

THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2020



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Jyotiraditya Scindia says 3 defeated ministers will be accommodated suitably



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Katrina Kaif will soon leave for UAE to shoot for superheroine movie



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Princess Charlene of Monaco and Princess Gabriella of Monaco attend the celebrations marking Monaco's national day at the palace in Monaco on Thursday. — AFP

Covid-hit Indian economy likely to struggle till 2025

New Delhi: India will be worst-affected among the world's major economies even after the pandemic wanes, with output 12% below pre-virus levels through the middle of the decade, according to *Oxford Economics*. Balance sheet stress that had been building before the coronavirus outbreak will probably worsen, Priyanka Kishore, head of economics for South Asia and South-East Asia, wrote in the report.

Pill overdose: DMK MLA hospitalised

Chennai: Former information and technology minister of and DMK MLA Poongothai Aladi Aruna has been admitted to a hospital in Tirunelveli, allegedly after attempting suicide. A health bulletin issued by Shifa Hospitals said, "At present she remains awake, responsive and her vital parameters are satisfactory." ■ **More on Page 3**

70-year-old raped, & murdered in MP

Bhopal: In a shocking incident, a 70-year-old woman was brutally raped and then murdered in a village in Madhya Pradesh, police said on Thursday. Naked body of the victim was found in her farmland in the village of Alinja under Gyaraspur police station in Vidisha.



Covid Cabinet? You have to wait!

WEATHER
Max: 24°C
Min: 11°C
RH: 45%
Rain: 0%
Forecast: Sunny

ASTROGUIDE
Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Kartika Suddha Shasthi till 9.35 pm
Star: Uttarashadha till 9.24 am
Variyam: 1.30 pm to 3.08 pm
Durmuhurtam: 8.41 am to 9.25 am; 12.23 pm to 1.08 pm
Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12 noon
SUNSET TODAY 5.25 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.48 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 12.34 PM
MOONSET TODAY 10.30 AM

Bihar education minister quits over 'corruption'

Nitish intervenes, resignation comes hours after taking charge

NAYAN AZAD
PATNA, NOV. 19

Three days after he became Bihar's chief minister for the fourth straight term, the Nitish Kumar-led government faced its first political humiliation on Thursday when the state education minister Mewalal Chaudhary had to resign from the post after being slammed for corruption charges. Mr Chaudhary, who maintains that all charges against him are baseless, put in his resignation within hours of resuming office on Thursday after Mr Kumar intervened.

Mr Chaudhary has been facing flak from the Opposition parties, especially the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), ever since he took oath as the Cabinet minister along with the chief minister on November 16.

Speaking about his resignation, Mr Chaudhary said, "Accusations can only be proved either after a chargesheet is filed or the court passes an order. In my case, nothing has happened. The matter is still under investigation".

He also slammed Tejashwi Yadav for raising questions against him and said, "He has no right to point fingers at me as he himself is facing a series of corruption charges."

In a series of tweets earlier, Mr Yadav had accused the Bihar chief minister of appointing ministers who have corruption and criminal



Mewalal Chaudhary

▶ **A CASE WAS** filed against Mr Chaudhary in 2017 on the basis of reports that highlighted irregularities in the appointment of assistant professors and junior scientists during his tenure as the vice-chancellor of Bihar Agriculture University, Sabour, in Bhagalpur district.

cases pending against them.

A case was filed against Mr Chaudhary in 2017 on the basis of reports that highlighted irregularities in the appointment of assistant professors and junior scientists during his tenure as the vice-chancellor of Bihar Agriculture University, Sabour, in Bhagalpur district.

Reports suggest that the case is still pending against him in the court of additional district and sessions Judge — I, Bhagalpur, and the matter is being investigated by the vigilance department.

After an FIR was filed against him, the JD(U) had suspended him for a brief period. However, he was made the party candidate from Tarapur Assembly seat during the state elections this year.

■ **'Had a huge cache of arms... were planning big in Valley': IG police**

4 Jaish militants heading for Kashmir Valley gunned down

YUSUF JAMEEL
SRINAGAR, NOV. 19

Four suspected Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) militants on their way to Kashmir Valley with a huge weapons cache were gunned down by the security forces during an encounter at a toll plaza along the Jammu-Srinagar highway on Thursday.

The weapons haul included 11 AK-47 assault rifles, three pistols, 29 hand grenades, satellite and mobile phones and compass. "It is for the first time in past few years that such a huge recovery has been made from slain terrorists after an encounter. Apparently they were planning something very big in the Valley," said inspector



Security personnel inspect the site of encounter at Nagrota Ban toll plaza in Jammu on Thursday. — PTI

general of police (Jammu range) Mukesh Singh.

He said it apparently was "a newly infiltrated group" of militants which was travelling in a goods lorry to the Valley from Jammu. "But when the truck was stopped at the police check-

point at Ban Toll Plaza in Nagrota (22.4 km north of Jammu city) at around 5 am and the policemen began searching it, the driver stepped out and fled. Then the terrorists on board opened a heavy volume of fire, triggering an

encounter which lasted for about three hours," he told reporters.

The IGP said that all the four militants were killed and two policemen were injured in the gunfight. "The injured policemen were immediately evacuated to the hospital and both of them are stable," he said. The truck was damaged in the operation in which the Army and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) also took part.

The police sources said that during routine checking of vehicles, the driver of the Valley-bound truck hesitated in answering the policemen's queries, got off the vehicle and ran away. A group of policemen then quickly started searching ■ **Turn to Page 2**



Hafiz Saeed

Saeed gets 10-year jail in 2 more terror cases

JuD chief found guilty of financing terrorism

Lahore, Nov. 19: Mumbai terror attack mastermind and Jamat-ud-Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed was on Thursday sentenced to 10 years in jail by an anti-terrorism court in Pakistan in two more terror financing cases.

This is not the first time that Saeed, whose Jamaat-ud-Dawa is a front organisation for the terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), has been sentenced in a terror case by a Pakistani court. In February, Saeed and some of his aides were convicted and sentenced to 11 years in a terror-financing case.

Saeed, a UN designated terrorist whom the US has placed a \$10 million bounty on, was arrested on July 17 last year in the terror financing cases. The 70-year-old JuD chief is lodged at Lahore's high-security Kot Lakhpat jail.

"The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) of Lahore on Thursday sentenced four JuD leaders, including its chief Hafiz Saeed, in two more cases," a court official told PTI.

Saeed and his two close aides — Zafar Iqbal and Yahya Mujahid — have been sentenced to 10 and a half years each, while JuD chief's brother-in-law Abdul Rehman Makki was sentenced to six months imprisonment.

"Judge Arshad Hussain Bhutta of ATC Court No. 1 heard the case filed by the Counter Terrorism Department in which the verdict has been announced after the statements of witnesses were cross-examined," the official said.

Thursday's sentencing comes weeks after Paris-based global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog — the Financial Action Task Force retained Pakistan on its grey list till February 2021 as it failed to fulfil the agency's six key obligations, including failure to take action against two of India's most wanted terrorists — Saeed and Maulana Masood Azhar. — PTI

People defy pandemic to visit Taj



Tourists visit the historic Taj Mahal amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic during World Heritage Week in Agra on Thursday. — PTI

As pleas fail, Delhi govt to fine ₹2,000 for not wearing mask

New Delhi: Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal has announced a steep ₹2,000 fine — up from the current ₹500 — for those caught without masks, to help control the coronavirus surge that's in its third week. The chief minister also appealed to all political parties and social organisations to distribute masks at public places in Delhi.

The hard line by the government came after days of pleas. As the virus rampaged across a city weakened by sliding mercury and an envelope of smoke, Mr Kejriwal had repeatedly appealed to people with folded hands to wear masks and maintain safety norms.

But the mad rush of the festive season had prevailed, pushing the daily tally of fresh cases and fatalities to record highs each week since the beginning of November.

Over the last weeks, to grapple with the surge that had once crossed the 8,000 mark, the Centre has flown in para-medical personnel and increased the number of beds in hospitals.

At the press conference this afternoon, Mr Kejriwal said arrangements are being made for over 1,400 ICU beds, "including 663 in Delhi government hospitals and 750 at Centre-run facilities". ■ **More on Page 2**

Assam: BJP, BPF heading for a split ahead of 2021 election?

MANOJ ANAND
GUWAHATI, NOV. 19

In what may lead to a major realignment of political forces, the ruling BJP is heading to breaking its partnership with Bodoland People's Front (BPF) that it had built more than four years ago to form its first government in Assam, along with the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP).

Differences between the two political parties have cropped after the decision of the BJP to go all out to take control of the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) in elections which are going to take

▶ **BJP IS ACCUSING** BPF of corruption and campaigning alone for polls to Bodoland Territorial Council

place in two phases on December 7 and 10. The council has been in the hands of BPF for the last 17 years at a stretch.

Assam minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, while campaigning for elections to Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), an autonomous council, said, "The BJP will contest the 2021 Assembly elections on its own here, too. There will be no alliance with BPF this time."

Yeddy at DKS' family function



Karnataka chief minister B.S. Yediyurappa and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar during the latter's eldest daughter's engagement in Bengaluru on Thursday. Amartya, the groom-to-be, is also the grandson of former Karnataka chief minister and BJP leader S.M. Krishna and son of coffee baron VG Siddhartha, the founder of Cafe Coffee Day, who died last year. Shivakumar's daughter Aishwarya, 24, was questioned by the ED last September in connection with a money-laundering case. — PTI

Secy of state becomes first top American diplomat to do so Pompeo visits Israel settlement in W. Bank

Jerusalem, Nov. 19: US secretary of state Mike Pompeo on Thursday became the first top American diplomat to visit an Israeli settlement in the occupied West Bank as the state department announced that products from the settlements can be labelled "Made in Israel" in a major policy shift.

The two moves reflected the Trump administration's acceptance of Israeli settlements, which the Palestinians and most of the international community view as a violation of international law and a major obstacle to peace.

Pompeo also announced that the U.S. would brand the international



US secretary of state Mike Pompeo and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu make a joint statement after meeting in Jerusalem on Thursday. — AFP

Palestinian-led boycott movement against Israel as "anti-Semitic" and bar any groups that participate in it from receiving government funding. It was not immediately clear which groups would be affected by the move.

In a Twitter post, Pompeo confirmed his visit to the Psagot winery, located in a settlement near Jerusalem. Reporters were not allowed to accompany him.

"Enjoyed lunch at the scenic Psagot Winery

today," he tweeted. "Unfortunately, Psagot and other businesses have been targeted by pernicious EU labeling efforts that facilitate the boycott of Israeli companies. The U.S. stands with Israel and will not tolerate any form of delegitimisation."

The European Union, like most of the world, opposes Israeli settlements and requires imports from the occupied territory to be labeled as such.

Mr Pompeo later was expected to visit the Golan Heights. Israel seized the West Bank and the Golan Heights in the 1967 Mideast war and later annexed the Golan in a move that not recognised internationally. — PTI

SHORT TAKES

3 ARRESTED FOR DUPING PEOPLE BY PROMISING JOBS

New Delhi: Three men were arrested for allegedly duping people in lieu of proving jobs after posing themselves as executives of online job portals, police said on Thursday. The accused have been identified as Gaurav Sharma (41), Sonu Jaiswal (28) and Harish Kumar Gupta (31), all residents of Shakarpur. The police said that one Sunny Sharma lodged a case at Govindpuri police station where he alleged that in June, he registered himself on an online jobs providing portal. On June 15, he received a call from the portal regarding the job in an airline for airport ground staff. The alleged person asked him to send his documents and ₹3,000 for registration, a senior police officer said. The complainant transferred the money and sent his documents. Later, he transferred total ₹45,000 in four different transactions in order to get job, the police said. When the job was not given and he asked for refund, the accused persons convinced him that all the money will be refunded as they are sister concern of leading company. During investigation, the police found that the account was registered in the name of Gaurav and not the airline as stated in emails of alleged. "The bank account statement shows that in June, 2020, ₹2 lakh were deposited in it. It was found that there were five complaints — two from Maharashtra and three from Telangana — against the bank accounts of Gaurav.

BIKE BOT SCAM: 6 DIRECTORS OF COMPANY HELD

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

The economic offences wing (EOW) of Delhi police has arrested six directors of a company for allegedly cheating people to the tune of ₹42,000 crores by inducing them in a Ponzi scheme "Bike Bot" taxi service. The accused have been identified as Vijay Pal, Rajesh Singh Yadav, Haresh Kumar, Vinod Kumar, Vishal Kumar and Sanjay Goel. According to Dr O.P. Mishra, the joint commissioner of police (EOW), several victims had filed complaint against Sanjay Bhati and others of Garvit Innovative Promoters Limited (GIPL) regarding cheating of approximately ₹42,00,000 crores. GIPL in Greater Noida had come out with the multi-level marketing scheme "Bike Bot" and lured investors with a promise of double returns in one year. They sought ₹62,100 in investment for a motorcycle taxi and assured ₹9,500 monthly returns besides double the investment amount in just one year but failed to deliver on the promise. "In January 2019, the company launched an electric-bike scheme. In this scheme, they again provided a lucrative offer to invest ₹1.24 lakhs for a bike and get and assured return of ₹17,000 per month till one year. Initially, it repaid the assured amount to the investors but after winning their confidence, they defaulted and absconded," said the joint CP.

Women officers...

■ **Continued from Page 1**
The Supreme Court had in February directed that all serving women officers who have been recruited under the SSC will have to be considered for Permanent Commission and holding command positions in non-combat operations. Thereafter, the defence ministry had issued a formal order to allow serving women officers to be eligible for permanent commission in eight additional streams. Under SSC, women officers are initially taken for a period of five years, which is extendable up to 14 years. Permanent commissioning will allow them to serve till the age of retirement. In 2008, women officers were given permanent commission (PC) in two non-combat streams of JAG and Army Education Corps. Defence ministry order had specified grant of PC to SSC women officers in the additional eight streams of the Indian Army which are, Army Air Defence, Signals, Engineers, Army Aviation, Electronics and Mechanical Engineers, Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps, and Intelligence Corps.

₹2,000 fine for not wearing masks in Delhi

Hospitals can engage MBBS students in 4th, 5th years, interns

SANJAY KAW
NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday announced a steep hike in fine for not using face mask from ₹500 to ₹2,000. The announcement came at a time when the national capital is witnessing a high surge in novel coronavirus cases in the last past week.

Mr Kejriwal also held an all-party meeting where he appealed for a united effort to fight the pandemic. "It is not the time for politics, there is an entire lifetime for it. We should set aside politics and allegations for a few days. This is the time to serve people," he said. He made a fervent appeal to all political parties and social organisations to distribute masks at public places.

The hard line by the government came a day after the city recorded the highest daily death count — virtually one death every 10 minutes — due to the pandemic. The city has witnessed a spurt in cases since October 28, when the daily rise breached the 5,000-mark for the first time, and it crossed the 8,000-



Civil defence volunteers stop commuters for not wearing masks in public places in New Delhi on Thursday. — PTI

mark on November 11.

While there has been an alarming rise in Covid cases, the number of available intensive care unit (ICU) beds equipped with ventilators is shrinking fast at several hospitals, with zero vacancy at nearly 60 facilities.

According to the online corona dashboard of the Delhi government, only 131 Covid-19 ICU beds were available out of 1,362 such beds at various facilities. There was no vacancy at Rajiv Gandhi Super

Speciality Hospital, Max hospital's facilities at Saket, Patparganj and Shalimar Bagh, Batra hospital, Fortis hospital's facilities at Shalimar Bagh and Vasant Kunj and Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, and Venkateshwara Hospital in Dwarka, among others.

The CM said his government was implementing from November 19 its decision to reserve 80 per cent of ICU beds in private hospitals for Covid-19 patients. He said that private hospitals have also

been directed to increase the percentage of non-ICU Covid-19 beds from 50 per cent to 60 per cent.

The authorities have allowed all coronavirus facilities of the city government to engage MBBS students in fourth and fifth years, interns and others to assist doctors on duty at a fixed honorarium. The government has directed all district magistrates (DMs) to take steps to double the number of testing centres in their respective districts immediately.

HC asks why govt didn't 'wake up' when cases were spiralling

AGE CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

The Delhi high court asked the AAP government if it could explain to those who had lost their near and dear ones in the last 18 days why it did not take steps when cases were spiralling in the city. The court asked the government to look at the situation with a "magnifying glass".

Pulling up the government, a bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Subramonium Prasad asked why it waited till the court intervened to take steps such as reducing the number of people attending weddings to 50 to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

"You (Delhi government) saw from November 1 which way the wind was blowing. But you turn turtle now because we asked you some questions. The bell should have rung loud and clear when the numbers were spiralling. Why

6 You (Delhi government) saw from November 1 which way the wind was blowing. But you turn turtle now because we asked you some questions. The bell should have rung loud and clear when the numbers were spiralling. Why did you not wake up when you saw the situation was deteriorating?

— Delhi high court

did you not wake up when you saw the situation was deteriorating?

"Why did we have to shake you out of your slumber on November 11? What did you do from November 1 till November 11? Why did you wait 18 days (till November 18) to take a decision. Do you know how many lives were lost during this period? Can you explain it to those who lost their near and dear ones," the bench asked.

On implementation of

social distancing norms, prevention of spitting and wearing of masks, the court was not satisfied with the monitoring being done by the AAP government in some districts where Covid-19 numbers were high. The bench also said the fines being imposed — ₹500 for first violation and ₹1,000 for every subsequent violation — did not appear to be a deterrent.

It said there appeared to be substantial disparity in monitoring and imposition of fines in certain districts as compared to others.

"What kind of monitoring and marshalling are you doing? Look at the situation seriously with a magnifying glass. You have crossed cities like New York and Sao Paulo," the court said.

The high court was hearing a PIL by advocate Rakesh Malhotra seeking increase in the COVID-19 testing numbers in the national capital and getting speedy results.

7,546 fresh cases, 98 deaths in Delhi

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

Delhi recorded as many as 7,546 fresh coronavirus cases on Thursday. With this, the tally of Covid-19 cases has reached over 5.10 lakh, while the death toll mounted to 8,041. Ninety-eight fatalities have been recorded in the last 24 hours, according to the latest bulletin issued by the health department. According to the health bulletin, 62,437 Covid-19 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours. The case tally stands at 5,10,630, including 4,59,368 patients who have either been discharged or have

migrated or recovered. The number of active cases is 43,221.

Meanwhile, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday visited DDU Hospital and said his government is working on a "war-footing" to expand the number of ICU beds in various hospitals. He said the doctors have agreed to expand the ICU beds count at the facility from existing 50 to 100. "I had a meeting with the doctors and medical superintendent of the DDU Hospital. Currently, 50 beds are earmarked in ICU for COVID patients, which they have agreed to double soon," he said.

■ BJP protests against Kejri for failing to curb Covid, pollution

Kejriwal a confused CM, says Goel

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

Former Union minister Vijay Goel on Wednesday called Arvind Kejriwal a confused chief minister who talks one day one thing and next day another thing and demanded his resignation for failure to control coronavirus and rising air pollution.

Mr Goel led a protest of hundreds of activists at ITO intersection against the state government's failure to check the pollution and rising Covid-19 cases.

Terming Kejriwal's campaigns on pollution and coronavirus as drama, Mr Goel said, "This is a



BJP senior leader Vijay Goel with party leaders and supporters protest against the Delhi government over air pollution and rise in Covid cases in New Delhi.

drama to stop the engine at a red light as Kejriwal has failed in checking the pollution and the corona."

He said Mr Kejriwal's anti-pollution drive —

"Red Light On- Gaddi Off" — was actually "Corona On-Pollution On-Kejriwal Off".

"It is a matter of concern that the Kejriwal govern-

ment is neither taking corona nor pollution seriously. In Delhi, five lakh people have been infected already now 7,000 people are getting infected every day and more than 100 deaths are happening," said Mr Goel.

Mr Goel pointed out that there should be one lakh tests in Delhi per day, but presently only 50,000 are being done. The Delhi government is cursing the Central government for ICU beds. The fact is that out of 578 ICU beds it is the Centre that added 300 beds from the PM Care Fund, the Delhi government has not added any ICU beds after June 7.

'Workers can register for govt schemes from homes'

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

Deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia said that the registration of construction workers for government schemes will be done through door-step delivery. The door-step delivery service has started today on '1076' helpline, aiming that no construction worker will have to stand in long queues at government offices.

"The service begins today on '1076' helpline. No construction worker will have to stand in long queues at govt offices now," Mr Sisodia said in a press briefing.

A government executive will go to the construction workers' house at a time suitable and all his or her documents will be uploaded there.

"They can dial the number, say that they are construction workers in Delhi and want to get registered for government schemes," he added.

Social media influencer, friends held for theft

Trio accused of snatching \$3,000

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

A 26-year-old social media influencer and her two friends were arrested from Goa for allegedly snatching foreign currency from a foreign exchange company staff in south Delhi, the police said on Thursday.

The accused used the money to stay in five-star hotels in Goa and play poker in casino, it said.

They have been identified as Amrita Sethi, a resident of Rajouri Garden, Akshit Jhamb (25), a resident of Tilak Nagar, and Kushaal.

On November 5, a complaint was received at Hauz Khas police station where complainant Manoj Sood stated he had gone to an address in Panchsheel Park as per his employer's instructions to hand over \$3,300 to a client and take ₹2,45,340 in exchange.

He said that when he went to the area, a man and a woman standing on the road accosted him and asked for the dollars. The complainant said that the



Amrita Sethi and Akshit Jhamb

duo snatched the bag containing the foreign currency and fled in a Maruti Swift car.

"During investigation, the CCTV footage of the place of the incident was analysed. The vehicle was found registered to one Ravinder Nath Rakheja. He revealed that his son Kushaal and his friends Akshit and Amrita have borrowed the car," DCP (south) Atul Kumar Thakur said.

The accused persons were identified and they were located in Goa. The Goa police assisted Delhi police and the accused were apprehended on Wednesday, they said.

The accused were produced in Goa court and a three-day transit remand was obtained.



Delhi police commissioner S.N. Shrivastava awards woman head constable Seema Dhaka with the rank of assistant sub-inspector as an out-of-turn promotion for tracing 76 missing children on Thursday. Ms Dhaka did not take a single day off for almost three months she worked to trace and reunite missing children with their families. — PTI

Assam: BJP, BPF heading for split

■ Continued from Page 1

became more visible during council elections as Mr Sarma went on accusing its partner of indulging in corruption on a large-scale while implementing the government's schemes and swindling crores of rupees released to the council in the past 15 years.

"The government sanctioned crores of money to BTC. Where has the money gone? BPF leader Hagrama Mohilary must tell people. The state government is constructing roads, bridges, giving homes, pensions to the old age and widows, what has BTC done with the money sanctioned to them? The job cardholders have not been paid their full money, those given homes and pension under government schemes had to pay money to BTC. Enough is enough. This cannot go on. Once BJP comes to power, we will take action against BPF's corruption and put all in jail," Mr Sarma told the crowd while asking people to defeat the BPF in the BTC elections.

4 Jaish militants gunned down

■ Continued from Page 1

the truck while others took up positions as a precautionary measure.

In January this year, three JeM militants were killed in an encounter with the police after a similar situation had emerged at the same place. The police said a manhunt has been launched for the truck driver.

The police also said that the identities of the slain militants are being ascertained but as per intelligence inputs the group belonged to JeM which sneaked in Jammu and Kashmir from Pakistan through some porous section of the 198-km stretch of the International Border (IB), most probably in Kathua district.

Asked where the militants infiltrated, the IGP, however, said: "This is a matter of investigation. We are looking into it. We are trying to find out." Replying to another question, he said, "Yes, it appears they infiltrated late Wednesday night or early Thursday morning."

Mr Singh claimed that after the election authorities on November 4 announced dates for the first ever District Development Council (DDC) elections and for vacant seats of panchayats and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in Jammu and Kashmir, the police began receiving inputs about possible infiltration bids in Jammu region. "There were general intelligence inputs regarding some fresh infiltration bids by Jaish-e-Muhammad and Lashker-e-Tayyaba. We were on the alert. The intelligence inputs were with regard to the elections and disrupting the elections," he said.

Elections are scheduled to be held later this month.

Meanwhile, director-general of BSF, Rakesh Ashtana, said that present period is suitable for infiltration from across the LoC and the IB but assured the BSF and all other security agencies are ready to foil all such bids and tackle any situation that may emerge.

Delhi zoo gets Bengal tigress for breeding

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 19

The Delhi zoo has got a Royal Bengal tigress, the first in six years, from the Kanpur zoo for breeding purposes under an animal exchange programme, officials said on Thursday. The tigress, Barkha, is six years old. She will form a pair with Karan, who is also aged around 6. The Delhi zoo did not have a Royal Bengal tigress for six years despite it being a participating zoo for the Conservation Breeding Programme of Bengal Tiger, according to its director Ramesh Pandey.

According to the Central Zoo Authority, the

Conservation Breeding Programme is a science of conserving a species by preventing imminent population collapse in the wild due to a large number of eliminative pressures such as habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, industrialisation, poaching, illegal trade and climate change, etc. The Delhi zoo had three Royal Bengal tigers till a year ago.

One of the three tigers, eight-year-old Rama died at the zoo in September last year due to kidney failure. He was brought from the Mysore zoo in 2014. At present, the zoo has only one male Royal Bengal tigers — Karan — and seven white tigers —

three females and four males — after a 15-year-old Bengal tiger — 'B-2' or Bittu — having symptoms of "chronic kidney disorder" died at the Delhi zoo on Thursday, officials said.

Bittu was not keeping well for many months. He breathed his last at 9.25 am, Mr Pandey said.

'B-2', who was brought from Van Vihar Zoo, Bhopal, in 2014, had completed his average life span, Pandey said.

The Delhi zoo had three Royal Bengal tigers till a year ago. Officials said 15-year-old Bittu was not in good health and reports suggest very high presence of creatinine that affects the

functioning of kidneys.

Recently, the Delhi zoo acquired five species — wild boar, black and grey partridge, golden pheasant, Eurasian dove and jungle cat — from Chandigarh's Chhatbir Zoo. A male rhino from Patna will be brought soon for breeding purposes. There are two female rhinos in the Delhi zoo at present, Pandey said.

It is also likely to acquire chinkara and a pair of ostrich from Chandigarh and a pair of striped hyena from Jaipur. The last chinkara of the zoo had died in June last year. "There are around 88 species in the Delhi zoo at present," Mr Pandey said.

SHORT TAKES

SENA DISTANCES FROM 'KARACHI SWEETS' ROW

SONU SHRIVASTAVA
MUMBAI, NOV. 19

After its recent recruit asked the owner of "Karachi Sweets" shop in Bandra to change his outlet's name to something else, Shiv Sena has distanced itself from the demand. In a video that has gone viral, Nitin Nandgaonkar, who joined Shiv Sena from the MNS in 2019, is seen asking the shop owner to change the outlet's name. Congress leader Sanjay Nirupam termed Nitin Nandgaonkar a senseless fellow.

In the video, Mr Nandgaonkar was seen asking the owner of "Karachi Sweets" to rename it instead after his father or grandfather. "Don't use the name Karachi in Mumbai. We have problem with the name Karachi. Our jawan (died) on Bhai Dooj. Pakistan is a country of terrorists," Nandgaonkar said. He further told the owner that he will give him time to rename the shop.

In his post on Facebook, he added that the word Karachi should be dropped from all signboards in 15 days.

In a tweet in Hindi, Mr Nirupam said, "Chinese hotels in India have nothing to do with China, similarly Bandra's Karachi Sweets has nothing to do with Pakistan. When will the senseless activists of Shiv Sena understand this truth? The threat of changing the name of the 70-year-old shop is wrong. Chief minister just not watch Tamasha, instead of protect it (Karachi Sweets)."

K'TAKA BJP STIRS TROUBLE WITH MARATHA BODY

VINAY MADHAV
BENGALURU, NOV. 19

The BJP strategy in Karnataka to win the byelections by promising sops to the dominant community in each constituency is becoming counter-productive for the government.

The government announced the formation of the Maratha People Development Authority, just on the eve of the byelections to the Basavakalyana constituency, which has a sizable Marathi population.

This move has irked pro-Kannada organisations as Karnataka has a long border as well as water sharing disputes with Maharashtra. It has given a platform for Maharashtra not only to reiterate its claim on Belagavi, but also to extend it till Karwar. Worse even the Maharashtra Ekikarana Samithi in Belagavi has opposed the move to form the Maratha Development Authority.

Basavakalyana has over 30,000 Marathi speaking voters and the bypoll for the constituency is in offing. Soon after announcing this, the Lingayat community, which is the dominant community in the state, demanded a similar body for them. The government immediately announced the Lingayat Development Corporation, as the constituency has more than 35,000 Lingayats.

MNS TO HOLD STIR AGAINST 'INFLATED' ELECTRICITY BILLS

BHAGWAN PARAB
MUMBAI, NOV. 19

The issue of inflated electricity bills is likely to escalate further in Maharashtra with Raj Thackeray-led MNS has announced statewide protests across the state, if the bills are not waived off till Monday.

MNS leader Bala Nandgaonkar said on Thursday, "The state government had promised to provide waiver in electricity bills. We met several people including Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and NCP chief Sharad Pawar on this issue. But nothing has happened. In the race in the MVA government to take credit for the waiver, people of Maharashtra are made to suffer."

The MNS would hold protests at all district offices in the state on Monday, if the electricity bills are not waived off, he added.

Another MNS leader Sandeep Deshpande tweeted, "We have tried everything from statements, applications, meetings to pleas (to demand waiver in the electricity bills), but the government is not ready to move. Finally, to provide relief to people, we have to hit the streets to fight on this issue."

Raju Shetti, the chief of Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana, one of the supporters of MVA government, has also appealed people not to pay the electricity bills.

Malabar calling



An aerial view of ship refuelling during the second phase of the Malabar naval exercise in the Arabian sea. India, Australia, Japan and the United States started the second phase of a strategic navy drill on November 17 in the Northern Arabian sea.

Gupkar declation a conspiracy, says Naqvi

AGE CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, NOV. 19

Union minister for minority affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has termed the 'People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) formed by Jammu and Kashmir's regional opposition parties and their allies from national left parties to seek restoration of its special status as a "conspiracy" and asserted that the abrogation of Article 370 in August last year was the "death of destructive dynastic politics" in the erstwhile state.

He said that likewise the PAGD will prove but a "dying declaration" for "dynastic and destructive politics" of the Congress and other alliance partners in the erstwhile state. "It (the formation of PAGD) was the conspiracy of political parties against the people of the Union Territory. The amalgam will try to keep J&K away from development and prosperity," he said while speaking at a rally of BJP workers in the frontier town of Kupwara. He claimed that the people of J&K were deprived of their political rights only because of Articles 370 and 35A "as the dynasty rule in J&K had kept them away from the mainstream and unaware of constitutional rights."

He said that likewise the PAGD will prove but a "dying declaration" for "dynastic and destructive politics" of the Congress and other alliance partners in the erstwhile state. "It (the formation of PAGD) was the conspiracy of political parties against the people of the Union Territory. The amalgam will try to keep J&K away from development and prosperity," he said while speaking at a rally of BJP workers in the frontier town of Kupwara. He claimed that the people of J&K were deprived of their political rights only because of Articles 370 and 35A "as the dynasty rule in J&K had kept them away from the mainstream and unaware of constitutional rights."

MP'S DEFEATED MINISTERS MAY GET PARTY POSTS

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY
BHOPAL, NOV. 19

Rajya Sabha member and senior BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia on Thursday indicated that state ministers who lost the November 3 Assembly byelections may be suitably accommodated. Scindia, who arrived here in the afternoon from Delhi, told reporters that he had earlier held discussions with Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on the fate of the defeated ministers.

Asked if the defeated ministers would be accommodated in corporation bodies, he said, "The BJP has always promoted those who worked hard." He hastened to add that the party would take the final call on the matter. Three out of 14 non-MLA ministers in the Shivraj Singh government who sought re-election lost the recent Assembly byelections. While two of them, Imarti Devi and Giriraj Dandotia, are yet to resign from their posts, the other minister, Anand Singh Kansana, has put in his papers.

DMK MLA Aruna hospitalised after overdose of sleeping pills

ARULOLI M.
TENKASI, NOV. 19

Factional fight in the local DMK unit here has allegedly pushed former minister and sitting Alangulam MLA and DMK state doctors' wing secretary, Poongothai Aladi Aruna, to attempt suicide.

She was found unconscious at her residence in Alangulam on Thursday morning and was rushed to a private hospital (Shifa hospital) in Tirunelveli, where she is under treatment. The hospital director, Dr Mohammed Arafath, in a statement issued on Thursday noon said, "She is being evaluated.

● A DOCTOR herself, Poongothai Aladi Aruna, took the extreme step allegedly hurt by insult meted out to her at a party meeting organised on Wednesday night at Kadayam union in Tenkasi district.

At present, she is conscious, responsive and her vital parameters are satisfactory." The statement added that her clinical condition warranted stay in the intensive care unit, and she is continuously monitored by a team of doctors.

Former Assembly Speaker R. Avudaiyappan, former Radhapuram MLA Appavu, and sitting Tirunelveli MP Gnanadharan, visited Poongothai Aladi Aruna in the hospital. A doctor herself,

Poongothai Aladi Aruna, daughter of veteran Dravidian ideologist late Aladi Aruna, consumed an overdose of sleeping pills, allegedly hurt by insult meted out to her at a party meeting organised on Wednesday night at Kadayam union in Tenkasi district, said party functionaries.

Sources said in the meeting, the MLA was allegedly abused by supporters of Kadayam union secretary, Kumar, who claimed that Poongothai was not respecting office-bearers

of the district unit.

Following an altercation, Poongothai walked out in the middle of the meeting as some functionaries raised their voices against her, but was later called inside.

Supporters of Kumar had further tried to prevent her from delivering her speech on the stage by switching off the mike, said party sources.

Poongothai Aladi Aruna was former minister for social welfare in the Karunanidhi ministry since 2004, and is said to be a staunch supporter of party's women's wing secretary and Thoothukudi MP, Kanimozhi.

Parl panel grills Twitter for Kamra anti-SC, CJI tweets

New Delhi, Nov. 19: A parliamentary committee questioned representatives of social media giant Twitter on stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra's recent "obscene" tweets targeting the Supreme Court and the chief justice of India and sought a reply within seven days, the panel's chairperson Meenakshi Lekhi said on Thursday.

This came close on the heels of Twitter apologising in writing to the same parliamentary panel for wrongly showing Ladakh in China and promising to correct the error by the month-end.

Twitter India representatives deposed before the Joint Committee of Parliament on Data Protection Bill on Thursday.

"It is shameful that Twitter is allowing its platform for obscene remarks like the one by stand-up comedian Kunal

● THIS COMES close on the heels of Twitter apologising in writing to the same parliamentary panel for wrongly showing Ladakh in China and promising to correct the error by the month-end.

● KAMRA HAS refused to retract his controversial tweets against the Supreme Court or apologise for them, saying he believes they 'speak for themselves'.

● MEENAKSHI LEKHI said members of the committee across political spectrum grilled Twitter.

Kamra against the Supreme Court and the chief justice of India," Lekhi told reporters here.

"Twitter is allowing its platform to be misused for abusing top constitutional authorities, such as Supreme Court and chief

justice of India," she said.

She said members of the committee across political spectrum, including Congress MP Vivek Tankha, BSP MP Ritesh Pandey and BJD MP Bhatruhari Mahtab, grilled Twitter representatives on this issue. Lekhi also said that explanation of Twitter about banning handles and tweets was found to be inadequate.

Meanwhile, Kamra has refused to retract his controversial tweets against the Supreme Court or apologise for them, saying he believes they "speak for themselves".

Earlier, Attorney General K.K. Venugopal consented to the initiation of criminal contempt proceedings against him for a series of tweets following the Supreme Court giving interim bail to Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami.

— PTI

ED grills Punjab CM's son for 6 hrs

Chandigarh, Nov. 19: — PTI Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh's son Raninder Singh was questioned Thursday for six hours by the Enforcement Directorate in an alleged foreign exchange violation case.

He appeared at the ED's Jalandhar office, answering summons in connection with the case under Foreign Exchange Management Act (Fema).

He was questioned for six

hours and recorded his statement, his counsel and Congress spokesperson Jaiveer Shergill said.

If they call us again we will be happy to visit and cooperate. We have nothing to hide, Shergill said.

Accompanied by Mr Shergill, Mr Singh reached the ED office at around 11 am. The agency had registered the case under Fema for his alleged possession of undisclosed assets abroad.

— PTI

NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM		
Sub: Corrigendum to the NIT No. 230-Elect-RSO-08-HK for the work of "Comprehensive Housekeeping and other allied works at HNMI Old & New Running Room for the period of two years". Following changes in the subject NIT may kindly read and follow the future reference as below:		
Description	Existing	Revised
Approx. cost of work as per Tender form-4 Rate sheet of section-6, page No. 58 of 96 & Schedule of Items, Quantities and rates Section-7, page No. 60 of 96 of Tender document.	₹2,77,38,180/- (Excluding GST)	₹2,71,00,944/- (Excluding GST)
All other terms and conditions are remaining same; a copy of this letter is also uploaded on IREPS website for ready reference.		
Tender Notice No.: 230-Elect-RSO-08-HK Dated : 19.11.2020		2591/20
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE		

Rajasthan to ease mining rules for new Ram temple

Jaipur/Ayodhya, Nov. 19: The district administration in Rajasthan's Bharatpur is seeking the denotification of part of a wildlife sanctuary to allow the mining of a special sandstone, much sought after by builders including those constructing the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Thousands of tonnes of the pink sandstone mined in Bharatpur's Bansi Paharpur have been sourced for the temple over the years, but much more is needed.

There were concerns in Ayodhya that supplies of this stone with a unique pink hue would dry up. Since blocks of this sandstone had already been carved — ready to be put in place as the temple comes up — switching over to a lesser grade of stone would have caused problems. The Dholpur variant is said to be no match to the Bansi Paharpur stone.

Authorities in Congress-run Rajasthan

denied that the move to denotify Bansi Paharpur block in Bharatpur's Band Baretha wildlife sanctuary has anything specific to do with the Ram temple. But a Vishwa Hindu Parishad leader approved of reports that this "technical problem" is now being sorted out.

"The Rajasthan government never created hurdles in the supply of the stone. However, there was some technical problem regarding Forest and Wildlife Act at Bansi Paharpur in Bharatpur district, which the Rajasthan government is taking steps to denotify," senior VHP leader Triloki Nath Pandey said in Ayodhya.

He said there has been cooperation from all past governments — including those of Mayawati, Mulayam Singh Yadav and Akhilesh Yadav in Uttar Pradesh — for uninterrupted supply of building material for the Ram temple. — PTI

Govt keen to finalise data protection law

Bengaluru, Nov. 19: Union minister Ravi Shan-kar Prasad on Thursday said the government was very keen to promote India as a very big centre of the data economy and would finalise a data protection law very soon.

"I'm very keen to promote India as a very big centre of the data economy. Data is going to drive the digital economy. It is also going to drive international commerce," he said.

Addressing the Bengaluru Tech Summit, 2020 virtually, he said India produces huge data and the digital ecosystem, like mobile phones and Aadhaar, is producing data.

"We are going to finalise a data protection law very soon. India is waiting for its movement for data economy, data innovation, data refinery. I would urge the chief minister (of Karnataka) to ensure that the state becomes a great centre of India's data economy," he added.

Organised by the Karnataka government, along with Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society, the state government's vision group, the summit, that saw the inaugural address by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is scheduled to take place from November 19 to 21.

AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

“JAB TAK DAWAI NAHI TAB TAK DHILAI NAHI”

Follow these simple steps to fight against Covid-19

Do's

- Wash hands with soap and water frequently or use alcohol based sanitizer
- Always wear mask in public
- Eat healthy to boost your immunity
- Maintain Social Distancing

Don'ts

- Don't Touch your eyes, nose and mouth
- Don't Spit in public
- Don't Shake Hands
- Don't have a close contact with anyone if you're experiencing cough and fever
- Don't Go out unnecessarily

If you have any symptom and for further information:

Please call State helpline number **011-22307145** or Ministry of Health & Family Welfare's 24X7 helpline number **011-23978046** or Covid Helpline number **1075**

Issued by the Directorate of Press & Information

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	43,599.96	-1.31
Nifty 50	12,771.70	-1.29
S&P 500*	3,566.72	-0.03
Dollar (₹)	74.27	-0.09
Pound Sterling (₹)	98.10	0.51
Euro (₹)	87.85	0.40
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	49,714*248	0.40
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	43.97	-0.37
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.876	-0.003
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.857	-0.025

* As of 8:30 PM IST

SpiceJet jumps 12% after Boeing 737 MAX gets nod

Shares of SpiceJet zoomed over 12 per cent after the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of the US approved the return of Boeing 737 MAX aircraft to commercial service. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation on Wednesday said it will study FAA's decision and take "some time" before taking a call on allowing Boeing 737 MAX planes to fly again in the Indian skies. On the BSE, the stock closed at Rs 74.35, up 12.06 per cent.

Apollo, Tatas to launch Covid test 'TataMD Check'



Apollo Hospitals and Tata Medical and Diagnostics, the new health care venture of the Tata Group, has announced a collaboration to introduce TataMD Check, the first Crispr Cas-9 based diagnostic test, to increase testing for Covid-19 across the country. Apollo Hospitals, along with its subsidiary Apollo Diagnostics, will offer the Tata MD Check testing in the NCR from early December, followed by other metros.

Dr Reddy's starts investigation into anonymous plaint

Dr Reddy's Laboratories said it has commenced a detailed investigation into an anonymous complaint regarding healthcare professionals in Ukraine and potentially in other countries being provided with improper benefits. DRL has a wholly owned subsidiary and a global office in Ukraine. The investigation is being carried out by a reputed independent US law firm, the company said in a regulatory filing.

Mphasis acquires UK's Datalytx for ₹130 crore

IT firm Mphasis said its subsidiary Mphasis Consulting Ltd has acquired UK-based Datalytx Ltd for up to 13.3 million pounds (about Rs 130.4 crore). The acquisition is expected to provide access to strengthen Mphasis next-generation Data GTM Strategy and provide higher value partnership status with Snowflake and Talend for cloud-based data services, the firm said in a regulatory filing.

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■ Oxford Economics sees avg. 4.5% growth for 5 years Analysts raise growth forecast for next year

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 19

Ahead of the release of GDP data for the September quarter, rating agencies and investments banks are predicting a faster recovery India's economy for FY22. While some see lesser contraction for this fiscal than projected earlier, some are not that optimistic. Moody's Investors Service has lowered the contraction rate for India's GDP to 10.6 per cent for 2020-21 from its earlier forecast of 11.5 per cent. It has also revised upwards its expectation for GDP growth rate to 10.8 per cent for 2021-22 from 10.6 per cent earlier. However, in the medium term economic growth is likely to settle around 6 per cent, it said. Moody's says the stimulus measures announced last week by the finance minister were aimed at increasing manufacturing competitiveness and creating jobs while supporting infrastructure investment and credit availability to stressed sectors. "As such, they present potential upside to our current forecasts, a credit positive," the rating agency said. Better growth will also be supported by the falling of Covid-19 cases in the country, it said. British investment bank Barclays has raised its FY22 GDP growth forecast for India to 8.5 per cent from 7 per cent earlier, though it has revised FY21

CHANGING TUNES

- MOODYS: Revises upwards growth rate to 10.8% for FY22 from 10.6% estimated earlier
- Contraction in FY21 GDP seen at -10.6% for FY21 against earlier forecast of -11.5%
- BARCLAYS: Raises FY22 GDP growth forecast for India to 8.5% from 7% earlier
- Revises FY21 GDP forecast downwards to -6.4% from -6% earlier
- ICRA: September quarter contraction narrowed to -9.5% from -23.9% in June quarter
- OXFORD ECONOMICS: India will be worst-affected among major economies with output 12% below pre-Covid levels till 2025

GDP forecast downwards to -6.4 per cent from -6.0 per cent earlier. Barclays expects the recent improvement in manufacturing to broaden to the services sector early next year. "We now see a better trajectory for the recovery of consumption as well as investment, given incrementally rising fiscal and monetary support," it said. The recent stability in the health crisis has been accompanied by a faster return of the economy to normal, beyond the agricultural sector. Indicators for a number of manufacturing segments are now above pre-Covid levels. Growth in GDP will resume in Q4 20, a quarter ahead of the RBI's projections, it said. However, Barclays has modestly revised its FY21 GDP forecast downwards to -6.4 per cent to reflect marginally weaker income

FY21 remains unclear, and we caution that trends in the same may not get fully reflected in the GDP data, given the lack of adequate proxies to evaluate the less formal sectors, she said. Despite the predicted recovery India will be the worst-affected among the world's major economies even after the pandemic wanes, with output 12 per cent below pre-virus levels through the middle of the decade, according to Oxford Economics. Balance sheet stress that had been building before the coronavirus outbreak will probably worsen, says Priyanka Kishore, head of economics for South Asia and South-East Asia. She projects potential growth for India at 4.5 per cent over the next five years, lower than 6.5 per cent before the virus. "It's likely that headwinds which were already hampering growth prior to 2020—such as stressed corporate balance sheets, elevated non-performing assets of banks, the fallout in non-bank financial companies, and labor market weakness—will worsen," she said. "All supply-side factors feel the effect, with only human capital's contribution unchanged from the pre-virus baseline," she said. "Capital accumulation takes the biggest hit because we expect balance-sheet stresses to worsen following the crisis, lengthening the investment recovery cycle."

Adani Green has no firm customer for \$6 bn project

NEHA ARORA & SUDARSHAN VARADHAN NEW DELHI/CHENNAI, NOV. 19

Adani Green Energy's record \$6 billion solar power project announced in June has no guaranteed customer, its deal with India's main solar-adoption agency shows, and may expose the company to higher financial risk. Shares in the firm, controlled by billionaire Gautam Adani, have soared three-fold since the signing of the 8 gigawatt (GW) multi-plant deal, which Adani hailed as the "largest of its type, ever" and a landmark for India. However, details of the agreement between Adani Green and Solar Energy Corp of India Ltd (SECI) reveal the agency has no "legal or financial obligation" to support the project if SECI fails to find buyers. This would be the first major SECI project without a state-guaranteed power purchase agreement (PPA), which analysts say has been key to building up the renewable energy sector. When SECI floated the tender for the project in



June 2019, it had said a PPA would be assured, but it withdrew the clause in the deal signed a year later. "There shall not be any legal or financial implication to SECI in relation to such (unsold) quantum including associated quantum of manufacturing facilities," the agreement, reviewed by Reuters, says. Adani Green has said 2 GW of generation capacity will come onstream by 2022, while the rest will be added in annual 2GW increments through 2025. There are no buyers lined up for the project yet and it is unclear when SECI will be able to find buyers, a process that typically takes months. Auctions by the SECI usually attract greater participation because of the assurance of power purchase and payments. But the lack of such a

guarantee could undermine investor and lender confidence, raising financing costs in a market like India where power demand and growth has repeatedly fallen short of expectations amid a broader economic slowdown. The quality of "federal government-guaranteed contracts with cashflow payment certainty provide investors the confidence to deploy tens of billions of dollars", said Tim Buckley, director at the Institute of Energy Economics and Financial Analysis. Adani Green has said it would receive interim funding for the project from a consortium of foreign banks, and later with money raised from the capital markets. It has reassured investors of its ability to tap markets citing its sovereign grade rating. It declined to comment on the project on Thursday. "We have full visibility and we would be in a position to inform the market shortly," the group's chief financial officer, Jugeshinder Singh, said earlier this month. —Reuters



LAMBORGHINI HURACAN STO UNVEILED

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, NOV. 19

Italian super sports car maker Lamborghini has introduced the new Huracan STO (Super Trofeo Omologata) which is a track focused racing car. Lamborghini plans to commence the deliveries of the Huracan STO next year but the price has not been revealed yet. Drawing inspiration and technical learnings from the Huracan Super

Trofeo Evo and successful GT3 racing models, the Huracan STO is effectively a road-homologated version of the racer that won the 24 Hours of Daytona three times. The new STO is powered by a naturally aspirated 5.2-litre V10 engine making 640hp and 565Nm. It sprints from 0-100km in an eye-blinking three seconds with a top speed of 310kmph. The firm is yet to reveal its India launch plans.

Voda Idea to get \$2 bn from Oaktree, Varde

BAIJU KALESH, ANTO ANTONY & P. R. SANJAI NOV. 19

A consortium backed by Oaktree Capital has offered to provide at least \$2 billion of funding to Vodafone Group Plc's listed Indian arm, people with knowledge of the matter said. Oaktree teamed up with several other firms, including Varde Partners, for the potential deal with Vodafone Idea Ltd, according to the people. The investor group made a proposal to provide around \$2 billion to \$2.5 billion of capital to Vodafone Idea, the people said, asking not to be identified because the information is private. Vodafone Idea said in September it plans to raise as much as Rs 25,000 crore (\$3.4 billion) selling shares and debt to shore up its finances as competition heats up in the Indian wireless industry. It wasn't immediately clear how a potential deal with the Oaktree-backed consortium would be structured. The Indian carrier has also been speaking to other potential investors, and there's no certainty the negotiations will lead to an agreement, the people said. Representatives for Oaktree, Varde and Vodafone Idea declined to comment. —Bloomberg

Pandemic hits income of 65% urban residents



SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 19

Nearly two-thirds of the urban population seems to have had a negative impact on their income due to the pandemic and the resultant lockdown. A whopping 65 per cent respondents of a survey by Paisabazaar.com said their incomes were hit by the pandemic. About 16 per cent of them claimed to have lost 100 per cent of their income, with another 28 per cent reporting income reduction of more than half. Over 8,500 respondents between the age of 24 and 57 years from over 35 cities with a debt of Rs 1 lakh or more took part in the survey. Almost 86 per cent of the self-employed customers said the pandemic has adversely impacted their income and 25 per cent claimed that their income has come down to zero. Among the salaried class, 56 per cent saw their income take a hit. Another 30 per cent said their salary has been reduced by more than half from the pre-Covid levels and 12 per cent reported complete loss of salary due to job loss. Delhi and the NCR were the most impacted cities, with 70 per cent of their resident participants reporting a negative impact on income. Among these, 16 per cent of respondents from the NCR saw income coming down to zero. Mumbai was worst with 26 per cent Mumbaikars reporting income plummeting to nil. Mumbai also had the highest percentage of moratorium takers—65 per cent of the respondents. Further, 52 per cent respondents in the megapolis said they cannot afford to pay their EMIs in full, with 15 per cent of them saying they currently have zero payment capacity. Chennai was the least impacted city with 52 per cent seeing incomes coming down. Only 9 per cent of Chennai residents who participated in the survey suffered a 100 per cent income loss.

Market takes a breather after days of bull run

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, NOV. 19

Profit booking by domestic institutional investors and a fall in buying by foreign portfolio investors led to a more than one per cent fall in the benchmark stock indices on Thursday. Sensex and Nifty-50 gained for the fourth consecutive session and made new all time highs in early morning trade before profit booking set in. The Sensex closed 580 points down at 43,599.96 after climbing to a new all-time high of 44,230. The Nifty-50 also closed at 12,771.70, falling 166.55 points after reaching a new high of 12,963 and just 37 points short of the 13,000-mark. Domestic institutional investors were net sellers of equities worth Rs 2,854.94 crore while the foreign portfolio investors were net buyers by Rs 1,180.61 crore. The broader market outperformed the large caps as the BSE Midcap Index fell 0.65 per cent while the BSE Small-cap ended flat, gaining 0.03 per cent. Banks, which had a strong bull run in the last

few sessions, saw maximum profit taking as the Nifty Bank Index fell 2.85 per cent while the BSE Bankex fell 2.75 per cent. The Nifty Bank had climbed nearly 25 per cent this month. Only mass consumption sectors like BSE FMCG (0.46 per cent), Power (0.76 per cent) and Consumer Durables (0.76 per cent) fared well, with these three sectoral indices closing with some gains. Siddhartha Khemka, head-retail research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services said, "Global cues were weak as concerns over rising coronavirus infections and new shutdowns in major US cities overshadowed vaccine progress. Optimism from news that Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine was 95 per cent effective and its plans to apply for emergency US authorisation failed to support markets. On the domestic side, markets hit a record high earlier in the session as investors bet on a faster return to economic growth following upbeat news on a Covid-19 vaccine. However, it fell sharply in the second half."

CORNERED CHINA TO FOCUS MORE ON DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION



K. J. M. VARMA BEIJING, NOV. 19

Chinese president Xi Jinping said on Thursday that China is set to change its development model from next year, relying more on domestic consumption than export-reliant growth which propelled it to become the world's second largest economy next only to the United States. "From next year on, China will embark on new journey toward fully building a modern socialist country," 67-year-old Xi said while addressing the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Dialogues via video link. "We will foster a new development paradigm with domestic circulation as the mainstay and domestic and international circulations reinforcing each other," he said. "The new development paradigm is a strategic decision we have made based on the current stage and conditions of development in China and with full consideration given to economic globalisation and changes in the external environment," he said. Last month, a key enclave of the ruling Communist Party of China headed by Xi adopted his proposals for the formulation of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035. China's status as a world's factory has been affected by declining global markets and US President Donald Trump's trade war. —PTI

28 hyper-scale data centres to come up in three years

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 19



Amidst reports of a data centre policy on the anvil, India is increasingly attracting investments in data centres this year. Data centre projects received \$396 million between January and September 2020, which is 40 per cent of the total investments that came in during the last 12 years. The Indian data centre industry has attracted close to \$977 million in private equity and strategic investments since 2008, of which nearly \$396 million was infused in the first nine months of 2020. These investments will

help the construction of at least 28 large hyper-scale data centres over the next three years. These will span over 16 million sq. ft. with at least 1,400 MW of IT power capacity. India currently has 126 third-party data centres spanning over 7.5 million sq ft and a cumulative IT power capacity of 590 MW. While 53 players own or operate these third-party

data centres, the capacity is highly concentrated among the top 12 players, who operate 95 per cent of the total IT Power capacity in the country. Upcoming supply is expected to be concentrated in Mumbai and Chennai, followed by NCR and Hyderabad. Mumbai and Chennai together will witness 60 per cent of total future capacity and NCR and Hyderabad will contribute 33 per cent. The government may soon implement a data centre policy that will encourage firms to build data centre parks across the country. The government may also provide infrastructure status to the sector.

THE ASIAN AGE

20 NOVEMBER 2020

Let Cong show humility, call for wider dialogue

After the Mahagathbandhan in Bihar, of which the Congress was the second largest component, was pipped to the post by NDA, the party's dissidents who had formed a group of 23 or G-23 last August have come to the surface with vigour.

The prominent lawyer and former Union cabinet minister Kapil Sibal, who has virtually emerged as the G-23 spokesman, asserted in a recent interview that the Congress was "in decline", that the way forward was in sight but the presumed leadership (meaning interim president Sonia Gandhi and her son Rahul) was not visible, and that experienced, senior folk weren't being consulted.

Much of this is valid, although Mr Gandhi has hardly been inactive. Indeed, it is hard to think of any leader of any party who has emerged as a harder or more frontal critic of this government, of PM Narendra Modi, and the RSS, especially from the liberal, secular perspective. But the former Congress chief does give the impression that he has gone solo. There is hardly any semblance of a functioning organisation that he built when he was formally at the helm. This is no way to run a party, especially one with an ambition to make its influence felt nationwide.

The core of the dissidents' argument pertains to the field of party organisation and these are not without merit

Mr Sibal has sought to rub his point in by pointing to the Congress' none too bright showing in the recent Bihar election and the byelections in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, UP and Karnataka. In fact, were it not for these reverses, it is unlikely he would have sprung to life the way he did.

However, the criticisms around the poll reverses do not appear well-grounded. In the byelections, the ruling parties did well everywhere, including Jharkhand where the Congress came good. As for Bihar, it is true that the bulk of the share of seats that fell in the Congress' share to fight were those that no Mahagathbandhan party had won in three decades. So, probably these would have fallen in NDA's kitty even if the resurgent RJD fought on them.

All these arguments are in the nature of garnishing, however. The core of the dissidents' argument pertains to the field of party organisation and these are not without merit, even if the G-23 are people who had thrived in a party built on nominations when the going was good and the Congress was in power.

Even if Mrs Gandhi has got into motion a process for AICC elections, a key requirement for organisation-building and daunting task at the best of times, no one really knows what's going on. Since the G-23 are experienced and senior folk, although none amongst them can claim to be a mass leader or ground-level politician, it would have been in the fitness of things if they too had been associated with this exercise and consulted routinely. Instead, it seems they have been cast aside.

It was singularly distasteful of Congress Lok Sabha leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury to suggest that Mr Sibal either float his own party or join another party instead of speaking out aloud. This is not the way of democratic parties. He — and others — should not forget that even P. Chidambaram has criticised the Congress' performance in Bihar and asked that experienced hands be consulted. The Congress would do well to summon some humility.

Give dads family time

Some old-timers feel that it's just not cricket. But Anil Kumble took it in 2004, followed by Gautam Gambhir and Rahul Dravid in 2009, Rohit Sharma in 2018 and Joe Root earlier this year. And now skipper Virat Kohli officially asked for it and got it! The Board of Control for Cricket in India's grant of paternity leave to Kohli during his team's upcoming Oz tour is a sure sign of changing times.

At present, fathers who are government servants are permitted 15 days of leave to be availed within six months of the birth of the child under Rule 43A of the Central Civil Services (Leave) Rules, 1972. Similar provisions can be found in the leave rules of state governments. It is only about eight per cent of the 182 days allowed to mothers. But private companies like Zomato, Ikea, Amazon and Novartis as well as tech giants Facebook, Deloitte and Microsoft play a big role in defining workplace cultures and they allow longer leaves.

Blinkered to shifting realities, possibly due to an ivory tower consciousness, then woman and child development minister Maneka Gandhi in 2016 scoffed at the idea of legislating for paternity leave. She was convinced that "Indian men" would turn "it into a holiday". The truth is that even where rules are in place fathers are shamed into not availing it or otherwise subjected to pressures by the office management. We need more teeth in our labour laws for holding such employers accountable. Not only in high-profile jobs or for executives in general, paternity leave should be the norm for peons, clerks and blue-collar workers. But that can only happen if there is political will to honour the cultural change taking place.

Although it was women who first argued for work-life balance, a term that originated in the UK during the Industrial Revolution, allowing moderate amounts of leave to employees has been seen to improve both quality of output and prevent burnouts. An egalitarian policy of parental leaves will direct social change — promote participation of women in the labour force, currently at 26 per cent, thus drawing in their diverse skills and vision, optimise our gross domestic product as well as create friendlier workplaces.

Not only single dads, others, too, have a right to love their child.

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T. VENKATRAM REDDY

Editor in Chief

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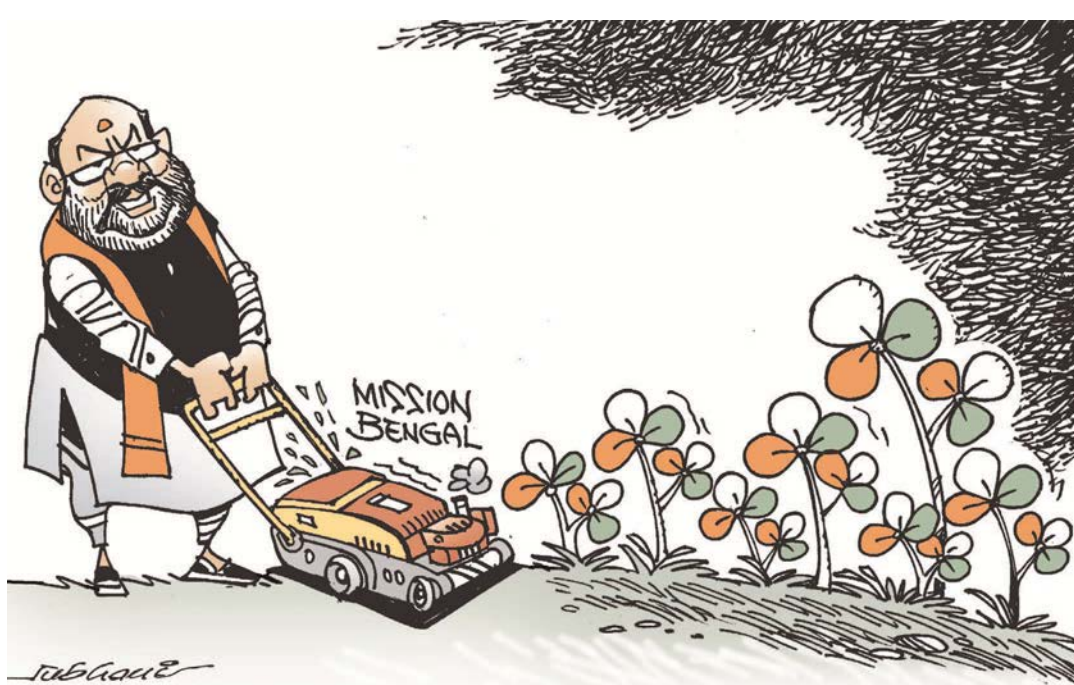
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Subhani



Can KCR's gameplan stop Modi juggernaut?

Sriram Karri



The municipal elections under way in Hyderabad might have a political significance nationally, if TRS chief and Telangana chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao's (KCR) strategy helps his party trounce the newest challenger to power — the Bharatiya Janata Party. If KCR succeeds in nipping the saffron party's surge in the bud, he might reveal a perfect playbook to counter the seemingly unstoppable juggernaut of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

It is only of footnote value, not headline material, that the Congress, which ruled India for two terms based on the strength of members of Parliament Telugu people sent to Lok Sabha, and which enacted and implemented the formation of Telangana, is rapidly declining in the state. The interesting part is KCR himself pushed the weak Congress, the principal challenger to TRS as recently as the 2018 Assembly elections, from the general ward into the ICU.

In that election, which the TRS had foresight to schedule ahead of completion of term, and delink state elections from national elections to avoid having to face the Modi wave, the pink party retained power with a bigger majority, winning 88 out of 119 seats. The Congress returned as the principal Opposition party, with 19 seats, while the BJP secured a lone seat. The MIM, ever friendly to whoever is the ruling party, won seven seats.

Ignoring the mandate for over two months, without even declaring a cabinet, the TRS boss ensured defections from the Congress, till it was finally split by over two-thirds, and Congressman Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka lost the status as leader of the Opposition. The void left

by the Congress proved to be a signal to the BJP to make it an all-out direct battle with the TRS for the state.

The TRS lost two of its advantages in this possibly irreversible decline of the Congress and consequent rise of the BJP — a split in anti-incumbency votes will cease and a party with a more effective election machinery will have to be faced.

The BJP has shown it has the striking firepower. Debutant D. Arvind defeated sitting MP K. Kavitha, daughter of KCR, in Lok Sabha elections for Nizamabad, a hurt the TRS still nurses. The recent snatching of Dubbaka byelections by the BJP has consolidated a perception Telangana is now a predominantly two party state, notwithstanding the factor X that is Owaisi-led MIM.

The BJP has already pushed the TRS into a spot by making the elections to Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) about nationalist Hindutva, a template the TRS has not really been tested against. The BJP has declared that the GHMC elections are between them and the MIM, accusing the TRS of appeasing Muslims, especially Owaisi brothers, and being their sidekicks. The TRS could laugh off charges of nepotism, family rule and corruption when they were hurled by the Congress, but the same attack from the BJP could have a sharper bite. Above all, the TRS cannot arm-twist the BJP the way it could do the Congress.

With the reputation and political future of TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao, son of KCR, heavily invested in the urbane electoral climes of hi-tech Hyderabad, CM Rao is taking nothing to chance because in Indian politics, like in many Indian families, the loss to a daughter is painful, but

the loss to the image of a son, that too heir apparent, is nearly politically fatal.

Taking the reins into his own hands, KRC has firstly declared that his party would fight both the BJP and the MIM based on secular values. KCR has announced that none of their party leaders or candidates would visit temples, mosques, churches or any other places of worship as part of their campaign. Wearing of religious identity won't be a vote-winning tactic of the TRS.

This will be backed by giving a second lease of life to the idea of a Federal Front, a non-Congress, anti-BJP national front and making it about a direct confrontation between KCR and Narendra Modi as principal rivals on the national scene. This seems congruent with the perception that KCR will hand over the reins of the state to his son soon and take a one-way fight to Delhi.

Just as the TRS has seldom faced a tough rival like the BJP at the state-level head-on, Mr Modi and BJP, too, has not yet seen a challenge as KCR can alone mount in India. KCR understands the value of rhetoric and optics as few in Indian politics, besides the Modi-Shah duo. He believes in disruptive moves and being unpredictable, keeping everyone guessing. He would seldom waste a stone to kill one bird.

KCR would like to take on the BJP pan-India with a front which would acquire the image of India itself — a union of states — hence the KCR-initiated front would be a union of state-level parties and leaders. Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, besides neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, are early potential recruits for this front.

Making every state election about Modi versus his front will be crucial to KCR's strategy — make every election harder for the BJP across the country, by involving every part of the whole, all the time, leading to 2024. Thus, even a loss in, say Delhi or Jharkhand, which BJP presently dismisses as a local loss with no impact at national level, would hence-

forth become a win for the anti-Modi front, and thus a score.

KCR will likely pitch secular federalism, marked with good governance, high on welfare and development, with a strong stress on inclusivity as key ideological differentiators, with a stress on "true". KCR believes this will reduce the ability of the BJP to coerce Opposition leaders with other means, aka, use of Central agencies.

It is his calculation that the long-term incarceration of leaders in Kashmir would have become impossible, if leaders of all states had stood up with them, together. Drawing a leaf from Lincoln, KCR will now put his marketing skills to convince all state leaders to the mantra — let us hang together, lest we be hanged separately.

The TRS has a great understanding of how to build a narrative and sustain it through innovative programmes and schemes. It is hardened in social media battles. It can come out with attractive slogans and put up a convincing counter narrative. It can lure, or coerce, the media. Above all, KCR can put Telangana's own success in input investments for farmers, water as a right for all Indians, jobs, infrastructure and universal healthcare as rival models — the Hyderabad model versus the Gujarat model.

His timing is perfect, too. The Congress is at its weakest and can be dictated to support the front at any later date. Most regional leaders are also too weak to resist; they will happily follow anyone giving them hope against Modi's BJP.

But will KCR emerge the Pied Piper or end up doing an encore of 2019, when his high vision was reduced to gallantry of Don Quixote class, will start becoming clear when Hyderabad votes for its 150 municipal wards on December 1, and its results are declared on December 4.

With a final caveat — it will be by paper ballot. Does a low-tech election in a hi-tech city finally hold the key to a different result in the next Lok Sabha? KCR will hope the answer is yes.

LETTERS

ROMANTIC HERO

On November 17 was Gemini Ganesh's birth centenary. He was a living legend in Tamil film industry. Ramaswamy Ganesan, better known by his stage name Gemini Ganesan, was an Indian film actor who worked mainly in Tamil cinema. He was nicknamed "Kadhal Mannan" for the romantic roles he played in films. When the matinee idols of Tamil cinema were dominating the scene of action, Gemini Ganesh got his pride of place as a romantic hero. As a fan of Gemini Ganesh, I made an obituary album when he died on March 22, 2005. I still have his handwritten letter among my treasures.

C.K. Subramaniam
Chennai

NEPAL SETBACK?

AT A TIME when India and Nepal have been exploring ways to restart the engagement process to undo the damage caused by the recent strife in bilateral ties, another wave of political uncertainty has hit Nepal with the rival faction in the ruling Communist party led by PK Dahal Prachanda again looking to press-gang Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli into stepping down. But Prachanda is a known China sympathiser and should this transpire India will have to reset its Nepal ties.

Sankar Paul
Chakdaha, West Bengal

GOOD COP

WHAT A PLEASANT surprise! When we habituated to experiencing police high handedness and its abuse of power, Seema Dhaka, head constable at Samaypur Badli police station, has traced 76 missing children, of whom 56 were under the age of 14. This news comes like a breath of fresh air from the polluted capital. In one case, she rescued a trafficked girl after four years! Ms Dhaka became the first police personnel in Delhi to be granted "out-of-turn promotion" so she can inspire her colleagues.

Bidyut K. Chatterjee
Faridabad

Every Monday the best letter of the week wins ₹500. Email: asianage.letters@gmail.com.

Devi Kar



Prepare kids for future as worries rise amidst Covid

This time of the year is always fraught with anxieties for school-leaving students. First, there is the looming board examination, the results of which determine their entry into colleges and universities. Next, there is the constant brooding over the choice of career paths. But 2020 has been especially tense for them on account of the untold disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Indeed, it is such a difficult time for school-leavers that the past seems unnaturally alluring while the future looks pretty grim.

As yet, nobody knows when on-campus classes will be resumed. Nor can anybody predict when, how and where the board examinations will be held. It is no wonder that the future after leaving school seems so terrifying for high schoolers. Even in normal years, students have a tough time selecting their branch of higher studies while keeping an eye on possible career paths. This year they are totally at sea, knowing that the world of work is undergoing turbulent changes. Further, they know that they will probably have to settle for virtual classes and will not

experience college campus life, which they had been looking forward to for years.

At this time, we need to make a conscious effort to boost our students' morale. Professional career counsellors are probably doing their job of keeping abreast of changes that are taking place and of trends that are already perceptible. However, career counsellors alone can't be expected to allay the anxieties of students. Parents, mentors and teachers have an onerous responsibility too. They need to give students a sense of security and stability so that their education — irrespective of the timing and nature of the board and college entrance examinations — continues uninterrupted. Further, they must help them to face the world with a calm frame of mind and develop the adaptability to cope with the demands of new situations. Living examples may be cited, of enterprising people who have reinvented their lines of work successfully in these trying times. It would help them enormously, if teachers and mentors suggested concrete steps while their students go about trying to prepare for

an unnervingly uncertain future.

Here are a few thoughts that we can share with our students while engaging with them. I feel that such dialogues make them less anxious about their future. The first point to drive home is that they are not the only ones facing this predicament — everybody was in the same boat. Although quite obvious, somehow, they find solace in this realisation which needs to be reinforced from time to time. They must also be made aware that humans have overcome many perilous situations in the past; therefore, we can believe with reason that the present condition is only temporary. Students must make most of the time they have at their disposal and learn not only from their prescribed coursework but from the myriad resources that are available on the Internet. It has become already clear that the future demands a broad outlook and an interdisciplinary approach — narrow specialisation has become passé.

Many students, along with their parents, worry because they are undecided about their career path. Instead of trying to coax them to make a decision

immediately, it is perhaps wiser to reassure them that there is plenty of time to make a definite choice. In any case, people do not need to stick to any particular career line all through their working life. Examples may be given of the multifarious new occupations that have spawned in the recent past to demonstrate that there is no end to the opportunities that will be available to them. In the face of a possible job losses, resourceful young people have got hold of several digital assignments while working from home. Who knows, multiple careers can easily turn out to be the norm in future.

So far as their immediate anxiety of admission into reputed colleges is concerned, students must understand the need to be practical. Even a very good student may not get a seat in the college of his or her choice. This should not break the person. There are enough real-life examples to show that it is not necessary to attend a particular institution in order to make a success of life.

In the context of seeking "success", it is imperative that young people must understand that success does not have

a single definition — it comes in different forms. One way of defining success is the fulfilment of individual goals. Therefore, instead of chasing nebulous dreams, students should be encouraged to look inward and discover what they want out of life, where their interests lie and what their strengths are. To attain success, students must be resilient in the face of inevitable setbacks. In addition, they should possess certain skills and qualities which will always be in demand irrespective of place or circumstances. These include "people skills", the ability to communicate effectively and being a reliable team player. Above all, it is important to be able to manage one's own emotions competently and respond to other people's emotions sensitively.

Parents and teachers must make a conscious effort not to pass on their own worries to the young. It is easier said than done, but we must cultivate a robust outlook ourselves while holding up for them an optimistic, yet not unrealistic, picture of the future.

The writer is a veteran school educator based in Kolkata

IN BRIEF

HOUSTON: 5 SHOT AT IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, 2 DEAD

Houston, Nov. 19: Five people were shot Wednesday, two fatally, in what investigators say was a case of domestic violence in western Houston, police said.

Officers went to a house in response to a report of an "active shooter" about 2:45 pm Wednesday and arrived to find the body of a man in the driveway of the house he's believed to have owned, Assistant Police Chief Larry Satterwhite said.

Upon entry, they found a wounded man with a gun beside him, whom police suspect was the gunman, and a wounded woman believed to have been the complainant, Satterwhite said. Upstairs, they found two women, one dead and the other wounded.

A 3-month-old child appeared unharmed. All involved appeared to have been related to one another, Satterwhite said, but no motive was immediately determined.

IRAN LAUNCHES CRAFT-CARRYING HEAVY WARSHIP

Tehran, Nov. 19: Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard said it launched a heavy warship Thursday capable of carrying helicopters, drones and missile launchers amid ongoing tensions with the US.

Photographs of the ship, named after slain Guard naval commander Abdollah Roudaki, showed it carrying truck-launched surface-to-surface missiles and anti-aircraft missiles. It also carried four small fast boats, the kind the Guard routinely uses in the Persian Gulf. Sailors manned deck-mounted machine guns.

The Guard said the ship has a length of 150 metres (492 feet). By comparison, a US Nimitz-class aircraft carrier has a length of 332 metres (1,092 feet). The Guard's ship does not have a runway, but includes a landing pad for a helicopter.

The commander of the Guard's navy, Adm Ali Reza Tangsiri, suggested his forces wanted to move beyond the waters of the Gulf into deep-water patrolling.

US HOUSE PASSES TIBET BIPARTISAN RESOLUTION

Washington, Nov. 19: A bipartisan resolution recognising the cultural and religious significance of an autonomous Tibet and seeking peaceful solutions to the conflict has been passed by the US House of Representatives. The resolution recognised the significance of the genuine autonomy of Tibet and the Tibetan people, and the work done by 14th Dalai Lama to promote global peace, harmony and understanding.

Passed by a voice vote, the resolution determined that it would be beneficial to convene a bipartisan, bicameral forum, either through a Joint Meeting of Congress, a teleconference broadcast at the Capitol Visitor Center, or roundtable, between Members of Congress and His Holiness the Dalai Lama to discuss peaceful solutions to international conflicts.

It also noted that there is overwhelming bipartisan Congressional support for the Tibetan people's aspirations for internationally recognised human rights.

ETHIOPIA: WHO CHIEF BACKING TIGRAY REGION

Nairobi, Nov. 19: Ethiopia's government is accusing the head of the World Health Organisation, a fellow Ethiopian, of lobbying neighbouring countries to come to the aid of the country's rebellious Tigray regional government with arms and other support.

Ethiopia's army chief, Gen Birhanu Julia, asserted to reporters on Wednesday that Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus had urged unnamed neighbours to "oppose the war and for (the Tigray People's Liberation Front) to get arms."

The army chief did not provide any evidence to support his claims. The TPLF has been clashing with Ethiopian federal forces for two weeks after the country's prime minister accused the heavily armed regional government of attacking a military base.

Each government regards the other as illegal after a months-long falling-out amid political reforms. The army chief accused Tedros, a former Ethiopian foreign minister when the TPLF dominated Ethiopia's ruling coalition, of being a member of the TPLF.

Anti-terror court sentences Hafiz Saeed to 10 yrs in jail

Mumbai terror attack mastermind was arrested on July 17 last year in Pak

Lahore, Nov. 19: Mumbai terror attack mastermind and Jamat-ud-Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed was on Thursday sentenced to 10 years in jail by an anti-terrorism court in Pakistan in two more terror cases. Saeed, a UN designated terrorist whom the US has placed a \$10 million bounty on, was arrested on July 17 last year in the terror financing cases.

He was sentenced to 11 years in jail by an anti-terrorism court in February this year in two terror financing cases. He is lodged at the Lahore's high-security Kot Lakhpat jail. "The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) of Lahore on Thursday sentenced four leaders of Jamat-ud-Dawa, including its chief Hafiz Saeed, in two more cases," a court official told PTI.

Saeed and his two close aides — Zafar Iqbal and Yahya Mujahid — have been sentenced to 10 and a half years each, while JuD chief's brother-in-law Abdul Rehman Makki was sentenced to six months imprisonment. "Judge Arshad Hussain Bhutta of ATC Court No. 1 heard the case No. 16/19 and 25/19 filed by Counter Terrorism Department in which the verdict has been announced after the statements of witnesses were cross-examined by Naseeruddin Nayyar and Muhammad Imran Fazal Gul Advocate," the official said.

A total of 41 cases have been registered by the CTD against the JuD leaders, out of which 24 have been decided while the rest are pending in the ATC courts. Four cases have been decided against Saeed so far. — PTI



Pakistan's PM Imran Khan at a press conference with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani at the Presidential Palace in Kabul on Thursday. — AFP

Imran vows to do everything to decrease Afghan violence

Islamabad, Nov. 19: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday met with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on his maiden visit to Kabul and vowed to "do everything" to reduce violence in Afghanistan as the two leaders explored ways to deepen the bilateral ties and discussed the reconciliation process, amidst an uptick in violence that could jeopardise the peace push in the war-torn country.

President Ghani who received Khan upon his arrival at ARG Presidential Palace, situated in the heart of Kabul, called his visit "historic" and said it was an "important message to help end violence". On his part, Khan assured Ghani that his government would do "everything possible" to

● **KHAN SAID** Pakistan played a role in the peace deal signed between the Taliban and the US side and later on starting the intra-Afghan dialogue.

help reduce violence in Afghanistan and bring a durable peace.

"The idea of visiting at a time when violence is increasing (in Afghanistan) is to assure you, President Ghani, that the people and the government of Pakistan have only one concern: Peace in Afghanistan," Khan said while addressing a joint press conference with the Afghan leader after their talks on issues ranging from bilateral ties to the Afghan peace and regional situation.

Khan said Pakistan played a role in the peace deal signed between the Taliban and the US side and later on starting the intra-Afghan dialogue. He regretted that despite such efforts violence was increasing in Afghanistan and assured that Pakistan was ready to help if it was possible. "If you feel there is somewhere Pakistan can help (in reduction of violence), please let us know...We assure you that we will do everything and whatever is within our reach," he said.

He said that Pakistan's tribal areas were devastated by the violence in the past and it was one of the reasons to help Afghanistan tackle violence. "The only way to help people on both sides of the border is by peace, trade and connectivity," he said. — PTI

KIDNEY PAIN: AILING NAWAZ VISITS HOSPITAL

Islamabad, Nov. 19: Pakistan's ailing former prime minister Nawaz Sharif made a string of unscheduled hospital visits in London this week after he developed acute pain due to stones in his kidney, according to a media report on Thursday. Sharif, 70, who has been staying in London since November 2019 on medical grounds, during his visits to the hospital underwent several tests and scans to determine a course of treatment, the Dawn reported.

"He is very unwell and has serious pain in his kidney owing to deteriorating kidney function. Doctors are conducting tests and scans to determine a course of action. He has developed kidney stones," Dr Adnan Khan, the personal physician of Sharif, was quoted as saying by the paper.

Sharif, who in the past has undergone heart surgery, visited consultants on Harley Street on Tuesday and Wednesday and is scheduled for more scans on Thursday, the report said.

On Tuesday, Sharif's daughter Maryam Nawaz said in a tweet that her father was unable to participate in a meeting of the Pakistan Democratic Movement because of "severe kidney pain" and added that she would attend in his place. — PTI

Australian special forces unlawfully killed 39 Afghans

Melbourne, Nov. 19: There is "credible information" that at least 19 serving and former Australian special forces allegedly committed up to 39 unlawful murders during the conflict in Afghanistan, according to a long-awaited military report into war crimes released on Thursday.

Australia launched the inquiry in 2016, amid reports from whistle-blowers and in the local media of the alleged killing of unarmed men and children in Afghanistan. The four-year inquiry by NSW Court Of Appeal Justice Paul Brereton found there was "credible information" of 23 incidents where Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel were involved in the serious crimes, either carrying out the offences or at least being "accessories" to the incidents.

There was "credible information" that 39 Afghans were allegedly murdered by Australian special forces in 23 incidents. There were also two incidents could be classified as the war crime of "cruel treatment", the report said. According to the Australian media, the latest report has been based on over 400 interviews with soldiers and officers from the SAS, a special forces unit, and Commandos, Afghan villagers, special forces interpreters and support staff.

The inquiry found evidence some Australian troops in Afghanistan carried "throwdowns" such as weapons, radios and grenades not issued by the ADF but planted next to the bodies of Afghan civilians to suggest they were a "legitimate target"

● **AUSTRALIA LAUNCHED** the inquiry in 2016, amid reports from whistle-blowers and in the local media of the alleged killing of unarmed men and children in Afghanistan.

in any post-incident investigations. "This practice probably originated for the less egregious though still dishonest purpose of avoiding scrutiny where a person who was legitimately engaged turned out not to be armed," Brereton said. Issuing an apology to Afghanistan people while releasing the report in Canberra, Australia's Chief of Defence Force Angus Campbell said:

"These findings allege the most serious breaches of military conduct and professional values. The killing, the unlawful killing, of civilians and prisoners is never acceptable." Campbell also apologised to the Australian people, saying he was sincerely sorry for any wrongdoing by members of the Australian Defence Force. Campbell said the report discloses a "disgraceful and a profound betrayal of the Australian Defence Force's professional standards and expectations".

"Today the Australian Defence Force is rightly held to account for allegations of grave misconduct by some members of our special forces community on operations in Afghanistan," he said. The public summary of the inquiry found that Australian soldiers summarily executed non-combatants and prisoners. — PTI

China perceives rising India as rival

Washington, Nov. 19: China perceives a rising India as a "rival" and wants to constrain its strategic partnership with the US, its allies, and with other democracies, the State Department said in a report, emphasising that Beijing intends to displace America as the world's foremost power.

Coming ahead of the transition of power from Donald Trump's administration to President-elect Joe Biden's administration after the November 3 US presidential election, the detailed policy document highlights that China is undermining the security, autonomy and economic interests of many nations in the region.

"China perceives rising India as a rival and seeks to impel it to accommodate Beijing's ambitions by engaging economically while constraining New Delhi's strategic partnership with the US, Japan, Australia and its relations with other democracies," the report said.

"China is undermining the security, autonomy, and economic interests of many others in the region — such as member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), including those in the vital Mekong Region, as well as the nations of the Pacific Islands," the report added.

The 70-page report states that awareness has been growing in the US — and in nations around the

FACE HONG KONG REALITY, CHINA TELLS 'FIVE EYES'

Beijing, Nov. 19: China on Thursday rejected the latest attack on its Hong Kong policy by the US and several of its allies, saying they "should face up to the reality" that the former British colony has been returned to China.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian was responding to a statement on Hong Kong issued by the US, UK, Australia, Canada and New Zealand, which together make up an intelligence partnership known as the Five Eyes. "No matter if they have five eyes or 10 eyes, if they dare to harm China's sovereignty, security and development interests, they should beware of their eyes being poked and blinded," he said at a daily briefing. — AP

world — that the ruling Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has triggered a new era of great-power competition. "Yet few discern the pattern in China's inroads within every region of the world, much less the specific form of dominance to which the party aspires," said the report. — PTI

Oxford vaccine boosts adult 'immunity'

London, Nov. 19: The Coronavirus vaccine developed by teams at the University of Oxford has been shown to trigger a robust immune response in healthy adults aged 56-69 and those over 70 years of age. The findings published in *Lancet* on Thursday based on 560 healthy adult volunteers shows that the ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccine is "safe and well tolerated" with a lower reactogenicity profile in older adults, meaning the older age groups could build immunity to the disease.

"These findings are encouraging because older individuals are at disproportionate risk of severe Covid-19 and so any vaccine adopted for use against SARS-CoV-2 must be effective in older adults," the researchers note.

The team is also testing whether the vaccine stops people developing Covid-19 in larger Phase 3 trials and early results from this crucial stage are expected in the coming weeks. "We were pleased to see that our vaccine was not only well tolerated in older adults, but also stimulated similar immune responses to those seen in younger volunteers," said Dr Maheshi Ramasamy, an investigator at the Oxford Vaccine Group.

"The next step will be to see if this translates into protection from the disease," she said. This means there are now four promising vaccines after Pfizer-BioNTech, Sputnik and Moderna already reported. — PTI



The empty inner city of Vienna is pictured at Stephansplatz on Thursday, amid the Covid-19. — AFP

Biden: Transition delay hits vaccine

Washington, Nov. 19: US President-elect Joe Biden has warned that a delay in transition by the outgoing Trump administration will put behind the Covid-19 vaccination plan by "weeks or months".

In a virtual roundtable with healthcare workers on Covid-19, Biden alleged on Wednesday that his transition team has not been receiving any cooperation from the Trump administration. President Donald Trump has refused to concede the November 3

US election and has filed multiple lawsuits challenging results in several States.

"One of the problems that we're having now is the failure of the administration to recognise — the law says that the General Services Administration has a person who recognises who the winner is and then they have to have access to all the data and information that the government possesses to be prepared," he said. — PTI

US records more than 2.5L deaths

Washington, Nov. 19: The US has recorded over 250,000 deaths from Covid-19, a bleak milestone as cases soar once again across the country, worst-hit by the deadly infectious disease that has claimed over 1,349,000 lives across the world.

According to Johns Hopkins University, the US has now reported 250,537 deaths and over 11.5 million confirmed cases. It has more reported infections and a higher death toll than any other country worldwide. The Coronavirus is now killing at least one American every minute of the day, bringing the country to another horrific milestone on Wednesday.

At least 250,029 people in the country have died of Covid-19 since the first death on February 29 in Washington state, *CNN* reported. The situation is only going to get worse, warned Dr Jonathan Reiner, a professor at George Washington University School of Medicine, amidst the continued obstruction from the Trump administration for a smooth handover to the incoming administration of US President-elect Joe Biden.

"The horrible death count that we saw yesterday in the United States ... reflects the number of people who were being

INFECTIONS MAY BE 6 TIMES MORE THAN REPORTED

Melbourne, Nov. 19: The actual number of global infections in the Covid-19 pandemic could be up to six times higher than the reported number of cases, according to a modelling study. The researchers, including those from the Australian National University (ANU) and the University of Melbourne, found infection rates between March and August across 15 countries were on average 6.2 times greater than reported cases.

The data, published in the journal *Royal Society Open Science*, shows Covid-19 infection rates in the UK, France, Belgium and Italy are much higher than reported and in the case of Italy up to 17-times higher. It shows Australia had the best level of detection at the end of April, but the rate of infection may still have been five times higher than what has been reported. — PTI

infected three weeks ago — to two three weeks ago, because that's the lag," Reiner said on Wednesday. — PTI

UNDER COVER

Criminals and extremists are exploiting deadly pandemic to build their support networks

Al-Qaeda, ISIS groups spread conspiracy theories

United Nations, Nov. 19: Groups associated with al-Qaeda and ISIS are exploiting the Covid-19 pandemic to spread conspiracy theories that the virus is "punishing the unbelievers", is "God's wrath upon the West" and incites terrorists to use it as a form of biological weapon, according to a UN report.

The report titled "Stop the virus of disinformation: The malicious use of social media by terrorist, violent extremist and criminal groups during the

Covid-19 pandemic' was released by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI). It said that criminals and violent extremists are exploiting the pandemic to build their support networks, undermine trust in government and even weaponise the virus.

The report added that terrorist, violent extremist and organised criminal groups have maliciously used social media to disseminate conspiracy theories

about the origin of Covid-19.

"Groups associated with ISIL and Al-Qaeda have also spread conspiracy theories that assert that the virus is a 'soldier of Allah' that is punishing the unbelievers and the enemies that have damaged Muslims over the last years. For example, ISIL and Al-Qaeda claimed that the virus is God's wrath upon the West," the report said. Similarly, Al-Shabab declared that the coronavirus disease is spread

● **THE GLOBAL Fatwa Index** has identified Covid-19 related messages from groups associated with ISIS and al-Qaeda, including non-official fatwas that called on ISIS members who have contracted Covid-19 to act as "biological bombs".

by the "crusader forces who have invaded the country and the disbelieving countries that support

them", the report said. The Global Fatwa Index has identified Covid-19 related messages from groups associated with ISIS and al-Qaeda, including non-official fatwas that called on ISIS members who have contracted Covid-19 to act as "biological bombs" by "deliberately spreading the disease among the organisation's enemies," it said.

UNICRI Director Antonia Marie De Meo wrote in the introduction to the report that it is "alarming

that some terrorist and violent extremist groups have attempted to misuse social media to incite potential terrorists to intentionally spread Covid-19 and to use it as an improvised form of a biological weapon." "There are cases in which right-wing extremist groups... explicitly asked their followers to spread the virus by coughing on their local minority or by attending to specific places where religious or racial minorities gather. Other groups...advocate to

spread Covid in countries with large populations or high levels of pollution," it said. It also notes the case of "inspired terrorism" was that of Timothy Wilson, who plotted to detonate a bomb in a hospital caring for Coronavirus patients in Kansas City.

Researchers examined three groups of non-State actors: right-wing extremists; groups associated with the ISIS or Da'esh terrorist group and al-Qaeda; and organised crime groups. — PTI

SHORT TAKES

CLIMATE: EU LEADERS TALK BUT NO DEAL

Brussels, Nov. 19: A summit of European Union leaders this week is not expected to yield a deal on a new climate target, according to draft documents and EU officials, likely pushing to December a decision on how deeply the bloc will cut emissions this decade.

The meeting of the leaders of the 27 EU countries in Brussels on Thursday and Friday will be their first talks on a plan to upgrade the EU's 2030 climate goal.

The EU's executive, the European Commission, wants to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% this decade from 1990 levels, to steer the bloc towards climate neutrality by 2050. The 2030 target now is a 40% cut.

To fix the target in law, EU countries must agree a common position, then reach a deal with the European Parliament, which wants an even more ambitious goal.

Draft conclusions for the summit do not include a specific 2030 target. EU leaders will "return to the issue" at a December summit to seek agreement on the goal by year-end, the draft said. Draft conclusions for a meeting next week of EU environment ministers, who hold parallel talks on the issue, do not include a specific 2030 target.

CRANES' WINTER MIGRATION TO ISRAEL DELAYED

Hula Lake, Israel, Nov. 19: The sun is setting on the lake and thousands of cranes perform a mating dance, bobbing their black and white heads while flapping large grey wings and hopping on long legs.

Like every winter, the red-crowned Eurasian birds are back on Israel's Hula Lake — some for a stop-over en route from Russia, Finland and Estonia to Ethiopia's Lake Tana, and others here for the entire cold season.

This year, however, some of the 100,000 cranes flew in a little late, with global warming a possible reason for the delay.

"The first birds arrive at the end of September. This year it was two weeks late. One of the reasons, we think, is because September was very warm and they had no reason to move to the south," said Inbar Shlomit Rubin, content and instructors' manager at the Hula nature reserve.

Bird migration is like nature's clock, said Yaron Charka, chief ornithologist for the Jewish National Fund, the organisation that runs the site which sees the migration of half a billion birds a year.

"You see this clock ticking every year and it's very similar every year. Seasons are coming, birds are coming at the right time and you also see differences between years," said Charka.

CLIMATE ACTION INVESTOR GROUP TARGETS ARAMCO

London, Nov. 19: One of the world's leading investor groups pushing for more corporate action on climate change said it has added Saudi Aramco, the world's largest oil producer, to its list of target companies.

Climate Action 100+, the 450 members of which manage more than \$47 trillion in assets, seeks to engage with the companies responsible for much of the world's greenhouse gas emissions in order to encourage the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Specifically, it wants each company to commit to emissions cuts in line with the Paris Agreement on climate change, implement strong climate governance frameworks and improve climate-related disclosures.

The group has already achieved some success with its strategy, including at oil majors Royal Dutch Shell RDSA.L and BP BPL, which this year announced long-term strategies in response to climate change.

Climate Action 100+ has accelerated engagement with impressive results, the group's chair, Laetitia Tankwe, said after it announced the new additions to its list of targeted companies.

"These additions present a strategic opportunity to further curb emissions and enable the transition to a net-zero future by 2050," she said.

"We welcome the opportunity to support signatories in these new engagements."

In a periodic review of the companies covered by the initiative, CA100+ said it had added eight others to the focus list, including copper miner Grupo Mexico GME:XCBO.MX and Colombian industrial company Grupo Argos ARG.CN.

38 killed as Iota leaves thousands homeless

Biggest Atlantic storm of 2020 has unleashed mudslides

San Salvador, Nov. 19: Iota's death toll rose to 38 on Wednesday after the year's biggest Atlantic storm unleashed mudslides, tore apart buildings and left thousands homeless across Central America, revisiting areas devastated by another hurricane just two weeks ago.

Iota plowed through the coast packing furious winds of 155 miles (260 kilometres) per hour on Monday evening, and forecasters have warned of more "life-threatening" conditions despite clearing conditions.

Eighteen people are confirmed dead in Nicaragua, where the storm made landfall at its peak strength, with seven children among the toll.

"My house was destroyed by the hurricane, it left me only sand and water," said Diana Moore Poveda of coastal Bilwi city, near where Iota hit. "What you can see is what it left me." The Atlantic has seen a record storm season this year, including 13 hurricanes, and scientists say that warmer seas caused by climate change are making

HEAVY RAINS KILL FIVE IN COLOMBIA

Bogota, Nov. 19: Floods caused by a particularly intense rainy season have killed at least five people and left six others missing in northwestern Colombia, authorities said Wednesday.

A ravine near the city of Cucuta had overflowed and caused flooding "that devastated everything in its path," the South American country's disaster risk agency said.

More than 200 nearby homes, mostly in poor neighborhoods, were

hurricanes stronger for longer after landfall.

Bilwi had been ravaged only two weeks earlier after its residents found themselves directly in the path of Hurricane Eta — another of the season's strongest storms.

Iota demolished much of the infrastructure in the city of more than 40,000 people, said local government official Yamil Zapata. "What Eta left standing, this hurricane came and finished it off,"

damaged. The flooding brings the death toll from more than two months of torrential rains ravaging Colombia to 27, with thousands of people flooded out of their homes.

The government said 26 of Colombia's 32 departments have been affected by the rains, responsible for 154 separate flooding events, 143 landslides and 56 tornados.

Authorities link the catastrophic rains to the climate phenomenon known as "La Nina". — AFP

Zapata said.

Thousands had been left homeless, electricity and water services were destroyed, while trees were downed and roofs ripped off houses, according to Nicaragua's disaster management agency Sinapred.

Another 14 were killed in neighbouring Honduras, including five members of the same family whose home was swept away in a landslide. Authorities in both countries had rushed to evacuate thousands of

Nevada fire: 1K returning home

Reno (US), Nov. 19: A day after a wind-whipped wildfire in northern Nevada roared through a neighbourhood in Reno and destroyed at least five houses, more than 1,000 people who were forced to evacuate — including the mayor — started returning home Wednesday.

Another fire about 100 miles (160 kilometres) south and across the border in California also exploded in strong winds Tuesday, killing one person, driving hundreds from their homes and destroying 80 structures in and around a small community, including some houses.

Rains overnight helped tamp down the flames in both places, but crews in Reno feared a forecast that called for another lashing of strong winds that could revive the fire, which damaged 15 other structures on the edge of the Sierra Nevada foothills. "We're looking at 40 mph (64 kph) winds in the valleys again today, 70 mph (112 kph) over the ridgetops, so that will be a concern for us,"

Fire Department incident commander Mark Winkelman said. Two firefighters were injured while battling the blaze over 2 square miles (5 square kilometres) but have been treated and released. One suffered an allergic reaction, and the other injured a leg while helping evacuate 1,300 residents. Extremely dry conditions helped fuel the blaze in rugged, hard-to-reach canyons that run between homes in the densely populated neighbourhood, Reno Fire Chief David Cochran said.

"Even though there was literally snow on the ground in some areas, a wind-driven fire like that

is almost impossible to stop," Cochran said.

Investigators from the state and Reno fire marshal's office as well as the utility NV Energy were trying to find the cause of the fire. Winkelman said it started about 200 yards (183 meters) from the origin point of a November 2011 fire that destroyed 27 homes. That blaze was ignited by arcing power lines at a substation in strong winds, he said.

The so-called Caughlin Fire in 2011 was one of the first in the area to make it clear that dangerous wildfires no longer were confined to hot, dry summer months, said Cochran, the fire chief.

"That was sort of a watershed mark nine years ago where we realised there is no fire season — fire season is year-round," he said, adding that vegetation has become drier and burns easier. On Tuesday, the wind made it impossible to send up aircraft to help fight the flames, with support from local and federal agencies in northern Nevada and neighbouring California critical before wet weather moved in later, authorities said. "It takes a village, as it were, to put out something like this." — AP

people from coastal areas ahead of the storm.

Two people died on Colombia's offshore islands, two more were recorded dead in Guatemala, and one woman was killed in an indigenous community in Panama.

El Salvador presidential official Carolina Recinos said timely evacuations prevented the country suffering a higher toll.

One motorcyclist died after being struck by a tree in that country, over which the storm was gradually dissipating on Wednesday. Winds had slowed to 30 miles per hour by Wednesday morning, forecasters from the NHC said.

But forecasters warned that parts of Central America would face "life-threatening flash flooding" through Thursday, with heavy rains expected from Iota's tail. "Flooding and mudslides across portions of Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala could be exacerbated by saturated soils in place, resulting in significant to potentially catastrophic impacts," the NHC said.

— AFP

'FULL-FLEDGED WAR' IF U.S. ATTACKS: IRAN

Tehran, Nov. 19: An adviser to Iran's supreme leader who is a possible 2021 presidential candidate is warning that any American attack on the Islamic Republic could set off a "full-fledged war" in the Mideast in the waning days of the Trump administration.

Speaking to *The Associated Press*, Hossein Dehghan struck a hard-line tone familiar to those in Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, a force he long served in before becoming a defense minister under President Hassan Rouhani. A soldier has yet to serve as Iran's top civilian leader since its 1979 Islamic Revolution, in part over the initial suspicion that its conventional military forces remained loyal to the toppled shah.

But hard-liners in recent years openly have suggested Iran move toward a military dictatorship given its economic problems and threats from abroad, particularly after President Donald Trump pulled America out of Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

"We don't welcome a crisis. We don't welcome war. We are not after starting a war," Dehghan said Wednesday. "But we are not after negotiations for the sake of negotiations either."

Dehghan, 63, described himself as a "nationalist" with "no conventional political tendency" during an interview in his wood-paneled office in downtown Tehran.

He's one of many likely to register to run in the June 18 election as Rouhani is term-limited from running again.

— AP



The Dave Johnson coal-fired power plant is silhouetted against the morning sun in Glenrock. UN climate chief Patricia Espinosa says deadlines set by some of the world's top polluters to end greenhouse gas emissions, along with president-elect Joe Biden's pledge to take the United States back into the Paris accord, have boosted hopes of meeting the pact's ambitious goals.

— AP

Pledges by big polluters boost Paris hopes: UN

Berlin, Nov. 19: The UN's climate chief says deadlines set by some of the world's top polluters to end greenhouse gas emissions, along with president-elect Joe Biden's pledge to take the United States back into the Paris accord, have boosted hopes of meeting the pact's ambitious goals.

The agreement signed in the French capital five years ago aims to keep global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) — ideally no more than 1.5 C (2.7 Fahrenheit) — compared to pre-industrial times by the end of the century.

Experts say the world is far off track and that, with average temperatures already up by about 1 C (2 Fahrenheit), drastic action is needed in the next 30 years. But the recent announcement by China, the world's top polluter, that it

will phase out emissions by 2060, and pledges by Japan and South Korea to do the same a decade earlier, have drawn cautious optimism from climate campaigners. Their hopes were further boosted by Biden's election win earlier this month and his pledge to undo President Donald Trump's withdrawal from the Paris agreement. Spurred by the pandemic, the European Union wants to invest hundreds of billions in a 'green recovery' and is discussing whether to ramp up its medium-term emissions target for 2030.

"These announcements are really extraordinary," Patricia Espinosa, head of the United Nations climate office, told *The Associated Press*. "Just a few months ago, I don't think anybody would have really predicted that we would see these kinds of

announcements at this time. And especially in the middle of the pandemic."

Espinosa said countries' willingness to commit to tougher emissions limits shows that curbing global warming remains a political priority — and that the target set in Paris is a possibility. "Science has told us that we still have a chance to achieve it," she said.

"Looking at these announcements, I think that we should be also having even more hope." But Espinosa cautioned against complacency. "I don't want to sound like it's a done deal," she said. "We are still far from there." The pandemic brought a sudden halt to the UN's carousel of climate meetings, disrupting complex negotiations on a wide range of environmental issues and cancelling the global body's annual climate summit for the first time.

— AP

Recount order in 2 Wisconsin counties

Madison (US), Nov. 19: The Wisconsin Elections Commission issued an order on Thursday to recount more than 800,000 ballots cast in two heavily liberal counties at President Donald Trump's request. The order, required by law after Trump paid \$3 million for the recount, was agreed to after a raucous debate for more than five hours Wednesday night that foreshadowed the partisan battle ahead.

"It's just remarkable the six of us in a civilised fashion can't agree to this stuff," Democratic commissioner Mark Thomsen said hours into the debate.

The commission is split 3-3 between Democrats and Republicans. The recounts in Milwaukee and Dane counties, where Joe Biden outpolled Trump by a more than 2-to-1 margin, will begin Friday and must be done by December 1. Biden won statewide by 20,608 votes.

Trump's campaign has cited "irregularities" in the counties, although no evidence of illegal activity has been presented. "We understand the eyes of the world will be on these Wisconsin counties over the next few weeks," Meagan Wolfe, Wisconsin's top elections official, said on Thursday.

"We remain committed to providing information about the process and

assisting our county clerks by providing facts on the mechanics of a recount and status updates." The commission argued over changes to its manual that provides guidance to local elections officials over how to conduct recounts.

Ultimately, they decided not to reference the manual in the order, but they did update some parts to reflect accommodations for the coronavirus pandemic. The commissioners deadlocked on making changes to the manual that Democrats and elections commission staff said would bring the guidance into line with current state law.

Republicans balked, saying the guidelines should not be changed after Trump filed for the recount. Their inability to agree leaves in place guidance that says absentee ballot applications must be approved as part of the recount, even though commission staff said that's not required under the law.

Democratic commissioners said they were certain the recount was headed to court even though Trump's claims were without merit. Board Chair Ann Jacobs said Trump's allegation that election clerks mailed thousands of absentee ballots to voters who hadn't requested them was "absurd." — AP



Prince William

WILLIAM HAILS NEW PROBE INTO DIANA INTERVIEW

London, Nov. 19: Prince William has "tentatively welcomed" an independent investigation into the circumstances surrounding a BBC interview in 1995 with his mother, Princess Diana, royal officials said Thursday.

William, who is second in line to the throne, said in a statement that the probe is "a step in the right direction." He added that it "should help establish the truth behind the actions" that led to the interview as well as "subsequent decisions taken by those in the BBC at the time." The BBC announced Wednesday it has appointed a retired senior judge to lead an investigation into the 1995 interview after Diana's brother, Charles Spencer, made renewed complaints this month that journalist Martin Bashir used false documents and other dishonest tactics to convince Diana to agree to the interview.

The investigation will consider if the steps taken by the broadcaster and Bashir were appropriate, and whether those actions influenced Diana's decision to give the interview.

It will also look into how much the BBC knew about the "mocked-up bank statements" that Charles Spencer claimed Bashir produced, purporting to show payments made to staff working for Spencer and the royal family. The 1995 interview, in which Diana famously said "there were three of us in this marriage" — referring to Prince Charles' relationship with Camilla Parker-Bowles — was watched by millions of people and sent shockwaves through the monarchy. Diana divorced from Charles in 1996 and died in a Paris car crash in 1997. — AP

CRIME | PUNISHMENT Proceedings held govt leaders responsible for slaughter of innocents

Nuremberg trials: Germany marks 75th anniversary

Berlin, Nov. 19: Seventy-five years ago, the dock of Courtroom 600 of the Nuremberg Palace of Justice was packed with some of the most nefarious figures of the 20th Century: Hermann Goering, Rudolf Hess, Joachim von Ribbentrop and 18 other high-ranking Nazis. They weren't yet known as war criminals — it was a charge that didn't exist until the Nuremberg trials began on November 20, 1945, in what is now seen as the birthplace of a new era of international law.

The proceedings broke new ground in holding government leaders individually responsible for their aggression and

slaughter of millions of innocents. In addition to establishing the offense of war crimes, it also produced the charges of crimes against peace, waging a war of aggression, and crimes against humanity, whose legacies live on in the International Criminal Court of today.

Nuremberg was the city where Adolf Hitler reviewed torchlight Nazi party rallies and promulgated the race laws of 1935 that paved the way for the Holocaust. Filmmaker Leni Riefenstahl's famous propaganda movie "Triumph of the Will," with its sweeping aerial photography and other pioneering techniques, brought the



1934 Nuremberg Nazi Party Congress to the world, with footage of top officials speaking to massive crowds of followers at the Bavarian city's Luitpold Arena and the sweeping Zeppelin Field.

The Congress Hall begun by the Nazis near the parade grounds was never finished, and today houses a documentation centre about Nuremberg's history during the Nazi era. The choice to use the city's

Palace of Justice for the trials was less symbolic than pragmatic, as it was one of the few large buildings left undamaged by Allied bombing during the war. The testimony of hundreds of witnesses was heard over 218 trial days. One of them was Rudolf Hoess, the Auschwitz death camp commandant, who "reacted to the order to slaughter human beings as he would have to an order to fell trees," wrote US prosecutor Whitney R Harris.

Chief US prosecutor Robert Jackson and his colleagues also had the Nazis' own meticulous records to work from, quoting document after docu-

ment in "laying bare the workings of the German conspiracy." *Associated Press* correspondent Daniel De Luce reported from the courtroom at the time.

On October 1, 1946, Goering, Hitler's air force chief and right-hand man, was sentenced to death along with 11 others, including Martin Bormann, Hitler's deputy, who was tried in absentia. Bormann is now known to have died in Berlin in 1945 as he tried to flee the Soviets. Seven drew long prison sentences and three were acquitted. Fifteen days later, the condemned men were hanged in the courthouse's adjacent prison. — AP

BELGIAN BOOST

Italy and Belgium book Nations League final berths

Paris, Nov. 19: Romelu Lukaku helped fire Belgium into the UEFA Nations League finals by scoring twice in a 4-2 win over Denmark on Wednesday, while Italy also secured a place in the last four with victory away to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The world's number one-ranked side, Belgium only required a draw from their last League 'A', Group 2 game at home to Denmark behind closed doors in Leuven and took an early lead through Youri Tielemans.

Jonas Wind equalised for Denmark, but Lukaku got a second-half double and Kevin De Bruyne made sure of the victory for Roberto Martinez's side after Thibaut Courtois allowed a Nacer Chadli back-pass to squirm under his leg and in for an own goal.

Italy secured first place in Group 1 with a 2-0 triumph in Sarajevo thanks to a goal in each half from Torino's Andrea Belotti and Domenico Berardi of Sassuolo.

That ensured they finished a point ahead of the Netherlands, who came from behind to beat Poland 2-1 away with captain Georginio Wijnaldum scoring the winner after Memphis Depay's penalty cancelled out Kamil Jozwiak's opener.

Italy and Belgium join Spain and World Cup holders France in a final tournament which is expected to be held in Italy in October next year.

Before the finals, European national teams will start their 2022 World Cup qualifying campaign in March and then the delayed Euro 2020 is set to go ahead next June and July.

England have more than one eye on that tournament, with the semi-finals and final scheduled for Wembley, and Gareth Southgate's team rounded out their Nations League campaign with a 4-0 win over Iceland.

Declan Rice and Mason Mount scored in the first half and Manchester City's Phil Foden got his first international goals with a late brace as England had three players aged 21 or younger score in the same match for the first time since 1883.

Wales move up, Scotland miss out

Wales won promotion to League 'A' with a 3-1 win over 10-man Finland in Cardiff that allowed them to top Group B4.

Despite manager Ryan Giggs being missing after his recent arrest on suspicion of assaulting his girlfriend, Wales came good with goals from Harry Wilson, Daniel James and Kieffer Moore.

Teemu Pukki netted for Finland, who had left-back Jere Uronen sent off after just 12 minutes. Winning their group also improves Wales' chances of securing a place in the 2022 World Cup qualifying play-offs, as the two best group winners in the Nations League are guaranteed play-off places if they don't make it via the usual route.

While Wales go up, Scotland missed out on promotion from League B, Group 2 after losing 1-0 in Israel, their second consecutive loss since clinching qualification for Euro 2020. Manor Solomon's first-half goal sunk the Scots.

Djokovic loses big at Tour Finals

London, Nov. 19: Daniil Medvedev is enjoying the ATP Tour Finals a lot better in his second appearance. Medvedev secured a spot in the semifinals of the tournament by dominating five-time champion Novak Djokovic 6-3, 6-3 on Wednesday for his second straight win of the group stage.

Medvedev, who lost all three of his group matches last year on his tournament debut, has now beaten Djokovic in three of their last four meetings. The top-ranked Serb can still advance if he beats 2018 champion Alexander Zverev in a winner-takes-all match on Friday.

Medvedev broke Djokovic three straight times to go from 3-3 in the first set to a 3-0 lead in the second.

The first break came after a marathon game when the Russian finally converted his third break point when Djokovic missed a forehand after a long rally.

IPL over, it's football now for India

Bambolim (Goa), Nov. 19: Behind closed doors and with a raft of health safety measures in place, football's Indian Super League (ISL) will kick off here on Friday and become the country's first major tournament to be organised

since the enforcement of a Covid-19 lockdown eight months ago.

Former champions ATK Mohun Bagan and Kerala Blasters will start the proceedings with what is expected to be a blockbuster clash at the GMC Stadium here. But the

season's first big game will undoubtedly be the one between ATK Mohun Bagan and SC East Bengal in Fatorda on November 27, the two heavyweights renewing their more-than-a-century-old rivalry in a new avatar.

—PTI

FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2020						
In order to clear extra rush of passengers during ongoing Festival Season, Northern Railway has planned to 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 Spl. No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Frequency / Day	Period
04998	Bathinda	20:50	Varanasi Junction	16:30	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04997	Varanasi Junction	21:20	Bathinda	16:50	MON	Up to 30.11.20
04612	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	23:30	Varanasi Junction	23:35	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04611	Varanasi Junction	06:35	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	06:50	TUE	Up to 01.12.20
04422	Anand Vihar Terminal	20:20	Lucknow	04:20	WED, FRI, SUN	22, 25, 27 & 29.11.20
04421	Lucknow	21:20	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:45	MON, THU, SAT	23.11.20 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, WED, FRI	Up to 30.11.20
04089	Bhagalpur	13:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:20	TUE, THU, SAT	Up to 01.12.20
04012	Anand Vihar Terminal	07:30	Jogbani	08:30	TUE, FRI	Up to 27.11.20
04011	Jogbani	20:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	21:00	WED, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
02237	Varanasi Junction	12:40	Jammu Tawi	11:05	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02238	Jammu Tawi	14:00	Varanasi Junction	12:30		Up to 01.12.20
02231	Lucknow	22:25	Chandigarh	10:05	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02232	Chandigarh	21:05	Lucknow	08:30		Up to 01.12.20
04092	New Delhi	09:20	Jaynagar	11:15	WED, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04091	Jaynagar	15:30	New Delhi	19:30	THU, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04030	Delhi Junction	13:45	Muzaffarpur Junction	08:00	WED, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04029	Muzaffarpur Junction	15:30	Delhi Junction	10:30	THU, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04624	Amritsar Junction	05:45	Saharsa Junction	10:30	WED, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04623	Saharsa Junction	14:30	Amritsar Junction	19:45	THU, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04656	Firozpur Cantt	19:00	Patna Junction	21:25	FRI	Up to 27.11.20
04655	Patna Junction	23:25	Firozpur Cantt	23:55	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04084	Delhi Junction	23:00	Katihar Junction	22:00	FRI	Up to 27.11.20
04083	Katihar Junction	23:50	Delhi Junction	22:50	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04401	New Delhi	23:50	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:35	MON, THU	23, 26 & 30.11.20
04402	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	23:30	New Delhi	11:15	TUE, FRI	24, 27.11.20 & 01.12.20
04418	H. Nizamuddin	21:35	Pune	21:25	TUE	Up to 24.11.20
04417	Pune	05:15	H. Nizamuddin	05:35	THU	Up to 26.11.20
02422	Jammu Tawi	18:10	Ajmer Junction	12:20	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02421	Ajmer Junction	14:05	Jammu Tawi	08:15		Up to 01.12.20
04041	Delhi Junction	22:25	Dehradun	08:25	Daily	21.11.20 to 30.11.20
04042	Dehradun	21:20	Delhi Junction	07:25		22.11.20 to 01.12.20
02448	H. Nizamuddin	20:10	Manikpur Junction	08:45	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02447	Manikpur Junction	17:05	H. Nizamuddin	05:25		Up to 01.12.20
04515	Kalka	12:10	Shimla	17:20	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
04516	Shimla	10:40	Kalka	16:10		Up to 01.12.20
04854	Jodhpur Junction	09:10	Varanasi Junction	10:30	MON, THU, SAT	Up to 30.11.20
04853	Varanasi Junction	17:15	Jodhpur Junction	18:50	MON, WED, SAT	Up to 30.11.20
04864	Jodhpur Junction	09:10	Varanasi Junction	08:45	TUE, FRI, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04863	Varanasi Junction	18:15	Jodhpur Junction	18:50	TUE, FRI, SUN	Up to 01.12.20
04866	Jodhpur Junction	09:10	Varanasi Junction	08:50	WED	Up to 25.11.20
04865	Varanasi Junction	18:15	Jodhpur Junction	18:50	THU	Up to 26.11.20
05115	Chhapra	11:15	Delhi Junction	11:20	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
05116	Delhi Junction	14:00	Chhapra	13:20	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
02581	Manduadih	22:30	New Delhi	12:15	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02582	New Delhi	22:35	Manduadih	11:10		Up to 01.12.20
06229	Mysore Junction	07:20	Varanasi Junction	12:00	TUE, THU	Up to 26.11.20
06230	Varanasi Junction	21:05	Mysore Junction	02:15	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
02587	Gorakhpur	14:20	Jammu Tawi	13:10	MON	Up to 23.11.20
02588	Jammu Tawi	22:45	Gorakhpur	20:30	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
05097	Bhagalpur	14:30	Jammu Tawi	06:00	THU	Up to 26.11.20
05098	Jammu Tawi	08:00	Bhagalpur	22:55	TUE	Up to 24.11.20
05251	Darbhanga Junction	03:25	Jalandhar City	05:10	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
05252	Jalandhar City	09:50	Darbhanga Junction	11:35	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
02397	Gaya	14:15	New Delhi	04:30	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02398	New Delhi	12:10	Gaya	03:20		Up to 01.12.20
03255	Patliputra	20:35	Chandigarh	17:35	WED, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
03256	Chandigarh	21:30	Patliputra	18:50	MON, THU	Up to 30.11.20
02355	Patna Junction	07:25	Jammu Tawi	10:37	TUE, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
02356	Jammu Tawi	17:45	Patna Junction	20:55	WED, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
02595	Gorakhpur	20:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:50	MON, TUE, THU	Up to 30.11.20
02596	Anand Vihar Terminal	20:00	Gorakhpur	07:50	TUE, WED, FRI	Up to 01.12.20
02331	Howrah Junction	23:55	Jammu Tawi	13:10	TUE, FRI, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
02332	Jammu Tawi	22:45	Howrah Junction	11:30	MON, THU, SUN	Up to 30.11.20
02819	Bhubaneswar	15:40	Anand Vihar Terminal	20:50	WED, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
02820	Anand Vihar Terminal	07:05	Bhubaneswar	12:20	TUE, FRI	Up to 27.11.20
02549	Kamakhya	10:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	19:20	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02550	Anand Vihar Terminal	06:45	Kamakhya	16:35		Up to 02.12.20
02530	Lucknow Jn	05:00	Patliputra Junction	14:50	Except SUN, THU	Up to 30.11.20
02529	Patliputra Junction	15:50	Lucknow Jn	02:35	Except SUN, THU	Up to 30.11.20
02033	Kanpur Central	06:00	New Delhi	11:20	Except SUN	Up to 30.11.20
02034	New Delhi	15:50	Kanpur Central	20:45	Except SUN	Up to 30.11.20
08215	Durg	09:00	Jammu Tawi	21:40	WED	Up to 25.11.20
08216	Jammu Tawi	05:00	Durg	19:10	FRI	Up to 27.11.20
02458	Bikaner Junction	22:30	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	06:10	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02457	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	23:35	Bikaner Junction	07:30		Up to 30.11.20
02485	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	07:05	Jodhpur Junction	18:05	Daily	Up to 01.12.20
02486	Jodhpur Junction	11:00	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	22:10		Up to 30.11.20
09027	Bandra Terminus	12:15	Jammu Tawi	01:25	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
09028	Jammu Tawi	09:30	Bandra Terminus	22:25	MON	Up to 30.11.20
02887	Visakhapatnam	06:25	Hazrat Nizamuddin	16:45	Except Mon, Fri	Up to 29.11.20
02888	Hazrat Nizamuddin	08:35	Visakhapatnam	18:10	Except SUN, Wed	Up to 01.12.20
08237	Korba	11:35	Amritsar Junction	08:10	TUE, WED, FRI	Up to 27.11.20
08238	Amritsar Junction	16:10	Bilaspur	12:15	THU, FRI, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04887	Rishikesh	18:05	Barmer	20:30	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
04888	Barmer	06:45	Rishikesh	10:30		Up to 01.12.20
04519	Delhi Junction	14:00	Bathinda Jn.	21:15	Daily	21.11.20 to 30.11.20
04520	Bathinda Jn.	05:00	Delhi Junction	12:15		22.11.20 to 30.11.20
02471	Shri Ganganagar	05:55	Delhi Junction	13:35	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02472	Delhi Junction	13:05	Shri Ganganagar	20:35		Up to 30.11.20
09611	Ajmer Junction	17:55	Amritsar Junction	14:45	THU, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
09612	Amritsar Junction	14:30	Ajmer Junction	10:00	TUE, THU	24, 26.11.20 & 01.12.20
09613	Ajmer Junction	17:55	Amritsar Junction	10:45	MON, WED	23, 25 & 30.11.20
09614	Amritsar Junction	17:50	Ajmer Junction	10:00	FRI, SUN	Up to 29.11.20

02683	Yesvantpur Jn	23:40	Lucknow	18:40	MON	Up to 30.11.20
02684	Lucknow	18:30	Yesvantpur Jn	13:30	THU	Up to 03.12.20
02539	Yesvantpur Jn	10:50	Lucknow	08:50	WED	Up to 25.11.20
02540	Lucknow	20:00	Yesvantpur Jn	16:40	FRI	Up to 27.11.20
02851	Visakhapatnam	08:20	Hazrat Nizamuddin	17:10	MON, FRI	Up to 27.11.20
02852	Hazrat Nizamuddin	05:50	Visakhapatnam	17:30	WED, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
01407	Pune Junction	22:00	Lucknow Jn	02:40	TUE	Up to 24.11.20
01408	Lucknow Jn	06:30	Pune Junction	11:05	THU	Up to 26.11.20
02883	Durg	12:00	Hazrat Nizamuddin	09:05	MON, THU, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
02884	Hazrat Nizamuddin	17:25	Durg	15:10	TUE, FRI, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04404	Anand Vihar Terminal	18:35	Bhagalpur	15:00	MON, FRI	Up to 30.11.20
04403	Bhagalpur	18:45	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:25	TUE, SAT	Up to 01.12.20
04406	New Delhi	19:25	Barauni	15:00	TUE, FRI	Up to 27.11.20
04405	Barauni	19:30	New Delhi	14:50	WED, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04408	New Delhi	19:25	Darbhanga	17:00	MON, THU	Up to 26.11.20
04407	Darbhanga	20:45	New Delhi	17:30	TUE, FRI	Up to 27.11.20
04410	New Delhi	14:55	Patna Junction	09:00	TUE, FRI, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04409	Patna Junction	12:00	New Delhi	05:00	MON, WED, SAT	Up to 30.11.20
04412	Delhi Junction	23:00	Saharsa	20:00	WED, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04411	Saharsa	22:05	Delhi Junction	19:20	MON, THU	Up to 30.11.20
09717	Jaipur	19:30	Daulatpur Chowk	12:15	TUE, FRI, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
09718	Daulatpur Chowk	14:05	Jaipur	06:40	MON, WED, SAT	Up to 30.11.20
04131	Prayagraj Junction	16:20	Udhampur	13:45	TUE, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04132	Udhampur	16:05	Prayagraj Junction	13:10	WED, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
09017	Bandra Terminus	13:05	Haridwar Junction	15:50	WED	Up to 25.11.20
09018	Haridwar Junction	18:30	Bandra Terminus	22:00	THU	Up to 26.11.20
02191	Jabalpur	18:55	Haridwar Junction	14:05	WED	Up to 25.11.20
02192	Haridwar Junction	16:20	Jabalpur	11:40	THU	Up to 26.11.20
04321	Bareilly	06:35	Bhuj	09:30	MON, WED, FRI, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04322	Bhuj	17:05	Bareilly	20:35	WED, FRI, SAT, SUN	Up to 02.12.20
04311	Bareilly	06:35	Bhuj	12:05	TUE, THU, SAT	Up to 01.12.20
04312	Bhuj	14:05	Bareilly	20:35	MON, TUE, THU	Up to 30.11.20
04424	Anand Vihar Terminus	15:20	Katihar Jn	19:55	Daily	Up to 22.11.20
04423	Katihar Jn	22:45	Anand Vihar Terminus	02:55		Up to 23.11.20
04426	Anand Vihar Terminus	16:25	Raxaul Jn	22:10	Except MON, SAT	Up to 22.11.20
04425	Raxaul Jn	23:40	Anand Vihar Terminus	04:50	Except TUE, SUN	Up to 23.11.20
04432	Anand Vihar Terminus	11:10	Saharsa Jn	11:30	SUN	Up to 22.11.20
04431	Saharsa Jn	14:30	Anand Vihar Terminus	13:45	MON	Up to 23.11.20
03257	Danapur	15:45	Anand Vihar Terminus	10:25		Up to 30.11.20
03258	Anand Vihar Terminus	13:30	Danapur	07:30	Daily	Up to 01.12.20
05529	Saharsa Jn	14:30	Anand Vihar Terminus	18:15	WED	Up to 25.11.20
05530	Anand Vihar Terminus	23:45	Saharsa Jn	03:05	THU	Up to 26.11.20
05211	Darbhanga Jn	17:10	Amritsar Jn	01:50		Up to 30.11.20
05212	Amritsar Jn	19:05	Darbhanga Jn	03:00	Daily	Up to 02.12.20
05531	Saharsa Jn	03:15	Amritsar Jn	14:45	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
05532	Amritsar Jn	17:50	Saharsa Jn	03:55	MON	Up to 30.11.20
04428	Anand Vihar Terminus	09:00	Jogbani	13:15	Except TUE, FRI	Up to 21.11.20
04427	Jogbani	17:15	Anand Vihar Terminus	22:15	Except WED, SAT	Up to 22.11.20
04436	Anand Vihar Terminus	10:50	Saharsa Jn	10:30	TUE, FRI	Up to 20.11.20
04435	Saharsa Jn	14:30	Anand Vihar Terminus	14:15	WED, SAT	Up to 21.11.20
04004	New Delhi	18:00	Patna Jn	13:00	THU, SUN	Up to 22.11.20
04003	Patna Jn	15:00	New Delhi	12:45	FRI, MON	Up to 23.11.20
04434	Anand Vihar Terminus	11:00	Jaynagar	13:00	TUE, SAT	Up to 21.11.20
04433	Jaynagar	16:30	Anand Vihar Terminus	19:00	WED, SUN	Up to 22.11.20
04113	Prayagraj Jn.	21:00	Dehradun	13:10	MON, WED, FRI	Up to 09.12.20
04114	Dehradun	14:30	Prayagraj Jn.	07:40	TUE, THU, SAT	Up to 10.12.20
04487	Jaynagar	15:00	Anand Vihar (T)	15:15	Fri	on 20.11.20
04307	Muzaffarpur Jn	16:30	Dehradun	14:25	Fri	on 20.11.20
04309	Howrah Jn.	13:00	Dehradun	18:05	Fri	on 20.11.20
04121	Prayagraj	23:25	Anand Vihar (T)	09:05	Sunday	on 22.11.20
04122	Anand Vihar (T)	11:45	Prayagraj	22:00	Monday	on 23.11.20
02621	Chennai Central	22:00	New Delhi	07:40	Daily	From 24.11.20 till further advice
02622	New Delhi	21:05	Chennai Central	06:15	Daily	From 26.11.20 till further advice
06011	Kanniyakumari	19:05	Hazrat Nizamuddin	18:35	Wednesday, Friday	From 25.11.20 till further advice
06012	Hazrat Nizamuddin	05:20	Kanniyakumari	04:45	Saturday, Monday	From 28.11.20 till further advice
02174	Jabalpur	17:30	Hazrat Nizamuddin	11:35	Daily	20.11.20 to 30.11.20
02173	Hazrat Nizamuddin	14:15	Jabalpur	07:15	Daily	21.11.20 to 01.12.20
LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS PASSING THROUGH NORTHERN RAILWAY NETWORK						
09601	Udaipur City	00:20	New Jalpaiguri	18:35	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
09602	New Jalpaiguri	08:15	Udaipur City	03:55	MON	Up to 30.11.20
05022	Gorakhpur	13:40	Shalimar	10:05	MON	Up to 30.11.20
05021	Shalimar	20:20	Gorakhpur	16:25	TUE	Up to 01.12.20
05029	Gorakhpur	17:25	Pune Junction	03:30	THU	Up to 26.11.20
05030	Pune Junction	11:15	Gorakhpur	20:00	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
05018	Gorakhpur	05:30	Lokmanya Tilak Terminal	18:05		Up to 30.11.20
05017	Lokmanya Tilak Terminal	06:35	Gorakhpur	19:10	Daily	Up to 02.12.20
02597	Gorakhpur	08:30	Ch. Shivaji Maharaj Terminus	12:20	TUE	Up to 24.11.20
02598	Ch. Shivaji Maharaj Terminus	13:30	Gorakhpur	18:35	WED	Up to 25.11.20
01115	Pune	16:15	Gorakhpur	01:05	THU	Up to 26.11.20
01116	Gorakhpur	15:30	Pune	04:05	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
05045	Gorakhpur	04:45	Okha	03:55	THU	Up to 26.11.20
05046	Okha	21:00	Gorakhpur	19:25	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
02165	Lokmanya Tilak Terminal	05:23	Gorakhpur	11:25	MON, THU	Up to 30.11.20
02166	Gorakhpur	15:45	Lokmanya Tilak Terminal	21:30	TUE, FRI	Up to 01.12.20
05056	Ramnagar	17:50	Agra Fort	05:00	TUE, FRI, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
05055	Agra Fort	13:05	Ramnagar	00:15	MON, WED, SAT	Up to 30.11.20
03019	Howrah Junction	21:45	Kathgodam	09:30		Up to 30.11.20
03020	Kathgodam	21:45	Howrah Junction	12:40	Daily	Up to 02.12.20
05101	Chhapra	21:15	Ch. Shivaji Maharaj Terminus	06:15	TUE	Up to 24.11.20
05102	Ch. Shivaji Maharaj Terminus	15:30	Chhapra	04:40	FRI	Up to 27.11.20
02521	Barauni Junction	22:50	Ernakulam Junction	12:50	WED	Up to 25.11.20
02522	Ernakulam Junction	10:15	Barauni Junction	23:10	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04185	Gwalior	11:45	Barauni Junction	13:15	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
04186	Barauni Junction	18:40	Gwalior	21:15		Up to 01.12.20
09313	Indore Junction Bg	13:55	Rajendranagar Terminal	17:20	MON, WED	Up to 30.11.20
09314	Rajendranagar Terminal	10:45	Indore Junction Bg	15:20	WED, FRI	Up to 02.12.20
09321	Indore Junction	13:55	Rajendranagar Terminal	17:20	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
09322	Rajendranagar Terminal	10:45	Indore Junction	15:20	MON	Up to 30.11.20
09057	Udhna Junction	22:50	Manduadih	01:40	FRI	Up to 27.11.20
09058	Manduadih	04:50	Udhna Junction	09:00	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
09019	Udhna Junction	23:55	Chhapra	06:15	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
09020	Chhapra	07:50	Udhna Junction	12:15	TUE	Up to 01.12.20
09451	Gandhidham Junction	17:40	Bhagalpur	20:15	FRI	Up to 27.11.20
09452	Bhagalpur	06:30	Gandhidham Junction	08:00	MON	Up to 30.11.20
02167	Lokmanya Tilak Terminal	00:35	Manduadih	04:25	MON, FRI	Up to 30.11.20
02168	Manduadih	09:50	Lokmanya Tilak Terminal	12:25	TUE, SAT	Up to 01.12.20
01033	Pune	16:15	Darbhanga Junction	06:50	WED	Up to 25.11.20
01034	Darbhanga Junction	16:45	Pune	08:05	FRI	Up to 27.11.20
08311	Sambalpur	13:10	Manduadih	09:25	WED, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
08312	Manduadih	15:00	Sambalpur	11:05	MON, THU	Up to 30.11.20
02323	Howrah Jn.	18:50	Barmer	07:20	FRI	Up to 27.11.20
02324	Barmer	15:55	Howrah Jn.	06:10	WED	Up to 02.12.20
05070	Aishbagh	16:25	Gorakhpur	23:55	Daily	From 13.11.20 till further Advice
05069	Gorakhpur	03:45	Aishbagh	10:40	Daily	From 14.11.20 till further Advice
01079	Lokmanya Tilak	15:50	Gorakhpur	01:30	Thursday	Up to 26.11.20
01080	Gorakhpur	05:30	Lokmanya Tilak	16:00	Saturday	Up to 28.11.20
02031	Pune	16:15	Gorakhpur	22:30	Tue, Sat	Up to 21.11.20
02032	Gorakhpur	01:15	Pune	08:05	Thu, Mon	upto 23.11.20