

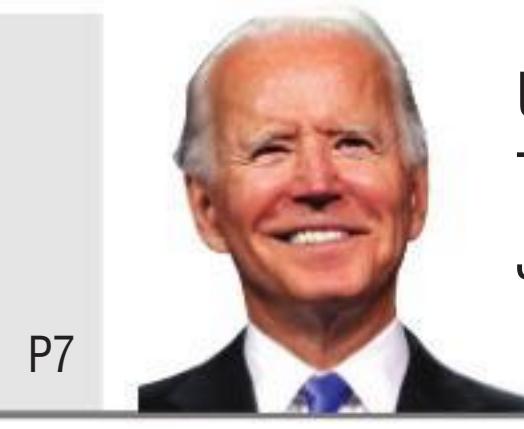


ROTI HINDUS?



P6

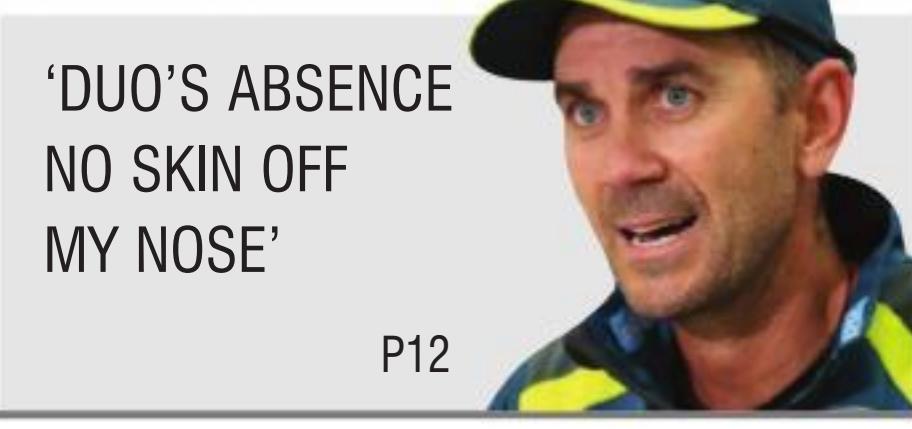
DECIPHERING
THE RISE OF
TEJASHWI YADAV



P7

PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION

US READY TO LEAD
THE WORLD AGAIN:
JOE BIDEN



P10

'DUO'S ABSENCE
NO SKIN OFF
MY NOSE'

WEATHER

Generally cloudy sky. Very light rain/drizzle in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 23 and 10 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 95% Min: 58%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 24.4°C (-2) Min: 10.4°C (-1)

SUN RISES SUN SETS

06:53 hrs 17:25 hrs

MOON RISES MOON SETS

15:15 hrs 03:58 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Heavy smog at Vijay Chowk in New Delhi on Wednesday.

SUBRATA DUTTA

Cabinet clears Lakshmi Vilas Bank merger: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday gave its approval to the Scheme of Amalgamation of crisis-hit Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited (LVB) with DBS Bank India Limited (DBIL). With this step, the government said there will no further restrictions on the depositors regarding the withdrawal of their deposits. The government also assured depositors that Rs 20,000 crore of deposits with LVB are fully secured and they should not worry. The government had earlier on November 17 on the advice of the RBI imposed a 30-day moratorium on the crisis-ridden LVB restricting cash withdrawal at Rs 25,000 per depositor.

P8

Farooq's sister in Roshni Act list: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah's sister and two prominent hoteliers including a Congress leader figure in the second list of 130 people who have availed land under now-scraped Roshni Act. According to the fresh list uploaded on the website of Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, majority of the beneficiaries including a former bureaucrat and his wife legalised their residential places under the scheme, while there are also names of dozens of businessmen who have got the ownership of their commercial buildings. The administration uploaded a list of 35 beneficiaries which included former finance minister Haseeb Drabu, some of his relatives and top hoteliers and a former bureaucrat earlier.

Amaravati scam FIR: SC stays HC media gag

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 25 NOVEMBER

The Supreme Court today stayed the order of the Andhra Pradesh High Court restraining the media from reporting on the FIR on the Amaravati land scam lodged by the Anti-corruption Bureau (ACB) of the state police which was investigating the case.

The FIR had named 13 persons, including the former advocate general of AP Dammalapati Srinivas, his wife and the two daughters of a Supreme Court judge for purchasing land in the core area of the proposed capital allegedly taking advantage of their prior knowledge that the TDP government was going to set up a greenfield capital at Amaravati. The apex court passed the order while hearing an appeal

filed by the AP government against the order of the High Court on 15 September which ordered a stay on investigations as well as reporting by the media.

The bench comprising Justices Asok Bhushan, Subhash Reddy and MR Shah said AP High Court shall not decide till January-end on the matter related to alleged irregularities in land transactions in Amaravati. However, it refused to stay the other directions of the High Court, including that on investigations at this stage. While no notice was issued to chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, the bench has sought responses from the AP DGP and former state advocate general Dammalapati Srinivas on the High Court's bar on investigations which was challenged by the state government.

Cong strategist Ahmed Patel passes away

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 25 NOVEMBER

Senior Congress leader and the party's top strategist Ahmed Patel died in a Gurugram hospital on Wednesday due to multi-organ failure. He was suffering from complications related to Covid-19.

Patel (71), who was critical for a few days, was admitted to the Medanta hospital in Gurugram on November 15 after he developed complications.

"With profound grief & sorrow, I regret to announce the sad and untimely demise of my father, Mr. Ahmed Patel at 25/11/2020, 03:30 AM. After testing positive for Covid-19 around a month back, his health worsened further due to multiple organ failures. May Allah grant



him Jannatul firdaus, inshallah," his son Faisal said in a tweet.

He also urged all well-wishers to adhere to the Covid-19 regulations by avoiding mass gatherings. "AP" to his friends and

liah situations many a time. He was the grand old party's pointsman for building consensus on key issues with other parties and leaders. A soft-spoken and affable man, Patel was well-respected and had friends across the aisle and in different spheres.

Patel was currently a member of the Rajya Sabha from Gujarat. He was an eight-time parliamentarian. He was currently the Congress treasurer, a post that he occupied thrice.

President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, besides Congress leaders, including party chief Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, and Union ministers condoled Patel's demise.

Obituary, Page 5

Some judicial observations gave impression of overreach: VP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KEVADIA (GUJ), 25 NOVEMBER

Citing court verdicts on firecrackers and denying the executive a role in the appointment of judges, Vice-President M Venkaiyah Naidu on Wednesday said some judgments gave a distinct impression of the judiciary's overreach.

He stressed that the legislature, the executive and the judiciary are bound to work within their respective domains as defined in the Constitution.

Addressing the 80th All India Presiding Officers' Conference on "Harmonious Coor-

dination between Legislature, Executive and Judiciary - Key to Vibrant Democracy", Naidu said vibrant harmony lies in each organ doing its job, without interfering with that of the others. This warrants a spirit of mutual respect, responsibility and restraint. Unfortunately, there have been several instances of crossing the boundaries, he said.

Naidu said there have been quite a few judicial pronouncements that gave a distinct impression of an overreach.

"Since independence, the Supreme Court and the high courts have delivered sever-

al far-reaching verdicts in furtherance of socio-economic objectives, besides making correctional interventions. But occasionally, concerns have been raised as to whether they were entering the domains of the legislative and execu-

tive wings. "There have been debates as to whether some issues should have been more legitimately left to the other organs of the government," he said. The higher judiciary deciding on Diwali fireworks, denying the executive any role in the appointment of judges through collegiums, invalidating the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act seeking to enforce accountability and transparency were some of the instances of judicial overreach cited by the vice president.

"There have been quite a few judicial pronouncements

that gave a distinct impression of overreach. These actions have resulted in an avoidable blurring of the contours demarcated by the Constitution," Naidu said.

"At times, the legislature too has tended to cross the line. The 39th Constitution amendment placing the election of president, vice president and prime minister beyond the scope of judicial scrutiny in the circumstances in 1975 is one such instance," he said. "Violations of the rights and liberties of citizens by the executive at times are too visible for comfort," he added.

Soccer great Maradona is dead at 60

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BUENOS AIRES, 25 NOVEMBER



Diego Maradona, the Argentine soccer great who was among the best players ever and who led his country to the 1986 World Cup title before later struggling with cocaine use and obesity, has died. He was 60.

Maradona died two weeks after being discharged from a Buenos Aires hospital following brain surgery.

Famed for the "Hand of God" goal in which he punched the ball into England's net during the 1986 World Cup quarterfinals, Maradona captivated fans over a two-decade career with a bewitching style of play that was all his own.

Although his reputation was tarnished by his addictions and an ill-fated spell in charge of the national team, he remained idolised in soccer-mad Argentina as the "Pibe de Oro" or "Golden Boy." The No. 10 he wore on his jersey became synonymous with him, as it also had with Pele, the Brazilian great with whom he was regularly paired as the best of all time.

Bold, fast and utterly unpredictable, Maradona was a master of attack, juggling the ball easily from one foot to the other as he raced upfield. Dodging and weaving with his low centre of gravity, he shrugged off countless rivals and often scored with a devastating left foot, his most powerful weapon.





Even Lalu Prasad has been put behind bars but still he has ensured his party's good electoral performance. The victory of the BJP in Bihar was secured through sheer manipulation and not through a popular mandate

MAMATA BANERJEE

WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

'Delhi Covid hospitals get 1.3K ICU beds in 2 weeks'

Amid surge in corona deaths in the Capital, LG orders prompt hospitalisation of patients under home isolation; CM urges experts to audit these fatalities and suggest measures to reduce them



SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, 25 NOVEMBER

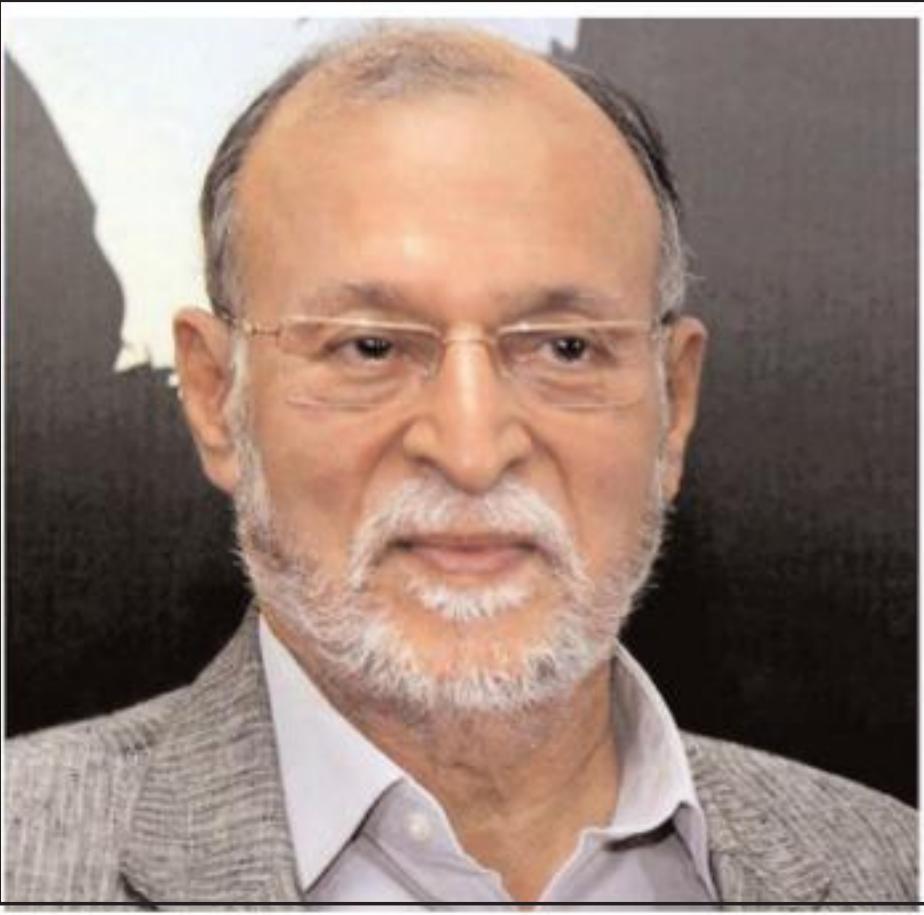
The official said chief minister Arvind Kejriwal has been monitoring the situation and that all efforts are being made by the Delhi government to bring down the Covid mortality rate.

A mid a surge in coronavirus cases and deaths in Delhi, as many as 2,000 normal and 1,300 ICU beds have been added in city hospitals in the past two weeks for Covid patients, an official said today.

The official said chief minister Arvind Kejriwal has been monitoring the situation and that all efforts are being made by the Delhi government to bring down the Covid mortality rate.

The death rate stood at 1.89 per cent yesterday. Delhi recorded over 100 Covid deaths for the fifth consecutive day.

"A total of 1,300 ICU beds and 2,000 non-ICU beds for Covid-19 patients have been added in Delhi in the past two weeks, with the maximum 232 ICU beds in GTB Hospital. In Lok Nayak Jai Prakash



Centre-run hospitals like AIIMS and Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi.

Delhi Lt Governor Anil Baijal today directed officers to ensure timely hospitalisation of Covid patients under home isolation in case of emergency to reduce the mortality rate in the national capital which has recorded over 100 daily deaths in 7 of the last 13 days.

The LG also asked officers to ensure strict monitoring of Covid patients under home isolation as there have been instances of some people not following isolation norms.

According to official data, there were 22,246 Covid patients under home isolation in Delhi till yesterday.

Baijal reviewed the Covid situation in Delhi, hospital preparedness and implementation of a new strategy and action points recently issued by Union home minister Amit

Shah.

At a meeting of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Baijal asked officials to enhance surveillance, strictly enforce containment measures, increase testing and scale up requisite medical infrastructures like ICU and ventilators.

During the review meeting, CM Kejriwal urged experts to audit Covid death cases and suggest measures to reduce fatalities in the national capital.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, chief secretary Vijay Dev, NITI Aayog member V K Paul, AIIMS director Randeep Guleria, ICMR DG Balram Bhargava as well as other experts and senior officers of the Delhi government.

Delhi recorded 109 Covid fatalities yesterday as against Monday's 121. It reported 121 deaths on Sunday, 111 on Saturday, 118 on Friday, 131 on 18

November - the highest till date ~ and 104 fatalities on 12 November.

The tally of active cases in the city stood at 38,501 yesterday.

With the addition of 20 ventilators to the beds available at Burari Hospital, full-fledged ICU treatment will now be available at this Delhi government's newly set-up hospital. Thirty more ventilators will be made available to the hospital by Saturday. It will also have a bio-medical and surgical waste management facility.

Addressing the inaugural function there today, Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain said

patients could now avail themselves of proper treatment at this healthcare centre.

"Burari Hospital has completed four months today. I'm proud of the work done by the staff. Looking after 1000 Covid patients in such a short span is an example of commendable work done at the hospital. Today, we have added 20 ventilators that will allow for full-fledged ICU treatment. Twenty non-ventilated ICU beds are already available.

A ventilator is an important facility. Burari Hospital is now fully equipped to treat patients," he said.

Clad in a PPE suit, Jain visited the hospital's Covid Ward and met the patients there.

Reassuring them not to lose hope, he took their feedback and directed the hospital staff to act accordingly. Urging patients to take proper precautions, he said Delhi was experiencing the third wave of coronavirus infection and that the most effective way to protect oneself is to wear a face mask.

SDMC's automated car parking at Green Park inaugurated

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 25 NOVEMBER

Delhi's first "fully automated" tower car parking built by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) at Green Park metro station was thrown open for public today.

He said that its operation and maintenance cost and requirement of manual labour will be much lower than the conventional parking. The retrieval time of the vehicle in the tower parking will be just 150 seconds in comparison to 15 minutes in the conventional parking.

RKS Singh congratulated the SDMC for selecting the "most feasible new age" parking system to overcome the parking problem in and around Green Park.

He offered to provide expertise, consultancy and help the ministry in providing boost to the innovative actions in future. While giving detailed descrip-

tion of the projects being executed by his ministry in and around Delhi, he expressed hope that the projects will go a long way in accelerating the pace of development in the city and providing facilities to the citizens.

LG Baijal said, "This sort of vertical parking is most appropriate in the congested markets and populated colonies as it requires just 1.50 sqm space to park a car in comparison to 30 sqm required in conventional parking."

RKS Singh congratulated the SDMC for selecting the "most feasible new age" parking system to overcome the parking problem in and around Green Park.

He offered to provide expertise, consultancy and help the ministry in providing boost to the innovative actions in future. While giving detailed descrip-

HC asks police to counsel parents not to threaten daughter and her husband for marrying against wishes

PTI
NEW DELHI, 25 NOVEMBER

The Delhi High Court has asked the police to counsel the parents of a 20-year-old woman, who willingly left her house and married a man of her choice, not to threaten the couple or take law into hands.

The high court said the woman, being a major, was free to reside wherever and with whom she wishes.

A bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Rajnish Bhatnagar directed that the woman be permitted to reside with the man and asked the police to escort her to the residence of the man, the bench said.

It asked the police to counsel the woman's sister and parents "not to take law into their hands or threaten either the man or the woman."

It said the mobile number of an official of the concerned police station, where she would reside with her husband, should be provided to them so that they may get in touch with police officials in case of need. The court

passed the order on a habeas corpus petition by the woman's sister seeking her production.

A habeas corpus petition is filed seeking direction to produce before the court a person who is missing or illegally detained. The plea said the woman went missing on September 12 and the family suspected the man behind it. The woman was later traced and produced before the high court through video conferencing.

During an interaction with the judges, the woman said she had gone with the man of her own free will and that she has married him.

The high court noted that as per the police status report, the woman was born in 2000 and even on the date when she went missing, she was a major.

Classified

TENDERS

PANSKURA MUNICIPALITY
P.O.: Panskura
Dist.: Purba Medinipur
E-TENDER NOTICE
NIT No.: TENDER
Notice No.: WBMAD /
PANSKURA / NIT-15e
& 16e / 2020-21
(2nd Call)
E-Tender is invited for
Different development works of road,
drain, guard wall etc.
at different wards
within Panskura
Municipality, District:
Purba Medinipur
within Panskura
Municipality, Purba
Medinipur. Detailed
NIT along with complete
document can be downloaded from
w e b s i t e :
<https://wtb.tenders.gov.in> from 21.11.2020
from 11.00 a.m. and
last date of submission
of e-tender is
12.12.2020 up to 2.00
p.m.
Chairman
Panskura
Municipality

EDUCATIONAL

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY
Kolkata - 700 032
M.A. (Day) & M.A. (Evening)
Admissions
Session 2020-21
Applications are invited for admission to (i) 2-year M.A. (Day) courses (Session 2020-21) in Bengali, English, Comparative Literature, Economics, Film Studies, Education, Political Science with International Relations, History, Sanskrit, Linguistics, Philosophy & Sociology and (ii) 2-year M.A. (Evening) courses (Session 2020-21) in Bengali, History & Sanskrit. Applications are to be made online through the University website www.jaduniv.edu.in and from November 24 December 8, 2020. Details will be available in the University web page on and from 24.11.2020. Reservations under SC/ST/PWD/BC/A/BC-B quota is as per State Govt. rules. Secretary, Faculty Council of Arts

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DARESH Heart Grove,
R/o. 12D/H/2, Abinash
Chowdhury Lane, P.S.
Topsia, Kolkata-700046,
hereby declare that Daresh

Heart Grove and Grove
Tushiharto are the same and identical person, vide
Affidavit No. 5224, sworn before Judicial Magistrate,
1st Class, Alipore, dated
17.11.2020.

I, ANNA Prasad Singh,
residing at 5033 ASC BN
(MT), C/O 99 APO, have
changed my wife's name
from Bindeswari Singh to
Bindeshwari Singh, vide
affidavit Dt. 24.11.2020
sworn before Notary Om
Prakash Gupta, Siliguri.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

MY clients Prakash Solanki,
s/o Late Magan Lal and
Seema Solanki, r/o H. No. 570,
1st Floor, Sector-45, Durgon
has disowned their son Ushar
Solanki and his wife Divya
Manavat from their movable
and immovable properties.
If anybody deals with them,
shall do so at his own risk. My
clients shall not be responsible
in any manner.

Sanjay Bhatnagar
Advocate
Ch. No. 299,
Patiala House Courts
New Delhi-110001
Mob. 9810497338

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AIR-SURCHARGE; Kathmandu - Rs. 2, Eastern Region - Re. 1
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fire at Ghazipur landfill site has been deliberately caused by BJP leaders speaks volume on his political conduct.

"Only AAP leaders can think of such allegations because they might be themselves doing such misdeeds. EDMC's political leadership has been working hard to decrease the height of the garbage dump and the same has been showing results during the last one year," he said.

As for last night's fire, he said the blaze broke around 2.30 am and landfill site attendants immediately sought fire brigade's help.

"The fire was controlled within two hours and machines were put in use to stagger garbage. The low pressure atmosphere of Delhi is the root cause of pollution choking the city and today's fire can at best be a very minor addition," Kapoor said.

It is sad that the AAP government has done nothing in the last six years to fight the main causes of environmental pollution and today are trying to shift blame over a minor fire in a landfill site, he added.

AAP, BJP spar over fire at Ghazipur landfill site

PTI
NEW DELHI, 25 NOVEMBER

AAP leader Durgesh Pathak on Wednesday claimed that BJP leaders have set a fire in the Ghazipur landfill site to defame the Arvind Kejriwal government, a charge denied by the saffron party which said only AAP leaders can think of such allegations because they themselves might be doing such acts.

A fire broke out in east Delhi's Ghazipur landfill on a day when Delhi's air quality slipped into the severe category.

Pathak, in a statement, said that due to the fire in the garbage mountain, people are choking. He said that BJP leaders are playing with the lives of Delhi residents by burning the mountain of garbage.

He also said that the AAP demands there should be a fair investigation into the fire at the landfill site and strict action should be taken against the culprits.

"I have come to know that the BJP people have set themselves on fire in this garbage mountain. The BJP is doing all this to defame the Delhi government," he said.

"MP Gautam Gambhir

and BJP leaders have been making false claims that they have reduced the height of this particular garbage mountain. Firstly they



Chaired the first meeting of National Implementation Committee (NIC) for Commemorating 75th anniversary of India's Independence. #IndiaAt75

AMIT SHAH
UNION HOME MINISTER

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2020

03

RAIN IN HILLS



People walking during the rain in Shimla on Wednesday.

LALIT KUMAR

Delhi Police rejects requests for farmers' march to city

PTI
NEW DELHI, 25 NOVEMBER

Delhi Police on Wednesday asserted it has rejected requests received from various farmer organisations to protest in the national capital against the Centre's new farm laws on November 26 and 27.

The police had on Tuesday said that legal action would be taken against the protesting farmers if they come to the city for any gathering amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The farmers will reach Delhi on November 26 through five highways connecting the city as part of their 'Delhi Chalo' march call.

Taking to Twitter, the city police said requests have been rejected for any such gathering in the city.

"REGARDING FARMER ORGANIZATIONS MARCH

TO DELHI ON 26 & 27 NOVEMBER. All the requests received from various Farmer Organisations regarding protest in Delhi on 26 and 27 November have been rejected and this has already been communicated to the organisers," the Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) tweeted.

"Please co-operate with Delhi Police in ensuring no gathering in Delhi amid coronavirus, failing which legal action will be initiated as per law," it said.

Delhi Police PRO Eish Singh said, "Various farmer organisations have requested for permission for protest in Delhi on November 26 and 27. We have conveyed to them in writing and through various media also that the protest is not permitted in view of the latest DDMA guidelines."

"When the condition is

All H'yana depts to celebrate Constitution Day today

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 25 NOVEMBER

All the departments of the Haryana government will celebrate Constitution Day on 26 November in which the Preamble of the Constitution will be read.

Giving this information, an official spokesperson said that this year the PM Modi, will lead the reading of the Preamble at 11 a.m. on 26 November during the Conference of the All India Presiding Officer at Kevadia, Gujarat.

He further informed that all offices of the state government, autonomous bodies, organisations, local self government institutions, educational institutions etc may also join the Prime Minister in reading of the Preamble from their respective offices while ensuring to adhere to the guidelines issued in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic.

He said that other activities, including talks or webinars on constitutional values and fundamental principles of the Indian Constitution may also be organized. Meanwhile, Haryana Governor, Satyadeo Narain Arya has extended heartfelt greetings to the people of the state on Constitution

The Constitution of India ensures social equality, economic and political justice, freedom of thought, and equal opportunity to all the citizens of the country which makes India a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic Republic'

Day. He said that the Constitution of India ensures social equality, economic and political justice, freedom of thought, and equal opportunity to all the citizens of the country which makes India a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic Republic.

Arya said that the Constitution was adopted and enacted on 26 November, 1949 in the Constituent Assembly. This day is being celebrated as Constitution Day all over the country.

On the occasion of Constitution Day, the Governor saluted the Architect of Indian Constitution and social reformer, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar and appreciated his untiring efforts.

He appealed to the common people to read the Preamble of the Constitution on this day and be committed to uphold the ideals of the Preamble.

Giving details of the new restrictions after a high-level state Covid review meeting,

good, they can seek due permission and exercise their right to protest in Delhi. For now, they are requested to cooperate with Delhi Police and not indulge in any kind of protest. If despite our appeal they turn up to Delhi, the required legal action will be taken against them," Singh said.

The All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC), Rashtriya Kisan Mahasangh and various factions of the Bharatiya Kisan Union have joined hands and formed a 'Samyukt Kisan Morcha' to press the central government to scrap the three farm laws.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (east) Jasmeet Singh said, The main focus of our will be on Ghazipur border, Chilla border and DND. Heavy deployment of police personnel is already there and the checking will take place

round the clock. The paramilitary force is also placed. Police will also check the other small borders of the district.

The protest has the support of over 500 farmer organisations. Police said all border pickets have been made active. We have deployed heavy force at the bordering areas of the district. Eight companies of paramilitary will be assisting police at the borders, Deputy Commissioner of Police (outer-north) Gaurav Sharma said.

"Three companies of paramilitary force have been deployed at the Jharda Kalan border and the round the clock checking will take place," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Santosh Kumar Meena said.

Farmers have expressed apprehension that the new laws would pave way for the dismantling of the minimum support price system, leaving them at the mercy of big corporates. They have been demanding that the laws be repealed.

"The local police personnel of the district, along with some numbers from the outside, have been deployed at Singhu border. Six company of the paramilitary force will also join them," Deputy Commissioner of Police (outer-north) Gaurav Sharma said.

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Haryana seals borders with Pb, deploys cops to foil farmers' 'Delhi Chalo' march

PTI
CHANDIGARH, 25 NOVEMBER

A day ahead of farmers' slated protest march to Delhi against the Centre's farm laws, Haryana on Wednesday heavily barricaded its borders with Punjab and suspended its bus service to the neighbouring state in a bid to foil the march.

The Haryana police also used water cannons against the state's farmers on the national highway in Ambala and Kurukshetra to stop them from moving to Delhi.

The BJP-ruled Haryana also suspended its transport bus service to Punjab with immediate effect on Wednesday because of the farmers' Delhi Chalo call. We have suspended roadways service to Punjab for the next two days, Haryana Transport Minister Mool Chand Sharma told PTI.

Chandigarh Transport Undertaking too, meanwhile on Wednesday evening, suspended its bus services to Haryana for the next two days amid the farmers' Delhi Chalo call, said officials. Braving the cold and rainy weather, thousands of farmers assembled during the day along with their tractor trolleys on the Punjab side of the inter-state border to undertake onward march to Delhi but had to stay put in Punjab amid the heavy police deployment on the border. Haryana will completely seal its borders with Punjab on November 26 and 27, the day for which farmers' bodies have given the call for Delhi Chalo.

Haryana police officials said amid the COVID-19 restrictions, they cannot allow movement of a large number of people towards the national capital. The Haryana authorities have also imposed prohibitory orders under section 144 of the CrPC in several parts of the state to prevent assembly of protesters. Meanwhile on Wednes-

day evening, a large group of farmers having gathered on GT Road near Mohra village in Ambala during the day under the leadership of Haryana BKU chief Gurnam Singh, allegedly jumped over the barricade following which the police resorted to the use of water cannons against them.

Despite this, a splinter group managed to proceed to Tiyyora-Tiyyora village on Ambala-Kurukshetra border, where the police again used the water cannon against them to stop their onward march to Delhi. Amid the farmers blocking various stretches of roads, the vehicular traffic too was severely disrupted for several hours on the national highway.

A few army vehicles also remained stranded in Kurukshetra district for some time due to the agitation, officials said. Gurnam Singh later told reporters, Even if the police use lathis and force, nothing can stop farmers. We will continue our march towards Delhi. We will force the Centre to roll back these black anti-farmer laws. Farmers were seen carrying food and clothes and had stocked other essentials in their tractor-trolleys and planned to spend the night either in their

vehicles or temporary shelters they had set up along the highway.

Karnal's Superintendent of Police Ganga Ram Punia told reporters that sufficient police force has been deployed to maintain law and order because of the farmers' protest march.

Asserting that farmers from Punjab will not be allowed to enter the state, the Haryana police said it has deployed water cannons and riot vehicles on the borders. Restrictions have also been imposed at other inter-state border points with Punjab, including those in Ambala, Sirsa, Kurukshetra, Fatehabad and Jind districts.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday had said the state borders with Punjab would remain sealed on November 26 and 27.

On Tuesday, the Haryana police had taken many farmer leaders into preventive custody, a move which evoked strong reaction from the opposition Congress and farmer bodies. The police had said the state borders with Punjab would remain sealed on November 26 and 27.



Protesting farmers face water cannons in Haryana on Wednesday.

Chaired the first meeting of National Implementation Committee (NIC) for Commemorating 75th anniversary of India's Independence. #IndiaAt75

AMIT SHAH
UNION HOME MINISTER

Covid: Night curfew to be reimposed in Punjab

Amid apprehensions of a 2nd corona wave, Punjab CM orders fresh curbs including reimposition of night curfew in all towns & cities from 1 Dec

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 25 NOVEMBER

Amid the grim Covid-19 situation in Delhi-NCR and apprehensions of a second coronavirus wave in Punjab, chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Wednesday ordered a series of fresh restrictions in the state, which includes reimposition of night curfew in all towns and cities from 1 December.

The curbs, which will be reviewed on 15 December, also restrict opening timings of all hotels, restaurants and marriage palaces in the state till 9.30 pm.

Night curfew will remain in force between 10 pm and 5 am, the Punjab CM announced warning people against letting their guard down under any circumstances.

Giving details of the new restrictions after a high-level state Covid review meeting,



an official spokesperson said the fine for not following Covid appropriate behaviour will be hiked from the present Rs 500 to Rs 1000.

Given the inflow of patients from Delhi for treatment in Punjab, it has also been decided to review and optimise the beds availability in the state's private hospitals.

The CM has also directed

the health and medical education departments to make emergency appointments of specialists, super-specialists, nurses and paramedics, to further augment the capacity of healthcare workers, which was recently beefed up with the recruitment of 249 specialist doctors and 407 medical officers.

The departments have

also been asked to consider preparing 4th and 5th year MBBS students as reserve and back-up healthcare personnel

if needed in the coming days. On the coronavirus testing front, Capt Amarinder stressed the need to fully utilise the 25,500 daily RT-PCR testing capacity, and directed targeted and regular testing of potential super-spreaders including government officials.

To ensure that there are no Covid deaths under home isolation in Punjab, the CM said the agency hired to look into these cases should keep close tabs on such patients.

While the Covid mortality audit was continuing, it was a matter of "satisfaction" that the department was now collecting reasons for placing patients on ventilator by private hospitals, and there was a referral group available to monitor these patients, he added.

We are taking all necessary COVID 19 Precautionary Measures.

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- PUNCHKUAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.)
- WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
- JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
- NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
- LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

THE ORIENTAL INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

EXTRACT OF THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS (STANDALONE) FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPT 2020

| Sr. No. | Particulars | Half Year ended 30.09.2020 | Half Year ended 30.09.2019 | Year ended 31.03.2020 |
|---------|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Premium Income (Gross) | 6427.21 | 7019.39 | 13996.01 |
| 2 | Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) | 15.45 | -330.53 | -1498.70 |
| 3 | Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items) | 15.45 | -330.53 | -1498.70 |
| 4 | Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items) | 15.45 | -330.53 | -1524.11 |
| 5 | Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)] | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Not Applicable |
| 6 | Equity Share Capital | 970.00 | 200.00 | 200.00* |
| 7 | Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year | 1154.37 | 2332.49 | 1138.92 |
| 8 | Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) for continuing and discontinued operations: | | | |
| | 1. Basic: | 0.23 | -16.53 | -76.21 |
| | 2. Diluted: | 0.23 | -16.53 | -76.21 |

Notes:

- The above mentioned Financial Results for the Half Year ended 30th September 2020 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 24.11.2020. This format is modified to reflect the terminology used in the Insurance Act/IRDAI Regulations.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Half Yearly Financial Results filed with the stock exchange under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of Half Yearly Financial Results are available on the websites of the National Stock Exchange (www.nseindia.com) and the Company (www.orientalinsurance.org.in).

*Excluding share application money of Rs. 50 Crores received on 19.03.2020 and allotment of Equity Shares to Government of India under rights issue on account of capital infusion approved by Board of Directors on 06.05.2020.

For and on behalf of
The Oriental Insurance Company Limited

S. N. RAJESWARI
CHAIRMAN-CUM-MANAGING DIRECTOR
DIN: 08838983

Registered office: "Oriental House" A-25/27, Asaf Ali Road, New Delhi-110002. Toll Free No. 1800118485

</div



TENDER



**Office of
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER B&R DIVISION HP.PWD. JOGINDER NAGAR
HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, MANDI-175015**

Phone & Fax No. 01908-222033 E-Mail:- ee-jog-hp@nic.in

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
INVITATION FOR BIDS (ITB)

The Executive Engineer, B&R Division, HPPWD, Joginder Nagar on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invited the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 cover system for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/firms registered with HPPWD department:-

| Name of Work | Estimated cost | EMD | Cost of Tender | Eligible class of contractor | Time limit |
|--|----------------|----------|----------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| (1) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) |
| 1. Construction of 19.75 mtr. span bridge over Nagdyara-Nallah on Machchali-Bharoo Bihun road under SGSS head (Sub Head:- Construction of 19.75 mtr. effective span RCC T-Beam motorable bridge including approaches at RD. 7/200) | 45.58.314/- | 92,000/- | 2000/- | Class C & B | One year- (365 days) |

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

3. Key Dates:-
 1. Date of Online Publication:- 02/11/2020 10:00 Hrs.
 2. Document Download Start and end date:- 02/11/2020 10:00 Hrs upto 16/12/2020 17:00 Hrs
 3. Bid Submission start and end date:- 02/11/2020 10:00 Hrs upto 16/12/2020 17:00 Hrs
 4. Physical submission of EMD and cost of tender document on or before the time and date of submission of bids:- 17/12/2020 upto 11:00 A.M.
 5. Date of Technical Bid opening will be 17/12/2020 11:30 AM, Evaluation of technical bid opening and financial bid opening will follow on accordingly.

4. Tender Details:- The tender documents shall be uploaded online in 2 cover.

i) Cover 1:- Shall contain scanned copies of all 'Technical Documents/Eligibility information'.
 ii) Cover 2:- Shall contain 'BOQ/Bid documents' where contractor will quote his offer for each item.

5. Submission of Original Documents:- The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) Original bid security / Earnest Money Deposited (EMD) and other technical documents in O/O the Executive Engineer, B&R Division HP.PWD. Joginder Nagar District Mandi (H.P) on or before the time and date of submission of bids failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. No physical documents will be accepted after the closing date & time of submission of bids.

6. Bid Opening Detail:- The bids shall be opened on 17/12/2020 11:30 Hrs. in the office of Executive Engineer B&R Division HP.PWD. Joginder Nagar District Mandi (H.P) by the authorized officer in their interest the tenderer are advised to be present along with original documents as specified in Key dates at Sr. No. 4. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

7. The bid for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.

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

9. In addition to instructions for use of standard form in bidding documents the bidder should upload the following information also.

(i) Total annual volume of Civil Engineering construction work executed and payment received in the last five year proceeding this year duly verified by the Chartered Accountant

Executive Engineer,
B&R Division HP PWD,
Joginder Nagar
District Mandi (HP) on behalf of
Governor of Himachal Pradesh
Ph. 01908-222033

4546/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
HP.PWD KANGRA

Sealed item rate tenders on form 6 & 8 are invited by the Executive Engineer, Kangra Division, HP: PWD, Kangra on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh from the approved and eligible contractors/firms enlisted in HPPWD in the appropriate class for the work mentioned below on 19.12.2020 up to 10:45 A.M. and will be opened on the same day at 11:00 A.M. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives. The tender forms can be obtained from his office on cash payment (non refundable) on any working day from 16.12.2020 to 18.12.2020. The applications for issue of tender forms will be received latest by 15.12.2020 up to 12:00 Noon. The applications for issue of tender forms accompanied with enlistment letter/or renewal letter and the earnest money in the shape of National Saving Certificates/Saving Account/Time deposit Account in any of the Post Office in Himachal Pradesh duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Kangra Division, HPPWD, Kangra.

The conditional tenders and the tenders received without earnest money will summarily be rejected. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days.

Work No.1:- A/R & M/O various roads under HPPWD Sub Division Gaggal (SH:- P/L G-II, BC & C.C. pavement in various RDs) Estimated cost: Rs. 490109/- Earnest Money Rs. 9850/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.2:- A/R & M/O various roads under HPPWD Sub Division Gaggal (SH:- P/L G-II, BC & C.C. pavement in various RDs) Estimated cost: Rs. 499683/- Earnest Money Rs. 9994/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.3:- A/R & M/O various roads under HPPWD Sub Division Gaggal (SH:- P/L G-II, BC & C.C. pavement in various RDs) Estimated cost: Rs. 493772/- Earnest Money Rs. 9875/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.4:- A/R & M/O various roads under HPPWD Sub Division Gaggal (SH:- P/L G-II, BC & C.C. pavement in various RDs) Estimated cost: Rs. 495920/- Earnest Money Rs. 9920/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.5:- C/O Link road from Baidi Bhadiyara Mehma Trembla road km.3/0 to 8/00 (SH:- C/O R/Wall at RD.4/230 to 4/260) Estimated cost: Rs. 329847/- Earnest Money Rs. 6597/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.6:- C/O Link road from Baidi Bhadiyara Mehma Trembla road km.3/0 to 8/00 (SH:- C/O R/Wall at RD.3/205 to 3/235) Estimated cost: Rs. 323237/- Earnest Money Rs. 6465/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.7:- C/O Link road to Jit Balhi via Shamshan Ghat Basti to Bassi Nallah Culvert near Rait Salol road (2017-307-130) (5054-04-331-02) (MNP road bridge) (SH:- C/O 3.00mtr spu culvert at RD.6/905) Estimated cost: Rs. 329847/- Earnest Money Rs. 6600/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.8:- C/O Daulatpur to Har Jalari Khart road from km.0/00 to 7/00 (SH:- C/O wire crate work at RD.5/260 to 5/275) Estimated cost: Rs. 454479/- Earnest Money Rs. 9150/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.9:- Improvement & widening of Rajpi Gharoh road km.0/00 to 6/00 (SH:- C/O R/Wall at RD.5/310 to 5/345) Estimated cost: Rs. 294312/- Earnest Money Rs. 5900/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.10:- C/O Link road from Dhar Khad to Dharkalan km.0/00 to 1/00 (SH:- C/O R/Wall and V-shape drain at RD.0/885 to 0/915, 0/060 to 0/110 & 0/250 to 0/390) (Under SCSP) Estimated cost: Rs. 184610/- Earnest Money Rs. 3100/- Time Limit One Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.11:- RRD on Dhab to Kurella road at km.0/00 to 4/200 (SH:- C/O U-shape drain along with Edge wall at RD.2/000 to 2/175) (R/S) Estimated cost: Rs. 497701/- Earnest Money Rs. 9900/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.12:- C/O Kiyonar Dalho Bag road km.0/00 to 2/570 (SH:- C/O R/Wall at RD.0/150 to 0/183) Estimated cost: Rs. 458112/- Earnest Money Rs. 9250/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.13:- RD on Ladwara Mundla Makroti road km.0/00 to 3/00 (SH:- C/O R/Wall at RD.0/210 to 0/225) Estimated cost: Rs. 207055/- Earnest Money Rs. 4150/- Time Limit One Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.14:- RD on Ladwara Mundla Makroti road km.0/00 to 3/00 (SH:- C/O R/Wall at RD.0/225 to 0/239) Estimated cost: Rs. 193258/- Earnest Money Rs. 3870/- Time Limit One Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.15:- C/O Link road from Hardai Mata Mandir road (SH:- C/O Interlocking tiles at RD.0/250 to 0/410) Estimated cost: Rs. 320899/- Earnest Money Rs. 6450/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.16:- RD to Hamera Branj Sidhpur Salwana Tatwani road km.0/00 to 6/00 (SH:- C/O U-shape drain along with Edge wall at RD.4/400 to 4/575) Estimated cost: Rs. 497702/- Earnest Money Rs. 9960/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.17:- C/O Chari to Ghera road km.0/00 to 8/555 (SH:- V-shape Drain at RD.3/150 to 3/330) Estimated cost: Rs. 486886/- Earnest Money Rs. 9750/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.18:- C/O Shahpur Chakban Lapiana road at km.0/00 to 20/250 (SH:- C/O Cement concrete in Berms at RD.0/800 to 1/430) Estimated cost: Rs. 494386/- Earnest Money Rs. 9900/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.19:- C/O Shahpur Chakban Lapiana road at km.0/00 to 20/250 (SH:- C/O Cement concrete in Berms at RD.8/510 to 9/202) Estimated cost: Rs. 495955/- Earnest Money Rs. 9950/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.20:- Link road from Dhar Khar to Dharkalan km.0/00 to 1/00 (SH:- C/O R/Wall and V-shape drain at RD.0/800 to 0/815, 0/845 to 0/860 & 0/390 to 0/585) (Under SCSP) Estimated cost: Rs. 214169/- Earnest Money Rs. 4300/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.21:- C/O Link road from NH-88 to Bagh near Sukka Bagh (Under SCSP) (SH:- C/O 2.00mtr RCC spu culvert at RD.0/735 and C/O Edge wall RD.0/628 to 0/733) Estimated cost: Rs. 494949/- Earnest Money Rs. 9990/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.22:- RRD on Gaggal Tiara Luni Nagrota Surian road (SH:- Maintenance of earthen shoulder on various RDs) Estimated cost: Rs. 469800/- Earnest Money Rs. 9400/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.23:- C/O Link road to Village Dibba (Under SCSP) (SH:- C/O 2.00mtr RCC slab culvert at RD.1/525) Estimated cost: Rs. 328868/- Earnest Money Rs. 6600/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.24:- C/O Chari Ghera road km.0/00 to 8/555 (SH:- P/L cement concrete pavement at RD.8/385 to 8/555) Estimated cost: Rs. 489019/- Earnest Money Rs. 9800/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.25:- C/O Kalera Tatwan I road (SH:- C/O Pusta at RD.0/400 to 0/450 (R/S) (Deposit work) Estimated cost: Rs. 496666/- Earnest Money Rs. 9950/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.26:- C/O Link road from Nagni Harizan Basti Kalru at km.0/00 to 0/600 (SH:- C/O R/Wall at RD.0/500 to 0/520, C/O B/Wall at RD.0/430 to 0/530 and formation cutting on various RDs) Estimated cost: Rs. 442219/- Earnest Money Rs. 9000/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.27:- RD on Rait Kohla Balla road km.0/0 to 7/435 (SH:- C/O C.C. pavement in km.7/070 to 7/150) Estimated cost: Rs. 373817/- Earnest Money Rs. 7200/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.28:- RD on Rait Kohla Balla road km.0/0 to 7/435 (SH:- C/O C.C. pavement in km.7/160 to 7/230) Estimated cost: Rs. 373817/- Earnest Money Rs. 7200/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.29:- RD on Rait Kohla Balla road km.0/0 to 7/435 (SH:- C/O C.C. pavement in km.6/980 to 7/050) Estimated cost: Rs. 373817/- Earnest Money Rs. 7200/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.30:- RD on Rait Kohla Balla road km.0/0 to 7/435 (SH:- C/O C.C. pavement in km.6/890 to 6/970) Estimated cost: Rs. 373817/- Earnest Money Rs. 7200/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.31:- RD on Rait Kohla Balla road km.0/0 to 7/435 (SH:- C/O C.C. pavement in km.6/800 to 6/880) Estimated cost: Rs. 373817/- Earnest Money Rs. 7200/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.32:- A/R & M/O various roads under HPPWD Sub Division Gaggal (SH:- P/L G-II, BC & C.C. pavement in various RDs) Estimated cost: Rs. 493772/- Earnest Money Rs. 9875/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.33:- A/R & M/O various roads under HPPWD Sub Division Gaggal (SH:- P/L G-II, BC & C.C. pavement in various RDs) Estimated cost: Rs. 495920/- Earnest Money Rs. 9920/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.34:- RD on Dadhamb Durgella Bhattechh Tundu road km.0/00 to 6/450 (SH:- C/O R/Wall at RD.0/250 to 0/260) Estimated cost: Rs. 109250/- Earnest Money Rs. 2200/- Time Limit One Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.35:- C/O Shahpur Chakban Lapiana road at km.0/00 to 20/250 (SH:- C/O Cement concrete in Berms at RD.0/800 to 1/430) Estimated cost: Rs. 494386/- Earnest Money Rs. 9900/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

Work No.36:- C/O Shahpur Chakban Lapiana road at km.0/00 to 20/250 (SH:- C/O Cement concrete in Berms at RD.8/510 to 9/202) Estimated cost: Rs. 495955/- Earnest Money Rs. 9950/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:-

1. The contractors/firms should be registered as or dealer under GST Act 2017.

2. The intending contractors



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URGING PEOPLE TO FOLLOW LIMITS ON NUMBER OF GUESTS ATTENDING WEDDING FUNCTIONS
RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER ASHOK GEHLOT

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2020

NDA's Vijay Kumar elected as Speaker of Bihar Assembly

Voting was marked by chaos, uproar by Opp over presence of CM Nitish Kumar, Cabinet colleagues

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

PATNA, 25 NOVEMBER

NDA candidate Vijay Kumar Sinha (*in photo*) was elected Speaker of the new Bihar Assembly today amid ruckus by the Opposition over the presence of chief minister Nitish Kumar and his two other Cabinet colleagues during the voting in the House.

While the chief minister is a Member of the Upper House, his Cabinet colleagues Ashok Chaudhary and Mukesh Sahni are not members of any House right now.

Sinha who happens to be the first legislator from the BJP to occupy the post got 126 votes against 114 polled by Grand Alliance candidate Awadh Bihar Chaudhary. This was the first time in 51 years that state assembly witnessed voting for the Speaker's post. The last time the election was held for this post was in 1969.



The voting was marked by chaos, uproar and massive protests by the opposition Grand Alliance members who strongly objected to the presence of the chief minister and two of his cabinet colleagues in the House during the voting process. Angry opposition members trooped into the well of the House and sought for their removal from the House before voting process is started. They refused to calm down despite repeated appeals by pro-temp speaker Jitan Ram Manjhi.

"Chief minister Nitish

Kumar along with several cabinet colleagues are present in the House though not being Members of the Bihar assembly. There is no precedent of the chief minister who is not a member of the Bihar assembly present in the House during the election of a Speaker while Ashok Chaudhary and Mukesh Sahni are not the members of any House. How can they be present in the House?" wondered Bihar opposition leader Tejaswi Yadav. He alleged after "stealing" the people's mandate, these NDA leaders have brought further shame to the democracy.

Amid bedlam, the voting process started after which NDA candidate Sinha, an engineer-turned-politician, was declared elected the Speaker. The contest for the Speaker's post is clear indication of how the going would be tough for the new NDA government who won the election with waferthin majority.

Lalu's audio clip goes viral

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA, 25 NOVEMBER

Rashtriya Janata Dal's jailed president Lalu Prasad's alleged attempts to poach MLAs of the ruling NDA in Bihar and topple the newly formed Nitish Kumar government on Wednesday stirred the political waters in the state.

Sushil Kumar Modi, the chief ministers former deputy, had claimed that Prasad was having access to a mobile phone through which he was calling up NDA legislators, followed it up with an audio clip of a purported conversation between the RJD supremo, who is in Ranchi, and a BJP MLA.

Modi shared the one and a half minute long clip on his official Twitter handle wherein Prasad can be heard speaking, in his unique voice and distinct accent, to the Pirpainti



MLA Lalan Kumar.

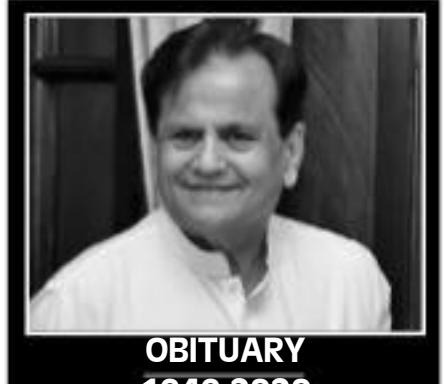
"We will take good care of you. Just help us tomorrow in defeating the NDAs candidate for the Speakers post, Prasad can be heard saying in the audio.

In the audio, the MLA can be heard mumble about the difficulties that he may face if he voted against his own party to which Prasad replies in an assuring tone "you need not worry. We are going to have our own Speaker. We will also reward you further once we topple this government and form our own".

Ahmed: Cong loses its key strategist, troubleshooter & consensus-building man

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 25 NOVEMBER



OBITUARY
1949-2020

Ahmed Patel was the Congress' man for all seasons and every reason, the quintessential back-room strategist who maintained a studied low profile but held a steel-grip over the party's affairs as he helped steer it through the potholed roads of changing political landscapes.

Babubhai and AP to friends and Ahmed Bhai to colleagues, Patel died early Wednesday in a Gurugram hospital where he was admitted with Covid-19, till

the very end the staunch Congress loyalist famed for his crisis management skills and also his consensus building abilities that helped him make friends

across the spectrum. The 71-year-old remained Sonia Gandhi's most trusted lieutenant for most of her tenure as the longest serving Congress president, standing by her side through sun and shade.

She described him as a leader dedicated to the party and one whose assets of faithfulness, dedication, commitment to duty, willingness to help and generosity distinguished him from others. "I have lost an irreplaceable comrade, a faithful colleague and a friend," she said in her condolence message.

Just three months ago, in August, Patel stepped in to quell an rebellion. His firm rejection of the public stand taken by 23 party leaders against Sonia Gandhi helped the Congress Working Committee snub the demand for replacement of a Gandhi as party chief and reposed faith in her presidency after she offered to quit. He was a Rajya Sabha MP from Gujarat and All India Congress Committee treasurer. Even outside the Congress, Patel's legendary political instinct and acuity held him in good stead across parties with politicians

across hues falling back on him for political advice. He was key in forging the UPA alliance in 2004. When Rajiv Gandhi became prime minister, he did away with the post of principal secretary to the PM.

He later took charge of the Congress's organisational structure both in Gujarat and at the AICC.

Though Patel never became minister, he remained kingmaker, playing a pivotal role in decision making throughout the Congress-led UPA I and UPA II years.

'Ahmed bhai' leaves Guj Cong an orphan

AHMEDABAD, 25 NOVEMBER

The untimely demise of Congress stalwart Ahmed Patel has left the Gujarat unit of the party as an orphan, the local leaders having lost their connect with the party high command. Popularly known as 'Ahmed bhai', the AIUC treasurer and Rajya Sabha member for a long time was not only accessible to the Gujarat party's rank and file but was also their link to the national leadership of Congress. As per his own wish, Ahmed Patel would be laid to rest besides the graves of his parents at his native village Piraman in Ankleswar of Bharuch district on Thursday morning. His family here has appealed to all not to rush to their native place due to the Covid-19 pandemic but to pray for him at their own places.

SNS

Rapprochement on cards as Amarinder, Sidhu meet over lunch

RANJEET JAMWAL

CHANDIGARH, 25 NOVEMBER



Punjab CM Amarinder Singh with former minister Navjot Singh Sidhu.

On 14 July 2019 as minister for power and new and renewable energy sources, the portfolio he had not taken charge of.

Reacting to the resignation, Amarinder had said that if Sidhu did not want to do his job, there was nothing that he could do about it.

"The minister should have accepted his new portfolio instead of shunning work in the middle of the crucial paddy season," the CM had said.

Before this, Sidhu was stripped of key portfolios by the CM with Amarinder allocating local government and tourism and cultural affairs departments to other two ministers even as a sulking Sidhu refused to join as the minister for power.

The CM had earlier hinted action against Sidhu for his ill-timed comments during the Lok Sabha poll campaign.

The latter had accused the former of playing a friendly match with the Badals. After this, Sidhu had accused certain Congress leaders of backstabbing the party in the state.

The war of words between the CM and the leader intensified when Amarinder Singh blamed Sidhu for party's poor performance in the state's urban areas during Lok Sabha polls and said his actions during the Parliamentary elections had not only harmed him

Revised Timing effective from : 02626 from New Delhi from 30.11.2020 and 02625 from Thiruvananthapuram Central from 30.11.2020 to till further advice

02555/02556 Gorakhpur-Hisar-Gorakhpur Superfast

| Train No. 02555 | ↓ STATIONS | ↑ Train No. 02556 | |
|-----------------|------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Arr. | Dep. | Arr. | Dep. |
| - | 16.35 | Gorakhpur | 09.45 - |
| 17.13 | 17.15 | Khalilabad | 08.35 08.37 |
| 17.41 | 17.44 | Basti | 08.07 08.10 |
| 19.05 | 19.10 | Gonda | 07.00 07.05 |
| 20.33 | 20.35 | Barabanki | 05.48 05.50 |
| 21.35 | 21.45 | Lucknow (NR) | 04.50 05.00 |
| 22.43 | 22.45 | Unnao | 03.36 03.38 |
| 23.23 | 23.25 | Kanpur Central | 03.00 03.10 |
| 05.25 | 05.40 | New Delhi | 20.55 21.25 |
| 06.11 | 06.13 | Shakur Basti | 20.13 20.15 |
| 06.21 | 06.23 | Nangloi | 19.54 19.56 |
| 06.34 | 06.36 | Bahadurgarh | 19.41 19.43 |
| 07.25 | 07.48 | Rohat | 19.11 19.13 |
| 08.45 | 09.10 | Bhiwani | 17.45 18.10 |
| 10.00 | - | Hisar | - 17.00 |

Revised Timing effective from : 02555 from Gorakhpur and 02556 from Hisar from 01.12.2020 to till further advice.

02393 Rajender Nagar-New Delhi Special

| ↓ STATIONS | ↑ Train No. 02393 |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Arr. | Dep. |
| Rajender Nagar | --- |
| Patna Jn. | 19.35 19.45 |
| Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn. | 22.22 22.32 |
| Mirzapur | 23.21 23.23 |
| Kanpur Central | 02.25 02.30 |
| New Delhi | 07.55 --- |

Revised Timing effective from : 02393 from Rajender Nagar from 03.12.2020 to till further advice.

PDP's youth wing chief Parra held by NIA

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 25 NOVEMBER

District Development Council (DDC) elections from Pulwama in South Kashmir. He was being questioned at the NIA headquarters since Monday for his alleged involvement with the HM terror group.

already arrested Deputy Superintendent of Police Davinder Singh case.

"Today NIA arrested Waheed Ur Rehman Parra, the youth wing leader of People's Democratic Party, in connection with the Naveed Babu-Davinder Singh case for supporting Hizbul Mujahideen in conspiracy with the other accused persons," NIA's spokesperson said.

CANCELLATION / PARTIAL CANCELLATION / SHORT TERMINATION / SHORT ORIGINATION/DIVERSION OF TRAINS

It is notified for the information of all concerned that Railways have decided to Cancel/Partially Cancel/Short Terminate/Short Originate/Divert following Passengers Special Trains/Festival Special Trains in view of the Kisan Agitation in Punjab:-

CANCELLATION OF SPECIAL TRAIN

| Train No. & Name | Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station) |
|---|---|
| 04653 New Jalpaiguri - Amritsar Karambhoomi Superfast Clone Special | 27.11.2020 |

PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF SPECIAL TRAINS

| Train No. & Name | Short Terminate at/ Short originate from | Partially Cancelled between Stations | Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| 08237 Korba-Amritsar Sp. | at Ambala Cantt. | Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar | of 25.11.2020 |
| 08238 Amritsar-Korba Sp. | from Ambala Cantt. | Amritsar-Ambala Cantt. | 27.11.2020 |
| 02715 Nanded -Amritsar Sachikhand Special | at New Delhi | New Delhi-Amritsar | of 25.11.2020 |
| 02716 Amritsar-Nanded Sachikhand Special | from New Delhi | Amritsar-New Delhi | 27.11.2020 |
| 02925 Bandra Terminus-Amritsar Special Express | at Chandigarh | Chandigarh-Amritsar | of 25.11.2020 |
| 02926 Amritsar - Bandra Terminus Special Express | from Chandigarh | Amritsar-Chandigarh | 27.11.2020 |
| 04652 Amritsar - Jaynagar Express | from Ambala Cantt. | Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar | 27.11.2020 |

DIVERSION OF SPECIAL TRAINS

| Train No. & Name | Diverted Via | Date (from the Originating Station) |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 02903 Mumbai Central-Amritsar Golden Temple Mail | Beas -Tarn Taran - Amritsar | of 24.11.2020 |
| 02904 Amritsar-Mumbai Central Golden Temple Mail | Amritsar -Tarn Taran - Beas | of 25.11.2020 |
| 04649/04673 Jaynagar-Amritsar Special | Beas -Tarn Taran - Amritsar | of 24.11.2020 |
| 04650/04674 Amritsar-Jaynagar Special | Amritsar -Tarn Taran - Beas | 26.11.2020 |

Roti Hindus?

From Rice Christians to *Roti Hindus*, as it were? That ought to be the fear among progressive forces within the Hindu community in light of the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday approving a draft ordinance aimed at preventing forced religious conversions. For, unlike proselytising Abrahamic religions, the Indic dharmic tradition comprises an eclectic bunch of believers and non-believers, the animists and the ritualistic. Indeed, religion is a misnomer when applied to the beliefs of the Hindu/Indic community which are varied even though this singular, unique tradition certainly has an overarching cohesiveness which those who have swallowed whole the knowledge claims of Western social sciences tend to mock. The proposed law would also ~ critics suspect primarily ~ deal with what is known nowadays as 'love jihad'. To be clear, the ordinance does not mention the term 'love jihad'. The ordinance is titled 'Vidhi Virudh Dharmantar 2020' and is aimed at preventing individuals from converting people of one faith to another by way of enticement, threat and/or misrepresentation. Justice Aditya Mittal, the Chairman of the state Law Commission, iterated: "The term 'love jihad' has not been used in the Bill. Conversions related to all religions will be covered under the new law. It will not just be focused on Hindu-Muslim conversions or conversions for the specific purpose of marriage." The ordinance provides for a jail term of up to 10 years for anyone found guilty and encourages inter-religious marriages to be registered under the Special Marriage Act. Debates in the Constituent Assembly had brought out the disagreements and varying approaches towards ensuring coercion of any description had no place in an individual's choice of faith. The Constitution in Article 25, however, enshrined the right to freedom of religion giving citizens the right to profess, practice and propagate their faith. But the essential contradiction between the right to propagate one's religion, which is latched upon by those who would add to their flock, and the desire to prevent allurement and intimidation in an unequal societal power structure from coming into play in deciding one's faith, remained unresolved. While there has been a clamour for a nationwide anti-conversion law since 1947, various states have enacted their own laws though implementation remains patchy and controversial. To that extent, the proposed Uttar Pradesh law is no different. But as in all things in life, intentionality is the key. The fact is that the UP administration has made no secret of its intention to prevent what is called love jihad, the term used to target interfaith marriages in which Muslim men are accused of conspiring to turn Hindu women away from their faith and insisting they convert to Islam post-marriage. The Church in Kerala has expressed similar views. Allahabad High Court, however, has held it essentially doesn't matter whether a conversion is valid; the right of consenting adults to live together in matrimony cannot be encroached upon by the State. The jury of the people is still out.

Sharper divide

Positions have clearly hardened in Thailand as a protest for greater democratic freedoms and against the ruling government appears to be hardening into a battle to define the role and powers of the monarchy. While the protesters ~ mostly youth ~ had been seeking reforms of the monarchy as one of their demands, the other two being resignation of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha and amendments to the Constitution that allowed him to retain power, the role of the King has now emerged as the primary focal point. The government, which had for the past months, ignored calls for reforms in the monarchy, has now made it clear that it proposes to invoke harsh lese majeste laws to arrest protest leaders. Mr Prayuth has made it clear that his government "will now enforce all laws available to deal with protesters who break the law and ignore other people's rights and freedom." He was quoted as saying: "The protest situation is still escalating and may lead to more conflict and violence. If we allow this to continue, it would cause damage to our nation, our beloved monarchy, and the peace and safety of the general public." It would appear that the establishment, which knows it is on a weak wicket as far as the manner of the Prime Minister's appointment is concerned, has decided to focus its counter-narrative to the monarchy in the hope that the reverence most Thais once had for the institution will help rein in the protests. But the strategy may not be working. Protestors this week announced plans to gather outside the Crown Property Bureau, but when police banned demonstrations within 150 metres of the establishment, quickly decided to shift the venue to the Siam Commercial Bank in which King Vajiralongkorn is the main shareholder. After ascending the throne, the King had controversially transferred assets held by the Crown Property Bureau ~ including several prime properties and shares in major companies ~ to his own name. The protestors have announced their rally is aimed at reclaiming assets that belong to the people, possibly the most direct challenge to the monarchy. They want a clear division between the King's personal properties and those held by the palace and a reduction in the budgetary allocation for the monarchy. While the King has support among a section of the Thais, some of whom have taken to the streets in counter-protests, the hardening of stances appears to have placed the confrontation on a dangerous wedge. If the monarchy does indeed command widespread support, as the establishment hopes it does, the gambit may pay off. But if the sentiments voiced by protestors are shared by the millions of Thais who have watched the drama unfold, the institution of the monarchy itself may be in serious peril, one that the government may attempt to stave off with more violence than hitherto seen.

Of Ideology

With the emergence of secularism and the advent of nationhood, nationalism sprouted, which was a construct beyond merely the monarchy. Meanwhile, at the economic level, capitalistic ideas grew along with the establishment of manufacturing and factories



While inaugurating the statue of Swami Vivekananda at the Jawaharlal Nehru University on 12 November, it was appropriate of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to tell the staff and students that the nation is far greater than a political ideology. This was particularly necessary as the JNU has been surcharged with leftism, socialism and Marxism.

There has been a lack of balance even in ideologies. With warm blood flowing in their veins, some students go much beyond their ideology and in their excitement, go on to wish their country ill.

Why wish and loudly threaten Bharat ke tukde tukde? How has the country harmed you? It is the extension of your home; it is your greater home. If you really dislike it, go somewhere else; do not threaten its wholeness. In 1947, a similar craze broke India into two.

I say craze because in 1971 Pakistan, after perpetrating untold brutality upon its eastern wing again broke into two. And what have the people of Pakistan gained except poverty, terrorism and possibly further breaking apart?

The Pakhtoons, Sindhis and Balochs are all getting ready to follow the example of the Bangladeshis. It was way back in 1887 that Sir Sayid Ahmad Khan of Aligarh University fame first declared at Meerut that Hindus and Muslims are separate nations. Mohammed Ali Jinnah finally scored his goal and at the same time divided the Indian ummah into two and later into three.

At JNU, the hot blood of young students has brought the Islamists together with communists despite the two ideologies being the antithesis of each other in almost every way.

There is probably not a single communist left in Pakistan although Partition was actively supported by the Communist Party of India.

There is a corollary of this factor. Those believers in an ummah do not hesitate to abuse their nations in order to pursue

In fact, the party began by wanting and propagating to cut up India into 16 nationalities. Yet the Reds and the Greens are very friendly in India. When I was in Parliament, a communist leader and I sometimes chatted at random in our free hours.

Once I happened to raise this Red and Green contradiction with him. His answer was that it was a purely tactical line. If the Hindus unite, with their majority in the country, they

would crush us communists,

whereas the Muslims, being a minority, could not do so. They are therefore useful allies against the Hindu right, was his reasoning.

Going back to the Prime Minister's point about the nation being greater than ideology, among Marxism's postulates when the ideology began is its firm belief that the nation is an instrument in the hands of the bourgeoisie to exploit the proletariat and the peasants. Karl Marx hoped that one day the State would wither away, certainly when the workers of the world would have united. This world unity was the central strategic objective of communism; and nations were the difficult obstacles.

Leon Trotsky therefore, wanted the red movement to pursue a "permanent revolution" as its strategic goal. By permanent he meant continual, I suppose. Trotsky has his faithful followers in India in the form of the Revolutionary Socialist Party.

Yes, one factor is common between the Reds and the Greens in that they both believe in their respective ummahs and do not waste their sentiments on their nations or countries.

There is a corollary of this factor. Those believers in an ummah do not hesitate to abuse their nations in order to pursue

their personal ambitions. This is precisely what Xi Jinping is doing with his country China.

The notion that he is the latest emperor of the historic Middle Kingdom or the centre of the world has evidently gone to his head. In pursuit of his glory Xi has made enemies, adversaries or bitter critics across the globe.

President Donald Trump has openly accused China of having spread the Covid-19 virus from the Wuhan province. Xi has been repeating that Taiwan is a part of China and must get ready to merge.

Since the communist revolution which ended in 1949, Mao Zedong claimed that Formosa (later named Taiwan) was part of Mainland China. There was intermittent bombardment with artillery from the mainland. Since 1954 Taiwan has been the beneficiary of a defence treaty with the USA.

Between 1895 and 1945, Taiwan was a Japanese colony after it was officially handed over by China. Earlier it had been a Spanish colony.

However, after seeing how Beijing has treated Hong Kong, it is unlikely that anyone would like to come under the Chinese umbrella. Coming to ideology, with the advent of Deng Xiaoping to supreme power in 1978, China is semi-capitalist, although the façade of communism is maintained. Deng's famous declaration was 'the colour of a cat whether it is black or red does not matter as long as it kills mice'. The sum of the substance of ideology was thrown to the winds for the pursuit of prosperity.

Josef Stalin had also abused Marxism-Leninism for pursuing his own power and glory. He had to settle for what he called 'socialism in one country'.

It is true that World War II was thrust upon him by Adolf

Hitler but after peace returned in 1945, if the Soviet Union had satisfied itself with being a great European power, as it had been for over two centuries, all would have been well.

Instead Stalin assumed all the trappings of a superpower like the USA and troubles began for the Soviet economy which could not cope with American competition.

Eventually, Soviet Union collapsed and broke up into 16 republics in 1991. Was it not the abuse of his power, and the country by the vainglorious Stalin and his successors?

Ideology is a European concept. Till date, there is no Asian-born theory of the kind except the outline of Hindudom or Hindutva. Until about the 17th century, monarchs turned to the high priests of Christianity for guidance if and when they needed it.

There was no idea of ideology other than from religion. With the emergence of secularism and the advent of nationhood, nationalism sprouted, which was a construct beyond merely the monarchy.

Meanwhile, at the economic level, capitalistic ideas grew along with the establishment of manufacturing and factories.

Then arose the feeling of factory workers being exploited.

In response sprouted various socialist theories and these were followed by Karl Marx and his great thesis of the materialistic interpretation of history. The need of every person is about the same he said; in his words from each according to ability to each according to his need'.

To combat Marxism, those who believed essentially in capitalism, innovated fascism. Benito Mussolini of Italy spoke of 'class collaboration'. Capitalism had been accused of exploiting the working class but this collaboration was a middle path.

Mussolini used this ideology to grab power in Italy and also dragged it into World War II along with Hitler, whose ideology as well was fascism, albeit a more extreme version of fascism.

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIAN VOICES

Design digital framework

Hundreds of thousands of applicants have been affected ever since the government suspended driver's licence applications and tests after it imposed a nationwide lockdown in March to contain the spread of the coronavirus. The Department of Transport Management has postponed the driving tests five times since then. It is yet to announce the dates to resume this basic of services, which has caused major inconvenience to the general public while snatching their right to obtaining a driver's licence. If we do a rough math based on the number of applications the department received and the number of those who were issued driver's licences during the pre-pandemic days, some 728,000 people have been deprived of getting their rightful licence to drive in the last eight months. Department records show that they used to receive some 8,900 applications daily.

What is an apparent lack of governance and indicative of bureaucratic hurdles, department officials now say that they await ministry approval and are unsure when things will get back to normal since the distribution of licences comes under the federal government's jurisdiction. Officials also maintain that their staff cannot handle the workload if tests were to resume tomorrow, but nothing stops them from resuming licence renewal, vehicle registration and tax collection, which the department resumed in mid-June after the government eased the lockdown restrictions, attracting huge crowds and sans any public health protocols.

The Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport, under which the department runs the system, must come out of its deep slumber and fulfil

its primary job of serving the taxpayers. The pandemic cannot be a reason anymore to keep postponing the public's right to obtain a driving licence. The ministry must shelve any issues that need to be settled with the federal government or address any problems its department might have to resume the applications and tests at the earliest. But while restarting the services, public health protocols must be highly prioritised considering the high risks of contracting the virus in the Kathmandu Valley, which has been reporting more than half of the daily new cases. And it is not that the ministry doesn't have a system or that the department lacks the know-how to implement it. The digital mechanism to receive online applications already exists, which can easily lessen the number of people visiting the department's office, which are usually crowded. In consultation with the department officials and federal government, the ministry could easily implement a daily limit on the number of applications and tests and move all other services and transactions online in consideration of the Covid-19 situation.

The authorities need to capitalise on the opportunities presented by the pandemic and design a robust digital framework. While this would help the government to meet its digital governance ambitions and dole out its services at immense speed and with more efficiency, it also creates a win-win situation for everyone as the general public and stakeholders have already embraced the digital wave.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

From baby boom to baby bust

SIR, This is with reference to the article, 'Population and Policy' by Govind Bhattacharjee (*The Statesman*, 22 November 2020). The Demographic Transition Model, first developed in 1929, consists of four key stages.

In stage four, life expectancy would be high and fertility rate low at 2.1. This would sustain the population. There is a fifth-stage which was not visualised earlier. This stage is a bit uncertain.

Demographers and experts could not reach a consensus as to the shifting of fertility rate. Some demographers say that fertility

rates will experience shifts to either above or below the replacement levels.

While some experts argue that fertility levels will increase, others state the opposite. However, at this stage, we have now experienced that life expectancy keeps increasing while fertility rates fall, resulting in a declining population. The developed countries have already entered the stage.

Globally, the debate over population has now veered towards consequences of population dipping below the replacement level.

The signs are so clear that a

2017 report in *The Lancet* revealed that half of the countries in world are in the midst of a 'baby bust', as opposed to the earlier 'baby boom'. They have insufficient children to maintain their population size. Populations of many countries are shrinking ~ Italy (1.40 TFR), Japan (1.48), Greece (1.3), Poland (1.29), Hungary (1.39), South Korea (1.26).

Even many developing countries are witnessing the trend. However, many such countries have adopted policies to bring back population to the replacement-level.

Since 2016, Poland has been paying financial incentive per month per child and has strict anti-abortion laws. Hungary has also tried. South Korea has been attempting to revive its precarious fertility rate through tax incentives, better child care, housing benefits etc. China, too, now expects its people to produce more children. It is not impossible to revive fertility rate once it declines. But only Israel has been able to bring back fertility level to the replacement level.

Yours, etc., Jaydev Jana, Kolkata, 24 November.



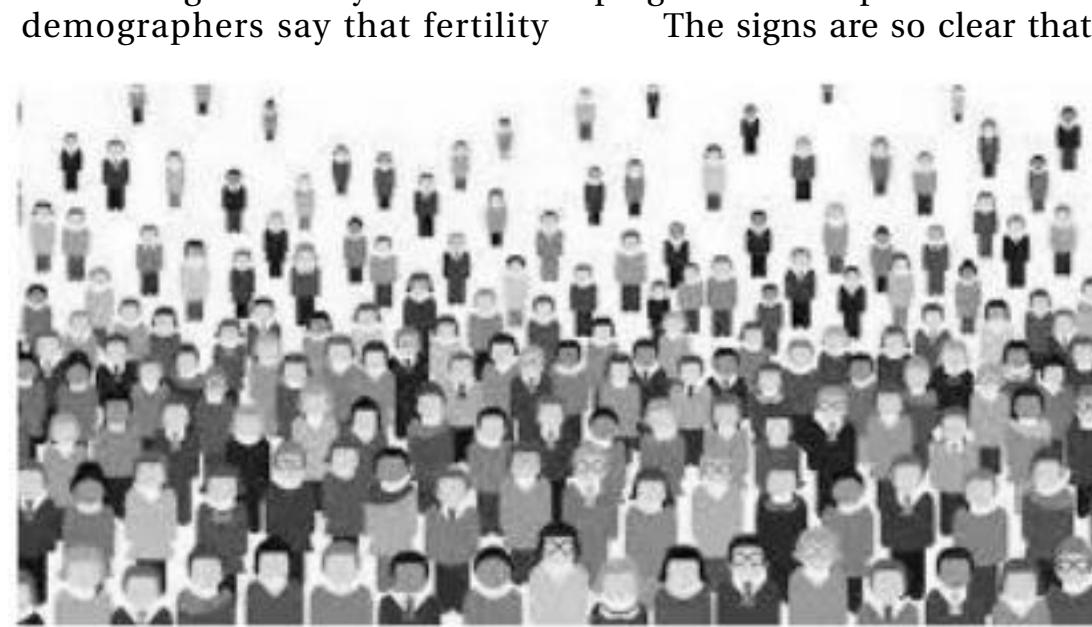
ASHWIN

SIR, Cricket is a game of luck and ups and downs are part and parcel of the game. India's topmost spinner has been neglected and put under quarantine by the Indian cricket board despite showing superb performances with the ball in all three formats of the game.

The ICC honours some of the most prolific names in men's and women's international cricket. These players are voted for by respected members of the cricket fraternity and the general public.

Virat Kohli and Ravichandran Ashwin are two Indians among seven players nominated for the prestigious Player of the Decade category. Ashwin is the only bowler in the ICC Player of the Decade list. He finished the decade with the greatest number of wickets across formats (564). Let us all wish that the ball rolls in favour of India's top spinner.

Yours, etc., Jayant CK Maniam, Vashi, 25 November.



ATANU BISWAS

The recently concluded Bihar Assembly elections might have far-reaching political significance. It might have marked the complete dominance of the BJP in the Hindi belt. In addition, the election also signifies the emergence of a formidable young leader - Tejashwi Yadav. This election exhibited that not only could Tejashwi come out of his father's shadow successfully, he could shed the baggage of Yadav politics also. There is little doubt that, irrespective of the outcome of this election, the 31-year-old Tejashwi could become a prominent politician of the future.

A young, tech-savvy leader such as Tejashwi might generate additional appeal to the electorate of youth-dominated Bihar. But that is not enough in politics. In the backdrop of the devastating pandemic, Tejashwi nudged Bihar's youth to look beyond identity politics during his election campaign. He certainly has a spontaneous style of interacting with the crowd. In the rallies, he asked "Naukari chahiye? (Do you want jobs?)" and then explained how he would sign off on 10 lakh government jobs in his first cabinet meeting.

However, it will be a mistake to assume that Tejashwi was born as a leader out of the fierce campaign of the pandemic-driven election. People will invariably trace Tejashwi's rise to his family inheritance. And, of course, there is no denying that. However, inheritance alone cannot turn a politician into a mass leader - numerous examples can be cited in the Indian scenario.

As Napoleon Bonaparte is known to have said, a leader is a dealer in hope. Warren Bennis, widely regarded as a pioneer of the contemporary field of leadership studies, of course, went one step forward. He felt that, "Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality." However, are leaders born or made? Or a combination of genetic components and a whole lot of hard work and persistence? It's not easy to provide a conclusive answer.

However, a 2013 article in the journal 'The Leadership Quarterly' published the findings of a genetic association study of leadership role occupancy based on a twin design and estimated that leadership is 24 per cent genetic and 76 per cent learned. I wonder whether such a precise estimation can be done for a complex attribute like 'leadership'. However, being the son of a political

Deciphering the rise of Tejashwi Yadav



stalwart like Lalu Prasad, Tejashwi certainly inherited the adequate genetic component, whatever be its percentage of contribution in 'leadership'. But what about the other part? Can that be fully 'learned' in a finishing school? I doubt it.

The British academic and leadership theorist John Eric Adair listed some of the qualities that make a great leader: "Enthusiasm, integrity, [being] tough or demanding but fair, warmth or humanity, and humility - no arrogance or self-importance." A quality like 'warmth', for example, should be intrinsic, and is difficult to teach in a finishing school. On the other hand, some qualities and skills can be picked up and nourished over time. Adair also opined: "We now know that leadership can be learned. There is no one in - or destined for - a leadership role who cannot significantly improve his or her contribution to the common good as a leader, providing, of course, that they are prepared to invest some time and effort

towards that purpose."

However, there are also some chance factors in life, which cannot be planned, and need to be grabbed with perfection if one gets them at all. In total, I could find at least three important aspects or events, other than the genetic inheritance, which have made Tejashwi what he is now.

He is a 'Yuvraj' but the inheritance of Lalu Prasad Yadav's political base is something which he also had to 'earn'. In 2015, when the Mahagathbandhan (Grand Alliance) of JD(U), RJD and Congress came to power in Bihar, Lalu Prasad chose the 26-year-old Tejashwi, first-time MLA, as the Deputy Chief Minister, ahead of his elder son Tej Pratap and the daughter Misa Bharti. Thus, despite being the younger son, Tejashwi's elevation signified that in his father's estimation, he had an x-factor, something which is not easy to explain.

Whether someone completed school education or not may not be

of much importance in electoral politics. Possibly the more important thing is whether he can become a "dealer in hope" to the electorate. However, one might need a favourable situation and a 'push' to come out as a leader. That happened for Tejashwi in 2017 when Nitish Kumar pulled JD(U) out of the Grand Alliance and formed government along with the BJP. A completely new Tejashwi Yadav possibly emerged out of his fierce speech in the Bihar Assembly. As the leader of opposition in the Bihar Assembly, he began a 'Janadesh Apman Yatra' by garlanding Mahatma Gandhi's statue at Motihari, East Champaran district headquarters, to step up RJD's attack on Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for "betraying" the people's mandate for Grand Alliance and joining hands with the BJP.

That might have been the beginning of the real political journey of young Tejashwi. No wonder he became the de facto leader of the RJD within a few months.

There is no doubt that Tejashwi Yadav, who led the opposition campaign in the 2019 general elections in Bihar, flopped miserably, and failed to win any of Bihar's 40 Lok Sabha seats. But, in 2020, despite failing to win the election, his issue-based campaign worked nicely - RJD could get more than a 23 per cent vote share in a multi-party setup like Bihar - a formidable achievement indeed.

Electoral politics, we know, pass through ups and downs. Thus, one needs patience, dedication, leadership and vision to succeed. There is no doubt that Tejashwi Yadav, a failed cricketer who spent five years in an IPL team without making a single appearance in the playing eleven, has now moved to politics. He is here as a very important player and he is here to stay. Whether he'll be able to "translate vision into reality" is, of course, his real test.

The writer is Professor of Statistics, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata.

General who was Marx's lieutenant

MAHIR ALI

It has become relatively commonplace in the past couple of decades to acknowledge the contemporary relevance of Karl Marx's critiques of capitalism. Towards the very end of his entertaining biography of Friedrich Engels, Tristram Hunt takes it a step further, citing the comparison made by a Chinese scholar, Ching Kwan Lee, between the horrific working conditions in an 1840s' Manchester cotton mill described by Engels, and the factory experiences of a migrant worker in Shenzhen 160 years later.

He then points to the irony "that such unleavened exploitation is actively sanctioned by the Communist Party of China".

Engels' description comes from *The Condition of the Working Class in England*, the seminal text he wrote at 24, shortly before he embarked on a bromance that evolved into an unparalleled intellectual double act.

Born 200 years ago this week into a deeply religious German capitalist family, 'Freddy' was pushed into the family trade at 16, before he had completed his schooling. A sojourn away from home made it easier to satiate his intellectual thirst and following a fling with the Young Hegelians in Berlin, he was converted to communism by Moses Hess, a correspondent for the radical *Rheinische Zeitung*, published in Cologne.

The newspaper's editor was Marx, just two years older than Engels. They did not hit off right away, but Engels contributed



thoughtful articles from Manchester, where the family business had a branch. He managed to get himself posted there because England was then seen as Europe's most advanced capitalist economy, and therefore the likeliest location for a revolution.

When the two of them encoun-

tered each other again in Paris in 1844, they found themselves in agreement on everything that mattered, and just four years later they shared a byline on one of the 19th century's most enduring tracts: Engels is credited with the first draft, while Marx was responsible for the final shape and

form of *The Communist Manifesto*.

Their collaborations continued for the next 40 years — and, in fact, beyond Marx's demise in 1883. It was Engels who published the second and third volumes of the Marxian magnum opus *Das Kapital* — he alone was able to decipher his comrade's scribbles. Marx's notes also provided the step ladder for Engels' seminal work *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*.

Engels was consistently modest about his contributions to Marxist doctrine. He de-clared in 1884: "All my life I have done what I was cut out for — namely to play second fiddle — and I think I have done quite well in that capacity. And I have been happy to have had such a wonderful first violin in Marx."

Many scholars are inclined to think that he underrates his stature. It was, after all, an early Engels tract on political economy that led Marx to sharpen his focus on that aspect of human existence. And there was a reasonably clear division of labour between the two of them after Engels, delighted to retire from his capitalist pursuits as a man of independent means, moved from Manchester to London and took on the task of responding to critics so that Marx could concentrate on his scholarship.

He later lamented that if he had realised the quantum of the scribbled mess Marx would leave behind, he would have tried persuading him to devote more time to *Das Kapital*.

In Manchester, initially as a glorified clerk and then as a partner in the

business he inherited from his father, Engels lived the life of a bourgeois bon vivant, yet consistently put aside some money (occasionally by pilfering from the company's petty cash kitty) to assist the perennially destitute Marx and his family. The assistance increased as he grew richer. Even when he died in 1895, Engels left much of his remaining fortune to Marx's daughters.

By then he was seen as the grand old sage of European socialism, particularly influential in guiding the course of German social democracy, with Karl Kautsky (later described by Lenin as a "renegade") and Eduard Bernstein (subsequently a leading 'revisionist') among his acolytes.

Engels occasionally has been accused of providing the philosophical basis for some of the depredations of Communist Party rule in the 20th century, but it's an unfair charge, given the rather benign vision of communism that emerges in his writings. He is also more closely associated than Marx with terms such as 'dialectical materialism' and 'scientific socialism'.

It's more fruitful to view him as a complementary intellectual, who ventured farther than Marx into areas such as the natural sciences and military strategy, and left behind a substantial body of work that retains much of its relevance. And while it's not inaccurate to memorialise him as Marx's lieutenant, it's worth remembering that, on account of his military expertise and active participation in the revolutions of 1848, to near and dear ones — including the Marx family — he was affectionately known as the 'General'.

Dawn/ANN.

NO 28146

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

The London School of Medicine for Women, founded in 1874, was the first medical school for women in Britain. Like all the medical schools it is now crowded with students, having over 500 in attendance, compared with 179 in 1913. At a recent meeting held to promote a scheme for the extension of the Royal Free Hospital, which is attached to the School, the chairman was Sir Alan Garrett Anderson, who said that his mother, the late Dr. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, was the first English woman to obtain a medical degree. It is proposed to increase the facilities for clinical instruction by enlarging the hospital, and the enlargement is to be to some extent on novel lines. There are women patients who are not willing to accept the charity of a hospital but yet cannot be properly treated in small flats or "bed-sitting-rooms." The new block which is to be built is to contain small wards for patients of this class who will contribute to the cost of their keep and treatment. The question may be asked why it is considered necessary to maintain a separate medical school for women now that many schools hitherto open only to men, are admitting a limited number of women students. There are at present six Indian women studying at the London School. It is hoped to raise a sum of £50,000 to meet the needs of the school.

NEWS ITEMS

EDUCATION IN INDIA

Mr. H. Sharp, of the Bureau of Education and Educational Commissioner with the Government of India, in response to the request of the Conference of Directors of Public Instruction which met in Delhi in 1917, has just published a first volume containing educational records covering the period from about 1781 to 1839. They deal with the early private enterprise and activity, first of the individual servants of the East India Company, then of the Company itself, the foundation of institutions, the surveys made with a view to wide dissemination of knowledge, the transfer of public interest and public funds from the pursuit of the old learning of the East to that of Western literature and science, and to the study of the English language.

M. CLEMENCEAU IN BURMA

Rangoon, Nov 25
The garden party given by the Burmese community to M. Clemenceau on Wednesday afternoon was a great success, the distinguished guest being delighted with the picture afforded by the brilliant silks of the Burmans, and especially charmed with the Yein Pwe performed by a number of little girls delightfully dressed and excellently trained. M. Clemenceau was enthusiastic in his appreciation of the welcome offered him, and of the entertainment. This morning he visited the Shwe Dagon Pagoda, which was thronged with people on the occasion of the Lighting Feast, and left at noon for Mandalay. No question of shoe wearing arose at the Pagoda, which M. Pietri and M. Turpeth, the ex-Premier's companions, had previously visited in company with H.H. the Lieut.-Governor's A.D.C.

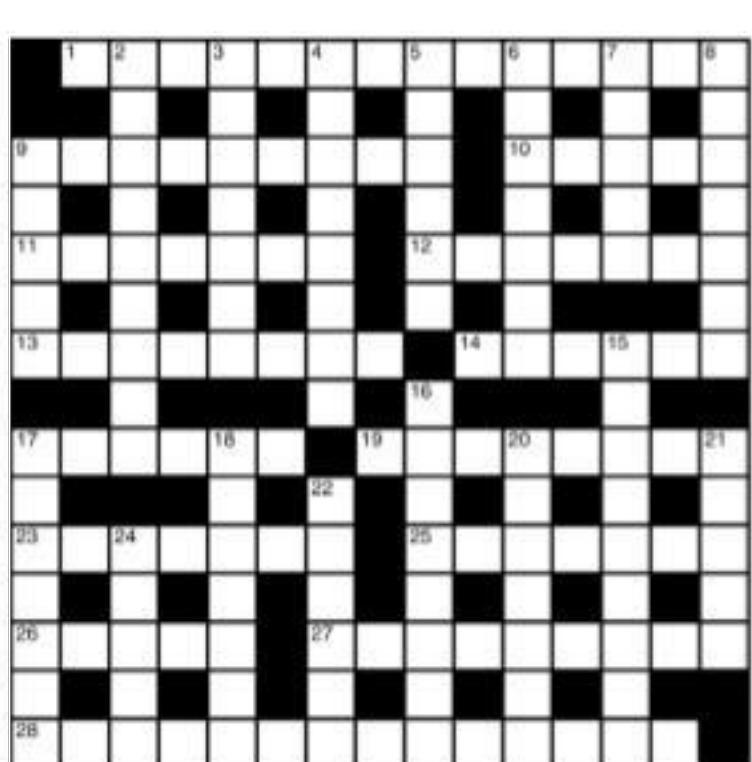
MADRAS RACE CLUB

The nineteenth annual general meeting of the Madras Race Club was held at Government House, H.E. Lord Willingdon presiding. The accounts showed after allowing for the cost of improvements and depreciation of old buildings a profit on the year's working of over Rs 9,529, which under the circumstances was considered satisfactory. On April 1, 1919 the membership numbered 63, of whom five were treated as absent members. Membership on March 31, 1920, was 310, and an effort was made to revive an interest in racing in Madras. Encouraged with success during the season the Stewards decided to embark on a more ambitious programme for the current season, which included the erection of suitable stands and other very much needed improvements at Guindy Race Course, all of which are now well advanced.

BUCKINGHAM MILLS CASE

Madras, Nov 25
At the High Court today the hearing of the Buckingham Mills case was resumed. Mr. Wadia, further cross-examined, stated there was no prevention, apart from persuasion, attempted upon men on the lockout. From the time the lockout committee was appointed to this day they had not done anything except to formulate terms to be accepted. Mr. Kalyanasundar A. Mudaliar, the second defendant, practically adopted the affidavit of Mr. Wadia. Mr. Namanujulu Naidu, Secretary of the Madras Labour Union (the 3rd defendant), said in his affidavit that the object of Messrs. Binny and Co. was to break up the Labour Union. The witness stated that was the purport of the resolution of the Executive Committee of the Union of which he was a member. He agreed with that opinion, but did not say so in public.

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS

- 1 Pike intervenes misguidedly - stupid boy, 16, as 23 would say (5,9)
- 9 Delta's family group (3,6)
- 10 The odds of 7 spades to finish? (5)
- 11 Conservative old individual received by King and queen; he's often in court (7)
- 12 Fruit flavour - peeled cantaloupe? (7)
- 13 Thanks! Fresh Melba toast out of the oven - put it on here! (5,3)
- 14 Pacino first to salute unbeatable service here in France (6)
- 17 He must've sent Jane bananas! (3-5)
- 19 Spoken about men in annual mass migration (8)
- 23 Composer who got crotchetty with 1? (7)
- 25 A tempestuous character, mother pocketed R1 (7)
- 26 Order Ms Dorries out - she doesn't belong in The House (5)
- 27 After 28 maybe dine out, included at no extra cost (7,2)
- 28 Stupid boy boobs in front of The Queen - he made us laugh (7,7)

DOWN

- 2 Repulsive former English LibDem leader crushing resistance (9)
- 3 Huge blokes, drunk, semi-clad (7)
- 4 6 boy safe on sleepover (5,3)
- 5 Substitute loading containers at Zeebrugge (6)
- 6 Nice summer rental, saving energy and time without end (7)
- 7 Reportedly influenced band (5)
- 8 Conk broken by my duck (2,5)
- 9 Understood 1ac anagram
- 15 Autumn ode composed - it's outstanding (6,3)
- 16/20/21 Gossip down tools once more, hit by 9ac (8,7,5)
- 17 As bottom cut short? (7)
- 18 From Kenya, run delicatessen somewhere in Sussex (7)
- 20 See 16
- 21 See 16
- 22 K-Pop star's revolutionary spirit (6)
- 24 Measure, say, Reading University business degree (5)

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

THUMBNAILS

I-T refunds worth ₹1,36L cr issued to 41.25L taxpayers till Nov 24: The Income Tax Department has issued refunds worth over Rs 1.36 lakh crore to over 41 lakh taxpayers so far this fiscal. This includes personal income tax (PIT) refunds amounting to Rs 36,028 crore and corporate tax refunds of over Rs 1 lakh crore during this period. CBDT issues refunds of over Rs 1,36,962 crore to more than 41.25 lakh taxpayers between 1st April, 2020 to 24th November, 2020. Income tax refunds of Rs 36,028 crore have been issued in 39,28,067 cases & corporate tax refunds of Rs 1,00,934 crore have been issued in 1,96,880 cases, the I-T Department tweeted.

Cityflo raises ₹57 cr funding: Cityflo, a Mumbai-based app-based bus service provider, on Wednesday said it has raised Rs 57 crore in a funding round led by Lightbox Ventures. India Quotient, which had infused a seed amount of Rs 3 crore into Cityflo in 2019, along with other angel investors also participated in the latest series A round, a statement said. The company has raised a total of Rs 60 crore till date.

Sany India: Sany India, one of the leading manufacturers of construction equipment & heavy machinery, has rolled out its 15,000th machine from the company's India facility this month. Speaking on the occasion, Sany India & South Asia managing director Deepak Garg said, "This achievement encourages us to continue adding new technologies into our upcoming product range and deliver the most modern construction equipment and heavy machinery solutions."

Zinc futures down on muted demand: Zinc prices fell 0.57 per cent to ₹216.85 per kg in futures trade on Wednesday as speculators reduced their exposure, taking negative cues from spot market.

Govt approves merger of Lakshmi Vilas Bank with DBIL

Those responsible for deteriorating financial health of LVB would be penalised, Javadekar said

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 25 NOVEMBER

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi today has given its approval to the Scheme of Amalgamation of crisis-laden Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited (LVB) with DBS Bank India Limited (DBIL). With this step, the government said there will no further restrictions on the depositors regarding the withdrawal of their deposits.

The minister also assured depositors that Rs 20,000 crore of deposits with LVB are fully secured and they should not worry. The government had earlier on 17 November on the advice of the RBI imposed a 30-day moratorium on the cash-strapped LVB restricting cash withdrawal at Rs 25,000 per depositor.

To protect depositors' interest and in the interest of financial and banking stability, on RBI's application under section 45 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, LVB had been under moratori-



um for a period of 30 days. In parallel, RBI, in consultation with Government, superseded the Board of Directors of LVB and appointed an Administrator to protect the depositors' interest," reads the press statement of Finance ministry.

The government also informed that it has asked for suggestions and objections from the public and stakeholders, RBI prepared and provided a scheme for the bank's amalgamation for the Government's sanction, well

in advance of end of the period of moratorium so that restrictions on withdrawal faced by the depositors are minimised. "With the approval of the scheme, LVB will be amalgamated with DBIL from the appointed date, and with this there will no further restrictions on the depositors regarding withdrawal of their deposits," reads the press release.

DBIL, as per the government, is a banking company licenced by RBI and operating in India through wholly

owned subsidiary model, DBIL has a strong balance sheet, with strong capital support and it has the advantage of a strong parentage of DBS, a leading financial services group in Asia, with presence in 18 markets and headquartered and listed in Singapore. Started by a group of seven businessmen of Karur under the leadership of VSN Rama Linga Chettiar in 1926, LVB has 566 branches, and 918 ATMs spread across 19 states and 1 union territory.

"The combined balance-

sheet of DBIL would remain healthy even after amalgamation and its branches would increase to 600," reads the press release.

Explaining further, the government said the speedy amalgamation and resolution of the stress in LVB is in line with Government's commitment to a clean banking system while protecting the interests of depositors and the public as well as the financial system.

"The speedy amalgamation and resolution of the stress in LVB is in line with government's commitment to a clean banking system while protecting the interests of depositors and the public as well as the financial system," reads the press release.

LVB is the second private sector bank after Yes Bank which ran into rough weather during this year. In March, capital-starved Yes Bank was placed under a moratorium. The government rescued Yes Bank by asking state-run State Bank of India to infuse Rs 7,250 crore and take 45 per cent stake in the bank.

He said some states like Maharashtra and Karnataka have reduced stamp duty on registration of properties to boost sales.

The secretary said the Centre had advised all States/UTs to cut stamp duty for giving fillip to the housing segment.

"Model Tenancy law is

ready. It has been translated into various languages as it has far-reaching implications," Mishra said.

The deadline for feedback on the proposed model tenancy law ended on October 31 and now States have been asked to send those feedbacks after compiling it, he said.

The secretary said the model tenancy will come "very soon".

Mishra pointed out that 1.1 crore homes were vacant as per 2011 census as people fear to give up their homes on rent.

The model tenancy law will eliminate anomalies and give a boost to the real estate sector, he said.

The Centre will send the Model Tenancy Law, after approval from the Union Cabinet, to States for its adoption.

Addressing a webinar organised by realtors body NAREDCO, he said the government's Affordable Rental Housing Complex (ARHC) scheme for migrants, which was launched a few months ago, has been progressing well and the programme has the potential to stop creation of slums in cities.

Mishra said the housing sales have revived after unlocking of the economy on the back of several measures taken by the Centre as well as state governments.

The secretary said the Centre had advised all States/UTs to cut stamp duty for giving fillip to the housing segment.

"Model Tenancy law is

Govt to come out with model tenancy law soon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 25 NOVEMBER

Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra on Wednesday said the government will soon come out with the model tenancy law, giving a major boost to the real estate sector especially rental homes.

The ministry had in July 2019 floated the draft model tenancy law.

Addressing a webinar organised by realtors body NAREDCO, he said the government's Affordable Rental Housing Complex (ARHC) scheme for migrants, which was launched a few months ago, has been progressing well and the programme has the potential to stop creation of slums in cities.

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"Model Tenancy law is

Cabinet approves ₹6,000 cr infusion in NIIF debt platform



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 25 NOVEMBER

Bharat 3.0 package announced earlier this month.

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved equity infusion of Rs 6,000 crore in NIIF Debt Platform sponsored by National Investment and Infrastructure Fund.

This was informed by Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar after the Cabinet meeting.

The proposal to invest Rs 6,000 crore as equity into NIIF is part of the Aatmanirbhar

Bharat 3.0 package announced earlier this month.

To support the funding of the National Infrastructure Pipeline of Rs 111 lakh crore, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech this year had said that about Rs 22,000 crore have already been provided.

This would be towards equity support to infrastructure finance companies such as India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL) and a subsidiary of NIIF.

Markets tumble from record highs on profit-booking; Sensex sinks 695 points

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 25 NOVEMBER

Equity markets' record run screeched to a halt on Wednesday as investors pocketed gains in banking, finance and IT counters amid a mixed trend overseas.

Snapping a three-day winning streak, the 30-share BSE Sensex slumped 694.92 points or 1.56 per cent to finish at 43,828.10. The index touched a lifetime high of 44,825.37 in the opening session.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty touched a record intraday peak of 13,145.85, before ending 196.75 points or 1.51 per cent down at 12,858.40.

Kotak Bank was the top loser in the Sensex pack, skidding 3.22 per cent, followed by Axis Bank, Sun Pharma, HDFC Bank, Bajaj Finance, Asian Paints, Bharti Airtel,

Infosys and Tech Mahindra. Only three index components closed in the green -- ONGC, PowerGrid and IndusInd Bank, jumping up to 6.25 per cent.

Global equities were mixed after the US' Dow Jones Industrial Average breached the

30,000-mark for the first time in the overnight session on COVID-19 vaccine optimism.

Reports that US President-elect Joe Biden would appoint former Federal Reserve chair Janet Yellen as Treasury Secretary also cheered investors.

"The market rally which

Fee on money transfers for US, doesn't apply to India: Google Pay



was led by developments on vaccine and FPI inflows came to a halt today due to profit booking across sectors in the second half of the trading session. While western markets continued its positivity, being encouraged by news on vaccine developments and ease in the US political risk.

"We can expect profit book-

ing to continue in our domes-

tic market, in the short-term,

as the liquidity driven rally can

take a pause having reached

all-time high on a monthly basis. This money was trig-

gered by the overwhelming

result of the US election

unleashing high amounts of

funds which was put on-hold.

FIs can take a breather and

check for the next phase of poli-

cies in the US and Europe for

2021," said Vinod Nair, Head

of Research at Geojit Finan-

cial Services.

Google on Wednesday clarified that users in India will not have to pay any fee for money transfers on its payment platform, and that the charges are for users in the US.

Last week, Google had announced that it is launching a redesigned Google Pay app next year on Android and iOS, starting with the US, and that users will not be able to use the service on a web browser.

Reports had said that Google Pay will also add a fee on instant money transfers.

"These charges and fees are specific to the US and do it apply to the Google Pay or Google Pay for Business apps in India," a Google spokesperson said.

Google Pay had 67 million users in India with a total payment value of USD 110 billion on an annualised basis, as of September 2019.

Google Pay for Business had announced over 3 million merchants in June 2020. It supports UPI and tokenised debit and credit cards as forms of payment in India.

Google Pay competes with players like Paytm, Walmart-owned PhonePe and Amazon Pay in India.

India's crude steel output rises 0.9 pc to 9 MT in Oct: Worldsteel



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 25 NOVEMBER

India's crude steel output increased marginally by 0.9 per cent to 9.058 million tonne (MT) in October 2020, according to the World Steel Association (worldsteel).

The country had produced 8.981 MT crude steel during the same month last year, the global industry body said in its latest report.

"Crude steel production for the 64 countries reporting to worldsteel was 161,890 MT in October 2020, a 7 per cent increase compared to 151,248 MT in October 2019.

"Due to the ongoing difficulties presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, many of this month's figures are estimates that may be revised with next month's production update," worldsteel said.

Markets regulator Sebi has imposed a fine totalling Rs 2 crore on seven entities including promoters and former senior officials of Zyleg Systems Ltd for violating several market norms while dealing in the firm's scrip.

Out of the entities facing penalty, Sthithi Insurance Services, Sudarshan Venkataraman and Ramanujam Sesharathnam were promoters of Zyleg.

Besides, Vekantaraman is the former chairman and chief executive officer, while Sesharathnam was managing director and chief operating officer of the firm and M V Ganeshan was its vice president-corporate accounts.

Sebi found that certain

South Korea's steel production fell 1.8 per cent to 5.859 MT for the month under review, as compared to 5.964 MT in the year-ago period.

Germany's crude steel output rose 3.1 per cent to 3.417 MT as against 3.315 MT.

Italy's crude steel production was 2.119 MT in October 2020, down 4.6 per cent from 2.222 MT a year ago.

France produced 1,065 MT of crude steel in October 2020, 9.9 per cent lower from the year-ago period. Spain's steel production stood at 1,113 MT, a fall of 7.7 per cent year-on-year.

"Brazil produced 2,784 MT of crude steel in October 2020, up by 3.5 per cent from October 2019. Turkey's crude steel production for October 2020 was at 3,208 MT, up 19.4 per cent from October 2019," worldsteel said.

According to the worldsteel data, China registered a 12.7 per cent year-on-year growth in steel output to 92,202 MT during October 2020, compared to 81,781 MT in the same period last year.

The US production stood at 6,143 MT of crude steel in October 2020, down 15.3 per cent from 7,250 MT.

Japan's output slipped 11.7 per cent to 7,200 MT of crude steel from 8,150 MT a year ago.

Some of the entities assisted in this scheme by acting on their instructions while some other entities, in whose accounts the trades took place, were participants in the scheme.

Their conduct was in violation of Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices norms, Sebi noted.

The officials also made misleading disclosures.

During 2012, Zyleg was in a financial crisis and was unable to pay principal as well as interest instalments with regard to various loans

availed by it.

It had failed to pay the dividend and was also facing issues with regard to salary-related

Ethiopian leader rejects international 'interference' in war

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NAIROBI, KENYA, 25 NOVEMBER

Ethiopia's prime minister is rejecting growing international consensus for dialogue and a halt to deadly fighting in the Tigray region as "unwelcome," saying his country will handle the conflict on its own as a 72-hour surrender ultimatum runs out on Wednesday.

"We respectfully urge the international community to refrain from any unwelcome and unlawful acts of interference," the statement from Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's office said as government forces encircled the Tigray capital, Mekele, with tanks. "The international community should stand by until the government of Ethiopia submits its requests for assistance to the community of nations."

The government led by Abiy has warned Mekele's half-million residents to move away from the Tigray People's Liberation Front leaders or there will be "no mercy" — language that the United Nations human rights chief and others have warned could lead to "further violations of international humanitarian law."

But communications remain almost completely severed to the Tigray region of some 6 million people, and it is not clear how many people in Mekele are aware of the warnings and the threat of artillery fire.

Diplomats on Tuesday said U.N. Security Council members in a closed-door meeting expressed support for an African Union-led effort to deploy three high-level envoys to Ethiopia. But Ethiopia has said the envoys cannot meet with the TPLF leaders.

"This conflict is already seriously destabilizing the region," European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said Tuesday after meeting with Ethiopia's foreign minister.

"Both sides should immediately begin dialogue facilitated by the AU," the national security adviser for U.S. president-elect Joe Biden, Jake Sullivan, tweeted.

The Tigray regional leader, Debretion Gebremichael, could not immediately be reached Wednesday as tensions were high among Mekele's residents.

The TPLF dominated Ethiopia's government for more than a quarter-century, but was sidelined after Abiy took office in 2018 and sought to centralize power. The TPLF opted out when Abiy dissolved the ruling coalition, then infuriated the federal government by holding an election in September after national elections were postponed by Covid. Each side now regards the other as illegal.

One Ethiopian military official claims that more than 10,000 "junta forces" have been "destroyed" since the fighting began on 4 November, when Abiy accused the TPLF of attacking a military base. Col. Abate Nigatu told the Amhara Mass Media Agency that more than 15,000 heavy weapons and small arms had been seized.

The international community has urgently called for communications to be restored to the Tigray region so warring sides' claims can be investigated, and so food and other desperately needed supplies can be sent as hunger grows.

FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2020

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during post festival season, Northern Railway will run the following fully reserved Festival Special Trains as per the schedule given below:-

LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS ORIGINATING/TERMINATING IN NORTHERN RAILWAY

| Festival Sp. No. | Station From | Dept. Time | Station to | Arr. Time | Frequency / Day | Period |
|------------------|------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------|
| 04612 | Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra | 23:30 | Varanasi Junction | 23:35 | SUN | Up to 29.11.20 |
| 04611 | Varanasi Junction | 06:35 | Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra | 06:50 | TUE | Up to 01.12.20 |
| 04422 | Anand Vihar Terminal | 20:20 | Lucknow | 04:20 | FRI, SUN | 27 & 29.11.20 |
| 04421 | Lucknow | 21:20 | Anand Vihar Terminal | 05:45 | MON, THU, SAT | Up to 30.11.20 |
| 04924 | Chandigarh | 23:15 | Gorakhpur | 16:00 | THU | Up to 26.11.20 |
| 04923 | Gorakhpur | 22:10 | Chandigarh | 14:15 | FRI | Up to 27.11.20 |
| 04090 | Anand Vihar Terminal | 16:55 | Bhagalpur | 11:00 | MON, FRI | Up to 30.11.20 |
| 04089 | Bhagalpur | 13:30 | Anand Vihar Terminal | 08:20 | TUE, THU, SAT | Up to 01.12.20 |
| 04012 | Anand Vihar Terminal | 07:30 | Jogbani | 08:30 | FRI | Up to 27.11.20 |
| 04011 | Jogbani | 20:00 | Anand Vihar Terminal | 21:00 | SAT | Up to 28.11.20 |
| 02237 | Varanasi Junction | 12:40 | Jammu Tawi | 11:05 | Daily | Up to 30.11.20 |
| 02238 | Jammu Tawi | 14:00 | Varanasi Junction | 12:30 | | Up to 01.12.20 |
| 02231 | Lucknow | 22:25 | Chandigarh | 10:05 | Daily | Up to 30.11.20 |
| 02232 | Chandigarh | 21:05 | Lucknow | 08:30 | | Up to 01.12.20 |
| 04092 | New Delhi | 09:20 | Jaynagar | 11:15 | SAT | Up to 28.11.20 |
| 04091 | Jaynagar | 15:30 | New Delhi | 19:30 | THU, SUN | Up to 29.11.20 |
| 04030 | Delhi Junction | 13:45 | Muzaffarpur Junction | 08:00 | SAT | Up to 28.11.20 |
| 04029 | Muzaffarpur Junction | 15:30 | Delhi Junction | 10:30 | THU, SUN | Up to 29.11.20 |
| 04624 | Amritsar Junction | 05:45 | Saharsa Junction | 10:30 | SAT | Up to 28.11.20 |
| 04623 | Saharsa Junction | 14:30 | Amritsar Junction | 19:45 | THU, SUN | Up to 29.11.20 |
| 04656 | Firozpur Cantt | 19:00 | Patna Junction | 21:25 | FRI | Up to 27.11.20 |
| 04655 | Patna Junction | 23:25 | Firozpur Cantt | 23:55 | SAT | Up to 28.11.20 |
| 04084 | Delhi Junction | 23:00 | Katihar Junction | 22:00 | FRI | Up to 27.11.20 |
| 04083 | Katihar Junction | 23:50 | Delhi Junction | 22:50 | SAT | Up to 28.11.20 |
| 04417 | Pune | 05:15 | H. Nizamuddin | 05:35 | THU | Up to 26.11.20 |
| 04041 | Delhi Junction | 22:25 | Dehradun | 08:25 | Daily | Up to 30.11.20 |
| 04042 | Dehradun | 21:20 | Delhi Junction | 07:25 | Daily | Up to 01.12.20 |
| 02448 | H. Nizamuddin | 20:10 | Manikpur Junction | 08:45 | Daily | Up to 30.11.20 |
| 02447 | Manikpur Junction | 17:05 | H. Nizamuddin | 05:25 | | Up to 01.12.20 |
| 04515 | Kalka | 12:10 | Shimla | 17:20 | Daily | Up to 30.11.20 |
| 04516 | Shimla | 10:40 | Kalka | 16:10 | | Up to 01.12.20 |
| 04854 | Jodhpur Junction | 09:10 | Varanasi Junction | 10:30 | MON, THU, SAT | Up to 30.11.20 |
| 04853 | Varanasi Junction | 17:15 | Jodhpur Junction | 18:50 | MON, SAT | Up to 30.11.20 |
| 04864 | Jodhpur Junction | 09:10 | Varanasi Junction | 08:45 | FRI, SUN | Up to 29.11.20 |
| 04863 | Varanasi Junction | 18:15 | Jodhpur Junction | 18:50 | TUE, FRI, SUN | Up to 01.12.20 |
| 04865 | Varanasi Junction | 18:15 | Jodhpur Junction | 18:50 | THU | Up to 26.11.20 |
| 05115 | Chhapra | 11:15 | Delhi Junction | 11:20 | SAT | Up to 28.11.20 |
| 05116 | Delhi Junction | 14:00 | Chhapra | 13:20 | SUN | Up to 29.11.20 |
| 02581 | Manduadih | 22:30 | New Delhi | 12:15 | Daily | Up to 30.11.20 |
| 02582 | New Delhi | 22:35 | Manduadih | 11:10 | | Up to 01.12.20 |
| 06229 | Mysore Junction | 07:20 | Varanasi Junction | 12:00 | THU | Up to 26.11.20 |
| 06230 | Varanasi Junction | 21:05 | Mysore Junction | 02:15 | THU, SAT | Up to 28.11.20 |
| 07323 | Hubballi Junction | 17:50 | Varanasi Junction | 12:00 | FRI | Up to 27.11.20 |
| 07324 | Varanasi Junction | 21:05 | Hubballi Junction | 13:00 | SUN | Up to 29.11.20 |
| 02588 | Jammu Tawi | 22:45 | Gorakhpur | 20:30 | SAT | Up to 28.11.20 |
| 05097 | Bhagalpur | 14:30 | Jammu Tawi | 06:00 | THU | Up to 26.11.20 |
| 05251 | Darbhanga Junction | 03:25 | Jalandhar City | 05:10 | SAT | Up to 28.11.20 |
| 05252 | Jalandhar City | 09:50 | Darbhanga Junction | 11:35 | SUN | Up to 29.11.20 |
| 02397 | Gaya | 14:15 | New Delhi | 04:30 | Daily | Up to 30.11.20 |
| 02398 | New Delhi | 12:10 | Gaya | 03:20 | | Up to 01.12.20 |
| 03255 | Patliputra | 20:35 | Chandigarh | 17:35 | SUN | Up to 29.11.20 |
| 03256 | Chandigarh | 21:30 | Patliputra | 18:50 | MON, THU | Up to 30.11.20 |
| 02355 | Patna Junction | 07:25 | Jammu Tawi | 10:37 | SAT | Up to 28.11.20 |
| 02356 | Jammu Tawi | 17:45 | Patna Junction | 20:55 | SUN | Up to 29.11.20 |
| 02595 | Gorakhpur | 20:00 | Anand Vihar Terminal | 08:50 | MON, THU | Up to 30.11.20 |
| 02596 | Anand Vihar Terminal | 20:00 | Gorakhpur | 07:50 | TUE, FRI | Up to 01.12.20 |
| 02331 | Howrah Junction | 23:55 | Jammu Tawi | 13:10 | FRI, SAT | Up to 28.11.20 |
| 02332 | Jammu Tawi | 22:45 | Howrah Junction | 11:30 | MON, THU, SUN | Up to 30.11.20 |
| 02819 | Bhubaneswar | 15:40 | Anand Vihar Terminal | 20:50 | SUN | Up to 29.11.20 |
| 02820 | Anand Vihar Terminal | 07:05 | Bhubaneswar | 12:20 | FRI | Up to 27.11.20 |
| 02549 | Kamakhya | 10:00 | Anand Vihar Terminal | 19:20 | Daily | Up to 30.11.20 |
| 02550 | Anand Vihar Terminal | 06:45 | Kamakhya | 16:35 | | Up to 02.12.20 |
| 02530 | Lucknow Jn | 05:00 | Patliputra Junction | 14:50 | Except SUN, THU | Up to 30.11.20 |
| 02529 | Patliputra Junction | 15:00 | Lucknow Jn | 02:35 | Except SUN, THU | Up to 30.11.20 |
| 02033 | Kanpur Central | 06:00 | New Delhi | 11:20 | Except SUN | Up to 30.11.20 |
| 02034 | New Delhi | 15:50 | Kanpur Central | 20:45 | Except SUN | Up to 30.11.20 |
| 08216 | Jammu Tawi | 05:00 | Durg | 19:10 | FRI | Up to 27.11.20 |
| 02458 | Bikaner Junction | 22:30 | Delhi Sarai Rohilla | 06:10 | | Up to 30.11.20 |
| 02457 | Delhi Sarai Rohilla | 23:35 | Bikaner Junction | 07:30 | Daily | Up to 30.11.20 |
| 02485 | Delhi Sarai Rohilla | 07:05 | Jodhpur Junction | 18:05 | | Up to 01.12.20 |
| 02486 | Jodhpur Junction | 11:00 | Delhi Sarai Rohilla | 22:10 | Daily | Up to 30.11.20 |
| 09027 | Bandra Terminus | 12:15 | Jammu Tawi | 01:25 | SAT | Up to 28.11.20 |
| 09028 | Jammu Tawi | 09:30 | Bandra Terminus | 22:25 | MON | Up to 30.11.20 |
| 02887 | Visakhapatnam | 06:25 | Hazrat Nizamuddin | 16:45 | Except Mon, Fri | Up to 29.11.20 |
| 02888 | Hazrat Nizamuddin | 08:35 | Visakhapatnam | 18:10 | Except Sun | Up to 01.12.20 |
| 08237 | Korba | 11:35 | Amritsar Junction | 08:10 | FRI | Up to 27.11.20 |
| 08238 | Amritsar Junction | 16:10 | Bilaspur | 12:15 | THU, FRI, SUN | Up to 29.11.20 |

| | | | | | | |
|-------|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|-----|----------------|
| 02683 | Yevsantpur Jn | 23:40 | Lucknow | 18:40 | MON | Up to 30.11.20 |
| 02684 | Lucknow | 18:30</td | | | | |



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



A woman takes a selfie in a pink muhly grass field at a park in Hanam, South Korea. ■ FILE PICTURE

7 migrants dead in mishap: At least seven people died after a migrant boat carrying more than 30 people hit rocks close to a small port on the Canary Island of Lanzarote, Spanish rescue services said on Wednesday. The boat was one of 12 intercepted in the islands' waters overnight. AP

Merkel's office gate hit: A car crashed into the front gate of the building housing German Chancellor Angela Merkel's offices on Wednesday, but appeared to have caused little damage, police said. Officers were on the scene investigating the crash, police spokesman said, but there were no immediate details about injuries or arrests. AP

Terror plot: A South Carolina man, Kristopher Sean Matthews, 34, has pleaded guilty to a terror charge for plotting to bomb or shoot up sites including the White House and Trump Tower in New York City in attacks inspired by the IS, US federal authorities said Tuesday. AP

Meghan writes about unbearable grief of miscarriage

LONDON, 25 NOVEMBER

The Duchess of Sussex has revealed that she had a miscarriage in July, giving a personal account of the traumatic experience in hope of helping others.

Meghan described the miscarriage in an opinion piece in the *New York Times* on Wednesday, writing that "I knew, as I clutched my first-born child, that I was losing my second." The former actress Meghan Markle and husband Prince Harry have an 18-month-old son, Archie.

The duchess, 39, said she was sharing her story to help break the silence around an all-too-common tragedy. "Losing a child means carrying an almost unbearable grief, experienced by many but talked about by few," Meghan wrote. "In being invited to share our pain, together we take the first steps toward healing."

In a startlingly intimate account of her experience, the duchess described how tragedy struck on a "morning that began as ordinarily as any other day: Make breakfast. Feed the dogs. Take vitamins. Find that missing sock. Pick up the rogue crayon that rolled under the table. Throw my hair in a ponytail before getting my son from his crib. After changing his diaper, I felt a sharp cramp. I dropped to the floor with him in my arms, humming a lullaby to keep us both calm, the cheerful tune a stark contrast to my sense that something was not right."

Later, she said, she "lay in a hospital bed, holding my husband's hand. I felt the clamminess of his palm and kissed his knuckles, wet from both our tears. Staring at the cold white walls, my eyes glazed over. I tried to imagine how we'd heal." AP

US ready to lead the world again: Biden

America leads not only by the example of our power, but by the power of our example, says President-elect Joe Biden in Wilmington



President-elect Joe Biden with his nominees and appointees to key national security and foreign policy posts at The Queen theater in Wilmington. AP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 25 NOVEMBER

Declaring "America is back," President-elect Joe Biden has introduced his key national security and foreign policy officials and said the incoming administration is ready to lead the world and once again sit at the head of the table.

Signaling a sharp shift from outgoing Republican President Donald Trump's "America First" policy over the last four years, Biden said America is "ready to confront our adversaries, not reject our allies. And ready to stand up for our values."

Speaking from his transition center in his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware, Biden, a Democrat, introduced his six top officials and highlighted the need to rebuild alliances, as well as tackling the coronavirus pandemic and climate change.

World leaders, he said, were "looking forward to the United States reasserting its historic role as a global leader over the Pacific, as well as the Atlantic, all across the world."

Biden's nominees and appointees, including Antony Blinken for secretary of state and former secretary of state John Kerry to a new position as special presidential envoy for climate, spoke for the first time since being announced on Monday by the transition team, and many of them offered implicit rebukes of President Trump and his isolationist and "America First" worldview.

"And it's a team that reflects the fact that America is back, ready to lead the world, not retreat from it. Once again, sit at the head of the table," the 78-year-old, who is scheduled to be inaugurated on January

20 as the 46th US President despite incumbent Trump not conceding, said.

Biden said, "America leads not only by the example of our power, but by the power of our example."

He said the officials he picked will not only repair, they will reimagine American foreign policy and national security for the next generation. And they will tell me what I need to know, not what I want to know." Apart from Biden and Kerry, Biden also introduced his nominee Alejandro Mayorkas as Secretary of Homeland Security, Avril Haines as Director of National Intelligence, Linda Thomas-Greenfield as the US ambassador to the United Nations and Jake Sullivan as the national security adviser.

In his remarks, Biden also referred to the formal letter of ascertainment by the head of the General Services Administration released on Monday, enabling his transition team to access funds and critical information related to public health and national security.

"I'm pleased to have received the ascertainment from GSA to carry out a smooth and peaceful transition of power, so our teams can prepare to meet the challenges at hand, to control the pandemic, to build back better and to protect the safety and security of the American people," he said.

Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, also spoke at the event. "Our challenge here is a necessary foundation for restoring and advancing our leadership around the world and we are ready for that work."

"We will need to reassess and renew America's alliances, rebuild and strengthen the national security and foreign policy institutions

keep America safe without engaging in needless military conflicts, and our adversaries in check and terrorists at bay, he said.

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"We will need to reassess and renew America's alliances, rebuild and strengthen the national security and foreign policy institutions

Biden becomes first presidential candidate to win over 80 mn votes

WASHINGTON, 25 NOVEMBER

Joe Biden has become the US first presidential candidate to win over 80 million votes, with his record-breaking number of popular votes still likely to increase as ballots continue to be counted across the nation, according to a media report on Wednesday. President-elect Biden won more than 80,011,000 votes as of Tuesday, while President Donald Trump had more than 73,800,000 votes. Trump's votes make him the candidate to win the second-highest number of popular votes in American history, CNN reported.

Biden, a Democrat, has secured 306 electoral votes, while Trump, a Republican, has 232. The winner in the race to the White House should get at least 270 electoral votes from the 538-member Electoral College.

Americans voted by mail in record numbers this year to protect themselves from exposure to coronavirus in the middle of a global pandemic, and experts had warned for months that there would be a lengthy vote count that could extend for days following Election Day on November 3. AP

that keep us safe and advance our nation's interests, and confront and combat the existential threat of climate change that endangers us all," Harris said.

US jobless claims rise to 778,000 as pandemic worsens: The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits rose last week to 778,000, evidence that the U.S. economy and job market remain under strain as coronavirus cases surge and colder weather heighten the risks. The Labor Department's report Wednesday said jobless claims climbed from 748,000 the week before. Before the virus struck hard in mid-March, weekly claims typically amounted to roughly 225,000. They shot up to 6.9 million during one week in March before dropping yet remain historically high more than eight months later, with many businesses unable to fully reopen.

US President-elect prioritises experience with Cabinet picks

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK, 25 NOVEMBER

Competence is making a comeback.

President-elect Joe Biden has prized staying power over star power when making his first wave of Cabinet picks and choices for White House staff, with a premium placed on government experience and proficiency as he looks to rebuild a depleted and demoralized federal bureaucracy.

With an eye in part toward making selections who may have to seek approval from a Republican-controlled Senate, Biden has prioritized choosing qualified professionals while eschewing flashy names. Even the most recognizable pick John Kerry lacks the showmanship that has defined the Trump era.

In sharp contrast to President Trump, who openly distrusted the very government he led, Biden has showcased a faith in bureaucracy that was born of his nearly five decades in Washington. He's made hires with the deliberate aim of projecting a sense of dutiful and, even boring, competency.

Surrounding himself with longtime aides and veterans of the Obama administration, many of whom have already worked together for years, Biden has so far rolled out a team of careerists with bursting resumes and little need of a learning curve.

Collectively, this team has secured some of the most defining national security and diplomatic achievements in recent memory made possible through decades of experience working with our partners. Biden said Tuesday as he unveiled his national security team. Experience is indeed the coin of the realm on Biden's burgeoning team.

His pick for secretary of state, Antony Blinken, worked for Biden in the Senate for years, and held the posts of deputy secretary of state and deputy national security adviser. His choice for national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, was the deputy to that post under President Barack Obama. His nominee for treasury secretary, Janet Yellen, was chair of the Federal Reserve and chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisors. His incoming White House chief of staff, Ron Klain, was chief of staff to two vice presidents.

identities Al Gore and Biden himself and was the Obama administration's Ebola czar. And Kerry, Biden's choice to fill the newly created post of presidential climate envoy, was a longtime U.S. senator and his party's 2004 presidential nominee before serving as secretary of state.

The team is bringing competency and experience, which are two separate things but deeply interwoven, said retired Navy Adm. James Stavridis, former NATO supreme allied commander Europe, who has worked with much of Biden's new team.

There are deputies stepping up into full roles, seasoned hands returning to the job. They tend to be calm and centered and they won't all fight over the ball. They know their counterparts overseas and they know whom to pick up the phone and call, said Stavridis.

It's a completely different approach than what we saw with the Trump team and I hesitate to call it a team because they didn't work all that well together.

Four years ago, contenders for Cabinet posts were marched through the gilded lobby of Trump Tower, the president-elect's Manhattan skyscraper, in full view of reporters and TV cameras. The candidates publicly jockeyed for posts, Trump aides took turns knifing each other in the media, and the incoming president even took one secretary of state contender, Mitt Romney, out to dinner for a public and ultimately unsuccessful audition.

Conversely, Biden's transition hiring process has been carried out behind closed doors or, out of concern for the surging pandemic, on Zoom and over the phone. Leaks to reporters have been

few. And the public only got its first glimpse of Biden's choices when they took their spots, spaced apart and wearing masks, on a Delaware stage.

Another change was the distinct lack of tributes from the staffers about their boss, a marked difference from the lengthy, glowing veneration of the president that came to define any Trump Cabinet meeting. Also different: No one who stood with Biden was a family member or an in-law.

EU is willing to be 'creative' to get a Brexit trade deal

BRUSSELS, 25 NOVEMBER

The European Union on Wednesday committed to be "creative" in the final stages of the Brexit trade negotiations but warned that whatever deal emerges, the United Kingdom will be reduced to just a valued partner" far removed from its former membership status.

EU Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said genuine progress" had been made on several issues "with an outline of a final text", little more than a month before Britain's transition period as a former EU member runs out.

And she said that on the divisive issues of fisheries, governance of any deal and the standards the UK must meet to export to the EU, the bloc is ready to be creative, but we are not ready to put into question the integrity of the single market, the main safeguard for European prosperity and wealth".

In the EU single market, goods and services can freely flow from one of the 27 member states to another without barriers like customs or checks, and it is seen as a cornerstone of the EU. With Britain deciding to walk out, von der Leyen insisted it should feel the cold.

"One thing is clear. Whatever the outcome, there has to be and there will be a clear difference between being a full member of the union and being just a valued partner," she said at the European Parliament.

With hope high for vaccine, UK prepares to roll it out

UK PM Johnson offers days off from lockdown to form 'Christmas bubble'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON, 25 NOVEMBER

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has confirmed a time-limited one-off dispensation from Covid lockdown rules agreed by all parts of the United Kingdom for families to get together to form a Christmas bubble between December 23 and 27.

In a video message on Tuesday evening from Downing Street, where he continues to self-isolate after being in contact with a Covid-positive politician, Johnson said a family can get together with two other households in order to spend the festive period together.

All four nations of the UK (England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales) have agreed that from the 23rd of December to the 27th of December, you will be able to form a Christmas bubble

with up to two other households, Johnson said.

It would mean that up to three households will be able to come together from any part of the UK over the brief four-day period and also attend church and communal services.

We can't afford to throw caution to the wind. The

virus doesn't know it's Christmas and we must all be careful, he said, urging people think carefully about the festive plans. I know this doesn't equate to a normal Christmas and it won't work for everyone. "Tis the season to be jolly but 'tis also the season to be jolly careful," he added.

While most of the injections would be delivered at around 1,000 community vaccination centers, about a third would go to 40 to 50 "large-scale mass vaccination centers," including stadiums, conference centers and similar venues, the document indicates. The NHS confirmed the document was genuine but said details and target dates are always changing because the vaccination program is a work in progress.

Plans under the U.K.'s system of devolved administration.

The first to be vaccinated would be health care workers and nursing home residents, followed by older people,

starting with those over 80, according to the document, first reported by the London-based Health Service Journal.

People under 65 with underlying medical conditions would be next, then healthy people 50 to 65 and finally everyone else 18 and over.

The document was confirmed by the NHS.

EU: First vaccinations possible by Christmas

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BRUSSELS, 25 NOVEMBER

A top European Union official said Wednesday that the first citizens in the 27 nation bloc could be vaccinated against the coronavirus by Christmas, but she warned that member countries must urgently prepare their logistical chains for the rollout of hundreds of millions of doses of the vaccines.

Claiming that there's finally light at the end of the tunnel, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told EU lawmakers that the first European citizens might already be vaccinated before the end of December.

The commission, the EU's executive arm, has agreements with six potential vaccine suppliers and is working on a seventh contract. The deals allow it to purchase over 800 million doses, more than the population of the bloc, which stands at around 460 million people.

Institutions and their responsibilities

Our constitutional and legal scheme makes appointed institutions and the bureaucracy more responsible for the situation in the country than political institutions, argues G RAMACHANDRA REDDY

Montesquieu, the French political philosopher made three broad classification of State power -the legislative, the executive and the judicial so that there could be checks and balances in the exercise of power.

In a democratic form of government, the chief source of state power obviously rests with the "Council of Ministers" headed by a Prime Minister or the Chief Ministers in the States. The Cabinet, a small group among the ranks of Ministers decides state/national policies. Parliament or State legislatures enact laws in pursuance of the said policies, and it is left to the executive to implement laws. There are more than 30,000 laws in the country.

International relations and matters of war and peace are decided by the Council of Ministers with the PM at its head. Judiciary interprets the Constitution and laws and checks abuse of State power by the executive. It has also power to annul arbitrary laws, rules and regulations including constitutional amendments etc.

While there is no doubt about the process of law-making falling within the exclusive domain of the Parliament and legislatures, there is no clarity even amongst the educated and learned when it comes to the exercise of executive power of the State. Further there is crisis in governance when judiciary encroaches into executive domain. Whenever there is an alleged miscarriage of justice, the people, intelligentsia included, tend to blame the political class for the sorry situation. They overlook the role and importance of appointed institutions such as the bureaucracy, the police and various other investigating agencies, the security forces and intelligence agencies in the governance of the state.

The issue assumed significance when Mrs. Sonia Gandhi (Chairperson, United Progressive Alliance) lambasted the NDA govt in October 2020 for misusing the investigating agencies such as Police, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Enforcement Directorate (ED) etc. leading to abuse of human rights and miscarriage of justice. It is therefore necessary to visit some of the constitutional and legal provisions to determine who the villain is.

Article 53 (1) of the Constitution says the executive power of the union is vested in the President and shall be exercised by him either directly or through officers subordinate to him in accordance with the Constitution.

Article 74 (1) says there shall be a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President who shall in exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such advice.

Art 154 says the executive power of the state shall be vested in the Governor and shall be exercised by him either directly or through the officers subordinate to him in accordance with this Constitution.

Art 163 says there shall be a "Council of Ministers" with Chief Minister at the head to aid and advice the Governor in the exercise of his functions except in

so far as he is by or under the Constitution required to exercise his functions or any of them in his discretion.

Let me have a bird's eye view of the legal scheme in which the "appointed" institutions have disproportionate share in the exercise of executive power. This needs to be stated loud and clear when the appointed institutions shift responsibility for failure of governance to the political class on the specious plea that they lack autonomy/independence in functioning. The truth is the opposite. Even if more autonomy is granted, where is the guarantee that it will be used in "public interest"?

Take the example of the judiciary in India- it is fully autonomous. It appoints Judges of higher judiciary through a legal fiction called the "Collegium" (a group of senior Judges). Subordinate judges are selected by High Courts of States and formal orders of appointment are issued by the government. The Supreme Court and High Courts have power of effecting transfer of judges from one court to another. Yet, its record for rendering speedy and honest judicial services has come to be questioned. I have mentioned the method of appointments in judiciary where the political class has no role or plays a secondary role.

Now let me talk about the bureaucracy - a mammoth 30 million strong institution in the country. The All India Services (Indian Administrative, Police, Revenue, Tax, Railways, Postal services, etc.) are selected by the Union Public Service Commission - an autonomous body. At the state level, selection to the Bureaucracy is through State Public Service Commissions which are also largely autonomous. There is a set procedure for selection - a written test followed by an oral interview. I don't think the political class can influence "selection" if the members of these commissions are honest and unselfish. After selection and formal appointment by government comes periodic promotion in career. There also a set of rules and procedures exist, and senior bureaucrats and committees headed by bureaucrats play a large role than politicians. In the matter of promotion of State service officers to All India Services, a committee of officers headed by a UPSC member take decisions.

The next phase is transfer. For the sake of lucrative postings, bureaucrats sell their souls and toe the line of political masters. Even if 50 per cent of them were unselfish and honest, the politician would be handicapped in the business of transfers. Even in transfers, the Ministers or C.M are guided by recommendations of the head of the department, the regional and district heads. They cannot simply overrule a recommendation for fear of adverse Court comments if the matter is challenged. Chief Ministers have large discretion in choosing heads of departments. But in respect of others, they are guided by the recommendations of the departmental head. If the head ignores public interest in his recommendations, that is a different matter. But by and large, senior bureaucrats imbued with spirit of honesty and public interest can shape for

good the business of transfers.

In disciplinary matters such as suspension from service, removal and dismissal, bureaucratic and police leadership play a large role. The Attorney-General, State law officers like the Advocate General, public prosecutors at all levels in Courts as well as government pleaders etc. are appointed by the government. They have such functions and duties as arguing cases, preferring appeals, withdrawing criminal prosecutions, etc. In all cases, the Minister is expected to be guided by their advice. The government independently cannot withdraw criminal prosecutions without recommendations of public prosecutors, which means that honest and unselfish government law officers can play a large role in the justice delivery system.

There are many other appointed institutions such as Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and the Election Commission (EC) which are largely autonomous made possible through the evolution of case law by the Supreme Court. Yet there are certain election commissions whose functioning has been erratic due to self-interest.

A committee or a board of officials is envisaged in most of the laws. The decision of the Minister is guided by the recommendation of the committee. A building, a gun license or a mining lease license are given by officials.

Granting without admitting that the villain of the piece is the politician in the system of governance, recent developments pursuant to Supreme Court decisions in the appointment and transfer of Director General of CBI or the various State DGP's, who enjoy a fixed tenure of two years (considered as encroachment in executive domain) have not proved productive. Improvement in law and order, crime reduction,

registration of crimes, detection of crimes, honest investigations, court convictions and overall general honesty in the organization has not improved a wee bit. On the other hand, several Directors of CBI and DGs came out of the organisation in poor light.

Let me dwell deeper into the legal scheme which confers disproportionate power on the appointed institutions. The Criminal Procedure Code 1973 deals with powers of police, courts and High Courts. It also deals with the powers of the District Collector and other executive magistrates. The Cr PC consists of 36 chapters. It deals with such subjects as the power of registration of crime by police, of investigations, arrest, search and seizure, power to release on bail and of charge-sheeting the accused in crimes. Police have powers of preventive arrests and maintenance of peace and public order along with the District collector and Magistrate.

Police have also power of preventive detention (without trial) as duly approved by a "Board" and government. The Courts have power to enlarge accused on bail (in non-bailable offences). The Courts have power to grant anticipatory bail to accused. They can conduct trials of criminal cases, convict and sentence accused persons to prison. High Courts have the power to quash a FIR as well as criminal investigation, both under Article 226 of the Constitution as well as under the provisions of Criminal Procedure Code. The power of appeal, reference and revision lie with unelected institutions of Police, prosecutor and Courts.

Sec 44 of the Cr. PC gives powers to executive or judicial magistrate to arrest a person for committing offence in their presence. They have power to conduct "inquiry" into police brutality cases or encounters with unlawful elements.

As per Sec 97 if any person is confined to any place amounting to an "offence" the district magistrate or the Sub-divisional Magistrate may issue a search warrant to restore liberty to such a confined person. Courts have power for attachment or forfeiture of property obtained through commission of an offence (Sec 105c). Any Executive Magistrate or officer in-charge of a police station can disperse an unlawful assembly by use of "force" (Sec 129). According to Sections 130 and 131, powers of dispersal of unlawful assemblies is also conferred on Armed Forces Officers. Wide discretionary powers have been given to District Magistrates and Sub-divisional Magistrate in the removal of public nuisance and in the maintenance of tranquility and public order. No Minister has been empowered with such or similar powers.

The Maharashtra Land revenue Code 1966 provides that no land used for agriculture purpose shall be used for non-agriculture purpose except with the permission of the District Collector. The Urban Land Ceiling and Regulation Act 1976 gives the State government the power to grant exemptions which are carried out by civil servants. The Indian Arms Act 1952 envisages Licensing Authorities and Appellate Authorities which are all "appointed" institutions.

Fiscal laws such as the Companies Act, Securities Exchange Board of India Act 1992, Depositors Act 1996 and Income Tax Act 1961 provide for Commissioners and Chief Commissioners, Central Board of Direct Taxes (appellate authority) as well as various Tribunals which are all appointed authorities. The Special Economic Zones Act (SEZ) 2000 envisages several layers of appointed authorities. The decisions by Minister/C.M are taken on recommendations of these authorities and not by differing with them. Thus, the myth about

political interference in day-to-day administration by the Minister/Chief Minister, MLA, MP etc. needs to be accepted with a pinch of salt.

We therefore need appointed institutions with backbone and with a spirit of public service to check injustices and in giving good governance. The IAS, IPS etc., which were touted as the steel frame of administration and as leaders of the bureaucracy and police, need to share the blame. The phrase "Council of Ministers" in Article 74 (1) is the cornerstone of parliamentary democracy. Advice of the Council of Ministers may not translate absolutely in actual governance. It must be reconciled with the word "officers" in Art 53 (1) in the overall context of the constitutional and legal scheme. This narrative is by no means a certificate of politicians as an asset of the nation. But the political class is accountable a) to the law of the land, and b) to political accountability in periodic elections. A combination factors such as media exposure of crime and wrongdoing, civil society activism and public movements, efforts of political opposition, genuine public interest litigations activists etc. will make the political class accountable to law. The appointed institutions particularly the judiciary go without any degree of accountability.

A conference of Chief Ministers held in 1997 to weed out the dead wood amongst All India Service Officers drew a blank as each official was certified as good or outstanding year after year because annual assessment reports are written and reviewed by the official hierarchy. Thus, the power behind the throne in the republic are the appointed institutions. If this power is exercised in "public interest", there can be realization of justice.

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LEGAL FRAMEWORK NEEDED FOR DATA PROTECTION

Manipulation of voter preferences through social media can only be countered by enactment of a proper law, says ASHIT KUMAR SRIVASTAVA.

Someone has correctly said that modern-day elections are fought on social media, and rightly so. Social media websites have become excellent apparatus for narrative-setting and identity politics in India. They have become a tool for political communication among Indian masses; in research taken out by Reuters Institute, majority of respondents were found to use Facebook as a news source.

This dependency on social media and messaging applications has brought a new digital element to Indian elections. Significantly, the impact of social media websites and messaging applications on young and undecided voters makes them the swing vote in any election. This marginal shift of voters from one inclination to another has led to several marginal victories for India's political parties.

In the recent Bihar assembly elec-

tion, the use of WhatsApp increased two-fold, an acknowledgment that the capacity of the messaging application to penetrate diverse social strata is unparalleled. However, the ability of the messaging application lies in its end-to-end model; the fact that messages in WhatsApp are end-to-end encrypted leaves no scope for the service provider to keep a check on content shared among individuals or groups, and political parties have used this feature of the application for floating fake news in and around the election period. This creates a divisive ambience, something which WhatsApp acknowledges and which has led to limits on the number of persons to whom a message can be forwarded. Also, the message will say it has been forwarded. While an appreciable step yet, it is not a significant means to curb floating of fake news by millions of vol-

unteers of political parties, who are working at district and constituency level. This content can create divisiveness, especially because there is no fact-checking mechanism in WhatsApp.

Floating of content on messaging applications is not illegal per se but floating of fake news capable of causing divisiveness in society and hampering the decision-making power of the voter is a direct breach of the informational privacy of an individual. As per reports taken out by several newspapers, volunteers creating these WhatsApp groups at the district and constituency level can categorise voters through public and non-public data. Public data is something which is available in a public forum easily, and could include the students list of a college, or the number of people living in an apartment. Non-public data per-

sonally identifiable information about individual, which generally is not available in the public domain. When public data is mixed with the non-public data, it identifies an individual, and categorises the voter. This helps in identifying what kind of messages should be sent to the user.

It cannot be denied that WhatsApp has been utilized for spreading hatred and misinformation. And who is to be blamed? There is an abundance of meta-data available regarding an individual at different forums which can be efficiently utilized for voter-profiling.

However, this does not fit well with the agenda of informational privacy and decisional autonomy of an individual, something held to be sacrosanct in the K.S. Puttaswamy judgment (2017) of the apex court. The core problem with social media websites and messaging applications lie in their moderation standards.

While in the case of social media websites, there are over-worked and underpaid manual moderators across the globe; in WhatsApp, moderation is difficult. How can there be moderation

of content if it can only be seen by the sender and receiver. This model reflects the company's commitment to privacy, yet it also becomes fertile ground for voter-manipulation and the spread of misinformation. Therefore, instead of emphasizing moderation standards in WhatsApp, it would be better to put obstacles in voter-categorization, which will by default bring down the amount of targeted content being shared within a closed group.

One way of putting a curb on voter-categorization is to curb the retrieval of non-public data collected by political volunteers from various sources. If I share my cell-phone number after making a purchase of a T-shirt at a branded store and that data is retrieved by volunteers, that piece of information would give an insight into my shopping habits, the amount of money I spent on clothing and would also be an insight into my economic background. These pieces of information are a great leverage point for voter-categorization and targeted posting.

However, the solution to this

problem lies in the K.S. Puttaswamy judgment, along with the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019. The privacy jurisprudence in India is still in its nascent stage, yet the privacy principles as coded in K.S. Puttaswamy give enough leeway for recognition of the principle of 'purpose limitation,' something which also finds mention in the PDP Bill, 2019.

Purpose limitation is a universally recognized tenet of limiting the usage of information to its original purpose. If I am sharing my information at a store where I bought my clothes, I might be providing data only to avail future offers on clothes. So, the purpose of that information is limited and cannot go beyond it.

Yet the irony remains that the PDP is still a bill in India. Once it turns into a full-fledged law, it will give the Data Protection Officer enough power to keep check on non-public data and lead to strict application of purpose limitation, breach of which would be a punishable offense.

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