



ARMY CHIEF TO  
VISIT NEPAL  
AMIDST MAP ROW

P5



'SITHARAMAN TO  
UNVEIL ANOTHER  
STIMULUS SOON'

P8



PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION

LIVERPOOL TO BE  
OFFERED RAPID  
COVID TESTING

P10



'YOU MOPE WHEN  
YOU ARE OUT  
OF ACTION'

P12

WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. Mist in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 30 and 10 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: NIL

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 95% Min: 28%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 31.6°C (+1) Min: 10.0°C (-5)  
SUN RISES SUN SETS  
06:36 hrs 17:34 hrs

MOON RISES MOON SETS  
19:13 hrs 10:35 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Women get their hands adorned with mehendi on the eve of Karwa Chauth festival, in the Capital on Tuesday. ■ SUBRATA DUTTA

**Malabar wargames:** India, the United States, Japan and Australia began their largest joint naval exercises in over a decade on Tuesday, government sources said, seen as part of efforts to balance China's military and economic reach in the region. The annual "Malabar" wargames that India holds with the US and Japan have been expanded to include Australia this year to cover all members of the Quad, an informal group of the four largest democracies in the Indo-Pacific.

**Punjab CM to lead Rajgat protest today:** With President Ram Nath Kovind not meeting him, Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh announced he will lead a relay sit-in of his Congress MLAs at Rajgat on Wednesday to highlight the state's power crisis due to continued suspension of goods trains. ■ P3

**Restrictions continue on entry of Indians:** Some countries have still not removed restrictions on the entry of Indian nationals and the central government is ready to fly passengers to these countries whenever they ease their limits, said Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday. Saudi Arabia is one such country that does not allow airlines to bring passengers from India currently amid the pandemic. However, special international passenger flights have been operating in India under the Vande Bharat Mission since May under bilateral air bubble arrangements.

## 53.51% turnout in phase 2 Bihar polls: EC

Voting in 94 seats crucial for important leaders like Tejashwi Yadav

MANOJ CHAURASIA  
PATNA, 3 NOVEMBER

**V**oters showed rare enthusiasm amidst Covid-19 pandemic as the second phase of polling passed peacefully in Bihar today.

The 94 assembly seats that went to poll on Tuesday recorded 53.51 per cent turnout and the figure was likely to go up, the Election Commission said.

Initially, the polling percentage remained sluggish with just around eight per cent voters casting their votes in the first two hours but it slowly gained momentum.

By 5 pm, the voting percentage touched an impressive 51.80 per cent with maximum voting percentage reported from the rural areas. While Muzaffarpur, Begusarai and Khagaria districts took the lead with polling over 57 per cent, Patna recorded the lowest polling at 46.57 percent.

Since early morning voters riding boats, cycles, pushcarts and also on foot were seen going to the



booths and queuing for their turn. At one polling booth in Patna, a young girl was seen carrying her grandmother on a cycle while in Khagaria, an elderly villager reached the booth on a pushcart.

A grim aspect was how

voters again ignored safety norms with impunity.

With today's polling, the fate of several leaders is now sealed in the EVMs. They include Grand Alliance's CM candidate Tejashwi Yadav, his elder brother Tej Pratap Yadav, their relative Chandrika Rai and at least four NDA ministers.

Today's polling on a total 94 seats spread over 17 districts is pivotal since they are areas which have large

migrant population. Also, these are the areas where flooding caused massive destruction. Many voters said they wanted a "good government" who could look into their concern and shape the future of their children but their replies were quite diplomatic.

However, one factor

that has dominated elections this time is that of employment raised by the opposition Grand Alliance's chief ministerial candidate Tejashwi Yadav. In fact, he had set the agenda for election this time and never allowed the ruling NDA to divert from the real issue despite their constant efforts. He has promised 10 lakh jobs to the youths should his alliance

come to power. The NDA leaders, especially from the BJP, made unsuccessful efforts to bring controversial issues in the poll campaign such as abrogation of Article 370, CAA, Ram temple, 1947 Partition.

Apart from these, Prime Minister Narendra Modi constantly raised the issue of "Jungle Raj" and continued repeating it at his all 12 election rallies in Bihar and tried hard to whip up the fear of "Jungle Raj" if the opposition alliance was allowed to come to power. Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar's campaign, on the other hand, focussed his campaign over "Jungle Raj", parvaru-wad, corruption and Tejashwi's inexperience.

The CM faced an embarrassing situation today when the people threw onions and potatoes at him during a rally in Madhubani. A visibly angry Kumar stopped his speech midway and said whosoever wanted to throw things at him were welcome. The masses are said to be seething over rising inflation and losing jobs as a result of lockdown.

dra Modi urged people to vote in large numbers.

"Today, there are bypolls taking place in various places across India. I urge those voting in these seats to vote in large numbers and strengthen the festival of democracy," he said in a tweet.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his Haryana counterpart Manohar Lal Khattar echoed them in their appeal to voters.

All eyes are on Madhya Pradesh where the BJP, which has 107 MLAs in the assembly with an effective strength of 229, needs at least eight more MLAs for a simple majority.

The stakes are high for the Congress, too, as it had

sitting MLAs in 27 of the 28 seats going to the polls. Twenty-five resigned early this year and joined the BJP after a rebellion by Jyotiraditya Scindia, leading to the collapse of the Kamal Nath government.

They are now contesting as BJP candidates. In the three other seats, the by-election was necessitated following the deaths of the sitting legislators. Twelve state ministers are among the 355 candidates contesting in the central India state, where bypolls are being held for so many seats in one go for the first time. In most seats, there is a direct fight between the BJP and Congress.

SEE PAGE 5

## Bypolls in 54 Assembly seats across 10 states

SNS & PTI  
BHOPAL/LUCKNOW/  
AHMEDABAD, 3 NOVEMBER



Thousands of people on Tuesday battled corona fears and queued outside polling booths across 10 states to vote in by-elections to 54 assembly constituencies, including 28 in Madhya Pradesh where the BJP is locked in a high-stakes contest with the Congress, to save its government.

Covid-19 guidelines were in place as the first pan-India electoral exercise in the pandemic began with election staff in personal protective equipment (PPE) suits, more polling booths to prevent overcrowding, thermal screening, sanitisers and masks and gloves for voters as well as markings to ensure social distancing, officials said.

Voting started at 7 am and will continue till 6 pm, except in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Nagaland. The last hour has been reserved for voters who have tested positive for Covid-19, officials said.

The votes will be counted on November 10.

Prime Minister Narendra

## Pak taking advantage of pandemic to promote terror: India

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 3 NOVEMBER



India has hit out at Pakistan, accusing its neighbour of taking advantage of the Covid-19 pandemic to support cross-border terrorism.

"While the world has come to a standstill due to the pandemic, Pakistan has only enhanced support to cross-border terrorism taking advantage of the pandemic," said Indian diplomat Ashish Sharma while addressing the dialogue with Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance at the UN General Assembly.

Pakistan has also resorted to "unbridled hate speech" to try and create divisions among India's religious communities, he said. The hate speech

by Pakistan, he said, was not merely directed towards one community in India but also against organisations, individuals and even against high-ranking political leaders. Fortunately, its provocation was falling on deaf ears since India has had a tradition of pluralism and co-existence where all communities live in harmony under a democratic

framework.

India called on Pakistan to practice co-existence in their own country and eschew all sectarian violence, discrimination and intolerance against their own people.

Sharma said the world today was confronted not only by the challenge of tackling the Covid-19 pandemic, but also the challenge of

"infodemic", which in many cases has been responsible for rise in hate speech and seeding hatred within communities.

Earlier this year, India, along with 12 countries, sponsored the Cross-Regional Statement on "Infodemic" in the Context of Covid-19 - a first of its kind by UN member states to counter the increase in hate speech and misinformation during the pandemic.

"India is fighting Covid-19 pandemic in the most transparent manner with equal access to medical facilities to all citizens," Sharma said at the Third Committee meeting of the General Assembly, adding that special efforts have been made to ensure that vulnerable communities were provided adequate medical support.

ing the national recovery rate to 91.96 per cent, while the case fatality rate stands at 4.9 per cent. There are 5,41,405 active cases in the country as on date which comprise 6.55 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

Bengal logs 3,981 new cases, 56 deaths: West Bengal today recorded a single-day spike with 3,981 fresh Covid cases and 56 deaths due to the infection. Till now, 3,85,583 people have been detected Covid positive, 7,013 died and 3,42,133 recovered of which 4,058 patients were discharged from hospitals in a single day.

**FACT FILE**  
TOTAL CASES  
**82,67,623**  
ACTIVE CASES  
**5,41,405**  
NEW CASES  
**38,310**  
NEW RECOVERIES  
**58,323**  
TOTAL DEATHS  
**1,23,097**  
MINISTRY FIGURES AS OF  
8.00 A.M. TUESDAY 03  
NOVEMBER 2020

## India's new cases below 40K

SNS & AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, 3 NOVEMBER

The number of new Covid cases reported in India in 24 hours dropped below 40,000, taking the country's Covid-19 tally to 82,67 lakh, while the total recoveries crossed the 76 lakh mark, according to the Union Health Ministry's data updated on Tuesday.

India's COVID-19 caseload mounted to 82,67,623 with 38,310 fresh infections, while the death toll reached 1,23,097 after 490 new fatalities were reported, the data updated at 8 am showed. A total of 76,03,121 people have recuperated from the infection so far, pushing

## US election day begins as polls open in New York, New Jersey & Virginia

AGENCIES  
NEW YORK, 3 NOVEMBER

The United States started voting Tuesday in an election amounting to a referendum on Donald Trump's brash and bruising Presidency, which Democratic opponent and frontrunner Joe Biden urged Americans to end to restore "our democracy."

The country is more divided and angry than at any time since the Vietnam War era of the 1970s and fears that Trump could dispute the result of the election are only fueling those tensions.

Despite an often startlingly laid-back campaign, Biden, 77, leads in almost every opinion poll, buoyed by his consistent message that America needs to restore its "soul" and get new leadership amid a coronavirus pandemic that has killed more than 231,000 people.

"I have a feeling we're coming together for a big win tomorrow," Biden said in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a vital electoral battleground where he was joined by pop superstar Lady Gaga. "It's time to stand up and take back our democracy."

But Trump was characteristically defiant to the end, campaigning at a frenetic pace with crowded rallies in four states on Monday, and repeating his dark, unprece-





We have reviewed the situation and it was a unanimous decision that from November 21 classes for X and XII standards will recommence

PRAMOD SAWANT  
GOA CHIEF MINISTER

# Rail launches anti-cracker campaign to curb pollution

Citing Delhi's air pollution and the raging Covid pandemic, environment minister appeals to Delhiites to avoid bursting firecrackers and use only 'green crackers' for celebrating Diwali

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 3 NOVEMBER

**D**elhi environment minister Gopal Rai today appealed to Delhiites to avoid bursting firecrackers as much as possible and use only "green crackers" for celebrating the upcoming Diwali for the sake of public health and environment.

Rai launched an anti-cracker campaign to curb environmental pollution in the city. He inspected various places to ensure that only "green" firecrackers are manufactured and sold in Delhi.

"Only 'green' firecrackers can be manufactured, sold and used in Delhi this Diwali as per a Supreme Court order issued in 2018. However, I appeal to everyone to avoid bursting firecrackers as much as possible," Rai told reporters.

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), all district magistrates and Delhi Police have been asked to ensure that only "green" crackers are sold, Rai said.

Enforcement teams will also ensure that traders procure green firecrackers from authorised manufacturers.

In 2018, the Supreme Court had banned the use of polluting firecrackers and allowed the sale of "green" firecrackers in the city in a bid to control air pollution.

The "green crackers" are reportedly not as polluting as the conventional types of firecrackers and they contain at least 30 per cent less partic-



Delhi environment minister Gopal Rai launches the AAP government's anti-cracker campaign in the Capital on Tuesday.

ulate matter such as sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide.

The CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute was tasked with the job of developing green crackers. But only a few varieties were available in the market last year due to licensing requirements.

Under the Delhi government's anti-cracker campaign, all SDMs and police officials and 11 teams of the DPCC have been directed to ensure that there is no bursting of polluting crackers across Delhi. The teams have been directed to ensure its effective

implementation at the ground level. They would also check that the crackers sold in the market must have a "green cracker" logo and must be from authorised companies.

Rai visited the Sadar Bazar area to inspect the sale of crackers. He said, "As per the directions of the Supreme Court, polluting crackers have been banned in Delhi and only pollution-free green crackers have been allowed this year. Today, an anti-cracker campaign has been launched in Delhi. All the SDMs, 11 teams of the DPCC and all police officials have been directed to

ensure that there is no bursting of polluting crackers."

The minister said, "For the implementation of the campaign, we are ensuring two things: first, the crackers must have a 'green cracker' logo on them, and second, the crackers available at shops must be from authorised companies. We are following the guidelines of the Supreme Court. The Delhi government will follow any new direction to curb pollution as and when issued."

Rai pointed out that every year the pollution level in Delhi had been high due to the use of crackers around Diwali.

Keeping this in view, crackers which cause pollution have been banned and the Delhi government was promoting the use of only green crackers.

"I want to appeal to the people of Delhi that we are passing through a serious Covid crisis when the pollution level must be brought to the lowest level possible. Please do not burn crackers. I also want to appeal to you to use only green crackers and keep the crackers away from children, women, the elderly and people with co-morbidities."

## Delhi govt terminates tourism dept's approval for stand-alone restaurants

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 3 NOVEMBER

In a bid to boost the hospitality industry in Delhi, the Arvind Kejriwal government today issued an order discontinuing a scheme under which approvals were required from the state tourism department to open stand-alone restaurants in the city.

The Delhi tourism department notified the termination of the process of granting approvals to stand-alone restaurants in the city. The notification, issued as per the directions of CM Kejriwal, is considered to be a major relief for those running restaurants as this business was hit hard due to the Covid lockdown.

The notification comes in the wake of a meeting convened by Kejriwal last month, when he directed various officials to ensure ease of doing business by removing hurdles in the way of the restaurant industry in Delhi.

The notification said, "In terms of the decision taken by the Chief Minister, the GNCT of Delhi in the meeting dated 07.10.2020 regarding ease of doing business for restaurants, the voluntary scheme of granting approval to the standalone restaurants being implemented by the tourism department, GNCT of Delhi, is hereby discontinued with immediate effect."

According to a Delhi government's statement, before June 2003 the scheme for granting approvals to restaurants was being implemented by the Union ministry of tourism on an all-India basis. However, the scheme was discontinued on an all-India basis on 30 June 2003, and the states were asked to formulate their own guidelines if they wished to implement the scheme.

The scheme was adopted by the Delhi government's tourism department the same year, and was formally launched in 2004 for all restaurants having more than 30 seats. Various reviews and reconsiderations were done by the tourism department over the years on a request by restaurant associations. However, owing to the prevailing Covid situation, CM Kejriwal has ordered the removal of the voluntary scheme of granting approval for stand-alone restaurants.

The CM had convened a meeting with a delegation of the National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI) on 7 October when he directed several ministers and officials of various departments and agencies to "remove hassles" in the way of doing business for the restaurant industry in Delhi.



continued on an all-India basis on 30 June 2003, and the states were asked to formulate their own guidelines if they wished to implement the scheme.

The scheme was adopted by the Delhi government's tourism department the same year, and was formally launched in 2004 for all restaurants having more than 30 seats. Various reviews and reconsiderations were done by the tourism department over the years on a request by restaurant associations. However, owing to the prevailing Covid situation, CM Kejriwal has ordered the removal of the voluntary scheme of granting approval for stand-alone restaurants.

The CM had convened a meeting with a delegation of the National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI) on 7 October when he directed several ministers and officials of various departments and agencies to "remove hassles" in the way of doing business for the restaurant industry in Delhi.

Posters not to be pasted outside Covid patients' homes: AAP govt to HC

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 3 NOVEMBER

The AAP government on Tuesday told the Delhi High Court that it has instructed all its officials not to paste posters outside homes of COVID-19 positive persons or those in home isolation and those pasted have been ordered to be removed.

The Delhi government, represented by its additional standing counsel Satyakam, also told the high court that its officials have

'Covid-19 positive persons ought to be given privacy to cope with and recover from the illness in peace and away from prying eyes'

also not been allowed to share details of COVID-19 positive persons with their neighbours, resident welfare associations or WhatsApp groups.

In view of the submission made by the government, a bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Subramonium Prasad disposed of the PIL seeking framing of guidelines to do away with pasting posters outside homes of COVID-19 positive persons or those in home isolation. The bench was of the view that pursuant to steps taken by the Delhi government the issue raised in the plea, by lawyer Kush Kalra, need not be monitored any longer.

Kalra, in his plea through advocate Kush Sharma, had contended that freely circulating to RWAs and on WhatsApp groups, the names of persons who tested positive for COVID-19 was "leading to stigmatisation and drawing of unnecessary attention". The petition had stated that COVID-19 positive persons "ought to be given privacy to cope with and recover from the illness in peace and away from prying eyes".

"Rather they are being made the centre of public attention..." it had said.

It had also claimed that this has resulted in persons "shying away and deliberately choosing not to test themselves" to shield themselves from the "public embarrassment and stigmatisation" which is also caused by pasting posters outside homes of COVID-19 positive patients.

## 'Delhi govt mulls collecting samples from restaurants, markets after Covid surge'

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 3 NOVEMBER

The Delhi government is mulling to collect samples from people while they are at restaurants, markets and other public places in a bid to strengthen its COVID-19 surveillance mechanism amid a massive surge in daily cases in the last few days, sources said on Tuesday.

In a high-level meeting on Monday, chaired by Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, the current COVID-19 situation was discussed threadbare.

It was decided to concentrate efforts in certain areas, such as targeted RT-PCR testing in sensitive and critical zones such as restaurants, market places, barber shops and salons; gear up the availability of medical resources including beds, ICUs, and ventilators as a pre-emptive measure; and ensure high degree of contact tracing along with monitoring of quarantined contacts so as to suppress and break the chain of transmission, the home ministry had said in a statement. A source in Delhi government's health department said, in targeted testing, samples are collected at regular intervals from a restaurant or a market place in an area, from where high number of cases are getting recorded, or where safety protocols may not have been adhered to diligently.

"Right now, no instruction has been given, but to conduct RT-PCR tests on a targeted audience, a kiosk perhaps would be made in a market place or near designated restaurants to collect samples from shoppers and visitors, at regular intervals," a senior doctor at a Delhi government hospital who did not wish to be named said.

## Delhi's air again turns 'very poor'

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 3 NOVEMBER

The national capital's air quality slipped back into the very poor category again on Tuesday after recording a marginal improvement.

However, the share of stubble burning in Delhi's pollution dropped to 10 per cent during the day due to a change in the wind direction, a central government agency said.

Officials at the India Meteorological Department said the air quality had improved on Monday with high wind speed aiding dispersion of pollutants. However, stagnant night-time conditions led to accumulation of pollutants.

The city recorded an air quality index (AQI) of 332 at 10 am. It improved to 302 by 4 pm as wind speed picked up.

The 24-hour average AQI was 293 on Monday which falls in the "poor" category. It was 364 on Sunday, with stubble burning contributing to 40 per cent of Delhi's pollution.

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, SAFAR, said the share of stubble burning in Delhi's PM 2.5 pollution has "decreased significantly" due to a change in the wind direction and is estimated at 10 per cent for Tuesday.

SAFAR said it was a typical example of high fire count and its low impact on

Delhi's air quality due to unfavourable transport level winds, "demonstrating how

meteorology can play a decisive role".

Stubble burning accounted for 16 per cent of Delhi's pollution on Monday and 40 per cent on Sunday, the maximum so far this season.

It was 32 per cent on Saturday, 19 per cent on Friday and 36 per cent on Thursday.

Last year, the farm fire contribution to Delhi's pollution had peaked to 44 per cent on November 1, according to SAFAR data.

SAFAR has predicted a marginal deterioration in the air quality on Wednesday and Thursday.

According to the India

Metreological Department, the maximum wind speed was 12 kilometers per hour on Tuesday. The city recorded a minimum temperature of 10 degrees Celsius, the lowest in the season so far.

Calm winds and low temperatures trap pollutants close to the ground, while favourable wind speed helps in their dispersion.

According to the Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, the city's ventilation index a product of mixing depth and average wind speed was expected to be around 8,000 metre square per second on Tuesday favourable for dispersion.

sion of pollutants.

Mixing depth is the vertical height in which pollutants are suspended in the air. It reduces on cold days with calm wind speed.

A ventilation index lower than 6,000 sqm/sec, with the average wind speed less than 10 kmph, is unfavourable for dispersal of pollutants.

In a bid to control pollution, the Delhi government has also said that only green firecrackers can be manufactured, sold and used in the national capital in accordance with a 2018 Supreme Court order.

Green crackers' are not as polluting as the conventional types of firecrackers and they contain at least 30 per cent less particulate matter such as sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide.

Fireworks can take place between 8 pm and 10 pm only on festivals like Diwali and Gurpurab etc. On Christmas eve and New Year eve, it would be from 11:55 pm till 12:30 am only, according to the Delhi Pollution Control Committee.

The National Green Tribunal has also issued notice to the Centre, Central Pollution Control Board, and the governments of Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, asking if crackers could be banned between November 7 and November 30 in the interest of public health and environment.



Delhi remained wrapped in haze on Tuesday.

SUBRATA DUTTA

## Classified

### LEGAL NOTICES

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT (Order 5 Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)

In the Court of Ruby Alka Gupta Judge, Family Court, East District, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi, G.P.-16/20 U/S 7 of G & W Act, 1980. Jarnail Singh & Ors.

— Plaintiff Versus State of GNCT of Delhi & Ors. or through The S.D.M.L. M. Bundh, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-31.

— Defendant The Defendant above-named.

Whereas you, are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 19th day of November, 2020, the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex parte.

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

Judge, Family Court, East District, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi. Seal of the Court

### CHANGE OF NAME

I Kshama Bhawana, w/o V. K. Tiwary, resident of Amrapali Silicon City, Sector 76, Noida, UP declare that I have changed my name from Kshama Bhawana Tiwary to Kshama Bhawana.

AFFIDAVIT Before the Executive Magistrate cum-Tahsildar Satyabadi, Puri, I, Manjusa Mishra, D/o late Kedarnath Mishra and late Chandramani Devi, Vill/Post: Biramchandrapur, P.S.: Satyabadi, Dist.: Puri (Odisha), do hereby declare that my actual name is Manjusa Mishra but my abovenamed father entered my name as Manjusa only in his service record. Manjusa and Manjusa Mishra is one and the same person and henceforth I will be known as Manjusa Mishra.

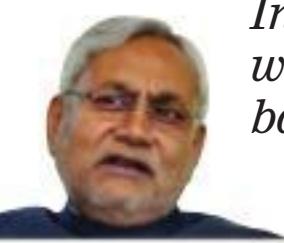
Plot 3A, Zone B, Sector A, Mancheswar Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751 010. Tel: (0674) 2588060/61/62/ 2586371, Telefax: 0674-2588061 Email: bhubaneswar@thestatesmangroup.com statesmangroups@gmail.com

13A, Dabgram Industrial Growth Centre, P.O. Satellite Township, Siliguri-734015 Tel: 2568615, 2568063 and 2568787. Fax: (0353) 2568296, Email: siliguri@thestatesmangroup.com City Office: 3rd Floor, Rina Bhawan, Opp. HDFC Bank, Panitanki More, Sevoke Rd, Siliguri-734015. Ph: 0353-2524077

SHIMLA Cabin No. 305, P. C. Chambers Near Jodha Niwas The Mall Shimla-171001, H.P.

TENDERS For equipment manufacturers please visit: wbtders.gov.in (Tender Id: 2020\_BU\_302981\_1) dated: 02.11.2020. Coordinator UGC-CAS-II

AIR-SURCHARGE: Kathmandu - Rs. 2, Eastern Region - Re. 1 All other stations in India - Re. 1



*In a democracy, the electorate is supreme and they are the ones who matter to me. It up to the people of Bihar to decide on the basis of my work for the last 15 years*

NITISH KUMAR  
BIHAR CHIEF MINISTER NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY 04 NOVEMBER 2020

# Punjab CM to lead relay sit-in at Rajghat today

After Prez declines to meet him, Capt says he along with his MLAs will hold a dharna at Rajghat to highlight Punjab's power crisis due to continued suspension of goods trains

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 3 NOVEMBER

With President Ram Nath Kovind not giving him time for a meeting, Punjab chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh today announced that he will lead a relay 'dharna' (sit-in demonstration) of his Congress MLAs at Delhi's Rajghat ~ the Mahatma Gandhi memorial ~ tomorrow to highlight the state's power crisis and critical essential supplies situation amid the Centre's "refusal" to allow movement of goods trains there due to farmers' agitation against its new farm laws.

As the crisis triggered by the suspension of goods trains aggravated further in Punjab, resulting in complete shutdown of all power plants as well as curtailment of agricultural and vegetables supplies, the CM said he has decided to hold a symbolic relay dharna at Rajghat to bring the state's grim situation to the Centre's attention.

Since Section 144 has been in place in Delhi, Punjab



Congress MLAs numbering 78 will go from Punjab Bhawan in the national capital to the 'samadhi' of Father of the Nation in batches of four only, Capt Amarinder said, adding that he will lead the first batch at 10.30 am tomorrow. He repeated his appeal to MLAs of other Punjab parties to also join such dharnas in the interest of the state, which

was facing a dire situation at present with the last of the private power plants also shutting down today.

The private power plant run by GVK has announced it will close down operations today since coal stocks had run out.

The public and other private power plants in the state had already shut down their operations earlier.

The CM said the situation on the ground was grim as Punjab had run out of coal, urea and other essential supplies due to the decision of the Railways not to ply goods trains even after the farmers eased their blockade to allow such movement. With its bid for power purchase not cleared for today, the state was facing extreme power shortage, all agricultural

and vegetable supplies had been curtailed, and high loss feeders power supply had been cut, Capt Amarinder said, adding that the people of Punjab were staring at a dark festival season.

Further, the "continued and inexplicable suspension" of the goods trains by the Railways was also having serious consequences for other states such as Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh, the CM pointed out, repeating his warning of the armed forces becoming "sitting ducks for the enemies" if they do not get their essential supplies before the winter snow sets in.

The central government's "step-motherly treatment" towards Punjab was pushing it into a deep crisis, charged Capt Amarinder, terming the recent developments as against India's Constitution-mandated federal character.

The situation, if not checked, could snowball into a major catastrophe and spell doom for the nation, whose foundations were built on the ethos of democratic federalism, the CM warned.

## SAD calls Capt's Rajghat protest a 'publicity stunt'

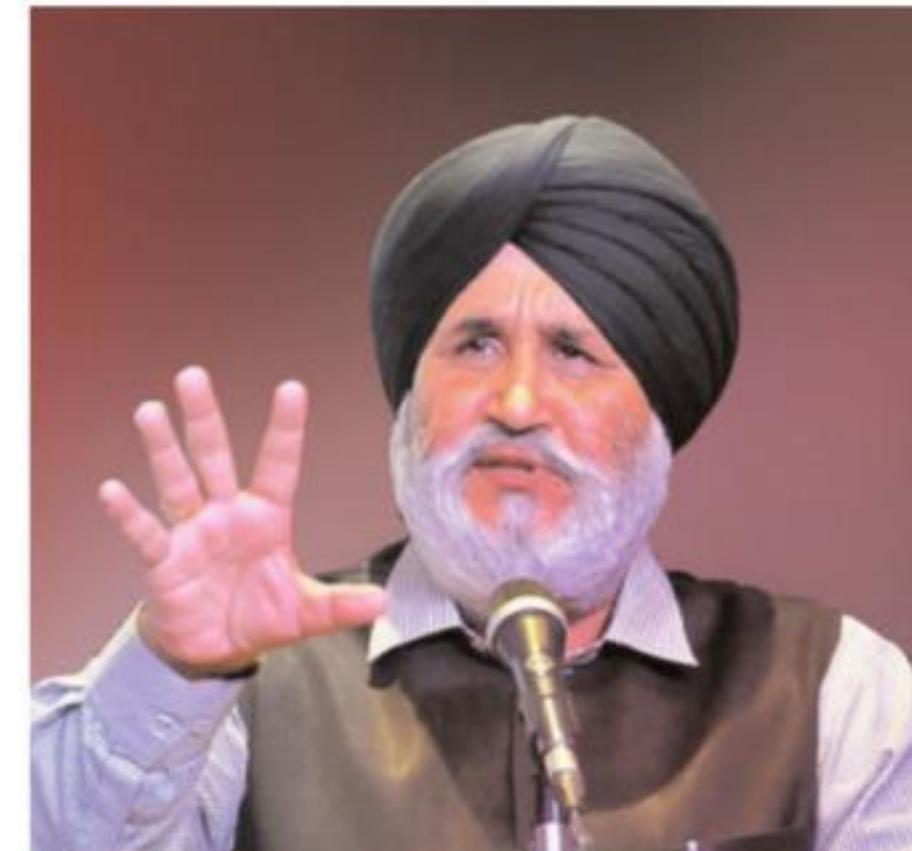
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 3 NOVEMBER

The Opposition Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Tuesday alleged that the Congress government in Punjab and the BJP-led central government were playing a "fixed match" to "defame" farmers organisations and Punjabis for agitating against the Centre's controversial farm laws.

Reacting to the Congress party's announcement that Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh and party legislators would hold a relay protest at Rajghat, former minister and SAD spokesperson Dr Daljit Singh Cheema said this was nothing but a "gimmick".

"CM Amarinder Singh is deliberately not approaching the Centre. He has earlier also written a letter to BJP President J P Nadda instead of approaching the Railways minister or the Prime Minister," Dr Cheema said.

Even now instead of holding talks with the Central government and ensuring start of goods trains immediately the CM announced that he would lead a delegation of legislators to meet the President. Now it has been revealed that the President had not even given them an appointment. The CM should tell Punjabis why he misled



legislators and why he is trying to cover up his failures by announcing that he would lead a relay protest in Delhi from tomorrow now, he added.

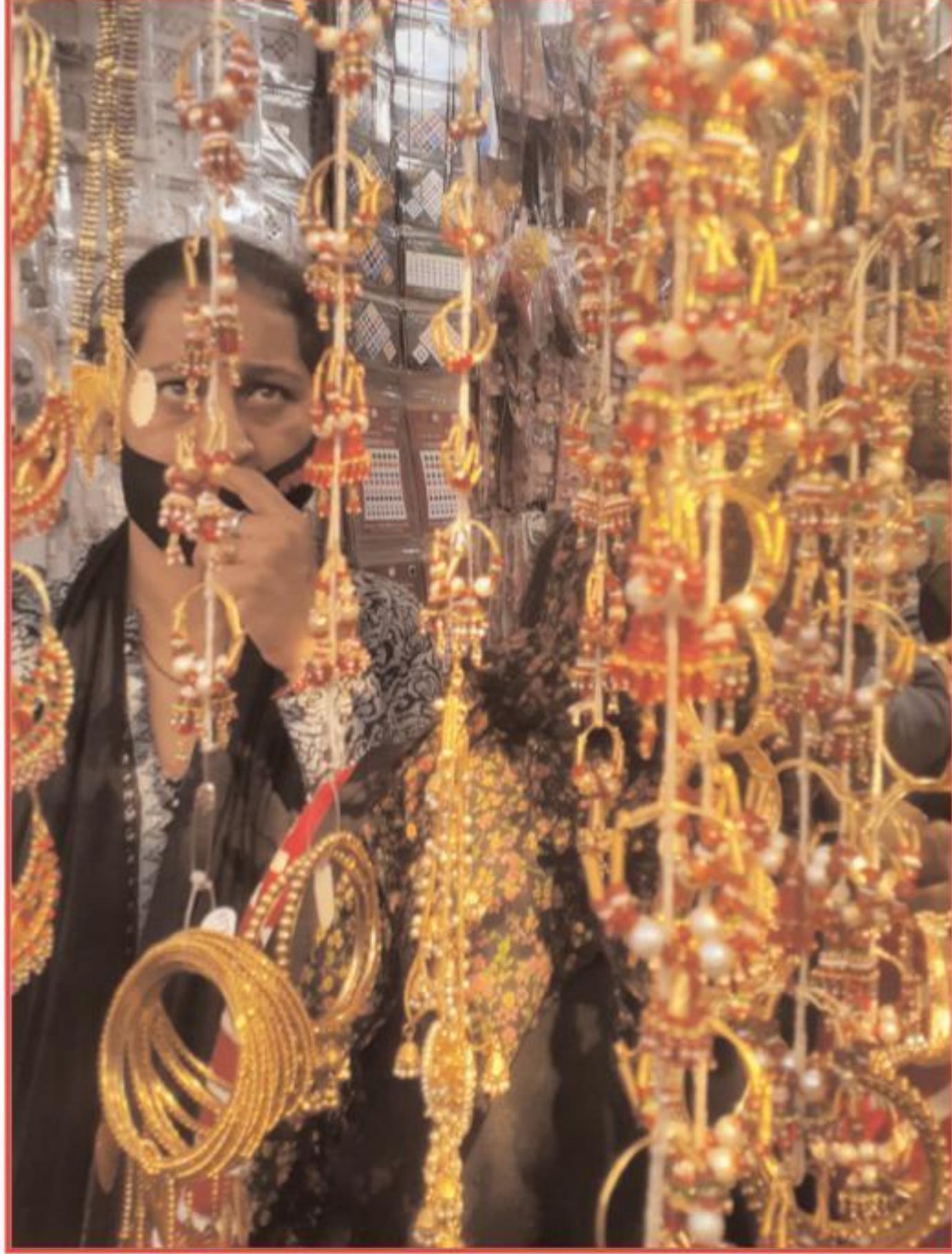
Warning the CM that such tactics would lead to social unrest and devastate the economy of Punjab, Dr Cheema said the CM should meet relevant ministers and the Prime Minister if needed and ensure all inbound trains to Punjab were restarted.

"If he does not do that and indulges in politics by holding a sham dharna in Delhi it will be proved beyond doubt that Amarinder is not interested in resolving the current crisis and is playing out the part assigned to him by the BJP high command," he added.

Speaking about the upcoming "dharna" at Delhi, Dr Cheema said the CM was in a self-imposed dharna at his Siswan farm house residence since the last four years.

The SAD leader asked the CM to shun publicity stunts and start working to solve the problems of farmers as well as Punjabis.

### GLITTER BECKONS



A woman buys bangles on the eve of Karva Chauth, in Shimla on Tuesday.

LALIT KUMAR

## Judge to inspect Delhi jails physically if grievances of riot accused persist

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 3 NOVEMBER

Expressing displeasure with prison authorities, after several accused in a case related to the February riots in north-east Delhi said they were not being given even basic things like warm clothing, a Delhi court Tuesday warned that the judge would go and inspect the situation physically if things do not improve.

The court directed Director General (DG) of Delhi Prisons to look into the grievances of all the 15 accused, booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the case, and order that somebody who can take a call inspect the situation at Mandoli and Tihar prisons.

It asked the authorities to apprise the court of the status on November 23.

"This has to end. DG (Prisons) is directed to take stock of the situation, to order someone, who can take a call, to look into the grievances. If things do not improve, I would go for a physical inspection myself.

And the lawyers may accompany me too," Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat said.

During the hearing held through video conferencing, seven out of the 15 accused said they have not been given warm clothes, though it is permitted under the prison rules, and the prison authorities said they need court order for it.

Advocate Mehmood Pracha, appearing for Gulfishah Khatoon,

said an application for supply of winter clothes had to be filed since the jail authorities said they won't permit it unless there was court's direction to this.

When the court allowed the application, advocate Adit Pujari, appearing for JNU students Devangana Kalita and Natasha Narwal, requested the order to be extended for all the accused as everyone was facing the same problem.

The counsel of former Congress Councillor Ishrat Jahan, one of the accused, said she had asked to be allowed a pair of slippers from her home as those supplied by the jail authorities were slippery and she was severely injured due to it, but they denied her that too. When her parents went to jail yesterday with warm clothes for her, the jail authorities did not permit it, Jahan's lawyer said.

While addressing the court directly, Jahan sought interim bail for two months, saying she was concerned as several inmates at Mandoli jail have developed COVID-19 symptoms.

Expressing dissatisfaction, the judge said, Why do the accused have to approach the court every time for such basic things? This is too much. This is not done. Why is everyone complaining (about the facilities in jail)?

Another accused Athar Khan claimed that while two of the inmates have been hospitalised, few have also been

isolated after they showed symptoms of COVID-19.

"Two of the inmates have been admitted to the hospital and a few have also been isolated. There are no health facilities available and hence we are not being allowed to step out of our barracks," Khan said.

Jamia Millia Islamia student Asif Iqbal Tanha alleged he was facing discrimination from the jail authorities and was not allowed to meet his family members for the past few months.

I have not been allowed to meet my family from the last two and half months even though others are being allowed. The jail authorities are not approving their application for a meeting. When I complain, the jail authorities say that this is not a place for activism," Tanha alleged.

Advocate Sowjanya Shankaran, appearing for Tanha, said the jail officials even denied to give him a copy of the order by which his bail was rejected.

I had sent the order copy to jail for Tanha. The jail Superintendent refused to give it to him. It would be better if he is given access to the court's orders and the chargesheet. I am given 30 minutes through video conferencing during which we discuss our matter by sharing a screen. Out of the over 17,000 pages, I have been able to share and discuss only 30 pages with him till date, Shankaran said.

## Centre lauds Himachal's bid to implement Jal Jeevan Mission



HP jal shakti minister Mahender Singh Thakur during a virtual meeting with Union jal shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. In Shimla on Tuesday.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 3 NOVEMBER

Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Tuesday appreciated the Himachal Pradesh government over implementation of the 'Jal Jeevan Mission' to provide tap water to every household in the state.

After a virtual meeting with Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, State Jal Shakti minister Mahender Singh Thakur informed that the Union Minister reviewed the work under 'Jal Jeevan Mission' and appreciated the government's efforts which is a matter of pride for the state.

"Works under Jal Jeevan Mission are being done on priority basis and efforts are being made to make tap water available to every household in the State.

During the half-yearly review meeting, a target has been set to provide functional household taps to 2.66 lakh households in this financial year so that those villages which have more than 70 percent coverage are provided with water supply in every household," he said.

Thakur said during the current financial year, 100 percent working household taps have been made available in Lahaul Spiti district and in 5,081 villages of the state.

Further, a target has been set in this financial year to provide 100 percent functional household taps in Una and Kinnaur districts.

"So far, 100 percent functional household taps have been made available at Kandaghat in Solan district, Poonch in Kinnaur district, Spiti and Lahaul development blocks of the district. Target has been fixed to

provide 100 percent coverage for Una district and Kinnaur by December 2020, Bilaspur, Hamirpur and Solan by June 2021, Mandi and Kangra by March 2022 and Shimla, Sirmaur, Chamba and Kullu by July 2022," he added.

He further stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had started a campaign on 2 October to provide drinking water through pipes within 100 days to schools, Anganwadi and Ashramshala.

Out of total 16,889 schools in the state, 16,478 schools have been provided drinking water facilities and the work of ensuring drinking water supply to the remaining 411 schools is in progress.

Out of total 18,925 Anganwadi centers in the state, 18,533 have been provided drinking water facilities, he said.

"47 water testing laboratories have been set up by the department to ensure water quality in the state. So far, about 40 thousand tests have been conducted in these laboratories."

To further strengthen the water quality laboratory system, construction of a state level laboratory has been started and 9 sub-divisional labs will be set up in far-reaching areas. The department has also provided a drinking water facility at the highest place in Tashigung. This year all state level laboratories will be accredited by NABL.

Thakur said during the current financial year, 100 percent working household taps have been made available at Kandaghat in Solan district, Poonch in Kinnaur district, Spiti and Lahaul development blocks of the district.

"So far, 100 percent functional household taps have been made available at Kandaghat in Solan district, Poonch in Kinnaur district, Spiti and Lahaul development blocks of the district. Target has been fixed to

1 killed, 22 hurt in HP bus accident

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 3 NOVEMBER

A 65-year-old woman was killed while 22 others suffered injuries after a private bus overturned near Salogara in Solan district of Himachal Pradesh on Tuesday.

Police said the incident took place at around 12 pm when the private bus was on its way to Solan from Chail. The bus overturned near Salogara due to a reported technical fault in the private bus in which one woman identified as Soma Devi was killed and 22 passengers suffered injuries.

The injured were rushed to hospital for further medical treatment where their condition is said to be stable," police added.

A case has been registered in this regard and further investigations to find out the exact cause behind the accident are on.

## Cong believes in mere politics and daydreaming: Jai Ram

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA, 3 NOVEMBER

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Tuesday charged that the state Leader of Opposition, Mukesh Agnihotri, a Congress MLA from Haroli, was always "busy making baseless allegations against the current state government in a desperate bid to remain in news".

He alleged that the Congress believed in "mere politics and daydreaming", claiming that his government however believed in "making dreams come true".

The Chief Minister was addressing a public meeting at Tahliwal in Una after inaugurating and laying foundation stones of developmental projects worth about Rs 71.16 crore in Haroli Assembly segment of Una district.

He said that the state government has decided to set up The Bulk Drug Park sanctioned by Centre in Haroli area. This would ensure an investment of over Rs 10,000 crore in this Park, besides providing employment and self



employment avenues to thousands of youths.

"It is unfortunate that the leader of opposition was even opposing this historic initiative taken by the state government. Instead of opposing this Bulk Drug Park, the leader of opposition should welcome and support the same," he said.

He said that the World was today passing through an alarming phase of corona pandemic. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was effectively guiding the country to tackle this pandemic. The CM said that even the most developed countries in the world were looking towards India to fight this

pandemic. He said that opposition leaders were even trying to politicise this sensitive issue, which shows their lust for power.

He said that over 2.50 lakh Himachalis stranded in different parts of the country were brought back to their homes, but the Congress leaders even made a hue and cry over this issue and alleged that the Government was bringing corona to the State. He said that even the Prime Minister has appreciated the steps taken by the State Government in checking spread of this virus.

Thakur said the present state government is completing three years of its tenure on 27 December this year. He said that in these three years, the state government has ensured that benefits of development and welfare schemes reach to the person living at the lowest ebb.

He said that the state government inherited a loan of Rs 47,500 crore from the previous Congress Government due to their unmindful expenditure, which was a biggest bot-

tleneck in matter of development.

He said that the 'Jan Manch' programme of the state government has benefitted people of the State in speedy redressal of their grievances.

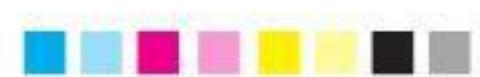
Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Virender Kanwar said that Chief Minister has ensured that developmental works in the State do not get affected due to paucity of funds.

Industries Minister Bikram Singh said that even when the Chief Minister was recovering from corona virus he held regular virtual meetings with the central leaders and State officers to get Bulk Drug Park approved for Haroli.

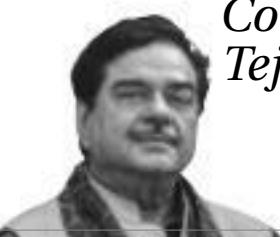
Vice Chairman State Industrial Development Corporation (SIDC), Ram Kumar welcomed the Chief Minister and detailed various developmental demands of the area.

He said that this was the seventh visit of Chief Minister to Haroli Assembly segment which shows the concern of the Chief Minister towards development of the area.

Target has been fixed to



Come 10 November(Bihar election results), Tejaswi's critics will be 'khamoshed'



CONGRESS LEADER SHATRUGHAN SINHA

STATING THAT BIHAR GRAND ALLIANCE IS HEADING FOR A "LANDSLIDE" WIN

India

## THUMBNAILS



A farmer sprinkles fertiliser to cauliflower crop at his field, on the outskirts of Bangalore on Tuesday. PTI

**Four held for cricket betting:** Four men were arrested on Tuesday for allegedly being involved in online betting during IPL matches with cash and valuables recovered from their house here, police said. The accused have been identified as Gaurav, Mohit, Ankit and Himesh. A car, few mobile phones and an LED TV along with cash worth Rs 10,600 were recovered. PTI

# Punjab stares at power cuts after running out of coal

coal stocks drying up due to the suspension of goods trains by Railways due to farmers' agitation

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 3 NOVEMBER

**P**unjab on Tuesday braced for massive power cuts after running completely out of power, with coal stocks in the state drying up fully as a result of the prolonged suspension of goods supply trains by the Railways due to farmers' agitation over new farm laws.

As day-time power shortage rose to 1000-1500 Mega Watt (MW) with last of the state's power plants, GVK Thermal, also running out of power, the power department has been left with no option but to impose power cuts on all residential, commercial and agricultural consumers



beginning Tuesday evening.

According to a government spokesperson, at present, the day demand in the state stands at about 5100-5200 MW and night demand is about 3400 MW.

Supply, on the other hand, is totally inadequate with only agricultural power (AP)

load of vegetable feeders (800 MW) being given supply for four to five hours during day time every day. The other AP load is currently insignificant (about 300 MW).

The situation, said the spokesperson, was grim as Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) was left

with no generation control and market rates of power continued to be highly volatile and could further spike any time, resulting in increase in the cost of power purchase, on which the state is now completely dependent to feed its cables.

Due to the increase in market rates leading to lesser clearance of day-ahead power, load shedding had to be carried out today on all AP /vegetable and Urban Pattern Power Supply (UPS) in rural feeders early in the morning.

Load shedding is now being carried out regularly on various feeders of the state after 4 p.m., for four to five hours every day, while AP and vegetable supply is also being curtailed on regular basis, said the

spokesperson.

Giving details, the spokesperson said the situation worsened today, when the one unit of GVK (2x270 MW) that was operational at around 12 noon headed for shutdown by 5 p.m., when the coal stock was slated to completely run out.

Other Private Thermal Power plants i.e. NPL (2x660 MW) and TSPL (3x660 MW) have already exhausted their coal supplies and are out of order.

After deducting the state government's day-time banking obligation of about 1070 MW, this totals 5200 MW, which is sufficient to meet the average daily power demand in the state during the day in normal circumstances.

## SC defers hearing to 5 November on loan moratorium schemes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 31 NOVEMBER

The Supreme Court Tuesday deferred to 5 November the hearing on a batch of pleas relating to charging of interest on interest by banks on EMIs which were not paid by borrowers who availed of the RBI loan moratorium scheme of view of the pandemic.

The Reserve Bank of India and the Finance Ministry have already filed separate additional affidavits in the apex court saying that the banks, financial and non-banking financial institutions will credit it into the accounts of eligible borrowers by 5 November the difference between compound and simple interest collected on loans of up to Rs 2 crore during the moratorium scheme period.

A bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and M R Shah was requested by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that the hearing in the loan moratorium case be deferred as he would be busy arguing on behalf of the Centre in other matter relating to the Central Vista project. "These moratorium matters were listed yesterday but they came up today. I am requesting for an adjournment considering I have a case (Central Vista) where I will be arguing" the law officer said.

A letter seeking deferment of the hearing in the case was also circulated by advocate-on-record Anil Katiyar for the Centre to the parties and the bench. The top court acceded to the request and adjourned the hearing on pleas including the one filed by Gajendra Sharma on 5 November.

## 'Karnataka to enact law banning religious conversions for marriage'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BENGALURU, 3 NOVEMBER

Karnataka tourism minister and BJP national general secretary CT Ravion Tuesdays said a law banning religious conversions for the sake of marriage will be enacted in the state.

He said the government will not remain silent when 'Jihadis' strip the dignity of women in the state. The statement comes days after the Allahabad High Court held that conversion of religion for the purpose of mar-

riage was illegal.

Earlier, BJP-ruled states UP, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh had announced their intention to introduce legal provisions against 'love jihad'.

"On the lines of Allahabad High Court's order, Karnataka will enact a law banning religious conversions for the sake of marriage. We will not remain silent when Jihadis strip the dignity of our sisters," Ravion said. He said any one involved in any act of conversion shall face severe and swift punishment.

## Violin maestro TN Krishnan passes away

CHENNAI, 3 NOVEMBER

Tributes poured in for violin maestro TN Krishnan, who died here at the age of 92, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home

Minister Amit Shah and the world of Carnatic music mourning the doyen's demise and recalling his rich contributions.

He passed away on Monday due to old age issues. Krishnan

is survived by wife and two children. Counted among the other violin greats- Lalgudi Jayaraman and M S Gopalakrishnan, Tripunithura Narayana Iyer Krishnan started off his musical journey at a young age under his father's tutelage and staged his maiden performance at the age of 11.

Calling a rally in this north Bihar town of Araria district, Modi also asserted that trends of the first phase of assembly elections, and the second that was underway, suggested that voters of the state had rejected "double yuvraaj", an expression he has coined for Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and RJD's Tejashwi Yadav.

"In Bihar, rangbaazi (rowdism) and rangdaari (extortion)

## Modi: NDA in Bihar has met people's needs, it will meet their aspirations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
FORBESGANJ/SAHARSA  
3 NOVEMBER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday dismissed suggestions of anti-incumbency against the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar, asserting that the NDA had spent the last decade meeting the people's "needs" and was now focused on taking care of their "aspirations".

Addressing a rally in this

north Bihar town of Araria district, Modi also asserted that trends of the first phase

of assembly elections, and the second that was under way, suggested that voters of the state had rejected "double yuvraaj", an expression he has coined for Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and RJD's Tejashwi Yadav.

"In Bihar, rangbaazi (rowdism) and rangdaari (extortion)

under Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Bihar had left behind the darkness of "insecurity and anarchy" of the RJD rule.

"Roads and markets today bustle with people even late in the night under Nitish Kumar," he said. In the backdrop of young voters' much talked about dissatisfaction with what has been achieved by the government in the last 15 years, Modi said, "The last decade was spent in fulfilling avashyaktaaein (needs). The current one shall be devoted to meeting the aspirations".

"We succeeded in bringing gas cylinders to every household. Now we shall be graduating to gas pipelines. In the decade that went by, we built roads, now we are building airports and giving a facelift to the existing ones," he said.

## Dubbaka voter turnout high despite pandemic

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD, 3 NOVEMBER

Neither the pandemic nor the fact it was a bypoll had an impact on the voter's turnout at Dubbaka which remained high though it did witness a new low as a fake news clip was deliberately circulated declaring that the Congress candidate has joined TRS just before voting began for the byelection today.

Dubbaka Assembly constituency hedged by high profile constituencies like Gajwel belonging to the chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, Sirilla represented by his son and TRS working president KT Rama Rao and Siddipet belonging to his nephew and trusted lieutenant T Harish Rao is witnessing a triangular fight between the TRS, BJP and Congress.

Meanwhile, the private television channel also denied that they had not telecast any such clip and TPCC president Uttam Kumar Reddy lodged a complaint with the DGP and CEO about the fake video.

August, necessitating the bypoll, Congress decided on Cheruku Srinivas Reddy who left TRS to join the party after he was denied the ticket while BJP chose Raghuandan Rao, an advocate who has contested in the past as its candidate.

As voting began at 7 a.m. a clip was circulated using the logo of a popular Telugu TV channel according to which the Congress candidate Cheruku Srinivas Reddy has met a close relative of the chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao and will return to TRS.

While state leadership contacted the Congress candidate he denied the matter and rushed to lodge a complaint with the local police.

Meanwhile, the private television channel also denied that they had not telecast any such clip and TPCC president Uttam Kumar Reddy lodged a complaint with the DGP and CEO about the fake video.

## Summons issued against Sourav, Kohli for endorsing online gambling platforms

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHENNAI, 3 NOVEMBER

In a scathing indictment of celebrities endorsing anti-peoples products and services, the Madurai Bench of Madras High Court today ordered to issue summons to BCCI Chairman Sourav Ganguly, Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli, actors Tamannah, Prakash Raj and Sudheep for endorsing online gambling games.

The court also asked the Tamil Nadu government to take necessary action within ten days on gambling games, which are banned in states like Telangana. The Court has also asked the state and Central governments to respond on where the money used in these gambling go.

In October, a man took his life in Puducherry after losing Rs 30 lakhs to online gambling. The youngster before his death also recorded an audio message saying there should be a campaign to ban online gambling games. He asked his wife to circulate the message so that his death will be the last in the state. Vijayakumar also said that despite knowing the modus operandi of the app, he could not stop playing due to the addiction.

## Russia urges India, China to bilaterally resolve border row

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 3 NOVEMBER

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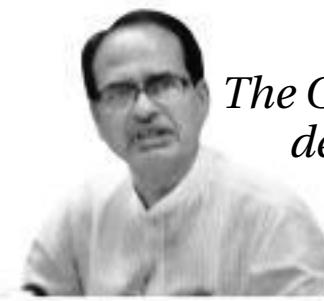
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The Congress has started making ground for its imminent defeat in the bypolls by blaming the EVMs...

MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUDHARI  
AFTER CONGRESS VETERAN DIGVIJAYA SINGH QUESTIONS THE USE OF EVMS IN INDIA

## THUMBNAILS



A man jogs along Rajpath near India Gate under heavy smog conditions in New Delhi on Tuesday. ■ APP

**Pakistan target BoPs:** Pakistani Rangers overnight targeted border out posts (BoPs) and villages at five places along the International Border in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir in violation of the ceasefire agreement, drawing strong retaliation from the BSF, officials said on Tuesday. There was no report of any casualty or damage on the Indian side. ■ PTI

**Four held in insurance fraud case:** The Mumbai police's crime branch has arrested four persons from Delhi and Uttar Pradesh for allegedly cheating people of crores by offering to help them get their insurance claims, an official said on Tuesday. An offence under section 420 (cheating) among other relevant provisions of the IPC was registered in this regard, he said. ■ PTI

**Sarpanch arrested for taking bribe:** A village sarpanch was arrested on Tuesday for taking a bribe of Rs 22,000 in Rajasthan's Churu district, an ACB official said in Jaipur. Pawan Singh, sarpanch of Rajasas Meetha village, had demanded the bribe for payment of dues related to supply of construction materials. ■ PTI

**Property dealer mowed down by SUV:** A property dealer who was out on a morning walk was killed when he was run over by an SUV near Lucknow on Tuesday, police said. ■ PTI

## Assam-Mizoram border tension continues

GUWAHATI, 3 NOVEMBER

The ongoing tension in Assam-Mizoram border areas continued as a resident of Cachar district in Barak valley was found dead inside the neighboring state yesterday.

The victim, identified as Intyaz Ali Laskar (45), hails from Pessnagar locality under Dholai police station crossed the inter-state border on Sunday, was allegedly beaten to death by a section of Mizo nationals suspecting him a drug-peddler.

The influential outfit Young Mizo Association claimed that their members caught Intyaz as he was selling the banned heroin at Vairengte locality. Later he was handed over to the concerned authority and finally he was declared dead yesterday morning in the hospital.

Mizoram's Kolabis district police brought his body to bordering area of Assam and handed over to the Cachar police. Meanwhile, Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal expressed his condolences over the death and announced an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh to the bereaved family. Sonowal also apprised Union home minister Amit Shah about all details relating to the border tension with Mizoram. He also asked state chief secretary Jishnu Barua and police chief BJ Mahanta to rush to the area and take stock of the situation.

Meanwhile, the residents in bordering area fully blocked the National Highway 306 that connects Aizawl, which is the lifeline of the hilly State. In fact, conflicts in the inter-State border started since 17 October as miscreants damaged many houses in the area. Both the governments in Dispur and Aizawl organized talks following the Union home ministry but those could not satisfactory outcomes. ■ SNS

# Army chief to visit Nepal to mend fences after map row

Indian Embassy said Gen Naravane's visit would deepen bonds of friendship

ASHOK TUTEJA  
NEW DELHI, 3 NOVEMBER

**I**ndian Army chief, Gen M Naravane will be on a three-day visit to Nepal from tomorrow to put back on track the bilateral relationship which has taken a beating in recent months over a plethora of issues, particularly the map row.

"I am delighted to be visiting Nepal on the kind invitation and to meet my counterpart Gen Purna Chandra Thapa. I am sure this visit will go a long way in strengthening the bonds and friendships that the two armies cherish," the Army chief said ahead of the visit.

He said he was grateful for the opportunity to call on Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli.

The Indian Embassy in Kathmandu said Gen Naravane's visit would deepen the long-standing and customary



bonds of friendship between the two Armies.

He will be conferred the honorary rank of "General of the Nepal Army" by Nepalese President Bidya Devi Bhandari during his visit, in continuation of an age-old tradition that first started in 1950, reflecting the strong ties between the two militaries. India also confers the honorary rank of "General of Indian Army" to the Nepal Army chief.

Naravane had said that there were reasons to believe that

The Army chief's visit to Nepal was supposed to take place in February this year, but it was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Much has happened between the two countries since February, bringing the ties under strain.

Nepal reacted sharply when Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated an 80-km-long strategically crucial road connecting the Lipulekh pass with Dharchula in Uttarakhand in May.

Kathmandu protested the inauguration of the road, claiming that it passed through its territory. It came out with the new map showing Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadura as its territories.

India too had published a new map in November 2019 showing the areas as its territories.

In the midst of the row, Gen Naravane had said that there were reasons to believe that

Nepal objected to the road at the behest of "someone else", in an obvious reference to China. The comments triggered angry reactions from Nepal.

In June, Nepal's Parliament approved the new political map of the country featuring areas which India maintains belong to it. In its reaction, after Nepal's lower house of parliament approved the bill, India termed as untenable the "artificial enlargement" of territorial claims by the neighbouring country.

A lot of back channel diplomacy has taken place since then to put the relationship back on the track.

RAW chief Samant Kumar Goel recently paid a surprise visit to Kathmandu and met Prime Minister Oli, assuring him that India would not allow interruption in the friendly bilateral relations and resolve all outstanding issues through dialogue.

## MP bypoll: 66.28% turnout amid violence in 3 places

SNS & PTI  
BHOPAL, 3 NOVEMBER

Violence and firing incidents were reported from at least three places in Madhya Pradesh and about 66.28 per cent voter turnout was recorded till 6 p.m. in the Assembly by-elections on 28 seats in the state on Tuesday.

The police have registered an FIR against state PWD minister Gopal Bhargava on complaints of violation of model code of conduct.

Bhargava is alleged to have taken meetings at the Bada Malhar Assembly constituency and urged people to vote for the BJP even after the end of the stipulated period for campaigning.

In the Gohad Assembly constituency, the three candidates of the main rival parties BJP, Congress and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) were prevented from moving out and restricted inside the PWD Guest House by district administration authorities and police.

BJP candidate Ranveer Jayatav, Congress candidate



Mevaram Jatav and the BSP's Yashwant Patwari were restricted inside the Circuit House since morning when the polling began.

Guj bypolls end amid code violation complaints

AHMEDABAD, 3 NOVEMBER

By-elections for eight Assembly constituencies in Gujarat concluded peacefully this evening, with Opposition Congress complaining about violations of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) by the ruling BJP workers.

Low voter turn-out marked the polling in the morning hours, but picked up later in the day touching about 53 per cent by the evening.

The by-elections were conducted under the shadow of a controversy kicked off by a video going viral in which BJP's former MP and MLA Somabhai Patel has conceded that the party had paid crores of rupees to the Congress legislators for their defections on the eve of Rajya Sabha elections. The Congress has already demanded a judicial probe into the pay-off episode. Among the Congress complaints about violation of MCC is Chief Minister Vijay Rupani's wife Anjali seen campaigning in Morbi constituency.

acres and ending the exploitative practice of "absentee landlordism" and whosoever calls it archaic would be guilty of ignorance of the history of Jammu and Kashmir. It is because of the timely land reforms that there are no starvation deaths occurring in Jammu and Kashmir, no farmer suicides have been ever reported and everyone in Jammu and Kashmir has available three fundamental necessities-food, clothing and shelter, the position that is now sought to be reversed by making massive assault on the land law regime", the PAGD claimed.

## SC upset with pendency of convict's pardon plea in Rajiv Gandhi assassination case

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 03 NOVEMBER

The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed its dissatisfaction over the pendency of pardon plea of a convict in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case for more than two years with the Tamil Nadu Governor.

A bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao, Ajay Rastogi and Hemant Gupta asked Additional Advocate General for Tamil Nadu Balaji Srinivasan, why the Governor is taking so much time? Justice Rao noted that the larger conspiracy only deals with whether other persons are involved in the case. "What about Constitution bench judgement which allows the Supreme Court to intervene?", said Justice Rao.

The bench emphasised that it does not intend to exercise its jurisdiction, but it is not happy with the pendency of this matter for over two years. The observation from the

bench came during the hearing of a plea of 46-year-old A G. Perarivalan, who has sought suspension of his life sentence in the case till the CBI-led Multi-Disciplinary Monitoring Agency (MDMA) probe is completed.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, representing Perarivalan, submitted before the bench that after the top court's orders, the remission file is still pending after the recommendation of the state government and his client has no option but to approach this court again.

The bench told Sankaranarayanan that the Governor has to act on the aid and advice of the council of ministers. "But if the Governor does not pass order, what can the court do, you tell us," noted the bench, while asking him to find out what are the laws applicable in this matter.

Justice Rao cited the 2014 Supreme Court verdict holding that mercy petitions have

to be decided in a time-bound manner. The bench told Additional Solicitor General K M. Natraj, representing the Centre, that the larger conspiracy probe is pending for almost 20 years. It asked Natraj to look into the matter and posted the matter for further hearing on 23 November.

The state government had informed the top court that the Cabinet, through a resolution on September 9, 2018, had recommended to the Governor for the premature release of all seven convicts in the case. In January, this year, the top court had asked the state government to inform whether a decision has been taken on the pardon petition of a convict.

In 1991, Perarivalan was awarded the death penalty for his involvement in the conspiracy to assassinate then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The Supreme Court commuted his death penalty to life imprisonment in February 2014.



(L) An activist of Hindu Sena, performs during a prayer ceremony for Trump's victory in New Delhi on Tuesday. (R) Residents take picture of a poster of Kamala Harris at her ancestral village of Thulasendrapuram in Tamil Nadu on Tuesday. ■ APP

## Irrespective of winner of presidential polls, India-US relationship to remain strong

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WASHINGTON, 3 NOVEMBER

Irrespective of the outcome of Tuesday's keenly-contested US presidential election, America's strategic relationship with India is expected to maintain the current momentum and strengthen, policy documents and remarks from the two campaigns indicate.

President Donald Trump, in the first term of his presidency, has emerged as the best friend of India at the White House taking the relationship to a new level and his friendship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi is well known, which was reflected in the two leaders addressing two joint rallies in the US and India in less than a year.

Highlighting the great relationship that he has developed with Modi, Trump in September said that he has "great support from India".

Former vice president Joe Biden, the Democratic presidential candidate, has a strong track record of being an ardent advocate of a strong India-US relationship both as a Senator from Delaware for over three decades and then as deputy of President Barack Obama for eight years.

From playing a key role in the passage of India-US civil nuclear deal during a Republican administration to setting up the goal of a USD 500 billion in bilateral trade, Biden has strong ties with Indian leadership across the aisle and has a large number of Indian Americans within his close circuit.

Referring to his eight years as the vice president, Biden said that he was proud to have played a role in securing Congressional approval for the US-India Civil Nuclear Agreement, which he said was a "big deal".

The ground for India-US relationship post November

and the US.

Under the Trump administration, defence and energy are being identified as two key pillars of the strategic relationship, along with the cooperation and collaboration in the health sector in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. Notably, India is the only major country with which the Trump administration failed to arrive at a trade deal, even a mini-trade deal, despite the fact the top leadership of both India and the US expressed their desire to do so. Given the track record of differences between the two countries for the last three decades, the sharp differences are likely to remain the same even during a Biden administration.

It is very well expected that there could be a change in nuances or emphasis on certain elements of relationship, on who occupies the White House or has majority in the Congress, the common national interest of the two countries in terms of democracy and threat being posed by China, would drive the momentum between India

## BJP targets PAGD for its silence over Imran Khan declaring Gilgit-Baltistan as 5th province of Pakistan

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 3 NOVEMBER

The BJP on Tuesday targeted the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) led by National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah by questioning their "complete silence" against Imran Khan declaring Gilgit-Baltistan part of POJK. What does their silence imply? That is why I call this declaration and the Gupkar anti-national", Gupta added.

Gilgit-Baltistan was a part of Jammu and Kashmir under the illegal occupation of Pakistan.

BJP spokesman, Brigadier Anil Gupta (Retired) in a statement said that the otherwise vocal PAGD has not raised even a murmur against Imran Khan's

decision. "It's obvious all hullabaloo of reunification and restoration of Article 370 by the PAGD is being done at behest of Pakistan and China to keep the pot boiling here. Pakistan has not only changed demography of POJK but is now blatantly annexing Gilgit-Baltistan part of POJK. What does their silence imply? That is why I call this declaration and the Gupkar anti-national", Gupta added.

Gilgit-Baltistan was a part of Jammu and Kashmir under the illegal occupation of Pakistan. On the other hand the PAGD, while rejecting the claim of the government's spokesman that the recent land laws take care of residents of J&K, alleged that the "laws now introduced through amendments are not only against people of Jammu and

Kashmir but undemocratic, unconstitutional and backward looking with only aim to disempower people and change the demography".

The PAGD claimed that "the real object of repeal of the basic land laws and massive amendments to other laws is to push in and implement the agenda of effecting demographic change and disempowering the people of Jammu and Kashmir".

Jammu and Kashmir was first in the country to implement the concept of "land to tiller" by enacting Big Landed Estates Abolition Act 1952 followed by Agrarian Reforms Act 1976 restricting the land holding to twelve and half

acres and ending the practice of "absentee landlordism" and whosoever calls it archaic would be guilty of ignorance of the history of Jammu and Kashmir. It is because of the timely land reforms that there are no starvation deaths occurring in Jammu and Kashmir, no farmer suicides have been ever reported and everyone in Jammu and Kashmir has available three fundamental necessities-food, clothing and shelter, the position that is now sought to be reversed by making massive assault on the land law regime", the PAGD claimed.

### MORE FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Festival Season, Railways have decided to run the following additional **FULLY RESERVED** Special Trains as per schedule given below :-

02323/02324 Howrah Jn.-Barmer-Howrah Jn. Superfast Festival Special (Weekly) Via Dankun

TRAIN No. 02323 STATIONS TRAIN No. 02324  
ARR. DEP. ARR. DEP.  
--- 18:50 HOWRAH JN. 06:10 ---  
07:20 --- BARMER --- 15:55

Days of Run: 02323 Ex. Howrah Jn. on every Friday from 06.11.2020 to 27.11.2020 and 02324 Ex. Barmer on every Wednesday from 11.11.2020 to 02.12.2020.

Stoppages: Asansol, Dhanbad Jn., Koderma Jn., Gaya Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Prayagraj Jn., Kanpur Central, Delhi, Rewari, Sadulpur Jn., Churu Jn., Ratangarh Jn., Sujangarh, Ladnun, Didwana, Chhoti Khatu, Jodhpur, Samdhani Jn. & Balotra Stations.

Accommodation: 1AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Reserved Second Seating. (This special train shall run fully reserved)

04426/04425 Anand Vihar (T.)-Raxaul Jn.-Anand Vihar (T.) Special Express Train (5 Days a week)

TRAIN No. 04426 STATIONS TRAIN No. 04425  
ARR. DEP. ARR. DEP.  
--- 16:25 ANAND VIHAR (T.) 04:50 ---  
22:10 --- RAXAUL JN. --- 23:40

Days of Run: 04426 Ex. Anand Vihar (T.) Except Monday & Saturday from 10.11.2020 to 22.11.2020 and 04425 Ex. Raxaul Jn. Except Tuesday & Sunday from 11.11.2020 to 23.

## They, the people

While the attention of the world remains riveted on an election taking place this week, another election of significance to this region will take place five days later, in Myanmar which was conditionally welcomed into the comity of democratic nations five years ago. At the threshold, it was known that Myanmar was giving itself a flawed democratic structure for it yielded to its military a quarter of the parliamentary seats and accepted a condition where the country's best-known leader, Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi would be forced to play a constricted role because of a constitutional bar on her becoming de facto head of government. But there was hope that with the passage of time, the military would relax its grip and Myanmar's democratic structures would gather strength. Certainly, there was hope that the vexed question of the Rohingya, deemed stateless in the nation they live in, would be resolved, substantially if not entirely satisfactorily. Much of that hope stemmed from the belief that Ms Suu Kyi was thought to be a liberal, a long-term victim of the military's intolerance and a symbol of resistance. Perhaps the world misread her, or she understood the rules of the game under which she was permitted to operate by the military far better than foreign observers ever could. Whatever be the reason and as Ms Suu Kyi's National League of Democracy seems poised to return to power next week, there is need to record that Myanmar has not grown as a democracy in the past five years. Indeed, it may well have regressed for Myanmar's powerful establishment appears to used the veneer of democracy to tighten its grip on the country and Ms Suu Kyi has turned her back on the human rights platforms she had sought to use when she had been persecuted and has become the mouthpiece of an establishment accused of genocide.

The United Nations Human Rights office has already warned that the country's discriminatory election laws cast doubts on the fairness of the ballot. For one, the ethnic Rakhine and the Rohingya Muslim have largely been disenfranchised with no polling slated to take place in 56 townships. Next, the government has made no effort – despite a presidential directive against hate speech – to regulate social media content targeting Muslims. Third, and most curiously, the regime has decreed that as part of Covid stay-at-home measures, journalism is a non-essential profession. This means they cannot that coverage of both discrimination and disenfranchisement is effectively nipped in the bud. Fourth, there are wide disparities in the access to media that the ruling NLD and opposition parties have, putting the former at a disadvantage. Even what the Opposition says must run the gauntlet of the national election commission, which has already censored critical views. Little wonder that voters are largely disinterested. A poll conducted by a local observer group showed that less than a third of voters are now interested in politics and only about half said they would vote. And to think democracy is supposed to be about the people!

## In the crosshairs

While extremely unfortunate and utterly deplorable, the attack on civilians in Vienna on Monday night, shortly before Austria went into a nationwide curfew to counter the coronavirus, was not entirely unexpected. Authorities in Vienna have confirmed that the attack was carried out by an "Islamist" gunman, who was killed in an exchange of fire with police. But what must raise considerable alarm in Europe, especially among security forces, is that the slain man was heavily armed, carrying an assault rifle and handguns, although a belt worn by him that was initially suspected to be packed with explosives was found to be a dummy. While the involvement of one gunman is confirmed, authorities are examining CCTV footage to determine the possible involvement of others. At least some of the confusion is said to have been caused by the attacks having been reported from multiple locations, all in the city centre. Initial reports say fifteen people were injured, at least seven of them seriously. The slain attacker has been identified and Austrian authorities have confirmed after evaluating material found at his home that he was an Islamic state sympathiser. The Vienna attack comes in the wake of the incidents in Paris that began with the beheading of a schoolteacher.

Some conclusions seem inevitable. First, that while France and Austria have faced attacks in recent days, Western Europe must consider itself in the crosshairs of terrorism for these acts target neither individuals nor governments, but a way of life. Second, that after 9/11, 7/7 and to an extent 26/11, the nature of attacks has undergone a change. In place of coordinated and grand attacks of the sort seen in New York, London and Mumbai, smaller attacks that are just as chilling – committed randomly and often by lone attackers or small cells of terrorists – are the order of the day. Third, sophisticated weaponry or explosives may not necessarily be part of the terrorist's armoury; a machete or a meat cleaver purchased in the neighbourhood hardware store can be used just as effectively to strike fear. Fourth, the radicalisation of youth to an extent they are prepared to kill themselves need not occur only at places of worship; the World Wide Web has enough hidden crevices that can be used effectively for the purpose of indoctrination. Finally, and as the economic privations inflicted by an epidemic drive people to the edges, the chasm between people is growing at an exponential rate. The French move to the right in defence of values the country holds dear will likely be mirrored in other parts of Western Europe; each such move will provoke the sort of reaction seen in France and now Austria. This is the terror that Europe must learn to live with.

# Unenforceable right

Without uniform internet accessibility, neither the children can access their lessons that have now gone completely online, nor can the citizens avail facilities of telemedicine, e-banking, e-commerce or e-governance, all of which were accessible only through internet during the extended lockdown period and to a very large extent, still are



In response to a plea against the continuing curbs on internet access in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir after revocation of article 370 last year, the Supreme Court in January this year, in a landmark ruling, had decreed that access to the Internet is a fundamental right under Article 19 of the Constitution and ordered the administration to review all orders restricting access to the internet within a week. While Part III of the Constitution deals with the fundamental rights of citizens, Article 19 specifically enumerates the fundamental freedoms including the freedom of speech and expression. A fundamental right is available to citizens under all circumstances, except under reasonable restrictions explicitly mentioned in article 19(2) which includes the sovereignty and integrity of India and its security, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency or morality, contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence. Right to free and compulsory education between the ages of six to fourteen years also became a fundamental right under article 21A. Since article 21 deals with the right to life or personal liberty, this acknowledges education as an integral part of human life and liberty.

Scope of Article 19 on the freedom of speech and expression was enhanced by the Supreme Court on many occasions. Implicit in this is the right to information. In Raj Narain vs the State of Uttar Pradesh case, the Supreme Court ruled that the citizen's right to know arises from the fundamental right of freedom of expression. It may be recalled that this was an appeal against the famous Allahabad High Court judgment unsealing Mrs Gandhi on the basis of disclosure of certain documents related to her electioneering travel. Two days after that judgment, on 26 June 1975, Emergency was imposed. It took 30 years to legislate the Right to Information Act in 2005 to provide a machinery for exercising this fundamental right.

In M Narayana Reddy Vs Government of India (2011), the Supreme Court had further clarified that the "right to information is only a step that helps an individual to get himself well-informed, so that he can exercise right to freedom of speech and expression effectively." Freedom of Press also flows from this article 19 and includes not the only the freedom to write and publish but also to disseminate information,

subject to the reasonable restrictions mentioned above. At least eight Supreme Court judgments have confirmed and asserted this position again and again.

For millions of Indians, internet remains the primary source of information. The January 2020 ruling of the Supreme Court makes internet access a right and not a privilege, which is also in line with the UN recommendation that every country should make access to Internet a fundamental right. Kerala was the first state in India to declare access to Internet "a basic human right" in 2017. The issue assumes special importance in the current context of Covid-19 which has seen all schools, colleges and educational institutions being closed for extended periods of time, instructions being imparted online and even examinations being conducted in the online mode.

Only those who have access to the internet can avail of such instructions and appear at the examinations. The huge digital divide that exists in India thus denies a large section of the population their fundamental rights to information and education as guaranteed in the Constitution.

To understand the extent of this inequity, let us first examine the depth of the digital divide in India. It is a fact that the basic telecommunication facility in India has increased phenomenally in recent times. The number of wireless subscribers in June 2020 stood at 1.1 billion, growing by 30 million every year, and more or less evenly distributed between the rural and urban areas. But these provide only the basic telecom services; services like online classrooms, financial transactions, e-commerce or e-governance need internet access which require a smartphone or a computer.

As the 75th round of National Sample Survey (July 2017-June 2018) showed, only 4.4 per cent rural households in India have a computer against 14.4 per cent in urban households, and only 14.9 per cent rural households have internet access against 42 per cent in urban households. A meagre 13 per cent in rural against 37 per cent in urban areas can use the internet. Besides, the disparity in internet access varies

widely across regions and states, from a miserable 5.8 per cent in rural Odisha to a respectable 70.6 per cent in urban Himachal Pradesh. Overall, only 10.7 per cent of Indian households own a computer and 23.8 per cent have internet access facilities at home. There is also the gender divide, female internet access being almost half that of males in both rural and urban areas. It is not only the rural-urban divide, but also the overall low internet penetration that accentuates the stark inequity between digital haves and have-nots in our country. A more recent survey conducted jointly by the Internet and Mobile Association of India and Nielsen, concluded in November 2019, found that India had 504 million active internet users, which leaves out nearly 900 million Indians. Though they found the digital divide had narrowed, with 277 million rural against 227 million urban users, still 70 per cent of the rural population were on the wrong side of the digital divide, which is further aggravated by the issues of availability of power and quality

of internet access or low bandwidth, in most rural and many urban areas as well. It is not that nothing has been done. Apart from the aggressive push given by government programmes like National Digital Literacy Mission and Digital Saksharta Abhiyan etc., private-sector innovation like Reliance Jio's strategy of bundling virtually free smartphones along with subscriptions has also helped the democratisation of internet. Data costs have also dropped simultaneously by more than 95 per cent since 2013 – today it only costs only \$0.26 (about Rs 18) per GB, the lowest in the world. But still, for millions of Indians, especially those going to schools and colleges, quality access to internet remains a distant dream. This is where the question of fundamental rights come.

Without uniform internet accessibility, neither the children can access their lessons that have now gone completely online, nor can the citizens avail facilities of telemedicine, e-banking, e-commerce or e-governance, all of which were accessible only through internet during the extended lockdown period and to a very large extent, still are. They will likely remain so for a long time as yet. The inescapable conclusion is that the ones who are digitally deprived will slip by and become laggards in respect of education, health and every other aspect that makes like purposeful. In due course, this will manifest in resentment, anger and social turbulence, pre-empting and preventing which is every government's primary responsibility. Discharging this responsibility will mean providing an internet-enabled device and internet access to those who cannot afford it at present, for which the existing BPL list can serve as a proxy. What is needed next is an entitlement legislation like the RTI or MNREGA.

In our existing scheme of things, internet falls within the jurisdiction of the Union under Entry 31 of List I (Post, telephone, telegraph, wireless, broadcast, etc.). Under the residual Entry 97 also, the Union has the prerogative to legislate on the internet. But this is an area where closer co-operation between the Union and the States is essential because the underlying activities and deliverables concern the states more than the Centre – education, for example, is in the concurrent list. Hence an appropriate Constitutional amendment may be thought of. But success can be ensured only if the governments and political parties start thinking creatively. For example, instead of promising all kinds of freebies in their election manifestos, they can promise a smartphone and internet access which would cost a fraction of what the existing subsidies cost.

A poor country in Eastern Europe with a Soviet legacy, Estonia at independence in 1991 had a single independent mobile phone-link with the outside world that was concealed in its foreign minister's garden. Just two decades later, it became the first country in the world to allow online voting in a general election. With one of the highest broadband speeds among the world, it had digitised the health records of all its 1.3 million citizens who filed their tax returns online and equipped all classrooms with computers. By 1998, all its schools were online and two years later, it declared internet access to be a human right. Free Wi-Fi became the norm rather than exception and hi-tech global industries accounted for 15 per cent of its GDP. If tiny Estonia could achieve so much, with the energy of a billion people, can't we?

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

## Disruption of essential health services

Healthcare delivery in nearly every country has been disrupted by policymakers' mistaken initial assumption that health systems would quickly win the fight against Covid-19. As the pandemic's caseload and death toll are increasing daily, it is often stalling or reversing hard-won progress on minimising the impact of other diseases, from diabetes to malaria.

At the start of the pandemic, many policymakers and health leaders considered a relatively short disruption of essential health services acceptable, but it is now clear that Covid-19 will persist much longer than anticipated. Countries can no longer postpone the delivery of crucial health services. Without immediate action to ensure their continuity, the future death toll from communicable and non-communicable diseases will be unacceptable. In a grim recent assessment of the global costs of the Covid-19 crisis, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation reported that in 25 weeks, the pandemic had set the world back about 25 years in terms of vaccine coverage – a good proxy for how health systems are functioning overall. Clearly, now is the time to make sure that essential health services are not left behind. This will require dedicated funding, innovative approaches, and decentralised services to reach the world's sickest and poorest communities. Policymakers should reallocate funds in national budgets and form partnerships with private investors to marshal the necessary resources. It is also crucial to establish domestic and global solidarity funds, similar to The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. Creating such dedicated funds could help countries and multilateral institutions maintain the continuity of essential health services, thereby strengthening healthcare systems.

## The Daily Star

tems and national economies in the long term. Even before the pandemic, it was estimated that at least half of the world's 7.8 billion people lacked access to essential health services. Globally, six million children and adolescents, and 2.8 million pregnant women and newborns, die from preventable or treatable diseases annually. Covid-19 has increased these numbers and eroded access to healthcare.

Global health experts have long been aware of the disruptions a protracted emergency would cause for health services. In 2018, the World Health Organization defined an essential package of services that should be available without user fees during an extended crisis. These include maternal and neonatal healthcare as well as treatment for communicable and non-communicable diseases, mental health, and neglected tropical diseases. Several challenges to delivering this package stand out. First, services for non-communicable diseases have decreased significantly. Of the 155 countries surveyed by the WHO, 53 percent reported a partial or total disruption of treatment services for hypertension, 49 percent for diabetes, 42 percent for cancer, and 31 percent for cardiovascular emergencies. HIV and tuberculosis (TB) testing and treatment is also being affected. South Africa is among the countries most affected by these diseases. During the country's lockdown, declines in TB testing led to a 33 percent decline in diagnoses. The number of TB and HIV patients collecting their medications on schedule has also fallen.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR editor@thestatesman.com**

## Travails of a stunted generation

SIR, This is with reference to the article, 'Architects of Resilience' by Anupriyo Mallik (*The Statesman*, 2 November). 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 angan-

wadi centres and other supplementary nutrition programme under ICDS. According to the chief economist to the Nobel-winning organization World Food Programme: "The coronavirus worsened both (economic and physical access to food) everywhere." Severe wasting malnutrition impacts on a child's immune system and consequently wasted children face the increased risk of mortality from infectious diseases.

Moreover, we can hardly afford to ignore the immediate impact of Covid-19 pandemic on a future generation (in utero) and born during the pandemic period.

Scientists and researchers have found that children born during pandemic (or in utero) grew up less educated, were 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 the Covid-19 generation would be the worst victims.

The adult generation of 2040 would be a 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.  
**AFGHANISTAN**  
SIR, Afghanistan has an elected government. This being so, it is not understood why the mighty USA had to stoop to sign-

ing an agreement for withdrawal of troops with a terrorist group.

On the one hand this must have undermined the authority of the government and on the other given a boost to terrorism. Renewed acts of terrorism by the Taliban confirm that apprehension.

So far the US President's declaration of withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan is concerned, one reason must be the pressure exerted on the administration by the families of soldiers undergoing tortuous lives in the hostile atmosphere of Afghanistan. Similar pressures had forced the US administration to withdraw troops from Vietnam, a country that was ravaged by the USA for no apparent cause.

Yours, etc., Sanjit Ghatak, Narendrapur, 16 October.  
**BELLING THE CAT**  
SIR, This refers to your newsreport, 'Ensure smoke-free Kali puja: Docs to CM' (1 November). People of the country become anxious and scared before and during Kali Puja and Dussehra festivals every year because of the hazardous impact of smoke resulting from bursting of firecrackers.

Many warnings are issued, and people sensitized to contain rampant and reckless use of firecrackers. Despite legislation providing penalty to check the menace of air pollution, careless revellers do not desist from their suicidal actions. Warnings fall on deaf ears. Last year, as a measure of surveillance, drones were in action to locate offenders, without any fruitful result achieved.

Honestly, the intelligentsia has been outspoken about smoke that will emanate from ignition of crackers, apprehending its adverse impact on Covid patients. Some precautions are the need of the hour. There is no alternative to a substantial check on the use of crackers. But who will bell the cat?

Yours, etc., Gautam Kumar Mazumder, Basirhat, 3 November.



TED GOVER

The November 3 U.S. presidential election offers a choice between two candidates with markedly different foreign policy platforms that have implications for the international stage. While many world leaders would prefer former Vice President Joe Biden to win, President Donald Trump is undeterred and even buoyed that many foreign heads of state and policymakers oppose his "America First" policy.

So, what are the election's likely consequences for Asia and the world?

#### If Trump Is Re-Elected

A second Trump term would see a continuation of "America First", i.e., Mr. Trump's nationalist policy of paring down American security commitments abroad, securing new trade agreements and reexamining Washington's relationships with international organisations.

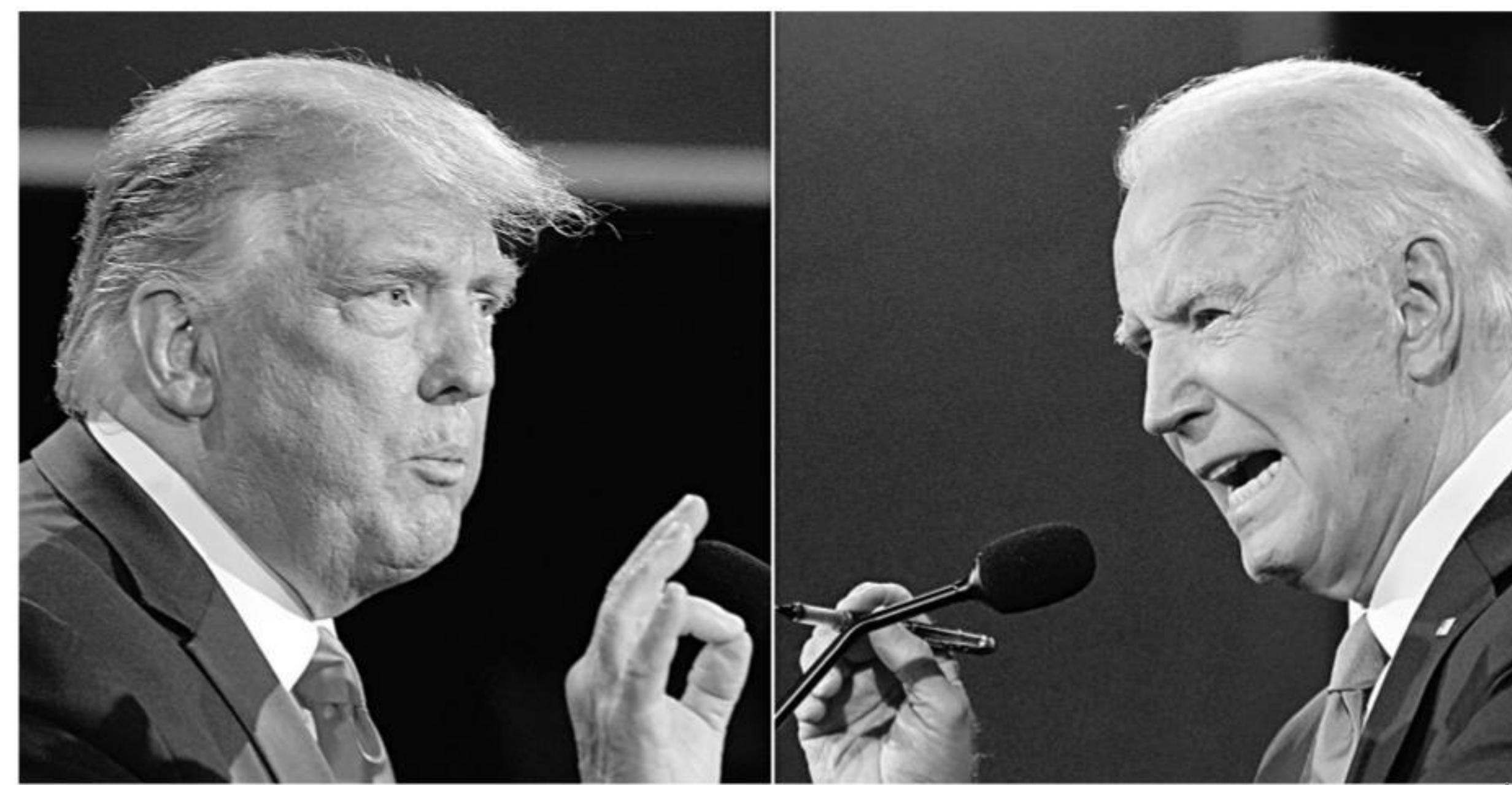
In the Middle East, a second Trump administration would continue efforts with supporting Gulf Arab partners and striking peace deals between Israel and Muslim states. While an early effort will be made to forge his own Iran nuclear deal, Mr. Trump will be prepared to maintain a hard line on the regime in Tehran if negotiations are unsuccessful.

A second term for Mr. Trump would likely involve a near-complete withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan, an attempt at a nuclear arms agreement with Russia, a renewed drive for summitry to negotiate North Korean denuclearisation, further squabbles with NATO members over the alliance's funding and additional demands for Japan and South Korea to increase spending for hosting American forces.

On Covid, a Trump II administration would stay out of the WHO and steer clear of its COVAX project of developing and distributing a coronavirus vaccine.

Concerning China, a new Trump administration would strive to negotiate a Phase 2 trade deal while maintaining U.S. tariffs on Chinese imports, sustain the global campaign of discouraging countries from using Huawei 5G networks, deepen relationships with Asian partners for purposes of challenging Beijing's claims in the South China Sea and advocating for a free and open Indo-Pacific.

It bears saying that, while China believes that it can strike a better bargain with Biden on trade, many of its "Wolf Warrior" hardline diplomats prefer Mr. Trump to win. The calculation is that the Trump administration's disengagement from international engagements like the WHO and TPP (the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership) provide greater oppor-



tunity for the Chinese to exert influence beyond their shores and change the American-led postwar order to their benefit.

#### If Biden Is Elected

Similar to Mr. Trump, Mr. Biden is not inclined for the U.S. to reassume its prior role as the world's policeman. To demonstrate its commitment to multilateralism, a Biden administration would rejoin bodies like the Paris Climate Agreement, the WHO, the COVAX initiative and possibly the Iran nuclear deal to address its Muslim and Christian populations.

Amid the increasingly volatile issue of technology and China, Mr. Biden would likely continue Mr. Trump's policy of being tough on tech agreements and tech competition out of national security concerns.

With trade, a Biden administration would consider joining the TPP to gain access to new markets, providing an opportunity for the U.S. to influence the region's next generation of trade policy. Mr. Biden may also continue with President Trump's practice of levying tariffs as leverage for negotiations.

Additionally, a Biden administration would maintain the current U.S. policy of supporting a free and open Indo-Pacific. Mr. Biden would continue select arms sales to Taiwan, work

with regional Asian partners on security issues in the South China Sea and East China Sea, enhance security relations with India and attend ASEAN Summits and APEC Forums from which Mr. Trump has been absent.

In Afghanistan, Biden would not reverse Trump's plans of withdrawing U.S. troops and negotiating a peace deal with the Taliban. In the broader Middle East, Biden would engage Iran (making efforts to rejoin the Iran nuclear agreement), tamper down Mr. Trump's rock-solid support for Saudi Arabia and Israel in addition to advocating for Palestinian rights and a two-state solution.

As with their vastly different domestic platforms, Mr. Trump and Mr. Biden have contrasting foreign policy doctrines on alliances, international agreements, public health and trade. Yet, there are commonalities in some of their approaches and global values - commonalities that have implications for Asia and the world community.

Both men have misgivings over China's trade practices, technological competition, IP theft and expansion-

ist policies in regional waters. The two advocate for a U.S. military withdrawal from Afghanistan and fewer security commitments in the Middle East.

However, the rancor and division of this year's presidential campaign has drowned out a two-part bipartisan development in American foreign policy:

1) President Trump and former Vice President Biden share a belief that it's time the United States have a reduced burden on the world stage. This outlook - in part shared by President Obama while he was in office - is a sharp departure from the approach of prior U.S. postwar-era leaders.

2) Neither Mr. Trump nor Mr. Biden feel the obligation to either spread democracy or make it a focus of their foreign policy.

It is during the next presidency when Asia and the world will begin to learn of the consequences of this new U.S. foreign policy approach.

The writer is Director of the Tribal Administration Program at Claremont Graduate University and writes on US foreign policy.

into political disorder.

The third scenario is where all sides step back acknowledging that the political system can be endangered by long-drawn-out confrontation and engage in a political dialogue to resolve core differences. In this the establishment too plays a role in defusing the situation to avert a runaway crisis. This is by far the most desirable scenario even if it appears difficult to achieve. It may be too tall an order to expect both sides to forge a new 'national contract' given their bitter rivalry but agreement on the rules of the game can and should be evolved. Consensus on dealing with economic and security challenges should also form part of the dialogue. Once there is agreement it should have the support of all institutions.

The risks to the country's unity and stability from the first and second scenarios are so high that this should urge both the government and opposition to seriously consider entering a meaningful dialogue. The initiative has to obviously come from the government as many opposition leaders already seem positively inclined. The dialogue should aim to forge an understanding on working the political system and evolving agreement on a national course of action to address the policy challenges that are pivotal to the country's future. The people of Pakistan expect no less from their leaders.

Dawn/ANN.

NO 28125

100 YEARS AGO

#### Occasional Note

A report prepared by Lieut.-Colonel E.P. Cathcart and Captain J.B. Orr on the Energy Expenditure of the Infantry Recruit in Training, and published by H.M. Stationery Office, deals with the food requirements of infantry soldiers in training under the conditions of the last two years of the war. It is of a highly technical nature, but the results are interesting and of permanent importance. The way in which the writers illustrate the great diversity in the output of energy that is associated with different phases of the soldier's life is by saying that lying down cost about 40 calories a square metre an hour, sitting at lectures nearly 50, standing at attention about the same, and standing at ease rather less. Squad drill without arms cost 88 calories, with arms 130; entrenching required 187 calories, and marching was the most costly of all. The average figure assigned for route marching is 258 calories and for marching in battle order 214, or with full equipment 233. Some remarks that are made about the load the soldier has to carry are in language easily understood. We are told that not infrequently the load which the soldier had to carry, while prepared to fight at any moment, amounted to 75 or 80 per cent of his body weight. In some cases it was even more. It is admittedly difficult to know how to deal with this problem, but it is in urgent need of solution.

#### News Items

#### KAYASTHA PATHSHALA

Allahabad, Nov 3  
The following resolution was passed by the trustees of the Kayastha Pathshala, Allahabad at a meeting, in view of the grave apprehension caused by Mr. Gandhi's non-cooperation movement, especially in that part of it dealing with the boycott of schools and colleges receiving aid or recognition from the Government. The trustees of the Kayastha Pathshala feel it their duty to emphatically protest against the efforts that are being made to withdraw students from the schools and colleges. They consider that, while every effort must be made to change and improve the present system of education, it is neither desirable nor possible to convert the Pathshala into such an institution as is desired by Mr. Gandhi and his co-workers. They also feel that this view is entirely in agreement with the will of the founder.

#### MIDNAPORE DACTIES

At the High Court before Justices Woodroffe and Buckland, Babu Bir Busan Dutt applied on behalf of Mohendra Bhua and two others, who had been ordered by the additional District Magistrate of Midnapore to be of good behaviour for one year, under section 11 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The vakil said that there was a large number of dacties within the jurisdiction of the police station in which the petitioners lived. The petitioners were tried in several cases in which the charges ranged from murder to assaulting police constables. On being bound down the petitioners appealed to the District Magistrate, who refused to interfere, holding that he had no jurisdiction, as the trial court had concurrent jurisdiction with him. Their lordship issued a rule and ordered that the petitioners be released on bail to the satisfaction of the District Magistrate.

#### MUSTAPHA KEMAL

It is reliably reported that a Staff Colonel attached to Mustapha Kemal's forces has arrived and has presented to the Grand Vizier, on behalf of the Angora Government, a document declaring his willingness to negotiate with the Porte, provided the Grand Vizier obtains a written promise that the Entente is willing to accept five points, including the restoration of Smyrna and Thrace to Turkish sovereignty, modification of the Treaty of Sevres in favour of Turkey, especially with regard to finance and economics, and the separation of the Khilafat from the Sultanate, the latter to be passed down to the eldest son of the Osman family and the former to the descendant of the Prophet enjoying the confidence and reverence of the whole Islamic world.

#### IMPROVING CEYLON TEA

There is no shadow of doubt that everything possible is being done at present to improve the quality and manufacture of teas produced in Ceylon, and the result of these efforts is seen in the large offerings of teas of good manufacture and quality, which have been the feature of local sales for many weeks. There is every indication that local producers are fully alive to the fact that it pays to manufacture good teas. The Times of Ceylon learns that several of the largest Colombo estate agents have sent tea experts with a thorough knowledge of tea making and the requirements of the London and Colombo markets.

## Challenge before Pakistan's polity

MALEEHAD LODHI

**S**everal aspects of a fast-changing political situation confront Pakistan with the spectre of growing instability and a slew of detrimental consequences. There are at least five features of the fraught political landscape creating uncertainty about the future at a time when both internal and external challenges abound. The interplay between them risks making the situation more volatile and precarious.

One, there is no let-up in the confrontation between the government and opposition or easing in the war of words between them. The acerbic rhetoric being used against each other is continuing to inject a toxic element in the overall environment. In the battle of pressers each side is making incendiary accusations against its opponents. Parliamentary proceedings offer the unedifying spectacle of harsh invective being exchanged with both sides calling the other traitors.

Two, opposition unity has been cemented by the government's rhetoric and actions. What is now an Imran Khan vs the Rest line-up, 11 PDM parties are arrayed against the government with the opposition alliance representing a wide national spectrum. The PTI government's political challenge is compounded by

less than explicit support from its erstwhile coalition allies, conspicuous by their virtual silence on the government-opposition conflict.

The third aspect and related to the second, polarisation is sharpening with the middle ground being eliminated in the country's politics.

The trust deficit between the political adversaries has so widened that occasional — but much needed — cooperation even on issues of common interest and national importance is becoming rarer.

Four, the establishment is being sucked into the political game despite its stated desire to stay away from it. The opposition's strategy is to raise the costs of what it believes is the establishment's partisan role while the government, in repeatedly claiming the army's backing, is unintentionally creating the same effect — making the establishment central in the political tussle — and media debate.

The fifth and most important aspect of the current situation is that the rising political temperature and intensifying conflict is distracting attention from the country's challenges with a potentially negative impact on the economy. Instability is the enemy of economic recovery at a time when the Covid-19 pandemic is causing economic stress and undermining prospects of reviving invest-

ment and growth. Shifting official focus from issues on the public mind is eroding people's confidence in a government they see as engaged more in combative politics than evolving policy to address bread-and-butter issues especially when inflation is hitting people hard.

What does this add up to? For a start, an extremely unpredictable situation that could spin out of everyone's control and plunge the country into uncharted territory where there may be no winners. Already a confluence of these factors makes the situation untenable for all actors. How long can the government that lacks an overall parliamentary majority and control of a key province insist it will have no truck with any opposition party and rule unilaterally? How long can the opposition sustain its protest movement? How long can both sides ignore people's problems without risking a loss of public support? How long can the establishment pretend it can stay out of a political confrontation that keeps drawing it in one way or another?

Three scenarios can be extrapolated from this state of play. The first is a no-change scenario in which confrontation continues and leads to a prolonged uptick in political tensions, disruption of parliamentary business, and escalation in the war of words between the government and opposi-

tion. This engenders more instability and morphs into a political crisis if PDM carries out the threat of resig-nation from national and provincial legislatures.

In this scenario attention from national challenges is diverted when the economic situation and security threats (indicated by recent terrorist incidents) warrant not just undivided official attention but across-the-board national support. Polarisation also prevents the political consensus necessary to execute measures to meet a challenging economic situation.

This scenario will likely result in the country lurching from one crisis to another and unable to tackle deep-seated problems much less solve them.

In the second scenario the government resorts to restrictive measures to contain the opposition and imposes more undeclared curbs on the media's ability to report freely. This may be accompanied by acceleration of an accountability process already mired in controversy but which can further be denuded of legitimacy. This might be an improbable scenario due to the high political cost of a repressive response and also because of its feasibility in making such measures stick in what after all remains a federal democracy. 'Containment' in any case is unlikely to work as Pakistan's history testifies and will only hasten the country's descent

into political disorder.

The third scenario is where all sides step back acknowledging that the political system can be endangered by long-drawn-out confrontation and engage in a political dialogue to resolve core differences. In this the establishment too plays a role in defusing the situation to avert a runaway crisis. This is by far the most desirable scenario even if it appears difficult to achieve. It may be too tall an order to expect both sides to forge a new 'national contract' given their bitter rivalry but agreement on the rules of the game can and should be evolved.

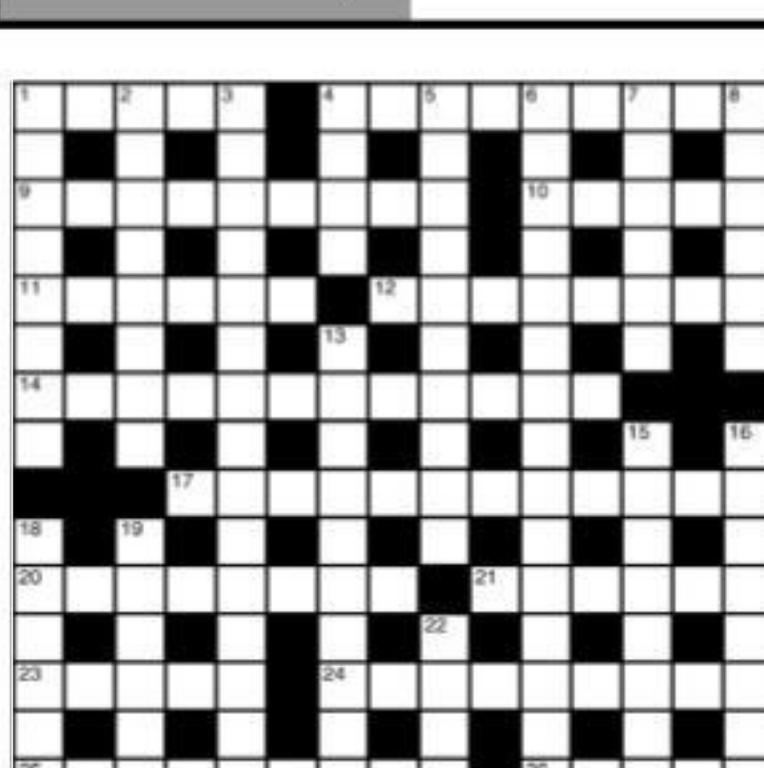
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The risks to the country's unity and stability from the first and second scenarios are so high that this should urge both the government and opposition to seriously consider entering a meaningful dialogue. The initiative has to obviously come from the government as many opposition leaders already seem positively inclined.

The dialogue should aim to forge an understanding on working the political system and evolving agreement on a national course of action to address the policy challenges that are pivotal to the country's future. The people of Pakistan expect no less from their leaders.

Dawn/ANN.

#### CROSSWORD



#### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

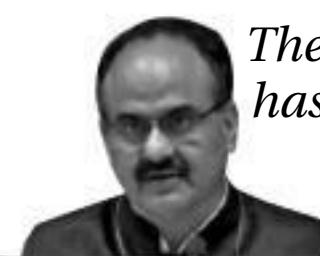
#### ACROSS

- 1 Short of a penny, cleaned bike (5)
- 4 What Sandra will do to make Sara abandon hope? (4,5)
- 9 Cast are able to add more detail (9)
- 10 Exercise extremes of caution eating a nut (5)
- 11 Stand to succeed finally after lapse (6)
- 12 Lock up rogue, no gentleman on reflection (8)
- 14 Lack of sense sets back European political group (12)
- 17 Place for soldiers that could provide a padre? (6,6)
- 20 Cobblers give a hand with door (8)
- 21 Old fool grabs tail of Siamese cat (6)
- 23 Attain some rare achievements (5)
- 24 Bell-ringer, as it were, meeting terrible doom (9)
- 25 Comparatively loud English supporter (9)
- 26 Calls for works to be heard (5)

#### DOWN

- 1 Conductor expressing Mahler's Sixth well and with dignity (8)
- 2 Metal from a can containing fruit? On the contrary (8)
- 3 In play, one posh actor needs to speak like Cockney (4,4,7)
- 4 Direct current is supplied by it (4)
- 5 Set adrift, Papa married different person - her? (10)
- 6 Error in the copy Charlie edited is 'between you and I' perhaps (15)
- 7 Charge added to bill for buttonhole (6)
- 8 Officer has no place for resident (6)
- 13 A fact: worked equal shifts to make bier (10)
- 15 Male wants females, we're told, to intimidate (8)
- 16 First to last, rabble-rousing publications (8)
- 18 Jack is after small vehicle - a Beetle (6)
- 19 Every year, a chap flips lid (6)
- 22 Stick around the centre of Geneva (4)

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



The quantum of borrowing to meet states' GST revenue shortfall has to be reasonable considering its economic impact

AJAY BHUSHAN PANDEY  
FINANCE SECRETARY

## THUMBNAILS

**Mercedes local production:** German luxury car maker Mercedes-Benz on Tuesday said it has commenced the local production of its AMG portfolio in India, and rolled out its first-ever locally made GLC 43 4MATIC Coupe. The company rolled out AMG GLC 43 4MATIC Coupe, tagged at Rs 76.7 lakh (ex-showroom), from its Pune facility on Tuesday. With this, the company now locally manufactures 11 models from its Pune plant. PTI

**Airtel arm's investment:** Bharti Airtel on Tuesday said its subsidiary Nxtara Data will invest around Rs 1,750 crore to scale up data centre infrastructure and cloud services across the country. The company also announced signing of an MoU with the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation for setting up two new data centre campuses in the state. PTI

**PhonePe record:** Digital payments platform PhonePe on Tuesday announced that it has crossed the 250 million registered user milestone. The company reported over 100 million monthly active users and 2.3 billion app sessions in October 2020. It had a record month in October, processing 925 million transactions, its highest so far, with an annual TPV run-rate of \$277 billion, the company said. SNS

**Dalmia, Paytm tie-up:** Dalmia Cement has associated with Paytm to offer cashless payment solutions to its dealers and retailers across the country. Through this association, Dalmia Cement dealers will get access to Paytm's wide range of payment solutions, helping them to easily accept digital payments from consumers through UPI, Paytm wallet and other popular non-cash payment methods, said a Press release. SNS

**OVL MD:** Industry veteran Alok K Gupta has taken over as managing director and CEO of ONCC Videsh Ltd. "He brings with him over three decades of experience in various capacities in domestic and overseas oil and gas exploration and production operations," the company said in a statement. PTI

**LG smartphone:** LG Electronics has launched two new smartphones ~ LG Velvet Dual Screen and LG Wing. Both the smartphones are designed to help users find a whole new way to multitask while being creative in its design and outlook, according to a release from the company. SNS

**Haier offer:** Home appliances and consumer electronics company Haier has announced an array of exciting cashback offers and affordable no-cost EMI schemes on its diverse range of products to add fervour to the ongoing festive season, according to a Press release. SNS

# Exports decline by 5.4% in Oct, trade deficit narrows

Fall in shipments of petroleum products, gems and jewellery, leather and engineering goods

SNS & PTI  
NEW DELHI/KOLKATA, 3 NOV

**A**fter recording positive growth in September, India's exports declined 5.4 per cent to \$24.82 billion in October on account of dip in shipments of petroleum products, gems and jewellery, leather and engineering goods.

Trade deficit in October narrowed to \$8.78 billion as against \$11.76 billion, as imports also fell 11.56 per cent to \$33.6 billion during the month under review.

"India's merchandise exports in October 2020 were \$24.82 billion, as compared to \$26.23 billion in October 2019, showing a fall of 5.4 per cent," the commerce and industry ministry said in a statement.

Major export commodities which recorded negative growth during October included petroleum products (53.30 per cent), cashew (21.57 per cent), gems and jewellery (21.27 per cent), leather (16.69 per cent), man-made yarn/fabrics/made-ups (12.82 per cent), electronic goods (9.40 per cent), coffee (9.25 per cent), marine products (8.09 per cent) and engi-

## PERFORMANCE REPORT



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per cent), electronic goods (9.40 per cent), coffee (9.25 per cent), marine products (8.09 per cent) and engineering goods (3.84 per cent).

Sectors which showed positive growth included rice, oil meals, iron ore, oil seeds, carpet, pharmaceuticals, spices, cotton and chemicals.

After contracting for six straight months, India's exports rose 5.99 per cent to

\$27.58 billion in September. Federation of Indian Export Organisations (Fieo) president Sharad Kumar Saraf said the nominal decline in exports during the month was mainly because of huge container shortage and hike in sea freight, which upset exports, particularly for those who have negotiated on CIF (cost, insurance, freight) or C&F (cost and freight) basis.

Besides, farmers' agitation in some of the hinterland states also affected exports during October, he said.

"...as the election process gets over in the US, with the upcoming Christmas and New Year season, both global and Indian economy are slated for economic revival. Exporters have continuously been receiving a lot of enquiries and orders, further adding to the positive sentiments with signals of further resilience in the global supply chain," he added.

Mohit Singla, founder chairman, Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI), said agri and food commodities recorded positive growth,

exports declined 19.05 per cent to \$150.07 billion, while imports fell 36.28 per cent over the same period last year to \$182.29 billion. Oil imports dipped 38.52 per cent to \$5.98 billion in October. During April-October, it declined 49.5 per cent to \$37.84 billion.

After contracting for six straight months, India's exports rose 5.99 per cent to

which depicts continuity of demand of Indian food and agri products globally, despite other traditional products slipping in demand.

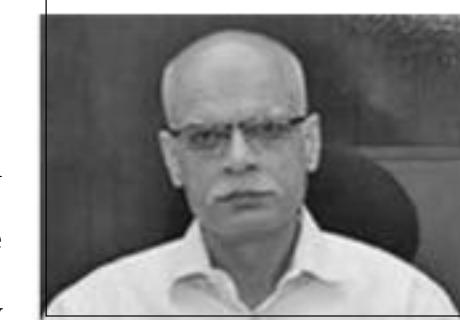
The time has come for India to be the global food basket of the world, as India has witnessed two bumper crop harvest and Indian industry is already capitalising the advantage fully despite tough times," Singla added.

EERP India said with the Covid-19 pandemic persisting with a second wave in major European economies, the negative impact on global trade was inevitable and exports from India too suffered a setback in October.

"The preliminary data for October shows a decline of 5.4 per cent in merchandise exports. We hope, it does not form a trend line in the midst of a serious second wave of coronavirus in several countries of Europe, including the UK, Germany and France. With several of these economies being subjected to yet another lockdown, we may see stormy headwinds to global trade," it said.

The finance minister last month had announced a slew of measures to spur demand and ramp-up capital expenditure. This was the third stimulus package since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The government had announced a Rs 1.70 lakh crore Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGY) in



FM to unveil another stimulus soon, says economic affairs secy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 3 NOVEMBER

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman will soon announce the next set of stimulus package to boost the coronavirus-hit economy, economic affairs secretary Tarun Bajaj said today.

The finance ministry is looking into suggestions and requests received from various sectors of the economy, he said in a virtual conference with media.

"We are actually discussing that. It is difficult for me to commit a date but we have received a lot of requests and comments from various sectors and we are looking into it. Very soon it will be unveiled. The finance minister will come out and speak to you on that," he said.

The finance minister last month had announced a slew of measures to spur demand and ramp-up capital expenditure. This was the third stimulus package since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

On the recovery, Bajaj said India continues to see an uptick in the economy for the past few months since the unlock began and there would be further improvement in the months to come.

Despite Covid-19 situation, India's growth story is intact, he added.

March to protect the poor and vulnerable sections from the impact of Covid-19 crisis.

It was followed by the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package of Rs 20.97 lakh crore in May, largely focussed on supply-side measures and long-term reforms.

On the elevated food prices, Bajaj said it is a temporary phenomenon and the government has taken some measures to cool down prices. He further said this has something to do with logistics and with new crop coming in there could be some moderation.

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the presidential election.

"Additionally, positive economic data in domestic markets with regards of strong manufacturing PMI for Oct'20 and strong 2Q corporate earnings bolstered investors' confidence in domestic equities. Barring realty, all sectoral indices ended in green today, while financials once again led broader market rally."

"Going forward, market is expected to be volatile due to likely ambiguity over election outcome in the US and continued rise in Covid-19 cases in various European nations including US," said Arjun Yash Mahajan, head institutional business at Reliance Securities.

Sector-wise, BSE bankex, finance, metal, auto, consumer durables and healthcare indices rallied as much as 3.21 per cent, while realty, energy, telecom, tech and oil and gas closed in the red.

## Adani Ports net profit rises by 32% to ₹1,394 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 3 NOVEMBER

Rs 2,440.56 crore in the year-ago period.

Karan Adani, chief executive officer and whole-time director of APSEZ, said: "APSEZ has proven the utility nature of its portfolio of assets by increasing the market share in India to 24 per cent in overall cargo. With economy reopening in stages, APSEZ has returned to growth trajectory registering a cargo volume growth of 36 per cent on a Q-o-Q basis. Port EBIDTA improves to 71 per cent on account of continuous focus on operational efficiency."

"Our focus continues to be on preserving cash and ensuring adequate liquidity. We continue to increase our free cash generation, in H1 FY21 cash flow from operations after adjusting for working capital changes, capex and net interest cost, stands at Rs 2,884 cr."

Adani said APSEZ is well on course to achieve 500 million tons (MT) of cargo throughput by FY2025.

JSW Energy: JSW Energy on Tuesday said its consolidated net profit remained almost flat at Rs 352.12 crore in the September quarter this fiscal. The company had reported a net profit of Rs 352.98 crore in the quarter ended 30 September 2019, it said in a regulatory filing.

The total income declined to Rs 1,999.52 crore in the second quarter, from Rs 2,231.85 crore in the same period last year.

On the Covid-19 situation, the company said there is no uncertainty in meeting the financial obligation in the foreseeable future.

## Equity indices rise on positive cues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 3 NOVEMBER

SENSEX SOARS 504 POINTS

Rising for the second straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 503.55 points or 1.27 per cent higher at 40,261.13 points.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty jumped 144.35 points or 1.24 per cent to 11,813.50 points.

ICICI Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack,

soaring 6.51 per cent, followed by SBI, HDFC, Power Grid, Sun Pharma, IndusInd Bank, Titan, Bajaj Auto, HDFC Bank and Axis Bank.

On the other hand, NTPC, Reliance Industries, Nestle India, HCL Tech, Infosys and HUL were among the laggards, shedding up to 3.75 per cent.

Global bourses followed Wall Street higher as investors wagered on fresh US stimulus immediately after the elections.

Bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Seoul, and Tokyo ended with significant gains. Stock exchanges in Europe were also trading on a positive note in early deals.

"Indian equities witnessed a sharp rally today, mainly led by strong global cues, which was caused by expectations of large fiscal stimulus with national polls in the US predicting Democratic sweep in

## Ola plans e-scooter manufacturing unit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 3 NOVEMBER

not comment on the matter.

Ola Electric plans to start production in the next 18-24 months, another person privy to the development said.

The move will pitch Ola Electric against players like Bajaj Auto, Hero MotoCorp-backed Ather Energy, Hero Electric and others that currently make electric two-wheelers in the country.

In May this year, Ola Electric announced the acquisition of Amsterdam-based Etergo BV for an undisclosed amount.

In August, Ola Electric announced plans of hiring 1,000 engineers and introducing an electric two-wheeler soon.

Ola Electric has raised about \$400 million in funding from Tiger Global, Matrix India, Tata Sons chairman emeritus Ratan Tata and others.

When contacted, Ola did

## Micromax bets big on e-commerce

NEW DELHI, 3 NOVEMBER

## No hike in service charges by public sector banks

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 3 NOVEMBER

The finance ministry today said that there has been no increase in service charges by any public sector bank and even Bank of Baroda decided to withdraw changes made with regard to the number of free cash deposit transactions in a bank account per month.

It also said that Bank of Baroda has since informed that in the light of the current Covid related situation, they have decided to withdraw the changes. Further, no other PSB has increased such charges recently.

"While the charges have not been increased, Bank of Baroda had made certain changes w.e.f. 1 November 2020, with regard to the number of free cash deposits and

withdrawals per month. The number of free cash deposits and withdrawals have been reduced from 5 each per month to 3 each per month, with no change in the charges for transactions in excess of these free transactions," reads the Press release.

On basic savings bank deposit (BSBD) accounts, including Jan Dhan accounts, the government informed that no service charge is applicable on the 60.04 crore BSBD accounts, including 41.13 crore Jan Dhan accounts opened by the poor and

unbanked segments of society, for the free services prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India.

"Although, as per RBI guidelines, all banks, including public sector banks (PSBs), are permitted to levy charges for their services in a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory manner, based upon costs involved, other PSBs have also intimated that they do not propose to raise bank charges in the near future in view of the Covid pandemic," reads the Press release.

## Khadi projects boost employment in Kargil-Leh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, 3 NOVEMBER

with a Rs 10 lakh loan is now employing eight people and enjoying an annual turnover of Rs 52 lakh (\$69,972).

Ismail Nasiri in Poyen village began manufacturing iron and steel items with a Rs 25 lakh loan now has 10 employees and registering yearly turnover of Rs 76 lakh.

Hamida Banoo, a woman entrepreneur from Baroo in Kargil, employs three other women in her tailoring unit that reports Rs 12 lakh turnover. The Leh-Ladakh region has received greater attention from the Central government since its bifurcation from Jammu & Kashmir in 2019, with special focus on generating jobs for locals.

Jobs for unemployed youth are the crucial antidote to

them not falling into the trap as cannon fodder of terrorist recruiters actively supported by Pakistan.

"The neighbouring country has lost strength to fight a conventional war but continues to engage in the proxy war of terrorism," Narendra Modi had said during his first visit to the Kargil-Leh region since taking over as India's Prime Minister in 2014.

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) managed to increase job-creating projects in the Kargil and Leh region from 172 in 2017-2018

to 993 as of September 2020.

"KVIC has set up nearly 1,000 different small and medium manufacturing units under its flagship Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme scheme in Kargil and Leh," the ministry of micro, small and

enterprises (MSME) officials informed the media, "creating over 8,200 jobs for local youths in just three-and-a-half years". Margin money of Rs 32.35 crore since 2017-18 has been dispersed to support these units, according to MSME ministry data.

Job-creating units for Kargil-Leh residents include manufacturing cement blocks, iron and steel items, automobile repair workshops, tailoring units, wood carving units, wooden furniture carpentry units, cyber cafes, beauty parlours, gold jewellery making units, among others.

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission managed to set up new projects in Kargil and 24 new projects in Leh during the first six



Myanmar army is using a penal code set up to lock up journalists, students and others for exercising their basic right to free expression.

THOMAS ANDREWS, UN SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR ON MYANMAR  
EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE DENIAL OF THE VOTE TO ROHINGYA MUSLIMS IN MYANMAR

The Statesman  
NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY 04 NOVEMBER 2020

09

# Five dead in Vienna shooting; attacker sympathised with IS

A suspected attacker, who was carrying an assault rifle and a fake suicide vest, was also killed by police

ASSOCIATED PRESS

VIENNA, 3 NOVEMBER

**F**ive people have died, including an assailant, and 17 others were wounded in a shooting in the heart of Vienna hours before a coronavirus lockdown started, Austrian authorities said Tuesday.

Interior Minister Karl Nehammer said two men and two women have died from their injuries in the attack Monday evening. A suspected attacker, who was carrying an assault rifle and a fake suicide vest, was also shot and killed by police.

Vienna's hospital service said seven people were in life-threatening condition Tuesday after the attack, the Austrian news agency APA reported. In total, 17 people were being treated in hospitals, with gunshot wounds but also cuts.

Nehammer said that initial investigations indicate the suspect who was killed had sympathized with the Islamic State group. Police searched



Police stand guard near a crime scene where wreaths have been displayed to pay respects to the victims in the centre of Vienna on Tuesday, one day after a shooting which left four people dead. ■ AFP

his apartment and other premises as well, APA reported. We experienced an attack last night by at least one Islamist terrorist, Nehammer told reporters. He declined to elaborate, citing the ongoing investigation.

Authorities were still trying to determine whether further attackers may be on the run, he said. People in Vienna were urged to stay at home if pos-

sible on Tuesday and children did not have to go to school. Some 1,000 police officers were on duty in Vienna on Tuesday morning.

Among those wounded in the attack was a police officer, said Nehammer. The 28-year-old officer was in the hospital but was no longer in a life-threatening condition.

The shooting began shortly after 8 p.m. (1900 GMT)

Monday near Vienna's main synagogue as many people were enjoying a last night of open restaurants and bars before a month-long coronavirus lockdown, which started at midnight. Vienna police chief Gerhard Puerstl said the attacker was killed at 8:09 p.m. Chancellor Sebastian Kurz said that we are victims of a despicable terror attack in the federal capital.

Unverified footage posted on social media showed a gunman walking through the streets, apparently shooting at people at random, wounding several. It was unclear whether the person seen shooting was the same individual in each video. Rabbi Schlomo Hofmeister said he saw at least one person shoot at people sitting outside at bars in the street below his window near the city's main synagogue.

They were shooting at least 100 rounds just outside our building, Hofmeister said. All these bars have tables outside. This evening is the last evening before the lockdown.

Authorities said residents have uploaded 20,000 videos of the attack to police.

The attack drew swift condemnation and assurances of support from leaders around Europe, including from French President Emmanuel Macron, whose country has experienced three Islamist attacks in recent weeks, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

The Islamist terror is our common enemy, Merkel spokesman Steffen Seibert tweeted. The battle against these murderers and their instigators is our common fight. US President Donald Trump tweeted Monday night as he prepared for his final rally ahead of Election Day: Our prayers are with the people of Vienna after yet another vile act of terrorism in Europe.

Austria's military has provided 75 soldiers to guard key sites in Vienna, freeing up police to continue the investigation. Germany and Hungary have also offered to send tactical police units to support their Austrian colleagues.

# Death toll from Kabul University attack rises to 35

AGENCIES

KABUL, 3 NOVEMBER

The death toll from an attack on Kabul University has risen to at least 35, two government sources said on Tuesday, as students protested over the attack and the country marked a day of mourning.

Gummen barged into the university on Monday, in what was the second attack on an educational institution in the capital in just over a week.

Both have been claimed by Islamic State.

The two sources told Reuters that most of those killed were students and around 50 more people were wounded, some of them breaking limbs while jumping from windows to flee from the attack during morning classes.

Officially the death toll stands at 22 with 27 wounded, according to the interior ministry.

The country held a day of mourning on Tuesday, with many flags flying at half mast.

Around 100 students gathered outside the university to protest that peace talks with the insurgent Taliban in Doha were not leading to a reduction in violence.

"Although we see these kinds of attacks on a daily basis, there are still ongoing peace talks with them, which is really terrible," said one protesting student, Zaryab Paryani.

The Taliban has denied any part in the attack, which follows a blast last month - also claimed by Islamic State - that killed dozens of students at a tutoring centre.

But some Afghan government officials, including First Vice President Amrullah Saleh, have accused the Taliban of involvement.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid on Twitter accused the government of "taking (the) public for fools".

Negotiators from the Afghan government and the Taliban are holding talks in Doha with the aim of brokering a peace deal as the United States withdraws troops.

France says its forces kill 50 Islamic extremists in Mali

PARIS, 3 NOVEMBER

France's defense minister says French military forces fighting Islamic extremists in West Africa put away more than 50 jihadists in a recent operation in Mali.

Defense Minister Florence Parly tweeted Monday night that the French force in the region, called Barkhane, also confiscated weapons and equipment from the fighters in the operation last Friday, which she said shows once again that terrorist groups cannot act with impunity.

Parly is currently visiting Mali's capital Bamako, where she met with the head of the transitional government.

France, which has suffered repeated deadly Islamic extremist attacks, has thousands of forces in West Africa to help fight extremist groups there. Islamic extremist rebels were forced from power in northern Mali after a 2013 French-led military operation, but regrouped in the desert and now launch frequent attacks on the Malian army and its allies.

**Macron speaks with Egypt, Palestinian leaders:** French President Emmanuel Macron spoke to the Egyptian and Palestinian leaders after a week of anti-French protests around the Muslim world and extremist attacks on France. Macron is seeking to calm tensions and to straighten out misunderstandings while also defending France's values. The French president's office said that Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas both offered him support. Macron also explained France's positions during a interview with Al Jazeera in which he called for mutual understanding and respect.

AP

## Turkish rescuers pull girl from rubble 4 days after quake

IZMIR (TURKEY), 3 NOVEMBER

Even as hopes of reaching survivors began to fade, rescuers in the Turkish city of Izmir pulled a young girl out alive from the rubble of a collapsed apartment building on Tuesday, four days after a strong earthquake hit Turkey and Greece. Wrapped in a thermal blanket, the girl was taken into an ambulance on a stretcher to the sounds of applause and chants of God is great! from rescue workers and onlookers.

Health Media Fahrettin Koca identified her as 3-year-old Ayda Gezgin on Twitter and shared a video of her inside the ambulance. The child had been trapped inside the rubble for 91 hours since Friday's quake.

Ayda's mother did not survive and her brother and father were not inside the building at the time of the quake. Rescuer Nusret Aksay told reporters that he was sifting through the rubble of the toppled eight-floor building when he heard a child's scream and called for silence. He later located the girl in a tight space next to a dishwasher.

## Uganda's Bobi Wine arrested after presidential nomination

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KAMPALA, 3 NOVEMBER

Ugandan police have arrested Bobi Wine, a popular singer and opposition presidential hopeful who is bidding to unseat Uganda's long-time leader.

Wine, whose real name is Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, was dragged from his car by police not long after he was officially nominated as a candidate in presidential elections scheduled for next year. The local NBS Television, reporting

from the scene, said Wine was put into a police van amid violent scuffles between police and his supporters.

A police spokesman did not immediately respond to questions. Authorities frequently accuse Wine of planning rallies that could disrupt public order, which he denies.

Critics say President Yoweri Museveni, in power since 1986, increasingly depends on the armed forces to assert his authority. Museveni was nominated as a candidate for president on Monday.

## IN FULL FLIGHT



Flamingo fly over a reservoir in Atlit, north of Tel Aviv on Tuesday. ■ AFP

## 'China annexed over 150 hectares of Nepal's territory'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BEIJING, 3 NOVEMBER

China has annexed over 150 hectares of Nepal's territory, according to a leading British daily whose report was rejected by the Chinese Foreign Ministry on Tuesday as a completely unfounded rumour.

Pressed further to provide evidence to back his denial, Wang said, as this is a rumour, those who have compiled this report should come up with their evidence first.

When pointed out by The Telegraph reporter we do have evidence. We have spoken with Nepalese politicians who have said this. We would like the Chinese side to comment, Wang said the content should have been verified before reporting it. My sug-

gestion is, before making such a report, you should act responsibly to verify things and then report on this. I can say that this report is completely unfounded rumour,

Wang said. The Telegraph reporter said, we did reach out to the Chinese Embassy in Nepal for comment, but they didn't respond. So that's why we are here today. We are hoping that the MOFA (the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) would please respond.

Wang replied saying that I have an accurate and clear answer for you, that report is not based on fact. It is a pure rumour. The Telegraph has seen images of the bases, it said.

said that China allegedly began seizing Nepalese land in five frontier districts in May, sending members of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) across undefended areas of the border.

In the north-western district of Humla, PLA (People's Liberation Army) troops crossed the border into the Limi Valley and Hilsa, moving stone pillars which had previously demarcated the boundary further into Nepalese territory before constructing alleged military bases. The Daily Telegraph has seen images of the bases, it said.

## 'North Korea building two submarines, one capable of firing ballistic missiles'

AGENCIES

SEOUL, 3 NOVEMBER

North Korea is building two new submarines, including one capable of firing ballistic missiles, a South Korean lawmaker said on Tuesday, following a closed-door briefing by the South's National Intelligence Service. North Korea has a large submarine fleet but only one known experimental submarine capable of carrying a ballistic missile.

"One of the submarines North Korea is building can carry a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM)," Ha Tae-keung, an Opposition party lawmaker on parliament's intelligence committee said. "One is a modified Romeo Class and the other is a new medium-large size one." North Korea has been subject to U.N. Security Council sanctions since 2006 over its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

In July 2019 state media showed Kim inspecting a large, newly built submarine.

While North Korea did not

describe the submarine's

weapons systems, analysts

said the apparent size of the vessel indicated it was designed to carry missiles.

Later that year North Korea said it had successfully test-fired a new SLBM from the sea, and last month it showcased a new SLBM design during a military parade in Pyongyang.

Kim's vow to unveil new strategic weapons this year also led to speculation that North Korea could soon deploy an operational ballistic missile submarine.

North showcased a total of 76 missiles in nine different types at a military parade on 10 October.

## LEISURE

### 10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 For what reason? (3)
- 3 String (5)
- 7 Threefold (6)
- 8 Atelier (6)
- 9 Rebellion (12)
- 11 Knock down (4)
- 12 Knock with a jolt (4)
- 13 Humanity (7)
- 14 Large fleet (6)
- 15 Furniture item (3,3)
- 16 Burn with hot liquid (5)
- 17 Strong impulse (4)
- 20 Type of element (3)

DOWN

- 1 Bellicose (7)
- 2 Bush shrilly (3)
- 3 Hypothesis (6)
- 4 Foot part (6)
- 5 Fair (9)
- 6 Ballpoint pen (4)
- 7 Hair problem (5,4)
- 8 List of business (6)
- 9 VIP (Informal) (6)
- 10 Burn with hot liquid (5)
- 11 Kingdom, 10 Track, 12 Cash-strapped, 13 Abolish, 14 Pertaining, 15 Trews, 16 Cast, 17 Steer.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

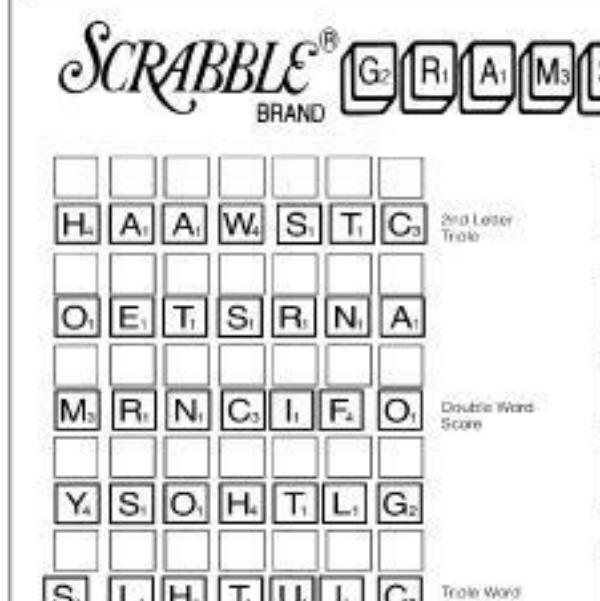
#### RAILWAY INQUIRY

- General Inquiry 139
- Toll Free Nos. 1800125151
- SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886, 54959, 5676747

#### ROADWAYS INQUIRY

- AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 08001801407
- INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43512185, Call Centre 09910383838, 18001803838, Reservation 43513186; Indigo Airlines Airline 234534373
- Air Canada Flight Inquiry and Reservation 41528181
- Air France Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23466262 (City) 25652294 (Airport)
- Kuwait Airways Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23354373

### SCRABBLE® BRAND



JUDD'S TOTAL TIME: 25 MIN

SCRABBLE® BRAND

DUPLICEX FORGET ANDROID NECTARS JUDD'S TOTAL 110-128

SCRABBLE® BRAND

DUPLICEX FORGET ANDROID NECTARS JUDD'S TOTAL 110-128

SCRABBLE® BRAND



The president has failed to lead the country and America can no longer afford four more years of him.

DEMOCRATIC VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE KAMALA HARRIS  
ATTACKING DONALD TRUMP ON THE EVE OF THE US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

## WEATHER

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

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

## THUMBNAILS



Demonstrators burn smoke bombs in the yellow-blue colours of the Ukrainian flag during a protest action of representatives of different Ukrainian political parties outside the constitutional court building in Kiev on Tuesday. ■ AFP

Bahrain crackdown: Bahrain announced Tuesday it convicted 51 people, more than half of them abroad, on charges of belonging to a militant group, was the latest mass trial conducted in this island kingdom amid a years-long crackdown on all dissent. ■ AP

China-Oz trade restriction: A China has stepped up trade restrictions against Australia, suspending imports of some timber and barley, the agriculture minister said Tuesday, amid tension over the virus, Hong Kong and the South China Sea. ■ AP

Poland abortion row: Poland's right-wing government is delaying the publication and implementation of a high court ruling that tightens the abortion law and that has triggered two weeks of nationwide protests. A government official said that the leaders are taking time to debate the contentious ruling and find a solution. ■ AP

Hurricane Eta threatens flooding in Central America  
MANAGUA (NICARAGUA), 3 NOVEMBER

Dangerously powerful Hurricane Eta churned across Nicaragua's Caribbean coast with potentially devastating winds, while heavy rains thrown off by storm bands already were causing rivers to overflow across Central America. The Category 4 hurricane had sustained winds of 150 mph (240 kph), and the U.S. National Hurricane Center warned that Eta could strengthen further, perhaps reaching Category 5, before making landfall early Tuesday.

It was centered about 45 miles (75 kilometers) east of Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua, late Monday and moving west-southwest at 11 kph.

Authorities in Nicaragua and Honduras moved people from outer islands and low-lying areas to shelters. Residents scrambled to shore up their homes, but few structures along Nicaragua's remote Caribbean coast were built to withstand such force.

Nicaragua's army moved red-helmeted troops specialized in search and rescue to Bilwi, the main coastal city in an otherwise remote and sparsely populated area.

The navy spent Monday ferrying residents of coastal islands to shelters in Bilwi, also known as Puerto Cabezas. The government said more than 3,000 families were taken to shelters from the most at risk areas.

On television Monday, Nicaraguan Vice President and first lady Rosario Murillo prayed for God to protect the country. She said Nicaragua would apply lessons learned from previous storms. Storm surge up to 15 feet above normal tides was possible for the coast of Nicaragua, forecasters said. ■ AP

# Election day dawns as US picks Trump or Biden

10 crore Americans have already voted, another 6 crore likely to vote; an estimated 23.9 cr people are eligible to vote: The US Election Project

## AGENCIES

WASHINGTON, 3 NOVEMBER

After a campaign marked by rancor and fear, Americans on Tuesday decide between President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden, selecting a leader to steer a nation battered by a surging pandemic that has killed more than 231,000 people, cost millions their jobs and reshaped daily life.

Nearly 100 million Americans voted early, and now it falls to Election Day voters to finish the job, ending a campaign that was upended by the coronavirus and defined by tensions over who could best address it. Each candidate declared the other fundamentally unfit to lead a nation grappling with Covid and facing foundational questions about racial justice and economic fairness.

Biden entered Election Day with multiple paths to victory while Trump, playing catch-up in a number of battleground states, had a narrower but still feasible road to clinch 270 Electoral College votes. Control of the Senate was at stake, too: Democrats needed to net three seats if Biden captured the White House to gain control of all of Washington for the first time in a decade. The House was expected to remain under Democratic control.

Republican incumbent President Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger Joe Biden on Tuesday ended their most divisive and bitter election campaign with fervent appeals on social media to the undecided Americans to vote for them, as they pledged to take the country out of the woods.

The 3 November presidential election has been billed as one of the most divisive in recent American history. The election is already setting records for turnout, and perhaps no two candidates are more at odds over the future of the country and the direction they want to take it in.

Trump, 74, toured the key voting battlegrounds of Wisconsin, Michigan, North Carolina and Pennsylvania on Monday while his 77-year-old rival campaigned in Pennsylvania and Ohio, urging Americans to back them in the race for the White House.

"To all of our supporters: thank you from the bottom of my heart. You have been there from the beginning, and I will never let you down. Your hopes are my hopes, your dreams are my dreams, and your future is what I am fighting for every single day!" Trump tweeted past midnight.

"A vote for Sleepy Joe Biden is a vote to give control of government over to Globalists, Communists, Socialists, and Wealthy Liberal Hypocrites who want to silence, censor, cancel, and punish you. Get out and VOTE#MAGA tomorrow!" the president wrote in another tweet, attacking Biden.

## What's 270? The math game behind the election

**IT'S THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE:** Nearly 2.9 million more people voted for Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election, but she still lost. President Donald Trump won because he took the Electoral College, under a system set up in the US Constitution and refined through the centuries. This is where the magic number comes into play. To win the White House, a candidate must win at least 270 electoral votes. That's a majority of the 538 that are up for grabs in the 50 states.

**THE NUMBERS:** Each state is allotted a different number of electoral votes, based on how many representatives it has in the House, plus its two senators. California has the most electoral votes with 55. Texas is next with 38 electoral votes. The candidate who wins New York or Florida can pocket 29 electoral votes toward the race to get 270. Illinois and Pennsylvania each have 20. Rounding out the top 10 list of states with the most electoral votes is Ohio with 18; Georgia and Michigan with 16 and North Carolina with 15.

The Republican Party in a tweet said, Let's Make America Great Again and re-elect our fantastic president! We made history together four years ago, and tomorrow we're going to make history once again, the ruling party said.

Biden, the former US vice president, said he was "running as a proud Democrat, but I will govern as an American president." "I will work with Democrats and Republicans, and I'll work as hard for those who don't support me as for those who do. "Because that's the job of a president," he wrote.

He pointed out that under President Trump, over 230,000 Americans have died from Covid, 30 million people have lost hours, paychecks, or jobs and nearly one in five small businesses have closed."

"Are you better off than you were four years ago?" Biden asked the voters.

If elected as president, Biden said he will rebuild the infrastructure, combat climate change and create millions of good-paying and union jobs. "It's time to build back better together," Biden said. National polls suggest a firm lead for Biden in Tuesday's election. But his lead is narrower in the handful of states that could decide the result.

Nearly 99 million people have already cast their ballots in early voting, putting the country on course for its highest turnout in a century.

Fighting to the end for every vote, Biden was headed to Philadelphia and his native Scranton on Tuesday as part of a closing get-out-the-

**TRUMP'S BEST PATH:** Trump has several paths to 270, but his best route hinges on winning Florida and Pennsylvania. If he wins both states and holds onto North Carolina and Arizona, which he narrowly carried in 2016, and also Georgia and Ohio, which he won in 2016 but is now competitive, he will win. With 29 electoral votes, Florida is arguably the most crucial state for Trump. A loss there would make it nearly impossible for him to retain the White House.

**WHAT BIDEN NEEDS:** Democrat Joe Biden's campaign is laser-focused on the states in the Midwest and close by that Trump flipped in 2016 Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. He's also making a big play for Arizona, a state that hasn't backed a Democratic presidential candidate since 1996. Biden is also redoubling his focus on Florida, a state that would virtually block Trump's reelection if it swings Democratic. The first step to beating the virus that has had a devastating impact on the US is to ensure Trump's electoral defeat, his Democratic challenger Joe Biden said on Monday.

vote effort before awaiting election results in his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware. His running mate, Sen. Kamala Harris, was visiting Detroit, a heavily Black city in battleground Michigan. Both of their spouses were headed out, too, as the Democrats reached for a clear victory.

Trump, after a morning appearance on his favored network, Fox News Channel, planned to visit his campaign headquarters in Virginia. He invited hundreds of supporters to an election night party in the East Room of the White House. The hard-fought campaign left voters on both sides to vote for Biden but spoke for many on both sides of the campaign.

There is an estimated four million Indian-American population of which about 2.5 million are potential voters in the November 2020 presidential elections. Over 1.3 million Indian-Americans are voters in key battleground states, including Texas, Michigan, Florida and Pennsylvania.

Large lines were seen and hundreds of people had queued up before polling stations, in particular in the key battleground States like Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

THE PHILIPPINES - The next U.S. president could reshape the country's relationship with President Rodrigo Duterte, who leads a key American ally in Asia, but presents a dilemma.

CHINA - It's all about trade for China and trade is about hitting economic growth targets at home and being a technology leader abroad.

Others, like North Korea, have been on the receiving end of diplomatic overtures once considered unthinkable.

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# Nature does it again

**There is a crush-resistant insect, which may have lessons for the engineer**

S ANANTHANARAYANAN

Natural structures have often done better than carefully designed man-made shells of the best materials. The structure of cellulose, the material of wood, the shells and wings of insects, all better iron and steel in their strength, given their weight.

But nothing seems to compare with the shell of a diminutive wood insect which is found in the drier parts of western US. This is *Phloeodes diabolicus*, now known as *Nosoderm diabolicum*. It may be quite right that "devilish" is its second name, as the beetle has a shell so hard that steel pins used to mount insect specimens are ineffective. The shell protects the beetle from bird-pecks and all predators, and is so strong that being run over by a car does it no harm.

Jesus Rivera, Maryam Sadat Hosseini, David Restrepo, Satoshi Murata, Drago Vasile, Dilworth Y Parkinson, Harold S Barnard, Atsushi Arakaki, Pablo Zavattieri and David Kisailus, from the Universities of California at Riverside and Irvine, Purdue University, University of Texas, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, describe in the Journal, *Nature*, their study of what makes the shell of the *diabolicum*, or the diabolical ironclad beetle, so strong, and whether we can borrow the principles to design our own engineering structures.

Through the ages of evolution, animals that lack speed and the arsenal for defence have evolved protective armour – one such is the group of arthropods, or animals that have an exoskeleton. Beetles, of which there are over 350,000 species, are the best example – their outer shell provides structural support, water collection and retention, and defence. In particular, the paper says, is the *Zopherinae* (ironclad) family, which can resist being crushed and whose forewings are so hard that steel pins bend before they can pierce them.

These beetles no longer have the membranous hind wings which enabled their ancestors, and most other current day insects, to fly and



evade their predators. Instead, the beetles have adapted by hardening the forewing, to fuse with the hind parts and form an outer covering, more robust, with density of 0.97 gm/cc, compared to 0.51 gm/cc which is more commonly found, as a shield or protection. The rough exterior acts as camouflage – the beetle looks a lot like a bit of rock, and is so hard that it can withstand piercing strikes by predators, or even heavy impact, like being run over by a car, the paper says.

To get a hold on how well *Pdiabolicus* dealt with loads that it encountered, the team carried out compression tests and compared the results with what other beetles which had the same needs, of resisting crushing and pecks by predators, could do. They found that the *Pdiabolicus* shell increases its stiffness, by over two and a half times, when the load is put on and can stand a load as high as about 15 kg. Considering its own weight, this is equivalent to a load, on a human who weighs 60kg, of more than 2,300 tonnes! Other beetles of the same kind do pretty well too, but only half as well as *Pdiabolicus*.

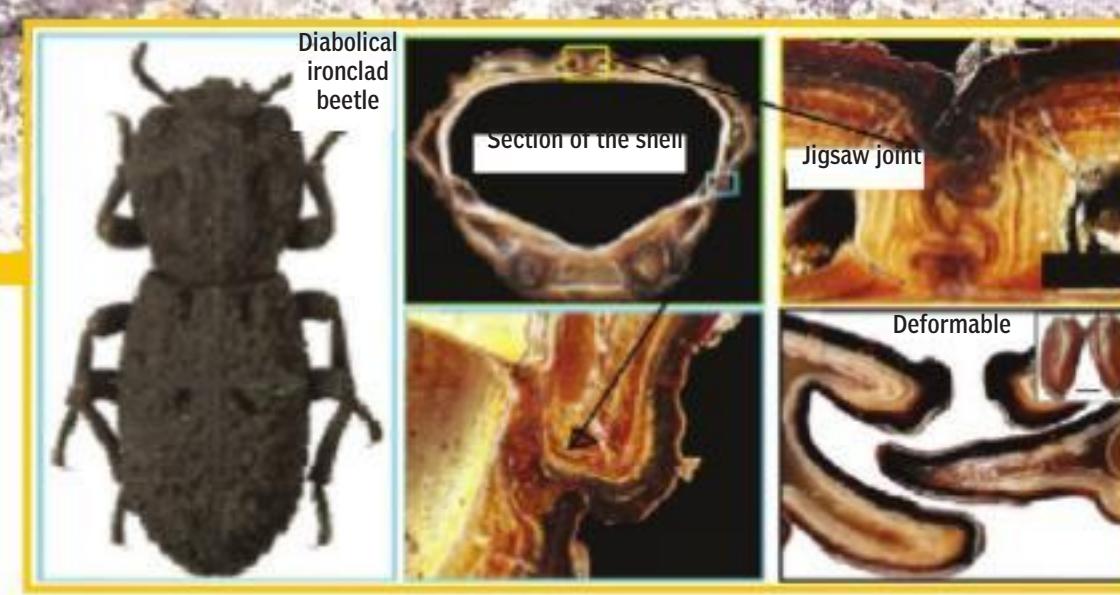
There was a species that showed comparable stiffness at the start of the loading but was not better than the others when the load increased. This suggests that the shell of *Pdiabolicus* has a different composition or structure, the paper says.

The shells, wings, and outer coverings of insects are known to have

evolved microstructure that multiplies strength and makes the material more hardy than metal sheets or other human fabrications. The Fullerian geodesic dome was a salvo into this world, it represents architecture that is present at the nano-scale in materials like graphite, but its application is more in the design of large structures. The arrangement of the molecules that make up natural materials follow similar principles, and are formed in layers, which gives the materials great capacity to absorb impact and resist damage. All of this however, is not good enough to explain the much greater resilience of the *Pdiabolicus* shell.

The team went into the details of how *Pdiabolicus'* shell is built, using methods like micro-CT scans and scanning electron microscopy. While the normal X-ray only throws a shadow, to help make out the kind of tissue the radiation has traversed, the CT scan is a series of X-ray images of slices of an organ. By viewing the slices together, one can build a 3D picture of the internals of an organ. And the scanning electron microscope produces surface images of fineness that is not possible with optical microscopes.

The investigation revealed that the secret of *Pdiabolicus* is a pair of hardy, left and right halves, connected by a central suture on top and with supports to connect the upper shell to the shell on the underside. While the material of the shell has a com-



plex structure and is formed in layers, the connections have their own complexity. The supports themselves stiffen and stay strong under compression, while some of the connections allow an extent of deformation, which enables impact to be distributed, so that no one portion bears a large impact, which could make it collapse. The study has revealed an air-filled cavity within the shell, which enables the shell to deform, to absorb shock, without damage to internal organs.

The paper describes analysis of the jointing of the shell to the underside and between the two halves of the shell along the central suture. The connections to the base are found to vary along its length, with maximum stiffness in the region of the thorax. The connections in the central suture and to the underside use "mechanically interlocking jigsaw blades", a connection method that is found in other beetle shells too. The shapes and numbers of the blades in *Pdiabolicus*, however, makes for greater distribution of stress and "maximum tensile and shear stiffness, strength and fracture toughness," the paper says.

The connectors that keep together the parts of the *Pdiabolicus* shell, the

paper finds, create "robust joints with more predictable failure than in other beetles." For failure to be "predictable", rather than "sudden" is a great advantage in the design of structures. In the case of the beetle, which needs to squeeze into cracks and crevices, it can judge when to stop increasing the pressure. Even if there is damage, the "layered" structure localises the effect and prevents spread.

The authors draw a parallel of comparable shaping of turbine blades or the landing gear of aircraft. These are devices that need to take high loads and sudden failure can have serious consequences. The authors hence constructed models which mimicked biological materials, in shapes and the layered structure. The mimics were found to do significantly better than the same devices made of standard materials. While composites that mimicked the *Pdiabolicus* suture were positively stronger, they also distributed stress more evenly. And a layered architecture reduced the possibility of a local failure that could lead to the collapse of the device.

The writer can be contacted at response@simplescience.in

## PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

**Here's how the cell-cycle regulation machine works**

TAPAN KUMAR MAITRA

The ability to grow and reproduce is a fundamental property of living organisms. Whether an organism is composed of a single cell or trillions of cells, individual cells must be able to grow and divide in an appropriately regulated fashion.

Cell growth is accomplished through the synthesis of new molecules of proteins, nucleic acids, carbohydrates and lipids. As the accumulation of these molecules causes the volume of a cell to increase, the plasma membrane grows to prevent the cell from bursting. But cells cannot continue to enlarge indefinitely; as a cell grows larger, there is an accompanying decrease in its surface area/volume ratio and hence in its capacity for effective exchange with the environment. Therefore, cell growth is generally accompanied by cell division, whereby one cell gives rise to two new daughter cells (The term *daughter* is used by convention and does not indicate that cells have gender).

For single-celled organisms, cell division increases the total number of individuals in a population. In multicellular organisms, cell division either increases the number of cells, leading to growth of the organism, or replaces cells that have died. In an adult human, for example, about two million stem cells in bone marrow divide every second to maintain a constant number of red blood cells in the body.

When cells grow and divide, the newly formed daughter cells are usually genetic duplicates of the parent cell, containing the same (or virtually the same) DNA sequences. Therefore, all the genetic information in the nucleus of the parent cell must be duplicated and carefully distributed to the daughter cells during the division process. In accomplishing this task, a cell passes through a series of discrete stages, collectively known as the cell cycle.

The cell cycle begins when two new cells are formed by the division of a single parental cell and ends when one of those cells divides

again into two cells. To early cell biologists studying eukaryotic cells with the microscope, the most dramatic events in the life of a cell were those associated with the point in the cycle when the cell actually divides. This division process, called the M phase, involves two overlapping events in which the nucleus divides first and the cytoplasm second. Nuclear division is called mitosis, and the division of the cytoplasm to produce two daughter cells is termed cytokinesis.

The stars of the mitotic drama are the chromosomes. The beginning of mitosis is marked by condensation (coiling and folding) of the cell's chromatin, which generates chromosomes that are thick enough to be individually discernible under the microscope. Because DNA replication has already taken place, each chromosome actually consists of two chromosome copies that remain attached to each other until the cell divides. As long as they remain attached, the two new chromosomes are referred to as sister chromatids. As the chromatids become visible, the nuclear envelope breaks into fragments. Then, in a stately ballet guided by the microtubules of the mitotic spindle, the sister chromatids separate and -- each now a full-fledged chromosome -- move to opposite ends of the cell. By this time, cytokinesis has usually begun, and new nuclear membranes envelop the two groups of daughter chromosomes as cell division is completed.

While visually striking, the events of the mitotic phase account for a relatively small portion of the total cell cycle; for a typical mammalian cell, the mitotic phase usually lasts less than an hour. Cells spend the majority of their time in the growth phase between divisions, called interphase. Most cellular contents are synthesised continuously during interphase, so cell mass gradually increases as the cell approaches division. During interphase the amount of nuclear DNA doubles, and experiments using radioactive DNA precursors have shown that the new DNA is synthesised during a

particular portion of interphase named the S phase (S for synthesis). A time gap called G1 phase separates the S phase from the preceding M phase, and a second gap, the G2 phase, separates the end of S phase from the beginning of the next M phase.

Although the cells of a multicellular organism divide at varying rates, most studies of the cell cycle involve cells growing in culture, where the length of the cycle tends to be similar for different cell types. We can easily determine the overall length of the cell cycle -- the generation time -- for cultured cells by counting the cells under a microscope and determining how long it takes for the population to double. In cultured mammalian cells, for example, the total cycle usually takes about 18–24 hours.

Once we know the total length of the cycle, it is possible to determine the length of specific phases. To determine the length of the S phase, we can expose cells to a radioactively labelled DNA precursor for a short period of time and then examine the cells by autoradiography. The fraction of cells with silver grains over their nuclei represents the fraction of cells that were somewhere in S phase when the radioactive compound was available. When we multiply this fraction by the total length of the cell cycle, the result is an estimate of the average length of the S phase.

For mammalian cells in culture, this fraction is often around 0.33, which indicates that S

phase is about six to eight hours in length. Similarly, we can estimate the length of the M phase by multiplying the generation time by the percentage of the cells that are actually in mitosis at any given time. This percentage is called the mitotic index. The mitotic index for cultured mammalian cells is often about three to five per cent, which means that M phase lasts less than an hour (usually 30–45 minutes).

In contrast to the S and M phases, whose lengths tend to be quite similar for different mammalian cells, the length of G1 is quite variable, depending on the cell type. Although a typical G1 phase lasts 8–10 hours, some cells spend only a few minutes or hours in G1, whereas others are delayed for long periods of time. During G1, a major "decision" is made as to whether and when the cell is to divide again. Cells that become arrested in G1, awaiting for a signal that will trigger re-entry into the cell cycle and a commitment to divide, are said to be in G0 (G zero). Other cells exit from the cell cycle entirely and undergo terminal differentiation, which means that they are destined never to divide again; most of the nerve cells in our body are in this state. In some cells, a transient arrest of the cell cycle can also occur in G2. In general, however, G2 is shorter than G1 and is more uniform in duration among different cell types, usually lasting 4–6 hours.

The writer is associate professor and head, department of botany, Ananda Mohan College, Kolkata

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This new study tested different ways to cook rice to try and reduce the arsenic content. The team from the university's Institute for Sustainable Food found that by using a home-friendly way of cooking rice, the "parboiling with absorption method", most of the arsenic was removed, while keeping most nutrients in the cooked rice. The method involves parboiling the rice in pre-boiled water for five minutes before draining and refreshing the water, then cooking it on a lower heat to absorb all the water.

Rice is known to accumulate around 10 times as much arsenic as other cereals. In rice grains, arsenic is concentrated in the outer bran layer surrounding the endosperm. This means that brown rice, (un-milled or unpolished rice that retains its bran) contains more arsenic than white rice. This milling process removes arsenic from white rice but also removes 75–90 per cent of its nutrients.

Manoj Menon, environmental soil scientist in the department of geography, University of Sheffield and lead author of the study, said, "For rice consumers, this is excellent news. Our aim was to optimise the method to remove arsenic while keeping maximum nutrients in the cooked rice. With our new method we are able to significantly reduce the arsenic exposure while reducing the loss of key nutrients."

## PLUS POINTS

**Sensing pollutant**



A five-member team of researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee has developed the world's first specific bacterial biosensor to detect the presence of the common environmental pollutant, sodium dodecyl sulphate /sodium lauryl sulphate. SDS is extensively used in soaps, toothpaste, creams, shampoo, laundry detergents for households, agricultural operations, laboratories and industries. Its subsequent disposal in waterways causes harmful effects on aquatic organisms, ecosystems and associated living organisms besides deteriorating the quality of drinking water.

The objective of the study was to develop a novel biosensor for the detection of SDS in environmental samples. Until this piece of research, there were no specific biosensors for the detection of SDS with high precision. The IIT-Roorkee team developed a whole-cell biosensor using *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* strain as a framework (chassis). The system involves a highly specific regulator along with a fluorescent protein that is produced only when SDS is present in the sample.

This biosensor is highly specific for SDS and has minimal interference from other detergents, metals and inorganic ions present in the environment. Unlike conventional methods, it can also easily distinguish between closely-related detergents – SDS and sodium dodecylbenzenesulphonate.

The biosensor showed a satisfactory and reproducible recovery rate for the detection of SDS in real samples of sewage water, river water and pond water. Overall, this is a selective and reliable biosensor for monitoring SDS in the environment.

The lead author of the study is Sourik Dey, who was supported by the department of biotechnology MSc programme at IIT-Roorkee. The project was executed in professor Naveen Kumar Navani's laboratory at the department of biotechnology. The other members of the team are Shah Nawaz Ahmad Baba, Ankita Bhattacharya and Rajat Dhyani.

SDS has diverse applications in the industrial sector as an emulsifier, food processing agent, stabiliser, leather softener, foaming, flocculating and cleaning agents. SDS has harmful effects on the survival and breeding of organisms in the aquatic ecosystem as it hampers their biological processes such as solubilisation of phosphate, reduction of ammonia, nitrogen fixation and photosynthesis. It can cause dermal and ocular irritation, cardiac anomaly, haemolysis, tachycardia, kidney failure, and even death.

## Cooking rice



A new paper from the UK's University of Sheffield in *Science of the Total Environment* shows that cooking rice in a certain way removes over 50 per cent of the naturally occurring arsenic in brown rice, and 74 per cent in white rice. Importantly, this new method does not reduce the micronutrients in the rice we need in our diet.

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## THE CAST-OFF

David Alaba (photo, left) is "hurt and disappointed" after learning that Bayern Munich withdrew a proposed contract extension following months of wrangling over a new deal. "I was surprised, I learned about it through the Press. It was obviously a very odd situation," Alaba said.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

## THUMBNAILS

**Realism returns:** Boris Johnson confirmed English facilities inclusive of golf courses, tennis courts and swimming pools would be closed from Thursday under lockdown restrictions. The Prime Minister resisted calls to keep sporting venues open for the next month.

**Indians safe:** The Indian badminton contingent inclusive of Lakshya Sen, Ajay Jayram and Subhankar Dey that had been stuck in Germany returned on Tuesday after testing negative for Covid-19 for a second time. The latest tests were held on 1 November.

**Goals afflicted:** A coronavirus outbreak at Ajax left the club without their two main goalkeepers for a Champions League game and preparing to give an untried 20-year-old his debut. The former European champions travelled to Denmark with just 17 players.



**Giggs held:** The Football Association of Wales cancelled a Press conference on Tuesday after saying it was "aware of an alleged incident" involving coach Ryan Giggs. The Sun reported Giggs had been arrested at his home in Manchester on Sunday.

**Villarreal win:** Samu Chukwueze and Pau Torres scored first-half goals as Villarreal defeated last-placed Valladolid 2-0 to move to third place in the Spanish league. Unai Emery's team dominated from the start at Ceramica Stadium, it was reported.

**Bark scores:** Anton Bark showed no ill effects from the coronavirus as he scored twice to help Hellas Verona beat Benevento 3-1 in Serie A. Verona moved to seventh, level on points with a number of other teams and five points behind early leaders AC Milan.



**Vardy strikes:** Jamie Vardy helped create two early goals and then scored a superb third as Leicester beat Leeds 4-1 to secure a fourth straight away win in the English Premier League and climb into second place. Vardy shows no sign of slowing down at age 33.

**Kruse sparkles:** Former Germany striker Max Kruse scored one goal and set up two more for Union Berlin to beat Hoffenheim 3-1 away in the Bundesliga. Union climbed to seventh place with nine points from six rounds, while Hoffenheim dropped to 12th with seven.

**Security delegation:** A four-member security delegation from Cricket South Africa headed by Mookesh Gajjar arrived in Islamabad on Monday ahead of the Proteas' tour of Pakistan early next year. The delegation includes Stephen Craig Cook, Rory Steyn and MZ Wadee.

**Watson fadeout:** Former Australian player Shane Watson on Tuesday announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. "I am grateful to everyone who was good to me and helped me realise that dreams come through. Now onto the next exciting chapter," he said.

## THE CAST-OFF

David Alaba (photo, left) is "hurt and disappointed" after learning that Bayern Munich withdrew a proposed contract extension following months of wrangling over a new deal. "I was surprised, I learned about it through the Press. It was obviously a very odd situation," Alaba said.

www.thestatesman.com

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ABU DHABI, 3 NOVEMBER

**S**kipper Virat Kohli (in photo) said last night Royal Challengers Bangalore batsmen could get "braver with the bat" as his team made the Indian Premier League play-off phase.

RCB slumped to their fourth defeat on the trot, losing to Delhi Capitals by six wickets, but still made the cut because of their net run rate.

RCB did not score much in the first half of the innings against DC and had a quiet powerplay session.

"We have a shot, an opportunity and that's all we want as a team. I'm sure the guys will be excited about what's ahead of us. We can be braver with the bat in pockets," Kohli said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

"With the ball, we were decent, probably we could have a strong powerplay, which is our strength. If we implement those things, we'll be at the right end of the

result. It's important to stay positive. There are going to be lessons learnt along the way, but we are glad that we are through."

They had lost a number of matches but Kohli said they deserved to be in the top four.

"It's a mixed bag. As I said at the toss, you come to games to try and get the result your way. We are happy that we've qualified. Top two would've been very really nice. But I think we've played good enough cricket to earn a qualification spot," he said.

Kohli said they had been told by the team management that they needed to force the match beyond 17.3 overs and they did well to manage that with some superb middle-overs bowling.

"Even if the game's drifting away from you, we controlled that middle phase really well where they could have taken the game away from us."

RCB was to face either Sunrisers Hyderabad or

Kolkata Knight Riders in the eliminator.

"You could say just before the qualification, the mindset was a little bit tentative. We've got two games to reach the final."

Asked about injured pace-man Navdeep Saini and all-

rounder Chris Morris, who walked off the field after bowling just two overs, the skipper said the duo would have to be assessed.

"We'll have to assess what's happening, hopefully they'll be fine by the time we play our next game. And see how they

go in the next few days."

Delhi Capitals' skipper Shreyas Iyer is "chuffed" about the way his team bounced back from four consecutive losses to make the playoffs, insisting his "fearless" peers had what it took to upset Mumbai Indians now. Delhi will take

on the defending champions on Thursday for a place in the title clash.

"Mumbai Indians are one of the best teams. Having said that, I feel we are also a fearless and amazing bunch of boys," Iyer said at the post-match Press conference, adding: "It really depends on the day. They are pretty experienced in such (finals) stages but the team that have a good attitude and good composure on that given day is to make it through."

With Prithvi Shaw, Iyer himself, Rishabh Pant and South African paceman Kagiso Rabada, Delhi are packed with talented youngsters.

Iyer said the key to getting past Mumbai would be handling pressure with ease.

"We need to keep things simple and not complicate them in pressure situations. The way we have been going, this was a really good win and it's going to be a really good booster as well for us."

The four-match losing streak having ended, Iyer was

a relieved man.

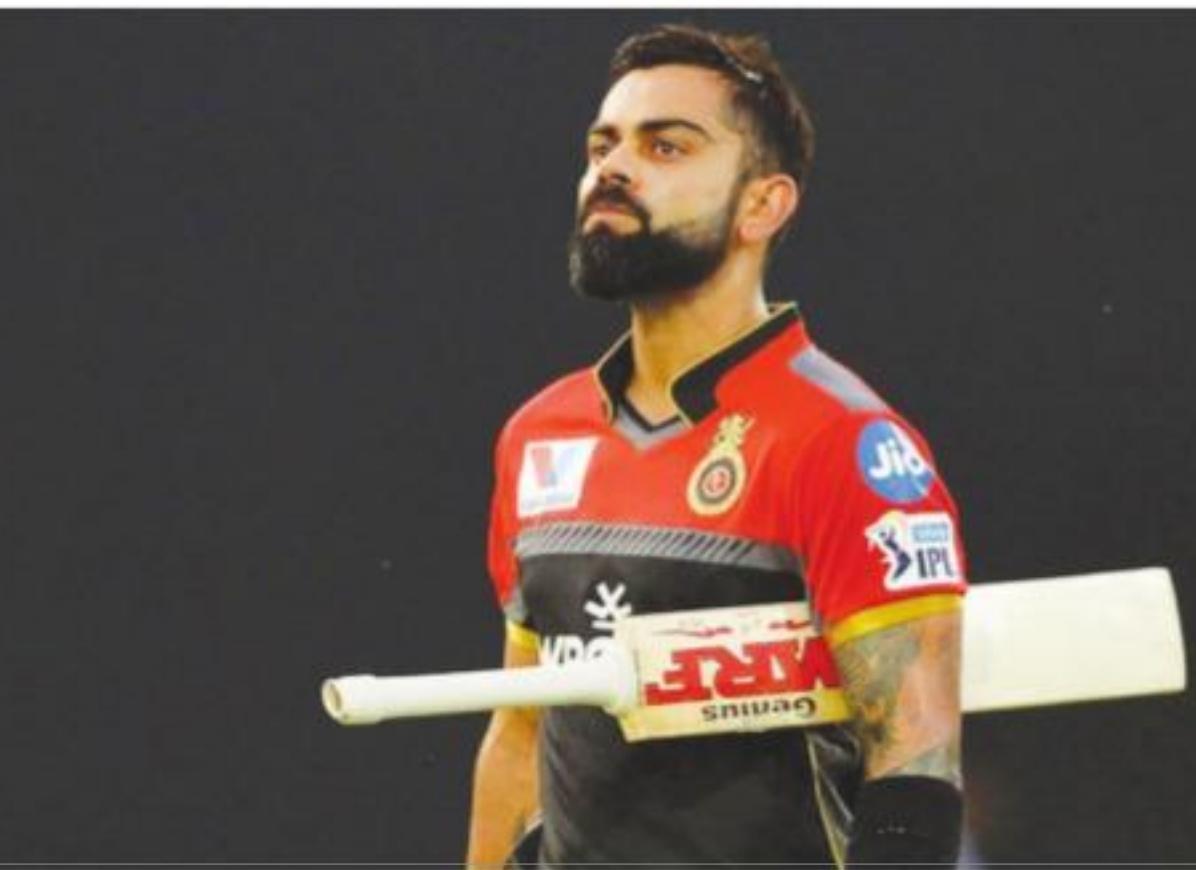
"This win was very essential and it has put smiles on our faces after four consecutive losses. Today the way we played, it was a comprehensive win. All the departments chipped in very well. "I am really chuffed by their performance, the way they came up and delivered at the right time. The second place obviously makes you feel good after the season you had, with all the ups and downs," he said.

"The IPL is always a roller-coaster journey."

Iyer also expressed hopes that Ajinkya Rahane would continue to play a significant role. Rahane scored 60 runs in the win against the RCB.

"(He) Rahane carries a lot of experience in the IPL and the way he paced his innings, it was amazing to see. It was a great example and he peaked at the right time, just when we needed him."

"With a few important matches coming up, he will definitely play an important role."



## Kohli hopes RCB batsmen will get better

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## Why Sri Lanka should support Khwaja's candidature

THE ISLAND/ANN



the next ICC chairman. Khwaja is a good choice for a variety of reasons.

Khwaja's thinking is similar to Manohar's, given the rejection of both of the Big Three concept. His becoming ICC chief will ensure a fair distribution method of ICC money. What former chairman N Srinivasan supported was a large chunk going to the Big Three with India taking the lion's share.

Khwaja favours an extra ICC event in a four-year cycle which makes for a chance to stage an event such as Champions Trophy. This is important for the smaller boards, like that of Sri Lanka, as it brings them more revenue. Barclay believes in the opposite - more bilateral cricket - which allows India, Australia and England to play frequently against one another.

Barclay is a lawyer as well. The biggest advantage he has is support from India. SLC has a history of voting with India. It remains to be seen what it will do this time around. This will be a secret ballot and there are 16 votes. The winner needs a two-thirds majority - 11 votes.

Khwaja is a lawyer. His rise in cricket has been impressive as he does not represent a full-member country. He joined the ICC board as a representative of the associate members and soon became very popular.

Currently, he is ICC's interim boss after Manohar stepped down.

It is said that Sri Lanka Cricket has yet to decide whom it will vote for. The board will be represented by president Shammi Silva, who will stamp the ballot for

## SRH restrict MI to 149/8 in must-win game

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Sunrisers Hyderabad bowlers played their part in a must-win game by restricting Mumbai Indians to 149 for eight in IPL's final league fixture here on Tuesday.

MI would have ended up with much less if it wasn't for Kieron Pollard (in photo), who ensured his team put up a fighting total on a slow surface with an entertaining 41 off 25 balls. The defending champions collected 51 runs off the last five overs.

Needing a victory to make the play-offs, SRH bowlers made merry on a helping surface after their skipper David Warner decided to put the opposition in to bat.

MI skipper Rohit Sharma (4), who missed the last four games due to a hamstring injury, made a surprise return in his team's last game ahead of the play-offs. However, he lasted for only seven balls as pacer Sandeep Sharma (3/34) had him caught at mid-off with a well-disguised knuckle ball.

Sandeep also found the stumps of Rohit's opening partner Quinton de Kock (36 off 29) who played on after smashing the SRH pacer for couple of sixes and a boundary.

It was the turn of spinners Rashid Khan (1/32) and Shahbad Nadeem (2/19) to provide wickets in the middle-overs.

Nadeem got rid of the inform Suryakumar Yadav (36) and Krunal Pandya (0) in the 12th over and then Rashid removed Saurabh Tiwary in the

following to reduce MI to 82 for five.

Just when the partnership between Ishan Kishan (33 of 30) and Pollard was looking dangerous, Sandeep removed the southpaw to tighten the screws on the opposition.

However, Pollard came to his team's rescue yet again with a valuable cameo.

Pollard hammered four sixes, three of those came in the penultimate over bowled by death overs specialist T Natarajan.

West Indian all-rounder Jason Holder (2/25) also produced a tidy spell.

SCOREBOARD		
<b>MUMBAI INDIANS INNINGS</b>		
RG Sharma c Warner b Sharma	4	
Q de Kock b S Sharma	25	
SA Yadav st Shah b Nadeem	36	
Ishan Kishan c b S Sharma	33	
KH Pandya c Williamson b Nadeem 0		
SS Tiwary c Shah b R Khan	1	
KA Pollard b Holder	41	
NM Coulter-Nile c Garg b Holder	1	
JL Patterson not out	4	
DS Kulikarni not out	3	
Extras: (lb 1)	1	
<b>TOTAL:</b> (20 Ov, RR: 7.45)	149	
<b>BOWLING:</b> S Sharma 4,0,34,3		
J Holder 4,0,25,2 S Nadeem 4,0,19,2 R Khan 4,0,32,1		

## Was disappointed when I wasn't playing, says Rahane

AGENCIES

ABU DHABI, 3 NOVEMBER



Senior Delhi Capitals batsman Ajinkya Rahane (in photo) has revealed that he was disappointed when he didn't get to play for the franchise early in the current Indian Premier League.

Rahane has played just six games in IPL 2020, scoring 111 runs. Last evening, though, he was back in form with a well-compiled half-century which helped Delhi beat Royal Challengers Bangalore.

The right-handed batsman scored 60 valuable runs and anchored the chase for the Shreyas Iyer-led side at Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

"Finally, I got a chance to play. I was disappointed when I didn't get to play. However, it felt good after contributing to the team's win and enjoyed batting with you (Shikhar

Dhawan). The way you batted I learnt a lot," Rahane told Dhawan during a chat for iplt20.com.

"Ricky (Ponting) told me that I am going to bat at number three and I felt that a good opportunity is there. It was a challenge for me in a pressure game like this. As a player, if you contribute in crunch situations you feel good and when the team wins, the joy doubles," he added.

## Archer's mark

Rajasthan Royals failed in their bid to make the play-offs of this year's Indian Premier League but their pace spearhead Jofra Archer would leave with his head held high after his superlative performance in the tournament.

Sunday's 60-run thumping by Kolkata Knight Riders ended the 2008 winners' hope of a second IPL title but England quick Archer enjoyed a stellar season and still led the race for the tournament's Most Valuable Player. Archer is among the six bowlers who have claimed 20 or more wickets in this IPL and his economy rate of 6.55 is the best.

Rajasthan Captain Steve Smith felt the team's inconsistent top order had failed to complement the efforts of Archer and all-rounder Rahul Tewatia.

## Zimbabwe beat Pakistan via Super Over

RAWALPINDI, 3 NOVEMBER

Speedster Blessing Muzarabani grabbed a five-for in the regulation play and scalped two more wickets in the Super Over to help Zimbabwe stun Pakistan in the third and final ODI here on Tuesday.

It was Zimbabwe's first win over Pakistan since 2015. The home team has already clinched the three-match ODI series, having won the earlier two matches.

Pakistan and Zimbabwe now play a three-match T20I series, starting on Saturday

win in the Super Over, Zimbabwe wrapped up the match in three balls.

Chasing 279 for a win, Babar Azam produced a captain's innings to score his 12th ODI century but was dismissed in the 49th over by a sharp rising ball from Muzarabani to set up a thrilling finish.

Earlier, Zimbabwe made a great recovery after being three down for 22 runs as Hasnain ran amok, dismissing captain Chamu Chibhabha, Craig Ervine and Brian Chari in quick succession.

AGENCIES

## Champions League providing succour for inconsistent Man Utd

AGENCIES

MANCHESTER, 3 NOVEMBER



turbulent start to the season that has seen Paul Pogba and Alex Telles contract the coronavirus, Harry Maguire get arrested in Greece, and Mason Greenwood get dropped from the England squad for misbehaviour before also reportedly having disciplinary issues at United, Solskjaer has been forced to change personnel on a regular basis.

He has also switched systems of late, from a 4-3-3 that was favored for most of last season, United to a diamond formation in midfield.

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