor, Dwarka Court, New Delhi
DP/355/DW/2020



Coal India Limited (A Maharatna Company) MARKETING & SALES

NOTICE

Methodology for Linkage Rationalization of Independent Power Producers (IPPs)

CIL is pleased to announce inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) for one time linkages rationalization process for Independent Power Producers (IPPs) in furtherance to policy guidelines issued by MOC vide letter no. 23011/79/2014-CPD/CLD dated 15.05.2018 and letter no. 23011/79/2014-CPD(Vol-II)-Part (2) dated 12.03.2020.

Notice, Schedule of dates for submitting Expression of Interest (EOI) and other details is available on Coal India Limited Official website at www.coalindia.in under Marketing & Sales section under sub head Linkage Rationalization.

Interested IPPs are requested to submit their EOIs within the prescribed date as per the Notice uploaded in the website.

HoD (Operations)
(Marketing & Sales)
Coal India Limited, Kolkata

Centre grants fund to 6 states as calamity aid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

A high-level committee, headed by Union home minister Amit Shah, has approved the release of nearly Rs4,382 crore to six states as central assistance for the damage caused by cyclone, floods

and landslides during the year.

The funds will be released to West Bengal, Odisha, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Sikkim as assistance for the damage caused by cyclone, floods

statement by the Home Ministry said. For cyclone 'Amphan', Rs 2,707.77 crore has been approved for West Bengal and Rs 128.23 crore for Odisha. For cyclone 'Nisarga', Rs 268.59 crore has been approved for Maharashtra..

**Don't intend to retract, apologise for tweets:
Kamra on contempt case**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

Stand-up comic artist Kunal Kamra on Friday refused to retract his controversial tweets against the Supreme Court or apologise for them, saying he believes they speak for themselves.

Kamra's statement comes a day after Attorney General K Venugopal consented to the initiation of criminal contempt proceedings against him for a series of tweets following the apex court giving interim bail to Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami.

The tweets I recently put out have been found in contempt of court. All that I tweeted was from my view of the Supreme Court of India giving a partial decision in favour of a Prime Time Loudspeaker, he said in a statement addressed to Venugopal and the judges on his Twitter page.

My view hasn't changed because the silence of the Supreme Court of India on matters of other's personal liberty cannot go uncriticised. I don't intend to retract my tweets or apologise for them. I believe they speak for themselves, he added.

Kamra, who was banned by several airlines after he heckled Goswami on an IndiGo flight earlier this year, said he enjoys a platform with a captive audience but a time slot before the Supreme Court is a scarce commodity

and should go to more pressing issues in front of the nation. He also referred to contempt proceedings against lawyer Prashant Bhushan, who had refused to apologise for his derogatory tweets and was held guilty of contempt earlier this year.

I wish to volunteer having the time that would be allotted to the hearing of my petition (20 hours at the very least, if Prashant Bhushan's hearing is anything to go by), to other matters and parties who have not been as lucky and privileged as I am to jump the queue, Kamra said.

The stand-up comedian and satirist then went on to list the important petitions pending in front of the court, listing the pleas on demonetisation, the challenge to the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, the matter of the legality of electoral bonds and countless other matters that are more deserving of time and attention.

The Supreme Court of India hasn't yet declared my tweets anything as of now but if and when they do I hope they can have a small laugh before declaring them Contempt of Court, he said.

The apex court on Wednesday granted interim bail to Goswami in an abatement to suicide case, saying it will be a "travesty of justice" if personal liberty is curtailed.

FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during on-going Festival Season, Railways have decided to run the following Festival Special trains as per details given below:-

04121/04122 Prayagraj-Anand Vihar Terminal-Prayagraj Superfast Train

Train No. 04121	STATIONS	Train No. 04122
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
— 23:25	Prayagraj	22:00 —
09:05 —	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:45

Days of run : 04121 Ex. Prayagraj on 22.11.2020 (Sunday) and 04122 Ex. Anand Vihar Terminal on 23.11.2020 (Monday)

Accommodation : AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved); Stoppages: Fatehpur, Kanpur Central, Tundla & Ghaziabad Stations.

04002/04001 Anand Vihar Terminal-Patna Jn.-Anand Vihar Terminal Express Train

Train No. 04002	STATIONS	Train No. 04001
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
— 21:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	06:30 —
11:30 —	Patna Jn.	14:30

Days of run : 04002 Ex. Anand Vihar Terminal on 17.11.2020 & 18.11.2020 (Tuesday, Wednesday) and 04001 Ex. Patna Jn. on 18.11.2020 & 19.11.2020 (Wednesday, Thursday)

Accommodation : Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved); Stoppages: Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn. & Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Jn. Stations.

04014/04013 Delhi Jn.-Saharsa-Delhi Jn. Express Train

Train No. 04014	STATIONS	Train No. 04013
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
— 22:15	Delhi Jn.	19:20 —
19:55 —	Saharsa	22:15

Days of run : 04014 Ex. Delhi Jn. on 17.11.2020 (Tuesday) and 04013 Ex. Saharsa on 18.11.2020 (Wednesday)

Accommodation : Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved); Stoppages: Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur Jn., Gorakhpur, Chhatarpur, Hajipur, Barauni & Khagaria Stations.

04016/04015 New Delhi -Jaynagar-New Delhi Express Train

Train No. 04016	STATIONS	Train No. 04015
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
— 23:55	New Delhi	22:00 —
22:45 —	Jaynagar	00:35

Days of run : 04016 Ex. New Delhi on 17.11.2020 (Tuesday) and 04015 Ex. Jaynagar on 19.11.2020 (Thursday)

Accommodation : Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved)

Stopages: Kanpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patliputra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Darbhanga & Madhubani Stations.

Note: All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

Inept students

When the leader of the relatively young Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation chastises the country's oldest political party for having squandered the seats allocated to it in Bihar's Grand Alliance, it essentially asks the Indian National Congress to introspect on the way it is pursuing politics. When the need for such introspection is underlined by one of its own stalwarts, Tariq Anwar, the writing is on the wall. And when from distant America comes news that former President Barack Obama in his soon to be released memoir has likened the Congress' main hope for the future to an inept student, the need for soul-searching becomes paramount. Mr Obama is said to have damned Mr Rahul Gandhi with faint praise saying that he has "a nervous, unformed quality about him, as if he were a student who'd done the coursework and was eager to impress the teacher but deep down lacked either the aptitude or the passion to master the subject".

This is as accurate a summation of the Congress leader as one is likely to read and explains the dilemma that his mother must face in deciding on whether to give up her seemingly permanent "interim" presidency of the party. The Congress has bumbled from crisis to crisis after its momentous loss in the 2014 parliamentary election. It has in the past six years lost power in states where it should not have, been outmanoeuvred in political battles and appears to have resigned itself to bit roles in regions where it was once ruled.

Had it been less ambitious in Bihar, and claimed fewer than the 70 seats it got, and had its partners picked up the slack, the Grand Alliance might have fared better. But even if it had, the Congress would still have been a minor cog in the RJD wheel. This is the real problem with the party - one of feeling entitled without showing achievements - and one it must address if it is ever to have viable ambitions.

The Prime Minister's contempt for dynastic political structures has been expressed often and his well-directed barbs are calculated at forcing the Congress to circle the wagons every time he holds forth on the family. But the more the Congress hunkers down in defence of the Gandhis, the more it suits its rivals for they know their best chance of keeping the party down is to ensure that its leadership does not change. As even Mr Obama has so aptly perceived.

Mr Gandhi has not mastered politics despite having spent decades at it. In August, the Congress gave itself six months to find a new leader and decentralise power after senior party leaders forced Mrs Gandhi's hand. Nearly half that period has elapsed without any meaningful moves in the direction. Perhaps the party had hoped a better result in Bihar would silence those who question the family. That has not happened. The next general election is less than four years away, time enough for the Congress to regroup. But will it?

Indian idiocy

When otherwise intelligent, thinking people get all misty-eyed and begin identifying with and feeling proud of the successes of Indians - using the term in the loosest possible manner - abroad who at best have an extremely tangential connection with the nation of their ancestors' birth, it is time for us as a society to begin to worry. It matters not a whit to the mostly mindless and always breathless media which is happy to run allegedly human-interest stories in a loop featuring hordes of fourth cousins, the neighbours whose grandparents went to school with the granduncle of the appropriated 'Indian' or a gaggle of old teachers of the person of interest's aunt by marriage.

And why should it? They have a business to run and they have captive consumers seemingly collectively afflicted by the Stockholm Syndrome so all's well on the TRP/circulation/click bait front. The loser is India, an ancient nation but still a young state, where the forging of a liberal, modern nation-state premised on the innumerable progressive aspects of an Indic civilisational ethos is still very much a work in progress.

If you have been guessing, you've guessed right. Because it is the Indian reaction, rather the reactions of Indians, to the political success of US Vice-President elect Kamala Harris which has sparked this festive non-cheer. Here's a left radical (in the US context) statist, successful and brilliant politician who has overcome the colour prejudice in America - she, incidentally, identifies as Black - to make it to the second-most powerful post in that country. We wish her well.

But New Delhi is obviously and correctly wary of her ideological bias and will, as it ought, remain implacably opposed to her utterances and/or policy prescriptions towards India when they harm the national interest. The fact that she has an Indian parent is neither here nor there. The eulogisation of Harris is, of course, only the latest example of Indians making consummate asses of themselves when they seek to showcase a rather pathetic, context-free 'connect' to second-generation and in some cases even third-generation high-achieving citizens of foreign countries on the flimsy basis of phenotype.

Sociologists and psychiatrists will make of this phenomenon what they will. All we can do is underline the fact that it is perfectly natural for any cohesive nation to cheer on one of its own who has made a name or achieved fame in countries around the globe. As long she is an Indian citizen and our excitement is not premised on an Indian-sounding middle name, as it were. The nation-state is going to be the most enduring, basic unit of international relations and interactions for the foreseeable future. Let's act like we get it.

Blueprint for Harris

It is hoped that in the interest of the USA and the world, President Biden would expose his deputy to foreign affairs with a helpful Secretary of State. The reason is that there have occurred many changes in the equations between nations as well as civilizations



The election of Kamala Harris as Vice-President of the USA is the ideal way to celebrate the centenary of women being given the vote in America. In virtually no democracy in the world did women have a vote before. It is also a proud moment for America to elect a woman as Vice-President, whether she be white or coloured. Even the distinguished Hillary Clinton could not win as late as 2016. Now, a woman needs to become President to fill the last gap.

For us Indians also it is a matter of satisfaction that Harris is of recent Indian origin. In fact, she personifies a several-splendoured combination. Her father is a Jamaican black, her mother was a Tamil Brahmin. Her husband and stepchildren are white Jews. Blacks are the biggest minority in the USA while Jews are a very influential community in the country. And women are in equal number as men if not a majority by a slight margin. Harris is a successful lawyer; what more can America want for a Vice-President?

President Joe Biden, being of a mature age, is likely to let his deputy play a more active role than most other Vice-Presidents hitherto. It is said that when President Franklin Roosevelt passed away in 1945 soon after his fourth election, many Americans knew little of Harry Truman, the Vice-President. Yet on proceeding to the White House, it was he who pressed the atomic trigger for Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. It shocked the world then, but it took years for even military experts to realize that Truman had, in the process of bombing Japan, abolished the use of nuclear weapons for times to come. If the horrors of nuclear bombs had not then been demonstrated, possibly the world would have witnessed the use of incomparably more horrific thermonuclear weapons.

China was effectively a third world economy and therefore a second class power. Today it has replaced the Soviet Union as the second superpower. India is coming up to become a great power, even militarily. Japan is gradually freeing itself from US protection and should soon become a military powerhouse. Its navy is already powerful, and its air force is also on the way.

Islamic countries were together petro-rich and a united group of 54, except perhaps Iran which is Shia by faith and away from the Arab and other parts of Islamia. Today, the demand for oil is fluctuating. Vehicles are headed to run on electric batteries. The USA is itself producing shale oil and importing little from Gulf states. As the demand for petroleum declines, Islamic economies would decline. Impover-

ishment often leads to internecine differences. Already there are two camps; one led by Saudi Arabia and the other by Turkey. The latter was a committed ally of America but no longer. Pakistan was for decades a favoured ally that significantly lived off American aid, but no longer.

Yet, several politicians in USA still criticize India about Kashmir without any clue about the sub-continent's history. Moreover, the Nehruvian era finally passed in 2014 and the ethos of India is changing.

The USA should also take greater interest in Africa where the sun may rise before long. Australia is an important watchtower for China as well as a growing military associate.

Kamala Harris' country no longer needs allies who cost its economy.

To keep its industrial-military complex as well as its economy going, more genuine exports would

be useful, rather than exploitative imports as for example from China. Mind you, so long as the dollar is so popular nothing can go wrong.

In the end however budgetary deficits are not to be encouraged. In the ultimate analysis, an economy would be as rich as its cash inflow and be less defined by its fixed assets. President-elect Biden addressed his party a few days ago. Thereafter we heard Harris deliver a longer and an eloquent speech. It was perfect except for repeated references to black women. This was despite the claim that Biden and she wish to heal wounds and bring together a divided nation. True, the blacks care for Harris but Indians feel that half the blood that flows in her veins is

to provide a significant boost to the fertiliser industry. This will help resolve the subsidy delays that this industry has faced over the last several years and that have weakened its credit profile and profitability.

Notwithstanding the robust reform momentum and stimulus announcements so far, government spending lost steam in Q2FY21 as the total expenditure contracted by 13.5 per cent on a YoY basis in this quarter. We hope to see the pace of spending record a turnaround in the ongoing quarter, to help solidify the economic revival.

Yours, etc., Sanjay Chopra, Mohali, 13 November.

STUNTED GROWTH

SIR, This is with reference to the article, 'Architects of Resilience' by Anupriyo Majumdar (The Statesman, 2 November 2020). The unprecedented global social and economic crisis triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic poses grave risks to the nutritional status and survival of young children in the low-income and middle-income countries (LMICs). The crucial point is the unanticipated increase of wasting malnutrition (low weight-for-height) due to steep declines in household incomes, changes in availability and affordability of nutritious

foods and, above all, sudden halt in all public health, social protection services and nutrition interventions, mainly Mid-day meal or hot cooked meals at anganwadi centres and other supplementary nutrition programme under ICDS.

We can hardly afford to ignore the immediate impact of Covid-19 pandemic on future generation (in utero) and born during pandemic period. Scientists and researchers have found that children born during pandemic (in utero) grew up less educated, poor performers and were poor as well. Substantial number of them

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIA NEWS NETWORK

ASIAN VOICES

Biden will need to get creative to save the economy

When the president-elect takes office, he'll confront the country's two most acute challenges: an ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the economic damage it's wrought. But he'll have an uphill battle to enact the sort of bold policy agenda that many supporters were hoping for.

Barring a January surprise in Georgia's runoff election, Republicans are likely to retain control of the Senate, denying Biden the unified control of government that his predecessors enjoyed when they came into office. With traditional relief and stimulus measures limited by opposition party intransigence, Biden might still be able to pass policies designed to resuscitate the stricken service sector directly.

The US economy has bounced rapidly back since April, but only partially. Employment has only recovered about halfway to where it was before COVID-19 struck, giving it the shape of a reverse square-root sign. Lower-wage employees, who tend to work at the local services businesses most directly impacted by the virus, are suffering more.

The economy is being afflicted by two simultaneous maladies. The first is continued fear of the virus, now in the middle of a devastating third wave. Fear, more than lockdowns, has kept Americans shut inside their homes, reluctant to take the risk of going out to shop or eat.

That in turn gives rise to the second problem of decreased demand, which filters through the entire econo-

H The Korea Herald

my. Fear of the virus will eventually be reduced by vaccines, which may become available in early 2021. A national program of testing and contact tracing - which President Donald Trump long resisted - would also help speed COVID-19 on its way out, and should be a priority for the incoming administration. But even when the virus is gone, the economy is likely to remain depressed for a while, as the overhang of unemployment works its way out of the system.

Bold relief measures, of the type that sustained Americans through the pandemic's dark early days, probably won't be forthcoming given the Republican Senate's inevitable turn toward austerity. The same is true of traditional fiscal stimulus, such as a burst of infrastructure spending, that might help boost demand back to normal levels.

But there might be a chance for more targeted measures to help the sectors of the economy that COVID-19 has hurt the most - local services. Restaurants, shops and other establishments that cater in person to customers have gone bust in large numbers.

PERSONAL

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR editor@thestatesman.com

FM's comprehensive announcements

SIR, This refers to "Stimulus

3.0: Govt pushes jobs and infrastructure" (13 November).

Through the Atmanirbhar Bharat package 3.0, the Finance Minister on Thursday offered a comprehensive set of announcements, although its assessed standalone fiscal cost is modest. Nevertheless, this package is expected to help solidify the strength of economic recovery that is underway in H2 FY2021.

The package offers a variety of measures to boost capital spending and infra-

structure investment, incentivise job creation, and also provide support to the farm and non-farm portion of the rural economy. These measures, especially the ones focused on the core sectors that have a higher multiplier effect, such as the increase in the outlay of Rs 18,000 crore for the PM Awas Yojana-Urban will help trigger positivity in the economy. This fresh allocation of Rs 65,000 crore for fertiliser subsidy, which nearly rivals the size of the budgeted outlay for FY2021, is expected

to provide a significant boost to the fertiliser industry. This will help resolve the subsidy delays that this industry has faced over the last several years and that have weakened its credit profile and profitability.

Notwithstanding the robust reform momentum and stimulus announcements so far, government spending lost steam in Q2FY21 as the total expenditure contracted by 13.5 per cent on a YoY basis in this quarter. We hope to see the pace of spending record a turnaround in the ongoing quarter, to help solidify the economic revival.

Yours, etc., Sanjay Chopra, Mohali, 13 November.

INDO-US TIES

SIR, Your editorial "Biden and India" (10 November)

is superb. While Trump's support for India was wholehearted, America's President-elect Joe Biden had early raised questions regarding NRC, CAA and human rights in Kashmir.

The situation will remain hazy till India faces a serious domestic problem and America under Biden reacts. You are absolutely spot on when you comment that it is not still crystal-clear what the US government's attitude under Biden will be towards China and Pakistan - two countries hell bent on destabilizing India.

It is too early to become optimistic. But let us hope the Indo-US on-going bonhomie continues because today's global context demands it.

Yours, etc., Aranya Sanyal, Siliguri, 11 November.



is of a contraction of 11.0 per cent. One has to revisit this projection in early December 2020, after the data for Q2FY21 is released by the NSO. By then, there will be greater clarity on the likelihood of the endurance of the festive season uptick, as well as the pace of new Covid-19 infections domestically and in major trading partners during the colder months.

Yours, etc., Sanjay Chopra, Mohali, 13 November.

STUNTED GROWTH

SIR, This is with reference to the article, 'Architects of Resilience' by Anupriyo Majumdar (The Statesman, 2 November 2020).

The unprecedented global social and economic crisis triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic poses grave risks to the nutritional status and survival of young children in the low-income and middle-income countries (LMICs).

The crucial point is the unanticipated increase of wasting malnutrition (low weight-for-height) due to steep declines in household incomes, changes in availability and affordability of nutritious

foods and, above all, sudden halt in all public health, social protection services and nutrition interventions, mainly Mid-day meal or hot cooked meals at anganwadi centres and other supplementary nutrition programme under ICDS.

We can hardly afford to ignore the immediate impact of Covid-19 pandemic on future generation (in utero) and born during pandemic period. Scientists and researchers have found that children born during pandemic (in utero) grew up less educated, poor performers and were poor as well.

Substantial number of them

suffer from malnutrition. The World Bank prepared an index called Human Capital Index (HCI) which measures how much capital each country loses through the lack of education and health. The latest HCI of the world released by World Bank says that Covid-19 pandemic generation would be the worst victims.

The adult generation of 2040 would be stunted one, they would be left behind in terms of human capital. This may undoubtedly be the toughest development challenge.

Yours, etc., Jaydev Jana, Kolkata, 3 November.

'NGOs' worth must be recognised'



Dubbed as the "Clothing Man", **ANSHU GUPTA**, a recipient of the 2015 Ramon Magsaysay award, founded Goonj with an objective to put some fundamental deprivations of the poor on the development agenda. His mission was to channelise unused or underutilised development resources, through even recycling, into underdeveloped rural areas to help deprived people cope with basic but daunting challenges in their lives. He started by making cloth — a basic but ignored need of economically vulnerable people — a crucial resource in this regard, working on it and bringing it on the development map. Anshu studied mass communication apart from doing a masters in economics and started as a freelance journalist. He left a corporate communications job in 1998 to establish Goonj, which has undertaken community development, disaster relief and rehabilitation work across the country, turning every disaster into an opportunity to reach resources and attention to the most ignored communities. In an interview with **RAKESH KUMAR**, Anshu, 50, spoke about his journey and challenges facing the NGO sector. Excerpts:

Q. Could you outline the work you and your NGO Goonj are engaged in currently?

A. Goonj aims to recognise and value the potential of traditional wisdom of people and the local resources, with the focus concentrated on the receiver's dignity instead of the donor's pride. Goonj has built a network of communities from urban to village India, channelising material as a tool to address crucial gaps in rural infrastructure, water, environment, livelihood, education, health, disaster relief and rehabilitation. Through our various initiatives, being executed across 26 states/UTs, we promote a circular economy by ensuring maximum use of each and every material. Our engagement with both the urban and rural population has galvanised a mass civic participation in addressing basic but neglected issues. Goonj's model of development implemented through the various initiatives proposes a more inclusive alternative economy where everyone is an equal stakeholder in the process.

Q. How did the idea of setting up Goonj come to your mind and why?

A. Goonj started its journey in 1999 with me and my wife Meenakshi Gupta. Highlighting cloth as a metaphor for basic but ignored needs of the economically weaker sections of the society, we started Goonj to bring clothing into the development agenda as something important to work on. Goonj created a barter set-up between urban surplus and the village communities' wisdom and labour, triggering large-scale rural development work. Thus, making "Clothing A Matter of Concern", we worked on transforming the culture of giving in India, highlighting material as a sustainable development resource and offering an economic model for eliminating poverty and related issues.

Q. How do you look at the trajectory of your organisation — and your journey — over the last two decades?

A. Goonj doesn't want to be known as just another NGO; in fact, we don't want to be known as an NGO. Goonj is an idea, a voice, an effort. We have always measured our success not just in terms of the number of people benefited or the amount of material collected or distributed — the success parameter is the number of organisations replicating the idea, the number

of people continuing the activities done through our "Dignity For Work" initiative without any incentive. At the end of the day, Goonj doesn't want to just "help" people in need, rather wants to make them realise their potential. In short, our journey has always aimed to build more and more change makers.

Q. A large number of people and migrant workers — especially the poor, vulnerable and marginalised people — have undergone immense distress, trauma and hardship during the continuing Covid pandemic. Many of them are now without any gainful employment. How do you assess this grim situation and what is your prescription for its mitigation?

A. Millions of people walked back home at the start of India's lockdown, having lost all means of sustenance in the cities. The miseries and indignities that they were subjected to, will remain in the collective memory of all of us. But, we at Goonj, centered deeply in the dignity of people, have used this negative to strengthen and sharpen our resolve to restore the freedom, aspirations and well-being of these people with our local livelihood initiative, "VAAPSI" (Bringing Back).

Acknowledging and believing that self-sustenance is the only way forward, we harp on Vaapsi, a tried and tested idea around creating large-scale livelihood in rural India, enabling people to be independent while valuing what they know and have. Matching their skills, wisdom and aspirations with the needs of the area, Vaapsi gives people a chance to improve their own lives before changing it. Instead of being transactional and individually led, it also mobilises individuals to be important contributors to their community. In the time of Covid especially, we pushed our pan India work on Vaapsi more rigorously. Our "Dignity For Work" (Shram Samman) approach works as the spine for us in supporting the projects on livelihood.

Q. What is your take on the challenges facing the non-profit sector in India?

A. Voluntary sector has been playing a very extensive and deep role in the country, especially in the area which is very remote. But one would not know the value of an institution, which is working with the cancer patient till one has a cancer patient at home. Almost, all of us have gone through those phases in our life, where we have used one of the voluntary sec-

tors in a big way. But I feel very sad when such wrong things are said about the sector. People don't understand what kind of huge talented pool of people are running these institutions with such passion. If making money would have been our aim, we would have earned in business or in politics or in other jobs. There may be some wrong people, but wrong people can be found everywhere in every field.

Q. The Central government recently got the Foreign Contribution Regulation (Amendment) legislation passed by Parliament, which was seen by many NGOs as a bid to subvert their work and curb dissent. Your comments?

A. Let me tell you one thing, the NGO sector is already highly regulated. It files more reports than a corporate sector or a business sector or a media sector. We have all accounts opened or details given on our websites. There is so much scrutiny happening. One who is working well, he will keep working and one works dishonestly will be caught some day. Every political party has an NGO, every business man has an NGO and philanthropists have NGOs. Whenever any disaster happens you need an NGO to help. Therefore, don't defame one particular sector.

Q. Amnesty International recently shut down its India operations, alleging "witch-hunt" being pursued by the Centre and its agencies against human rights organisations. Do you think the space for such organisations to operate in the country has been shrinking now?

A. We should not see only Amnesty International. It may be in any sector, which could impact the image of the country globally. Tomorrow, if any two businesses shut down in India, won't it dent India's image? Or two big media houses refuse to work in India, it will also have an impact on the country's image. Why do we only point out the developmental sector, it is also like any sector, it also gives jobs. If this country is not able to recognise the value of the NGO sector after the Covid pandemic, then when is it going to do so? When this entire crisis unfolded, it was us, who didn't have any PPE kit or proper knowledge (then about the pandemic) who worked honestly and tried to do the best we could do.

one but he and his acolytes seem able to discern.

Neither ever admits to having been mistaken and there is always someone to blame for any shortcomings that may come to light. If Trump's lack of knowledge of science is legion globally, so is Oli's nationally. Covid-19 felled them both, with Trump flailing for a response to contain it, while Oli has not even bothered. I cannot recall the last time Oli spoke exclusively about the pandemic wreaking havoc on our economy and society.

Most of all, it is the imperative to remain in power at all costs that will do lasting damage. Trump's undermining of the integrity of the US elections just because he lost will lead to an erosion of trust in the democratic process there. Oli's shenanigans have already had the same effect in Nepal. All Oli has done since the beginning of this year while the coronavirus rages is find ways to undercut his party rivals and remain in power—for the sake of it.

There is one crucial difference: unlike Trump profiting off his office, Oli does not even seem to have any interest in that (although others around him are reportedly making hay). That can hardly be a saving grace when the country sorely requires a leader who can lead from the front. Hopefully, when the time comes, the Nepali electorate will inform the Nepali Trump in words spoken by Oliver Cromwell in 1653 when he dismissed the British parliament: "You have sat too long for any good you have been doing lately... In the name of God, go!"

The Kathmandu Post/ANN

OCCASIONAL NOTE

The increase in the number of motor vehicles raises the question of the safety of traffic in the streets of Calcutta. There were 1,382 street accidents in the city last year, 88 of which were fatal, while 1,294 resulted in injuries only. By far the largest proportions in both those categories were due to motor vehicles, and the numbers of the accidents reported have been increasing. Of the non-fatal accidents due to motor vehicles there were 475 in 1917; 561 in 1918; and 656 in 1919; while in the same years the fatal cases have increased from 36 to 42 and 58. It is recognised in the report that all the accidents attributed to motor vehicles are not necessarily the fault of the drivers. Carelessness on the part of pedestrians must bear its share of blame. Reckless driving, however, is a common subject of complaint. The report states that the increase in the number of motor vehicles, and in the number of persons using the streets, is making the regulation of traffic very difficult; if the dangers of the road are to be lessened, the police must have the co-operation not only of the public but also of the courts. However, an improvement is looked for from the organisation of a public vehicles department, which will make it possible to add a more effective regulation of all classes of traffic to the other good services rendered to the public by the Calcutta police.

NEWS ITEMS

ALIGARH COLLEGE

The Old Boys' Association is no doubt in some respects an independent body, but it has never been recognised by the trustees as a body which was in any way under the control of the College authorities. The objects of the association, as stated in section 2 of the Rules of the M.A.O. College are to encourage the old boys of the College to take an active and constant interest in the work and success of the alma mater, and to promote friendly relations between the old boys, the present boys, the staff, and the trustees of the College. Every old boy, in order to become a member of the Association, must pay one per cent of his income. Following his rule the Honorary Secretary considers himself as much a member of the Association as his truthful namesake.

BOMBAY COTTON BROKERS

At an urgent general meeting of the Bombay Cotton Brokers' Association, held yesterday, Mr. Shiva Narayan Nemani presiding, the two resolutions passed at a former urgent general meeting on October 5 were confirmed. The first resolution recorded dissatisfaction and a keen sense of disappointment at the result of the deputation's meeting with the Secretary to the Government. The second resolved that business in the new crops contracts shall be commenced only when it shall be so resolved by the General Trade meeting. This Association will strictly abide by the decision of the General Trade meeting in so far as business in new crops contracts is concerned. This meeting is strongly opposed to any further business being done under control of Cotton Contracts Board.

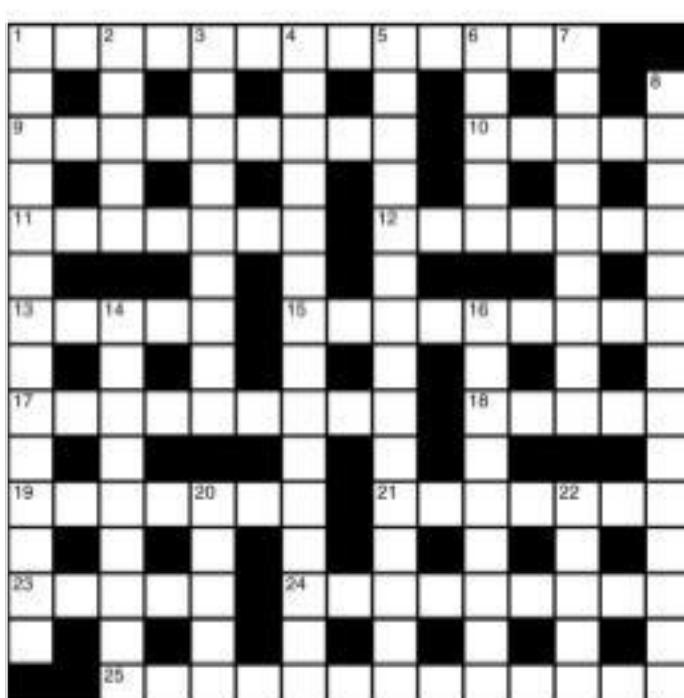
INDIANS IN EAST AFRICA

With reference to Lord Milner's despatch to the officer administering the Government of East Africa Protectorate, the Indian Overseas Association has addressed two long letters to Lord Milner, in the course of which inter alia they express satisfaction that Lord Milner dissociated himself and His Majesty's Government from the report of the Economic Commission of Enquiry. After dealing at length with the representation of the Indian community in the Legislative Council, educational facilities, and the segregation of Indians, especially in towns, the letters conclude by expressing the satisfaction of the Association that Lord Milner had set his face against the exclusion of Indian immigrants into East Africa, and that the immigration should be on a condition calculated to encourage the sentiment of self-respect and good citizenship.

POLITICS IN THE PUNJAB

Lahore, Nov 13
At an informal meeting of members of the Punjab Legislative Council held this morning at Government House, his Honour the Lieut.-Governor spoke on the present condition of affairs in the Province. He suggested that the present unrest was in the main a reflex of the general world-unrest. The Mahomedan views on the Turkish settlement have been supported by the Local Government, and the Government of India, every sympathy has been shown to the Mahajirin, and much had been done in the past by the Government for Mahomedans in India. The Sikh claim to increased representation in the Council has been dealt with under the real conviction that a community representing eleven per cent of the population could not justly receive more than nineteen per cent of the community seats.

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

S	I	S	M	J	
A	T	O	M	P	I
N	A	P	A	O	V
T	E	R	N	R	E
F	R	N	I	A	O
I	Q	E	T	U	
F	U	E	U	E	
U	S	U	U	E	
A	H	D	B	B	
R	Y	S	L	H	
I	S	R	E	E	
S	A	S	E	E	
R	E	K	T	E	
I	U	F	R	B	
K	U	N	L	A	
S	S	F	I	T	
A	S	S	O	S	
S	F	E	P	E	

SOLUTION FOR 07 NOVEMBER

SURINAME	BALBOA
A U T O M A T I C	P I C H O L O T
N A P A O Q L V	T E R N A R Y
T E R N A R Y	R A L E I G H
I F R N A I A O	Q U I E T U S
U S U U E B	F A N C L U B
A S H D A B B L E R	C O L
R Y S L H E	Y E A R E N D
I S R A E L I	Y E A R E N D
A U S D E W E	N E C K T I E
K U N L A E O	F U R B I S H
S U F F I C E I T	T O S A Y
S F E P R E T	S F E P R E T

ACROSS

- 1 It may be a problem for server to secure victory in court umpire's rearranged (8,5)
- 9 Saving time, cook pasta sauce with end of sausages and vegetable (9)
- 10 Nicaragua not blessed with mineral-rich deposits (5)
- 11 The objective for people in general is to stop pollution and keep alive (7)
- 12 Wandering deserter entering Morecambe? (7)
- 13 Broadcaster cut international lines (5)
- 15 Neatly dressed, with bows? (9)
- 17 Don't commit to catwalk? (9)
- 18 Upland area, good to cycle round (5)

DOWN

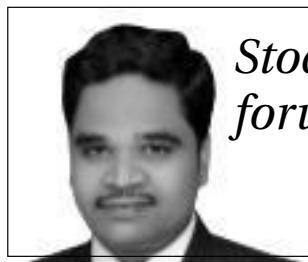
- 19 Underground organiser of Vietnam revolution recalled (7)
- 21 Pound and Euro lines (7)
- 23 I make my way from Tibet to Pakistan and try to avoid hard work (5)
- 24 Respondent in case of abduction taking oath's not adult (9)
- 25 Music scene etc I abandoned for intellectually demanding activity (6,7)
- 1 Santa's disgusting habit – poor reaction to getting stuck in chimney? (14)
- 2 Home counties Brit down under comes over and moons (5)
- 3 Farntasy football team from round (5)

4 Madrid being one to keep (9)

- 4 Say short prayer outside a US state court for finely balanced contest (3-3-5-4)
- 5 Media boss into underwear grabs Status Quo fans? (6,9)
- 6 Moore perhaps got it (5)
- 7 Joker perhaps has device for opening doors (5,4)
- 8 Non-theoretical psychologist on the Parisian urban environment (8,6)
- 14 Character crossing the line is parachutist, perhaps (9)
- 16 Green site redeveloped in national park (9)
- 20 Cubism without Braque's beginning to morph into different art form (5)
- 22 Water that's green welling up (5)

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

NO 28134



Stock market is currently in a stable state and is looking forward to next week's WPI and trade data

VINOD NAIR

HEAD OF RESEARCH, GEOJIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

THUMBNAILS

Toyota suspends 39 union members: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) on Friday said it has suspended 39 union members at its Bidadi plant in Karnataka for involvement in acts of misconduct and in line with the company's disciplinary rules even as the facility remained closed for the fourth consecutive day. The company had declared a lockout at its two plants in Bidadi in Karnataka on 10 November following workers' union members resorting to a sit-in strike at the factory premises to protest against the suspension of a worker.

PTI

Sebi move: In order to ensure effective enforcement of continuous disclosure obligations by issuers of listed debt securities, Sebi on Friday came out with uniform structure for imposing fines for non-compliance with disclosure requirements. The stock exchanges will levy fine and take action in case of non-compliance with continuous disclosure requirements by issuers of listed non-convertible debt securities (NCDs), non-convertible redeemable preference shares (NCRPS) and commercial papers, Sebi said in a circular.

PTI

RIL investment: Reliance Industries has invested \$50 million in Breakthrough Energy Ventures, a climate change company owned by Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates. In a filing to stock exchanges, Reliance said it will make the investment in tranches over the next 8 to 10 years. "The capital contribution commitment of \$50 million constitutes 5.75 per cent of the size of the fund contemplated at present," the company said.

PTI

MyMoneyMantra: Financial services marketplace MyMoneyMantra.com (MM) plans to add new branches in tier 3 & 4 cities and reach out to customers Phy-Gitally, said a Press release. It has 100+ branches across 14 states at present.

SNS

Fuel demand registers first growth since Feb

Spurt in diesel demand ahead of the festive season pushes consumption

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

REPORT CARD FOR OCT

► Total demand for petroleum products rose by 2.5 per cent in October to reach 17.77 million tons as compared to 17.34 million tons a year back.

► Diesel demand soared 7.4 per cent year-on-year to 6.5 million tons while petrol sales were up 4.5 per cent at 2.54 million tons.

► LPG consumption was up by 3 per cent at 2.4 million tons during the month under review.

► Bitumen, used in road construction, saw consumption jump by 48 per cent to 6,62,000 tons.

► But aviation turbine fuel or ATF sales almost halved to 3,55,000 tons as most airlines are yet to resume full operations.



of coronavirus, shut industries and took most vehicles off road.

The 69-day nationwide lockdown was followed by local and state-level restrictions. Restrictions have eased only slowly and in phases, and localised restrictions in containment zones remain.

The onset of the festive season has fuelled a rise in consumption but public transport is not back to normal levels yet as schools and edu-

cational institutions continue to remain shut in most parts of the country.

Demand for naphtha, which is used as industrial fuel for generating electricity as well as producing petrochemicals, surged 15 per cent to 1.3 million tons in October.

This together with a rise in other industrial fuels such as fuel oil indicates the return of economic activity.

Also, bitumen, used in

road construction, saw consumption jump by 48 per cent to 6,62,000 tons.

LPG – the only fuel that showed growth even during the lockdown period on the back of the government giving free cooking gas to the poor – was up 3 per cent at 2.4 million tons.

But aviation turbine fuel or ATF sales almost halved to 3,55,000 tons as most airlines are yet to resume full operations.

Future Retail registers net loss of ₹692 crore in Q2

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

Future Retail Ltd today reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 692.36 crore for the second quarter ended 30 September 2020, hit by disruptions caused due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The company, whose promoter had announced Rs 24,713 crore deal to transfer the retail business to Reliance Industries-owned Reliance Retail Ventures, had posted a net profit of Rs 165.08 crore in the July-September quarter in 2019, Future Retail Ltd (FRL) said in a BSE filing.

Its revenue from operations was down by 73.86 per cent to Rs 1,424.21 crore during the quarter under review as against Rs 5,449.06 crore in the corresponding quarter.

Its H1 consolidated revenue from operations was down 73.86 per cent to Rs

last year.

"Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the business operations and the financial results of the company for the quarter and six months ended 30 September 2020," said FRL.

FRL, which operates retail stores such as Big Bazaar, fbb, Foodhall, Easyday and Nilgiris, saw its total expenses during the quarter under review dropping to Rs 2,181.85 crore as against Rs 5,304.80 crore a year ago, down 58.87 per cent.

For the first half (April-September), FRL has reported a net loss of Rs 1,254.31 crore as against a net profit of Rs 324.32 crore in the year-ago period.

Its H1 consolidated revenue from operations was down 73.86 per cent to Rs

2,782.22 crore as against Rs 10,646.17 crore in the corresponding April-September period of the previous fiscal.

Patanjali profit: Hardikwadi-based Patanjali Ayurved Ltd has reported a 21.56 per cent increase in standalone net profit at Rs 424.72 crore for financial year 2019-20, according to data provided by business intelligence platform Tofler.

The company had reported a net profit of Rs 349.37 crore for financial year 2018-19, it said.

The company's revenue from operations was at Rs 9,022.71 crore, up 5.86 per cent, for the financial year ended on 31 March 2020.

The revenue stood at Rs 8,522.68 crore in the year-ago period.

Exports decline 5.12%; trade deficit narrows

NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

India's exports fell 5.12 per cent to \$24.89 billion in October, after recording positive growth in September, on account of drop in shipments of petroleum products, gems and jewellery, leather and engineering goods, according to government data released today.

Trade deficit in October narrowed to \$8.71 billion as against \$11.75 billion in the corresponding month a year ago. Imports also fell 11.53 per cent to \$33.6 billion (year-on-year) in October 2020.

Major export commodities that recorded negative growth in October included petroleum products (52 per cent), cashew (21.57 per cent), gems and jewellery (21.27 per cent), leather (16.67 per cent), man-made yarn/fabrics/made-ups (12.8 per cent), electronic goods (9.4 per cent), coffee (9.2 per cent) and marine products (8 per cent).

PTI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

The Centre is looking at mining reforms, including amendments to the Mining Act and auction rules, coal and mines secretary Anil Kumar Jain has said.

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

The statement assumes significance as the mines ministry had earlier sought suggestions from the general public, mining industry and other stakeholders on the proposed reforms in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

"While we are looking at mining reforms, amend-

EPL board approves acquisition of Creative Stylo Packs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHENNAI, 13 NOVEMBER

The board of EPL Limited, formerly Essel Propack Ltd, has approved the acquisition of Creative Stylo Packs Ltd in a part-cash and part-stock transaction. Creative Stylo Packs is an established manufacturer of corrugated boxes, laminated tubes, plastic co-ex tubes and caps, primarily serving personal care, cosmetic, pharmaceuticals and fast-moving consumer goods in the country, a company statement said.

"The discovery will open up new areas for further oil and gas exploration in Assam and would help in enhancing the gas production with future appraisal and development activities," the company said in a statement.

Oil India Ltd (OIL) said well Dinjan-1 in Tinsukia petroleum mining lease (PML) in the upper Assam basin struck hydrocarbons.

The well encountered about 10 meters of hydrocarbon-bearing sands, it said.

Oil India Ltd (OIL) said well Dinjan-1 in Tinsukia petroleum mining lease (PML) in the upper Assam basin struck hydrocarbons.

The well encountered about 10 meters of hydrocarbon-bearing sands, it said. On testing, it produced gas at the rate of 15,000 standard cubic meters per day.

OIL, whose majority of operations are concentrated in the North-east, did not indicate the reserves the discovery may hold.

PTI

The acquisition would also boost EPL's plastic tube capabilities, which combined with EPL's strong equity in laminate tubes, gives the company a vibrant platform for growth.

The transaction would accelerate revenue and EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation) growth for EPL, it said.

According to a BSE filing, the cost of acquisition of 72.6 per cent stake in Creative Stylo Packs shall be approximately Rs 1,579 million (Rs 157.9 crore) subject to necessary closing adjustments.

"We believe that our acquisition of Creative Stylo will enrich our portfolio enabling us to advance our ambition in personal care. This will also strengthen us further in Africa, Middle-East and South Asia, a key growth region for us," EPL managing director Sudhantha Vats said.

"I am personally delighted to welcome Bhavik and Darshan to the EPL fold. Their entrepreneurial spirit and youthful energy will help us move forward with greater purpose and agility," he added.

Centre looking at mining reforms: Mines secretary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

lacking so far, we have been introducing them.

"There will be a system of incentivising early production. There will be a regime of 'reward and punish' in the mining sector," Jain added.

He further said there has been a sea change in the way industries are working over the years and sustainability is the buzzword in the sector currently.

"It is high time all of us realise that the environment cannot be ascribed zero value. The public is aware and is demanding more action from the legislature and judiciary for a healthy environment and the industry realises this as well," coal and mines secretary Anil Kumar Jain pointed out.

Dhanteras sales gather momentum

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, 13 NOV

and west India.

Gold prices are ruling over Rs 50,000 per 10 grams at present, much higher than Rs 38,096 per 10 gram that prevailed on Dhanteras 2019.

All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council chairman Anantha Padmanaban said: "We are witnessing steady footfalls since morning. However, the momentum is expected to pick up towards the evening as Friday is a working day."

World Gold Council managing director, India, Somasundaram PR, said there have

been "mixed responses" since Thursday evening but the sentiment is much better today. Whether it gets translated into sales, we need to wait and watch," he said.

Somasundaram also mentioned that there is more demand especially for coins and bars on the digital platforms, as the lockdown necessitated by Covid-19 pandemic has integrated the digital behaviour of consumers.

Also, with gold ETF (electronically traded fund) and sovereign gold available, investment spending is expected to

Indices rise amidst mixed cues from global markets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 13 NOVEMBER

The Sensex rose 86 points while the Nifty topped the 12,700-level today, tracking recovery in financial stocks amidst mixed cues from global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 85.81 points or 0.20 per cent higher at 43,443 points. The broader NSE Nifty rose 29.15 points or 0.23 per cent to 12,719.95 points.

Bajaj Finserv was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rising around 4 per cent, followed by Tata Steel, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finance and SBI.

On the other hand, L&T, HDFC twins, Tech Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, M&M and TCS were among the laggards.

"Domestic equities recovered

from early losses as manirbhar Bharat 3.0 continued to support domestic equities, he added.

On the global front, investors turned cautious due to continued rise in Covid-19 cases and possibility of further restrictions on businesses.

Bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Tokyo ended in the red, while Seoul was positive.

Stock exchanges in Europe were largely trading with gains in early deals.

International oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.69 per cent lower at \$43.23 per barrel.

Meanwhile, the rupee settled on a flat note at 74.62 against the US dollar today as importers and banks' demand for the greenback continued to exert pressure on the Indian currency.

HGS to hire 3,200 people in H2 FY21

NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

Hinduja Global Solutions (HGS), the BPO arm of the diversified Hinduja group, plans to hire about 3,200 people in the second half of the ongoing fiscal across various geographies, including the UK, the US and India.

The hiring plans come on the back of a strong deal pipeline that the company sees across various segments.

"We expect to hire around 3,200 people in the second half of the year... Pipeline looks encouraging. For instance, in the UK, we had won a short-term project related to Covid-19 from one of the government departments... We have now won another big order and we expect to add a significant number of people," HGS global chief financial officer Srinivas Palakodeti said. He added that for this new client, the company is adding 700 staff in the UK, and these roles will be all work-from-home.

"There is also a lot of interest in terms of digital services, it could be social care, engaging customers on any of the social media platforms... online reputation management... we have won some engagements there," he said.

Palakodeti added that the hiring is across almost all the geographies ~ the US, Canada, Jamaica, the Philippines and India. At the end of September 2020 quarter, the company's total headcount stood at 39,578 with 45 per cent staff in India. The Philippines accounted for 24.9 per cent of the headcount, followed by US/Jamaica (18.8 per cent), Canada (7.4 per cent) and UK/Europe (3.9 per cent).

Palakodeti explained that some of the hiring is also on account of open season enrolment in the US ~ a period when people can enroll in a health insurance plan.

Business optimism rises in Oct-Dec qtr: Survey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

D&B FINDINGS

► The improvement in the optimism level amongst businesses in the manufacturing sector emanates from the surge in demand as more economic activities were allowed under "Unlock 4.0 and 5.0", said Arun Singh, global chief economist, Dun & Bradstreet.

► He further said the various measures taken by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the government to boost consumption demand during the festive season, and the investment demand might also have strongly driven the optimism levels.

and 5.0," said Arun Singh, global chief economist, Dun & Bradstreet.

Singh further said the various measures taken by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the government to boost consumption demand during the festive season, and the

Covid cases on decline in Odisha

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

BHUBANESWAR, 13 NOVEMBER:

Odisha on Friday recorded 1018 fresh COVID 19 cases and 12 deaths reflecting a steady decline in the spread of the disease.

Of the 1,018 new cases, 585 were reported from various quarantine centres and the rest detected during contact tracing. All 30 districts in the coastal state have recorded less than 100 cases. Sundergarh recorded the maximum number of new cases 94, followed by Mayurbhanj at 86 and Khurda at 83.

The death toll rose to 1495 with the addition of 12 fatalities in the past 24 hours. Three deaths were reported from Sundergarh, two each from Khurda and Dhenkanal

Bhubaneswar reports lowest daily COVID count

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

BHUBANESWAR, 13 NOVEMBER:

Odisha's capital city Bhubaneswar on Friday registered 54 fresh Covid 19 positive cases in a span of 24 hours, the lowest in the current month.

The overall coronavirus tally in the city stood at 30,019, of which 29,074 patients have

recovered leaving just 735 active cases. The recovery rate in the city is 97 per cent said official sources.

The single-day recoveries today breached the number of new infections with 72 recuperating from the disease as against fewer new infections detected during the past 24 hours.

Notwithstanding steady

fall in infection, the detection of almost 69% cases from local contacts was the disturbing feature of the day. Of the fresh infections, 37 were local contact infections while the remaining 17 cases were sourced from quarantine centres.

A total of 189 patients from the city have succumbed to the virus.

districts and one each from Angul, Kandhamal, Koraput, Puri and Sambalpur districts.

The State's contagion positivity rate which hovered around 9 to 10% earlier last month has now dropped to 2.11% on Friday. Of the 48,246 samples tested in the

past 24 hours, a low of 1,018 were tested positive for COVID-19, logging a low positivity rate of just over two percent.

Over 51.71 lakh tests have been conducted in the state so far with 5.94% positivity rate while 94.06% samples have tested negative for

COVID-19.

Despite the spike in deaths, the case fatality of 0.48% in Odisha is considerably on a lower side in comparison to national average of 1.47% case fatality rate. The State's recovery rate (95.67%) is marginally higher than the country's 92.97% recovery rate.

Odisha currently has 11,715 active cases, which accounts for 3.81% of total positive cases registered in the State.

The State's share is 3.53% in the country's confirmed virus case load while the active cases are 2.5% of India's total active cases. The number of cured patients accounts for 3.63% of the country's total recovery. Odisha has so far reported 1.15% of the country's COVID-19 deaths.

Odisha is currently placed at the 9th spot in the total COVID count of the country. The States of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh (8,35,953), Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Delhi and West Bengal have reported more virus infections than Odisha.



Silent festival of lights

Odisha government earmarks 5 river beds for sand mining

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

BHUBANESWAR, 13 NOVEMBER:

The gap between demand and supply resulting in illegal sand mining has prompted the Odisha government to fix large stretches of river sand beds in the major rivers like Mahanadi, Rushikulya, Subarnarekha, Baitarani, Brahmani for mining.

Officials claimed that the stretch has been scientifically selected keeping in mind the river water course and other environmental issues.

After accomplishing 124

percent increase (Rs.680 cr in absolute figures) in revenue generation from minor minerals in the FY 2019-20, the state has further enhanced its resource base in the sector.

The efforts over the last months have yielded 1132 new sairatis (resources) taking the total to 4667. This was known from a high level meeting held on digital mode under chairmanship of chief secretary Asit Tripathy.

The total number of minor mineral sources, as of today, has reached 4667 out of which

1428 sources have already been put to operation informed officials.

Chief Secretary Tripathy directed the district collectors to operationalize all potential sources by 30 November.

Five large stretches of river sand beds (four in Jajpur and one in Angul district) with area above 100 acre have been identified for sand mining.

District wise demand-supply gap assessment for monitoring the availability of minor minerals will be undertaken added the officials.

Socio-economic survey of Puri Lord Jagannath's servitors

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

BHUBANESWAR, 13 NOVEMBER:

Odisha government has decided to conduct a fresh socio-economic survey of over 2,200 servitors of Puri Jagannath temple for the effective implementation of welfare projects earmarked for the servitor community.

It is pertinent to note that the state government had carried out a similar survey in 2014. But the implementation of the welfare package towards the targeted servitors had failed to make much headway.

The survey to be carried out by Bhubaneswar-based



Nabakrushna Choudhury Centre for Development Studies (NCCDS) is scheduled to get underway next month, said Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) administrator (development) Ajay Jena.

"The survey will make a comprehensive socio-economic assessment of 2200 servitor families. On the basis of survey findings, the authorities will do the needful for their betterment. The state government has drawn up a number of projects like housing, insurance, old age pension and financial assistance to poor servitors for their socio-economic development", he said adding that the focus of the survey will lie on health, education and social security of the servitors.

Odisha farmers' database inaugurated

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

BHUBANESWAR, 13 NOVEMBER:

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday inaugurated 'Krushak Odisha', a farmers' database of 75 lakh farmers of the state.

The farmers will benefit from the online facilities, they will also get identity cards, said the Chief Minister. A process of identification of farmers in the database will be completed within 100 days, he said.

'Krushak Odisha' will enable input dealers to get licence online.

Cyclone Fani: Schools still wear look of devastation

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

BHUBANESWAR: 12 NOVEMBER

The government-run schools, which had borne the brunt of cyclone Fani, still wear the look of destruction more than 18 months after nature's fury had hit Odisha.

More than 200 schools were badly ravaged as the cyclone barrelled through the coastal parts of the State. However, the majority of fully damaged schools are yet to be reconstructed despite claims by the government agencies.

A total of 6,498 schools were damaged in cyclone Fani that ravaged coastal districts in Odisha on 3 May, 2019.

A maximum number of

2,134 schools were damaged in Puri district, which was the worst affected in the cyclonic storm. A total of 1,002 schools were damaged in Cuttack district. The damaged schools were repaired and were made ready for classroom teaching within 6 to 8 months following the cyclone, claimed officials of the school and mass education department

(SME).

Despite the SME department's claims, the ground realities speak on the contrary.

The Baladevjew High School in Kendrapara town is a glaring case in point.

The 61-year-old school has escaped the notice of authorities concerned after the asbestos roofs of the school were blown away by the cyclone.

Likewise, many fully-damaged schools in cyclone-hit Puri and Khurda districts have been left out of the reconstruction work.

Besides, several affected people in villages of these districts complain that they are yet to get any assistance from the government.

Tribal returns to village after spending 20 yrs in Pak jail

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

ROURKELA, 13 NOVEMBER:

who migrated in search of work, had left for Punjab and unwittingly crossed the border. He was caught and jailed. All that was two decades ago.

Recently, he was released and was put on quarantine in Amritsar. The Sundergarh district authorities arranged for his return to Katanga village.

Except for his married sister, Birju has none of his family in the village. His parents had died waiting for him to return.

He alighted from the car (provided by the administration) and walked 500 meters as there was a huge gathering

to welcome him. A meeting had also been arranged. Birju was unable to speak much. He could not recognise many who were his friends and relatives like his uncle, aunt and sister all of whom were overjoyed.

Uttering a few words, Birju said "I am happy to be back. I am trying to recognise my friends and other relatives whom I had left behind".

"I was with 20 persons in the cell in Pakistan. We were being fed regularly", he said.

His sister Tedrake Kullu said, "my parents had all along hoped he would return. Today I am very happy that he has come back. I will not allow him to go away anywhere."

The BDO of Kutra, Manas Kumar Ray said, "we will provide him with an adoption card and would try to get him a house to stay."

It may be recalled that another such person Kundan Gudia of Biramitrapur had met the same fate and had returned in 2008. Shockingly, till date he has not received any government support and lives with his daughter.

Murder reveals vicious gambling-drug-cop link

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

KORAPUT, 13 NOVEMBER:

A young businessman of Pottangi in Odisha's Koraput district was found dead near Ganesh temple on 3 November and investigations revealed a shocking tale of gambling, drug trade-police and supari killer link.

The deceased Ganga Prasad Choudhury was murdered by a contract killer allegedly engaged by one Sunil who is a police homeguard.

He was eliminated to avoid payment of over Rs 3 lakh which he had won while gambling with Sunil Padhy informed



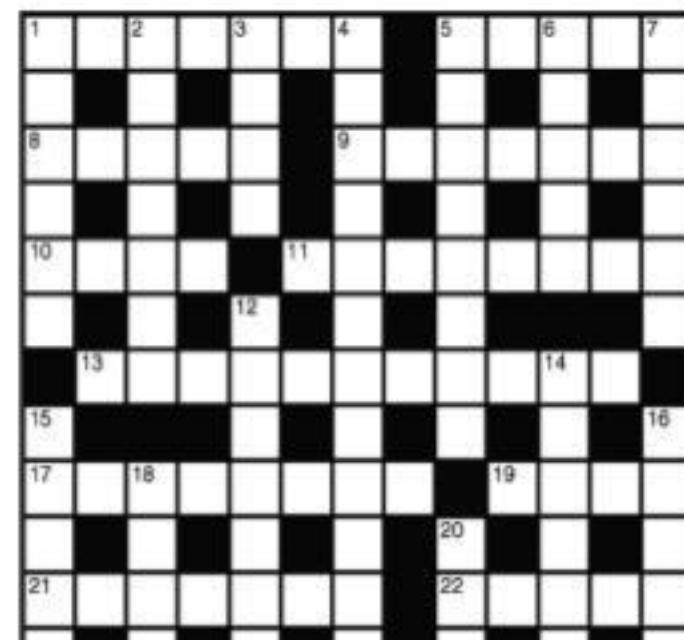
Niranjan Behera, SDPO of Sunabeda.

The supari killer has absconded but Anil has been arrested.

Dissatisfied with the police action, family members of Ganga and villagers took out a protest rally today demanding arrest of the others involved in the crime including Sunil. The police is not arresting him as he happens to be a homeguard, alleged the villagers.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Advise (7)
- 5 Small nails (5)
- 8 In the manner of (5)
- 9 Planet (7)
- 10 Therefore (4)
- 11 Awful (informal) (8)
- 13 Aloof (11)
- 17 Gazelle, for example (8)
- 19 Eat (4)
- 21 Warship (7)
- 22 Old-fashioned (5)
- 23 Spanish snacks (5)
- 24 Salad vegetable (7)
- 25 Sets. DOWN
- 1 Wooden house (6)
- 2 Tense (7)
- 3 Type (4)
- 4 NCO (5,8)
- 5 Gradually lessen (5,3)
- 6 Morsel (5)
- 7 Sound system (6)
- 8 Detailed examination (8)
- 14 Small dog (4,3)
- 15 Lucky charm (6)
- 16 Interfere (6)
- 18 Wallop (5)
- 20 Prepare for publication (4)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

1 Stitch, 2 Snap up, 3 Topcoat, 4 Scour, 5 Fountain-head, 6 Eaten, 7 Enhance, 8 Basmati, 9 Skirt, 10 Crooner, 11 Process, 12 Steam, 13 Kitchen, 14 Adversity, 15 Prose, 16 Since, 17 Barking, 18 Since, 19 Enhancement, 20 Pear, 21 Deter, 22 Deter, 23 Preparations, 24 Set.

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

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

- 22586262, 22585007
- 23717473, 23325320
- 23860626
- 23864470
- U.P. Roadways 23868709

RAILWAY INQUIRY

- General Inquiry 139
- Toll Free Nos. 1800121551
- SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886, 54959, 5676747

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

- AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 18001801407
- INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Centre 09910388383, 18001803838, Reservation 18001803838, Reservation

FLIGHT INQUIRY

- AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 18001801407
- INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Centre 09910388383, Reservation 18001803838, Reservation
- Air Canada Flight Inquiry 2556421/2556431 Reservation 41528181
- Air France Flight Inquiry and Reservation 2346622 City 2552294 (Airport)
- Kuwait Airways Flight

RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



SCRABBLE BRAND



SCRABBLE



He'll be missed... In any government, you require people who are going to shake things up... and he's been that person

UK TRANSPORT SECRETARY GRANT SHAPPS
CONFIRMING THAT UK PM'S TOP AIDE DOMINIC CUMMINGS IS GOING TO RESIGN

WEATHER

CITY	MAX (°C)	MIN (°C)
SINGAPORE	32	26 H
HONG KONG	24	20 H
TOKYO	19	9 CL
LONDON	14	8 H
DUBAI	31	24 S
SAN FRANCISCO	13	8 H
NEW YORK	11	8 H
MOSCOW	5	1 H

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

THUMBNAILS

North Carolina floods: Three people are dead and two more, including a child, are missing after floodwaters from a nearby river overtook recreational vehicles at a North Carolina campsite Thursday, an official said. AP

EU decries Belarus violence: The European Union on Friday condemned the continued violent crackdown by Belarusian authorities following the death of a 31-year-old opposition supporter who died in a hospital after he was reportedly beaten by security forces. The death of the man came about three months after mass protests began in Belarus in the wake of the August 9 election. AP

UK's 'Yorkshire Ripper' serial killer dies: The British serial killer known as the "Yorkshire Ripper", a man who instilled terror and fear across northern England in the 1970s, died Friday at a hospital there. He was 74. Peter Sutcliffe, a former grave digger, was serving concurrent life sentences for killing 13 women in Yorkshire and northwest England between 1975 and 1980. AP

Pope congratulates Joe Biden: It's not exactly divine intervention, but even the pope considers the US presidential race over. President-elect Joe Biden, a lifelong Roman Catholic, spoke to Pope Francis on Thursday, despite President Donald Trump refusing to concede. Trump claims without evidence that the election was stolen from him through massive but unspecified acts of fraud. AP

Toronto van attack trial gets first glimpse of defence

TORONTO, 13 NOVEMBER

A psychiatrist hired by defense lawyers for the man behind Toronto's 2018 van attack that killed 10 found Alek Minassian had an autistic way of thinking that was severely distorted, a court heard Thursday.

In the first glimpse of evidence Minassian's lawyers may present at his murder trial, court heard that a doctor who interviewed the 28-year-old found he was not psychotic but had a thought process similar to psychosis.

Minassian has admitted in court to planning and carrying out the April 23, 2018 attack in which he drove a van down a busy Toronto sidewalk, killing 10 people and injuring 16 others.

He pleaded not guilty to 10 counts of first-degree murder and 16 counts of attempted murder, and has asked to be found not criminally responsible for his actions. His lawyers have yet to lay out what mental disorder Minassian had at the time that could have impacted his actions to the extent that he didn't understand what he was doing was wrong. But prosecutor Joe Callaghan provided insight into some of the evidence Minassian's defense might raise by reading from a report prepared by a psychiatrist hired by Minassian's lawyers. Overall it was our impression that despite the fact he was not psychotic, his autistic way of thinking was severely distorted similar to psychosis, the report read.

Minassian denied he had symptoms consistent with psychotic illness, including visual and auditory hallucinations, the report noted. AP

Cummings to exit next month as UK power struggle intensifies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON, 13 NOVEMBER

resignation but a Cabinet minister confirmed that he is on his way out.

"He'll be missed... But advisers come and go," UK Transport Secretary Grant Shapps told *Sky News*.

"In any government, you require people who are going to shake things up and come up with ideas, and he's actually been that person," he said.

As part of Johnson's top team, Cummings, 48, is widely credited with helping secure the UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's General Election victory in December 2019.

The largely behind-the-



scenes influencer found himself in the limelight earlier this year when he was accused of breaching lockdown rules by making a trip from London to the north-east of England, at a time when he feared he could have contracted

coronavirus.

There were resounding calls for him to step down or be sacked but he instead hosted a press conference to deny allegations of wrongdoing.

In a blog post in January, Cummings had hinted that he

planned to leave his role by the end of the year, saying he hoped to make himself "largely redundant" by then.

However, according to sources being quoted across the UK media, the exit of one of his own close allies in Downing Street - Lee Cain as the No. 10 Director of Communications - had precipitated his exit plans.

Commings and Cain both worked with Johnson as part of the Vote Leave campaign during the 2016 European Union (EU) referendum and are seen as instrumental to the Brexit outcome. They are widely regarded to have since led

a Vote Leave faction of colleagues in Number 10 and other parts of government.

Cain, 29, had announced he would step down as Johnson's top media aide on Wednesday night after ministers and advisers, including Johnson's fiancee Carrie Symonds, are said to have protested over his planned promotion to Chief of Staff.

Symonds, a former head of communications for the ruling Conservative Party, is believed to be unhappy with the influence of some of her husband-to-be's closest aides.

The high-profile departures from Johnson's top team

follow the appointment of former BBC journalist Allegra Stratton as Downing Street's new TV spokesperson, who will be hosting White House style briefings from the New Year. Symonds is said to be close to and more aligned with Stratton's way of working.

Johnson is looking to fill the post of Chief of Staff as part of a wider reorganisation at the very top of his government structure.

However, several members of Parliament from within the Conservative Party have expressed dismay at the internal wrangling of No. 10 spilling out into the public domain.

China breaks silence, congratulates Biden

Biden is expected to make few changes to US policy in conflicts with Beijing

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIJING, 13 NOVEMBER

China on Friday became one of the last major countries to congratulate US president-elect Joe Biden, who is expected to make few changes to US policy in conflicts with Beijing over trade, technology and security.

China, along with Russia, avoided joining the throng that congratulated Biden last weekend after he and vice-president-elect Kamala Harris secured enough Electoral College votes to unseat President Donald Trump.

Political analysts expect Biden to try to resume cooperation with Beijing on climate change, North Korea, Iran and the coronavirus. And they say Biden might pursue a more traditional, predictable policy toward China.

However, economists and political analysts expect few big changes due to widespread frustration with Beijing's trade and human rights record and accusations of spying and technology theft.

"A tough stance on China has broad support across the US political spectrum," Louis Kuijs of Oxford Economics said in a report this week. "Biden's own pronouncements and policy program suggest he will continue to try to maintain the US technological lead."

Some forecasters suggest the change from Trump, who rejected multilateral alliances, to Biden might increase pressure on China if Washington forms a coalition with other developed countries to push for policy changes. China has



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Israel settlements could test ties with Joe Biden

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JERUSALEM, 13 NOVEMBER

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the matter.

The Israeli leader, a long-time supporter of the settlements, may seek to take advantage of the final days of the settlement-friendly Trump administration and push through a flurry of last-minute construction projects. But doing so could antagonise the incoming administration.

Both settlement supporters and critics expect Netanyahu to proceed with caution. With the Biden administration expected to re-engage with Iran over its nuclear program, Netanyahu's top security concern, he seems unlikely to pick a fight with the president-elect. Netanyahu's office did not respond to a request for comment.

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Trump bans American investments in Chinese companies that would aid PLA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 13 NOVEMBER

US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order banning Americans from investing in 31 Chinese firms that the administration says are owned or controlled by the Chinese military.

The Executive Order, which was signed by Trump on Thursday, prohibits certain purchases involving publicly traded securities or any securities that are derivative of or are designed to provide investment exposure to such securities of any Communist Chinese military company.

China is increasingly exploiting US capital to resource and to enable the development and modernisation of its military, intelligence, and other security apparatuses is the country's large, ostensibly private economy, Trump said that through the national strategy of military-civil fusion, China increased the size of the country's military-industrial complex by compelling civilian Chinese companies to support its military and intelligence activities.

He said those companies, though remaining ostensibly private and civilian, directly support the Chinese military, intelligence, and security apparatuses and aid in their development and modernisation.

At the same time, those companies, though remaining ostensibly private and civilian, directly support the Chinese military, intelligence, and security apparatuses and aid in their development and modernisation.

Pompeo heads to Europe, West Asia

WASHINGTON, 13 NOVEMBER

After refusing to acknowledge President Donald Trump's loss in last week's election, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is leaving Friday on a trip to Europe and West Asia, where leaders have all congratulated former vice-president Joe Biden for his victory.

The seven-nation trip is aimed at shoring up the outgoing Trump administration's priorities, notably its anti-China and Iran policies, and will include visits to Israeli settlements in the West Bank. But the usual foreign policy issues are likely to be overshadowed by the extraordinary moment in global politics: Most of the world has accepted the results of America's election, while the US' top diplomat as well as its president and much of his Republican Party have not.

opment and modernisation of its military, Trump said.

US National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien said President Trump has no higher priority than ensuring the security of the Americans.

Germany criticises new Russian sanctions over Navalny case

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BERLIN, 13 NOVEMBER



on six Russian officials and a state research institute over the incident.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Thursday that retaliatory sanctions against senior staff of the offices of the leaders of Germany and France have already been approved. He didn't

name them.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman, Steffen Seibert, said that the use of a military nerve agent is a serious violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and so of international law. Russia has everything necessary to clear up this crime, and instead the Russian foreign minister announces that it is imposing sanctions against officials of other states," Seibert told reporters in Berlin.

Such a step is, of course, unjustified and inappropriate from the German government's point of view. It disregards international interest in this case being cleared up and it takes a Russian problem into bilateral relations with Germany and France.

Floodwaters receded and the weather cleared in many areas after Typhoon Vamco blew out into the South China Sea on Friday, but the military said it was still rescuing people trapped in some flooded communities.

Amphibious assault vehicles

usually used in counter-insurgency operations were deployed for the rescue work, military chief of staff Gen. Gilbert Gapay said in a meeting with disaster-response officials.

"We'll continue to look for the missing, help in damage assessment," Gapay said.

The national police reported that the death toll had risen to at least 42 with 20 missing. The government's main disaster-response agency,

which waits for provincial reports and follows a laborious process of verifying casualties, reported a much lower death count, causing confusion.

Among the dead were at least 12 villagers who were dug out from mud and rockslides in the northern provinces of Cagayan and Nueva Vizcaya, police said.

After slamming into north-eastern Quezon province, Vamco gained strength with sustained winds of 155 kilometers (96 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 255 kph (158 mph).

It blew north of metropolitan Manila overnight Wednesday, toppling trees and power poles, swelling rivers, flooding residential communities and setting off landslides and storm surges.

In hard-hit Marikina city in the capital region and the

Strong typhoon leaves 42 dead in Philippines

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MANILA, 13 NOVEMBER

Thick mud and debris coated many villages around the Philippine capital on Friday after a typhoon killed at least 42 people and caused extensive flooding that sent people fleeing to their roofs, officials said.

Troops, police, coast guard and disaster-response teams rescued tens of thousands of people, including many who fled their homes, flooding radio and TV networks and social media with desperate pleas for help.

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In hard-hit Marikina city in the capital region and the

Attacks spur EU to weigh tough border, anti-extremism steps

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BRUSSELS, 13 NOVEMBER

<p



It's important that people have confidence that the election was fundamentally fair, and that goes for the tens of millions of people that voted for Trump

FACEBOOK CEO MARK ZUCKERBERG

ACKNOWLEDGING DEMOCRAT JOE BIDEN AS THE NEXT US PRESIDENT

THUMBNAILS



People display photos of deceased Tigrian fighters during the 45th anniversary of the founding of the Tigray People's Liberation Front in Mekele, Ethiopia. DANI

Suicide car bomb: A suicide car bomb exploded at the western entry gate of the Afghan capital Friday killing at least two government security troops and wounding four others. An interior ministry spokesman said the explosion targeted a government forces checkpoint near the gate. AP

S Korea starts fining people not wearing masks: South Korea has reported its biggest daily jump in Covid-19 cases in 70 days as the government began fining people who fail to wear masks in public. The 191 cases added to the country's caseload on Friday. AP

French forces kill Qaida-linked commander in Mali

PARIS, 13 NOVEMBER

French ground forces and military helicopters killed a jihadist commander linked with al-Qaida in Mali along with four others, the French military announced Friday.

The operation Tuesday targeted Bagh Moussa, military chief for the RVIM Islamic extremist group, who had been on a U.N. sanctions list and was believed responsible for multiple attacks on Malian and international forces in the country, French military spokesman Col. Frederic Barbuy told reporters Friday.

Surveillance drones helped French forces in Mali identify Moussa's truck in the Menaka region of eastern Mali, which was then targeted by the helicopters and 15 French commandos sent to the scene, Barbuy said. All five people in the truck were killed after they ignored warning shots and fired on the French forces, he said.

He described it as an act of legitimate defense and said the bodies were handled in conformity with international humanitarian law. He would not comment on whether allied forces including the U.S. contributed intelligence to the operation.

A statement from the French defense minister said Moussa was in charge of training new jihadist recruits. It was the latest of multiple French actions in Mali recent weeks that killed suspected terrorists. France has thousands of troops in a force called Barkhane in West Africa to help fight extremist groups. AP

G-20 nations agree on framework for more debt relief amid coronavirus pandemic

Developing nations have until June 2021 to spend on healthcare, emergency stimulus programmes without fretting about debt repayment

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, 13 NOVEMBER

The Group of 20 nations, representing the world's biggest economies, announced on Friday that low-income countries hardest hit by the fallout of the coronavirus pandemic could potentially get an extension on their debt payments beyond mid-2021, and in the most severe cases, a debt write-off.

The G-20 statement, released after a virtual gathering of the group's finance ministers and central bank governors, declared that the countries had agreed on a "common framework" for "timely and orderly" debt restructuring that aims to treat creditors equally and negotiate debt on a case-by-case basis.

But it did not specify which creditors would agree to possible debt cancellation. China, for instance, has repeatedly objected to portions of the debt relief plans. The country, considered to be Africa's largest creditor, is reluctant to give up the billions it is owed from its politically strategic projects across the developing world

as its own economy slows.

The meeting comes a month after the G-20 agreed to suspend USD 14 billion in debt payments for an additional six months to support 73 of the world's neediest countries in their fight against the pandemic.

Developing nations now have until June 2021 to spend on healthcare and emergency stimulus programs without fretting about grueling debt repayments to foreign creditors.

Although the pause on debt-service payments was welcomed as a reprieve, experts have pointed to the constraints of a scheme that leaves out private lenders like investment firms, banks and bondholders. Without buy-in from the private sector, economists say that poor countries' emergency funds may just land in other lenders' pockets, regardless of the G-20's concessions.

The group's new case-by-case approach to debt negotiations unveiled on Friday, also endorsed by the Paris Club, a group of mostly Western sovereign lenders, requires "fair burden sharing" among all official creditors - suggesting that China and its disparate lending agencies will have to get

Tentative signs show UK virus outbreak levelling off

LONDON, 13 NOVEMBER

Some tentative signs emerged Friday to suggest that the U.K.'s coronavirus resurgence is levelling off after wide-ranging restrictions were imposed.

In its weekly survey of new infections, Britain's statistics agency said the rate of growth of the virus in England appeared to be slowing around the time a new four-week lockdown took effect on Nov. 5. And the British government's main

scientific advisory group said the virus' reproduction rate dipped even before the latest lockdown.

At first glance, both indicators appear to run counter to the near 50 per cent rise in the number of new infections to 33,470 that was recorded on Thursday. The record daily increase stoked fears about the current outbreak, though some experts said it could be due to the new citywide testing program taking place in hard-hit Liverpool. AP

on board. It asks that private creditors offer debt treatment at least as favourable as that offered by creditor countries.

Mohammed al-Jadaan, the finance minister for Saudi Arabia, this year's chair of the G-20, hailed the framework as an unprecedented agreement and a major breakthrough in international debt agenda.

Kristalina Georgieva, man-

aging director of the International Monetary Fund, echoed the praise, saying the agreement would make the participation of private creditors more likely and increase the viability of our action.

Still, she warned that the debt crisis is not over, adding that we need further support through debt relief and through fresh financing."

The group also announced that it would reconvene next spring to see if the economic and financial situation requires an extension of the debt suspension by another six months. A repayment timetable of 5-6 years may be offered to eligible countries that make requests to individual creditors.

Before Covid-19 struck, much of the developing world, already in dire need of doctors and medical equipment, was spending huge shares of revenue to service external debt. Now that the pandemic has closed borders, halted tourism, pulled down oil prices and wiped out remittances, poverty is rising and resources are shrinking.

International aid groups have pushed for greater debt relief and partial forgiveness rather than mere suspension, arguing that poor countries should not cut spending that's badly needed for stimulus measures and healthcare systems under strain. Ahead of Friday's finance meeting, over a thousand medical professionals from around the world sent a letter to the G-20 urging debt cancellation for developing countries.

'Restrictions shouldn't become recurring post pandemic'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, 13 NOVEMBER

sive and prolonged as those experienced for most of 2020.

Whatever one may think about the Covid restrictions, we surely don't want them to become a recurring feature after the pandemic has passed.

Alito was particularly critical of two cases earlier this year where the court sided with states that, citing the coronavirus pandemic, imposed restrictions on the size of religious gatherings. In both cases, the court divided 5-4 in allowing those restrictions to continue with Chief Justice John Roberts siding with the court's liberals.

In May, the high court rejected an emergency appeal by a California church challenging attendance limits at worship services.

Alito said the restrictions had blatantly discriminated against houses of worship and he warned that religious liberty is in danger of becoming a second-class right.

'Russian, North Korean hackers target vaccine work'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON, 13 NOVEMBER

ing vaccines and treatments for Covid. It did not name the targets but said most had vaccine candidates in various stages of clinical trials.

The company identified one of the state-backed hacker groups as Fancy Bear, the Russian military agents who Britain's National Cyber Security Center said in July were behind such intrusion attempts.

Two others were North Korea's Lazarus Group and a group Microsoft calls Cerium. Most of the break-in efforts involved attempts to steal the login credentials of people associated with the organisations.

Lazarus Group posed as job recruiters while Cerium targeted spear-phishing emails that masqueraded as missives from World Health Organisation representatives, Microsoft said.

Mexican president presents Bill to ban outsourcing of jobs

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mexico City, 13 November

Department.

Labour Secretary Luisa María Alcalde estimated the outsourced or subcontracted workforce in Mexico grew from about 1 million workers in 2003 to about 4.6 million by 2018.

The government says the practice has been abused to avoid paying employees' the benefits they are due by law.

Alcalde cited the case of a hotel in the resort of Cancun that had 802 workers, but only two registered as its employees.

Many of the other workers were kept on fictitious three-month contracts, then were rehired every three months by a different front company to prevent them from accumulating seniority, she said.

She said other workers had their salaries falsely registered at the minimum wage, reducing the amount of benefit contributions owed by the employers.

The secretary said some companies fire workers before Christmas and re-hire them in January or February to avoid paying year-end bonuses. In 2019 alone, authorities say that appeared to have happened to over 380,000 workers.

Alcalde said the Bill's provisions would be enforced by fines or tax evasion charges.

The proposal drew criticism from business groups. They said the change would further harm Mexico's economy when it is still reeling from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

Sharif committed 'highest treason' by targeting Pak security institutions: Imran

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, 13 NOVEMBER

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has accused three-time former premier Nawaz Sharif of committing the "highest treason" by targeting the state security institutions.

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, 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 made the comments virtually from London on 16 October 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.

Nawaz has committed the highest treason by targeting military leadership which is tantamount to incite mutiny in the armed forces, Prime Minister Khan told GNN, a local news channel, in an interview on Thursday.

He also claimed that Sharif had got the support of the Army at the start of his political career.

Howell of a sudden, Nawaz,

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.

Referring to PDM, Khan said the 11-party alliance was set up to put pressure on his government to get relief in corruption cases against Opposition leaders.

"All pocket pickers are threatening to topple my government only to get some concessions for corruption cases but come what may, I will not compromise on corruption cases even if my government is toppled," he said.

Official Myanmar vote count affirms Suu Kyi's party control

ASSOCIATED PRESS

YANGON, 13 NOVEMBER



Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy won enough seats in Parliament to return to power for a second five-year term, official results released by the election commission showed on Friday.

The NLD won 346 seats in the combined lower and upper houses of the legislature, far above the 322 needed to secure a majority, the Union Election Commission announced on television and in social media, even many seats from Sunday's election have yet to be declared.

The military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party, the main opposition party, won 25 seats, and the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy, representing the

Several key ministerial positions are also reserved for military appointees.

The USDP has called the election unfair and refused to accept the election results, but the election commission rejected its claim and its demand for a fresh vote.

Independent rights groups have criticised the disenfranchisement of the Muslim Rohingya ethnic minority and cancellation of the vote in certain areas.

The Union Election Commission cited the dangers of ongoing combat between government forces and ethnic minority guerrillas, but critics suggested certain areas were singled out for cancellation because they were certain to elect lawmakers from parties hostile to the current government.

Majority control of Parliament does not give the NLD full control of government. The army-drafted constitution of 2008 grants the military 25% of the total seats, enough to block constitutional changes.

Saudi: Thwarted attack on oil facility near Yemen

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, 13 November

oil to catch fire, according to the energy official, who added that the blaze had been brought under control and caused no injuries.

The official sharply condemned the attack as threatening commercial shipping routes near the vital Bab al-Mandeb strait, used for oil shipments from the Gulf to Europe, as well as goods from Asia to Europe.

There was no immediate acknowledgement from Yemen's rebels, who have repeatedly fired drones and missiles targeting oil installations, airports and cities in the Saudi mainland over the course of a grinding five-year war against a Saudi-led military coalition.

In September 2019, drone attacks claimed by the Houthis struck two key oil installations in Saudi Arabia, halting about half of the supplies from the world's largest exporter of oil.

However, the Army has denied meddling in the coun-

Nissan's damages case against absent Ghosn opens in Japan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO, 13 NOVEMBER

A civil court trial began Friday in Japan over Nissan's demand for 10 billion yen, or USD 95 million, in damages from its former chairman, Carlos Ghosn.

The automaker has sued Ghosn over what it says is harm suffered from various types of alleged financial misconduct.

Ghosn jumped bail late last year while awaiting a separate criminal trial in Japan.

Ghosn said in a statement Friday from Lebanon that the trial will prove his innocence, that the suspicions of wrongfulness and charges held against me have absolutely no foundation.

The civil case is being heard in the port city of Yokohama, where Nissan Motor Co. is based. Nissan filed it in February.

Nissan carried out a robust and thorough internal investigation that included external lawyers. The investigation concluded that Ghosn intentionally committed serious misconduct, Nissan said.

Nissan has accused Ghosn of spending company money on such things as homes in Lebanon and Brazil, use of the company jet for family trips and donations to universities in Lebanon it claimed had no business merit.

Ghosn reiterated the charges were fabricated. He said questions about his busi-

ness activities could have been resolved within the company.

The current Nissan civil lawsuit is an extension to the extremely unreasonable internal investigation with minister intent by a portion of Nissan's senior management and the unreasonable arrests and indictments by the public prosecutors, Ghosn said.

Ghosn, arrested in November 2018, has been charged with breach of trust, in misusing company assets for personal gain, and violating securities laws without fully disclosing his compensation.

For the civil trial, Ghosn has hired acclaimed lawyer Nobuo Gohara, who has written a book of interviews with Ghosn.

According to the scientists, including those from the University of Southampton

infections.

Previous studies had found that the novel coronavirus directly suppresses the release of interferon beta and clinical trials demonstrated decreased activity of this protein in Covid-19 patients.

In the new study a formulation of interferon beta called SNG001 was directly delivered to the lungs via inhalation and its safety and efficacy to treat hospitalised Covid-19 patients was evaluated.

It compared the effects of SNG001 and placebo given to patients once daily for up to 14 days, and followed up patients for a maximum of 28 days after starting the treatment.

They explained that the molecule interferon beta is a naturally occurring protein that coordinates the body's immune response to viral

For more updates www.thestatesman.com**THUMBNAILS**

TOKYO GAMES: Athletes will not be required to quarantine when they arrive in Tokyo for next year's Olympic Games. The event had been postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic and organisers later confirmed an exemption from the 14-day isolation period.

CORVER DEAD: Former referee Charles Corver, who officiated the notorious 1982 World Cup semi-final between West Germany and France, has died aged 84. "Corver died on Tuesday evening after an illness." The royal Dutch football federation paid rich tributes.

ATP FINALS: Rafael Nadal was on Thursday drawn in the same group as champion Stefanos Tsitsipas and US Open winner Dominic Thiem for the ATP Finals in London. Novak Djokovic will face Daniil Medvedev, Alexander Zverev and Diego Schwartzman.

DOPING CASE: Women's 400m world champion Salwa Eid Naser faced a new legal case that could see her banned before the Tokyo Olympics. The Athletics Integrity Unit said on Thursday it appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport against the closure of a case.

Solskjaer backed: Manchester United executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward insisted on Thursday the club remained committed to manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer despite a poor start to the season. United are 14th in the league table and inconsistent on the continent.

GOORJIAN RETURNS: California-born Brian Goorjian will take the Australian men's basketball team to a third Olympics after he was hired as head coach of the Boomers on Friday. Basketball Australia said Goorjian would lead Australia at the Olympics next year.

PAK REVIEW: The Pakistan Cricket Board has decided to review Misbah-ul-Haq's performance only after the completion of next year's World Twenty20 Cup, giving him one full year to prove his worth as a head coach, a well-informed source revealed.

MANI'S DEMAND: The chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board, Ehsan Mani, has said it is Pakistan's right to participate in International Cricket Council events and the Board of Control for Cricket in India should make sure get to play in the mega event it will host.

KHAN RETAINED: Former captain Younis Khan will continue as the men's batting coach of Pakistan until the Twenty20 World Cup in 2022, the Pakistan Cricket Board said on Thursday. Khan is the only Pakistani batsman in Test cricket's 10,000-run club.

FORMULA ONE: Mexican driver Sergio Perez said on Thursday he might have no option but to take a year out of Formula One next season, but felt he would leave with pride at what he had achieved. He will leave Racing Point at the end of the year.

ALL-WOMEN RALLY TEAM: In a first for Indian motorsports, Champions Yacht Club FMSI Indian National Championship 2020, will have a woman owner promoting an all-women's rally team in the championship proper.

Vasundhara Diamond Roof Pvt. Ltd., a Vijayawada based jeweler promoted by Mrs. Vasundhara will own the team comprising renowned Indian women rallyist Dr. Bani Yadav of Gurugram and Pragathi Gowda of Bengaluru. Christened as 'Team Vasundhara' they will be competing in the INRC 3 classification as well as aim for glory in the overall championship. Both the drivers will be driving a Volkswagen Polo 1.6 with MRF Tyres.

TETCHY IDOL

Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan (in photo, left), having served out a ban after not staying mum about a "corrupt approach," has fuelled a fresh row by throwing away a selfie-seeking fan's phone at Benapole. Al Hasan was on his way to Kolkata. Fans went wild on seeing him at the border checkpoint.

The Statesman Sport

Postal Reg. No. DL (ND)-II/6088/2018-19-20

Smith unlikely to be given leadership role



THE INDEPENDENT & AGENCIES
SYDNEY, 13 NOVEMBER

The possibility of Steve Smith (in photo) being reappointed as Australia captain remains nearly three years on from the infamous ball-tampering scandal in South Africa.

Smith, who was suspended from cricket for 12 months and then handed a two-year ban from any leadership role as a result of the findings from the Cape Town Test in March, 2018, in which sandpaper was used to artificially change the match ball. Tim Paine has since led the Test team, even with Smith returning, but as he enters the twilight of his career, approaching his 36th birthday, there is no clarity on who will emerge as his successor.

The first test against India starts on 17 December, and there are few players who have better credentials to succeed the wicketkeeper than star batsman Smith, whose leadership ban expired in March.

Yet it was fast bowler Pat Cummins confirmed as the team's sole vice-captain when the 17-man squad was named on Thursday. The second vice-

captain's role, which was held by batsman Travis Head, has been terminated to align with the more traditional leadership set-up of the one-day side.

Smith's name was not even raised in discussions about the leadership roles, selectors chairman Trevor Hohns said on Thursday.

"All I can answer to that one is that a discussion hasn't been had yet," Hohns said bluntly in a video call with reporters. Asked whether 31-year-old Smith might ever be captain again, Hohns played a straight bat. "That's difficult to say; he will obviously be - probably - a contender but whether we go down that path or not depends on when that arises," he said.

"Tim Paine hasn't gone yet, put it that way, so we'll worry about that in due course." Smith, who captained Australia's one-day side before the ball-tampering scandal, was also overlooked for the leadership roles in the limited-overs sides.

Aaron Finch, who led Australia to the semi-finals of the 50-over World Cup last year, remains captain of the one-day and Twenty20 sides, with Cummins vice-captain.

In another development, Australia head coach Justin Langer has hinted he is likely

to stick with Joe Burns in the opening position with David Warner for the first Test despite young Will Pucovski's incredible form. Burns averaged 32 for Australia last summer and had a below-par start to the Sheffield Shield season with 57 runs at 11.40.

The 22-year-old Pucovski has produced successive double hundreds, scoring 202 against Western Australia after an unbeaten 255 against South Australia. "Will Pucovski is doing everything that's humanly possible to play that first Test, and that's something we have to weigh up..." Langer was quoted as saying by cricket.com.au.

"The last time we played Test cricket, we loved the combination of Joe Burns and David Warner. They've got a real synergy, they work well together, so at this point I'd say that'll remain the same."

Burns and Warner has scored 1,365 runs at 50.56 as an opening pair, playing an important role in Australia's ascent to the top of the Test rankings. "We should (also) never underestimate the job the guy has done to get us to where we are, and that philosophy and attitude has been a really strong part of the success of Australian cricket for a long time," Langer said.

Amul Milk

HAPPY DIWALI

Amul
India's Famous Milk

AMUL DOODH PEETA HAI INDIA

Verstappen fastest in 1st practice

ISTANBUL, 13 NOVEMBER

Red Bull driver Max Verstappen posted the fastest time Friday in the first practice session for the Turkish Grand Prix as drivers struggled on a slippery track not used in Formula One since 2011. The Istanbul Park circuit has been resurfaced with new asphalt and is very low on grip. Cool conditions made it even more awkward and drivers were very cautious as they lapped about 10 seconds slower than expected.

AGENCIES

Casey surges into clubhouse lead as Woods lurks in chasing pack

TOM KERSHAW
AUGUSTA (USA), 13 NOVEMBER



For all Augusta's autumn grace, nothing was gentle on the opening day of The Masters - the wretched early rain and scattered thunderstorms followed by a streak of vicious scores as players took advantage of receptive conditions.

The prelude to the year's final major, being played in November and without patrons for the first time, had orbited around Bryson DeChambeau's distance, but while the divisive American's day began with violent hoicks into the pine straw, a horde of contenders took advantage with exquisite gear.

This is a newer version of Woods, unafraid to show his age, smiling at misfortune and laughing with his rivals, but his lowered guard should not be mistaken for weakness. For all those who prematurely sidelined his hopes this week, this was an impious reminder that his shadow still looms large over the field.

So then to the princes-in-waiting, those who've tried and failed to banish that silhouette for the best part of a decade. Justin Thomas has long positioned himself as a potential successor and tore through the late afternoon sunshine, racing to five-under-par before the dusk brought an early halt to his progress.

He was one of 45 players forced off the course before completing their rounds as daylight faded.

Xander Schauffele, a runner-up last year chasing a seemingly inevitable maiden major, rallied from a brief mid-round collapse to also finish at five-under-par with an impressive 67. Nobody's arrival at Augusta had stirred quite so much anticipation as DeChambeau.

Playing in the same group, Jon Rahm matched DeChambeau blow-for-blow, regularly veering from spectacular to self-imposition. The Spaniard began with back-to-back bogeys but a thrilling turn saw him surge towards the top of the leaderboard and he remains firmly among the favourites.

The US Open champion and polarising genius, whose scientific approach is either transforming or train-wrecking the game, depending on which side of the rail you stand. Hysteria centred on his attempts to bludgeon the course into submission this week with a series of gunslinging drives.

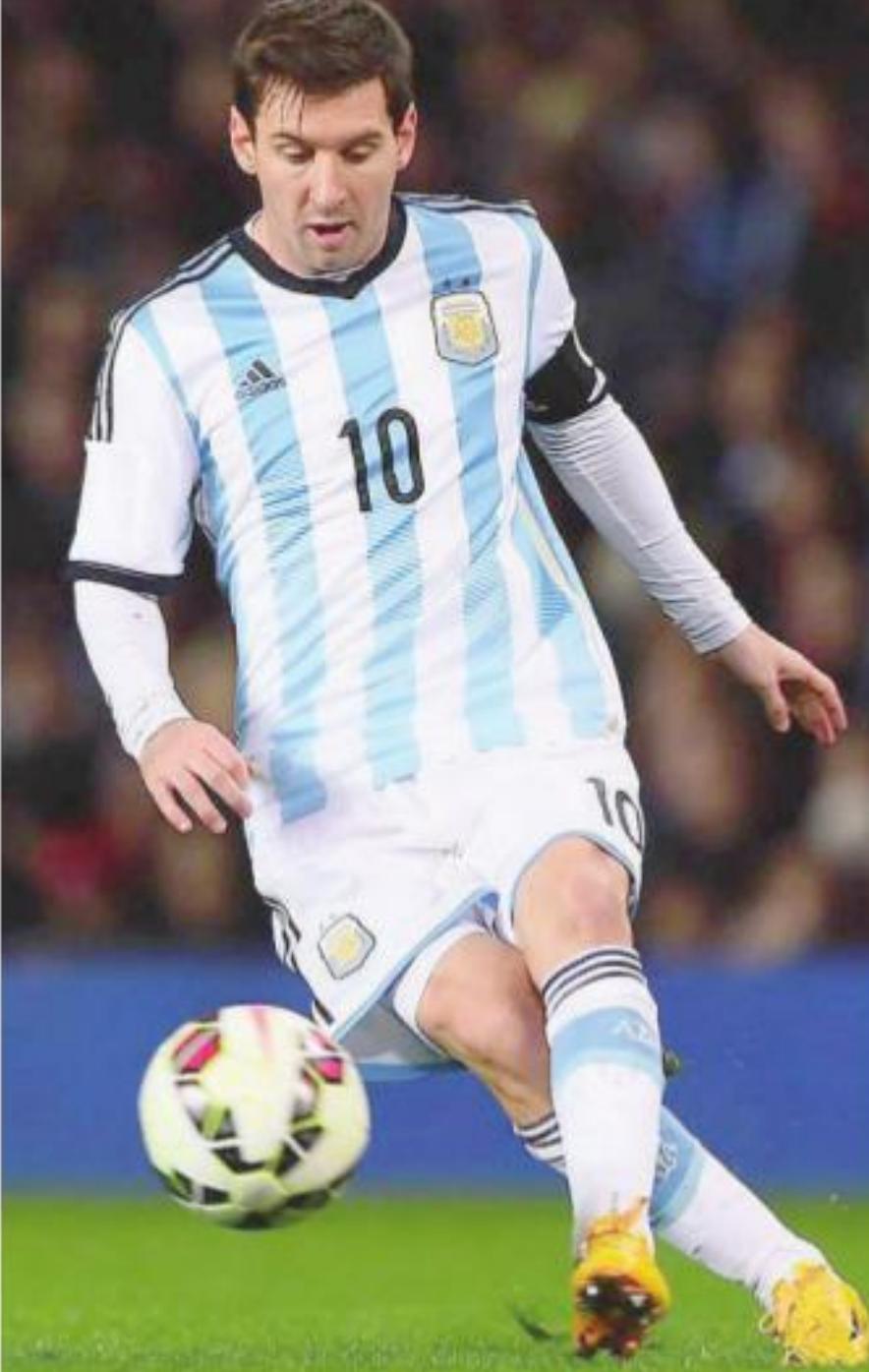
Instead, his round was a theatre of volatility, traipsing through the woods, clattering among branches and scouring bushes. The tantalising par-5 13th proved his early downfall - with groups starting off both the first and 10th tees this year - as a double-bogey threatened an existential crisis, but DeChambeau hung in admirably. Eventually, for all his ballast, a subtler touch emerged and a two-under-par 70 was nothing to be scoffed at, even if it fell short of his own lofty predictions.

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Argentina held 1-1 in qualifying

AGENCIES
SAO PAULO, 13 NOVEMBER



Lionel Messi (in photo) had a goal disallowed and another denied as Argentina were held to a 1-1 draw in South American World Cup qualifying. The draw at La Bombonera stadium puts Argentina on the top of the standings with seven points from three matches, but Brazil, on six, could move ahead with a home win over ninth-place Venezuela. Paraguay are fourth with five points. Argentina's fourth match in qualifying will be on Tuesday, when Paraguay host Bolivia and Ecuador are at home to Colombia.

In Thursday's opening match, 10th-place Bolivia conceded a late penalty to lose 3-2 at home to Ecuador. The Ecuadorians are now in third place with six points in three games.

The top four teams will automatically qualify for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. The fifth-place team will go into an inter-continental playoff.

Paraguay once more gave Argentina trouble, opening the scoring in the 21st minute via Angel Romero's penalty. Argentina equalised in the 41st after Giovani Lo Celso took a corner and found Nicolas Gonzalez free in the box to head it home. Messi appeared to give Argentina a lead in the 57th minute, but a video-reviewed decision by Brazilian referee Raphael Claus found a foul for Paraguay 27 seconds earlier when the ball was still in Argentina's half.

Messi nearly scored from a free-kick 14 minutes later, but Paraguayan goalkeeper Antony Silva made the save of the match in the top left corner. Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni had to be creative for the match. Messi started with

pain in his left ankle, and defender Nicolas Tagliafico had to be replaced by Gonzalez, who usually plays as a striker at Stuttgart.

Scaloni also lost midfielder Ezequiel Palacios to injury after only 30 minutes, but his replacement Lo Celso ended as one of the best on the pitch though not enough to secure Argentina a home victory. Angel Di Maria, who was initially expected to start, entered in the second half but was unable to produce a goal for Argentina's much-needed home win.

Neymar out

Neymar has been ruled out of Brazil's World Cup qualifier against Uruguay next week because of a groin injury he sustained playing for Paris-Saint-Germain in a Champions League game. Brazil's soccer confederation on Thursday confirmed Neymar would not play in the South American qualifying match on Tuesday in Montevideo. PSG coach Thomas Tuchel last week said it would be "impossible" for Neymar to play for Brazil as he recovered from the injury, but Brazil coach Tite insisted that the

striker travel. Neymar had already been ruled out of the game against Venezuela. Brazil team doctor Rodrigo Lasmar said Neymar's recovery after four days of training was not enough.

Tite had already called up Flamengo striker Pedro for the matches, without removing Neymar from the squad. Brazil had already lost five players for the two matches, including injured midfielders Philippe Coutinho and Fabio, and defender Rodrigo Caio. Defenders Eder Milito and Gabriel Menino were ruled out after contracting Covid-19. Pedro was selected for Brazil in September 2018, but was unable to make his debut after sustaining a second-half substitute.

"We used the ball very well, created a lot of chances, could have been more comfortable if we'd taken some of those chances, but overall very pleased," England manager Gareth Southgate said.

England win

Harry Maguire, Jadon Sancho and Dominic Calvert-Lewin scored as England dominated Ireland in a 3-0 victory. The friendly at an empty Wembley Stadium last night allowed 17-year-old Borussia Dortmund midfielder Jelle Bellingham to make his England debut as a second-half substitute.

"We used the ball very well, created a lot of chances, could have been more comfortable if we'd taken some of those chances, but overall very pleased," England manager Gareth Southgate said.

Official held

Bolivian investigators arrested the interim president of the country's soccer federation during a South American World Cup qualifying match. Marcos Rodriguez is accused of corruption and was taken into custody at the Hernando Siles stadium in La Paz, where Bolivia lost 3-2 to Ecuador. The local media broadcast a video showing Rodriguez being escorted by police during half-time.

Kohli probably the best player I've seen in my life, says Langer

AGENCIES
SYDNEY, 13 NOVEMBER



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

Kohli's wife, actor Anushka Sharma, is due for delivery in January and the batting mainstay will return to India after the conclusion of the first Test against Australia to be played at the Adelaide Oval from 17

December. However, he will take part in the limited-

overs series, which consist of three One-Day Internationals and as many T20s.

"He's a human being like all of us... if I was giving advice to any of my players I would always say never, ever miss the birth of your children because it's one of the great things you'll ever do," said the Australia head coach. "Of course it will have an impact (his absence), but we also know that India beat us last time (in 2018-19). They're a very, very good team, we cannot get complacent for a second with or without Virat," he added.

In another development, off-spinner Nathan Lyon has said he wants to make the most of his one crack at Kohli this summer and "get him out cheaply" in the only Test the Indian skipper will play.

"It's disappointing for the series. You want to play against the best players in the world," Lyon was quoted as saying by news.com.au.

"I believe he is the best player in the world along with Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne. It's disappointing but they have still got superstars," he added.

However, Lyon believes Australia cannot be compla-

cent because Kohli's absence doesn't mean the home team would walk away with the Border-Gavaskar trophy.

"Look at (Cheteshwar) Pujara, (Ajinkya) Rahane, and they have also got a couple of young guys coming in. It's still going to be a massive challenge for us," said the 32-year-old off-spinner.

"Just because Virat's not here doesn't mean we get to hold the trophy up. We've still got a lot of work to do, a lot of homework to do," he added.

The tour will start with the three ODIs at the Sydney

Cricket Ground (November 27, 29) and Manuka Oval, Canberra (December 2).

Those will be followed by the three-match T20 series at Manuka Oval, Canberra (December 4) and the Sydney Cricket Ground (December 6, 8).

Team India will then begin the title defence for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy with the pink-ball Test in Adelaide from 17 December.

It will be followed by Tests at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (December 26), the SCG (January 7) and the Gabba (January 15).

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