



PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION



PM ASKS PEOPLE TO
PROMOTE 'LOCAL
FOR DIWALI' BIG TIME

P4



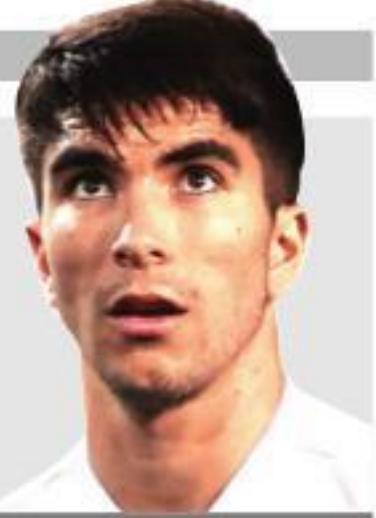
BATTLE OF WITS

P6



SUU KYI'S PARTY
CLAIMS MAJORITY
IN MYANMAR POLLS

P9



SOLER CLAIMS
VERY RARE
DISTINCTION

P12

WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. Shallow to moderate fog in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 28 and 11 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: NIL

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 100% Min: 46%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 28.4°C (-1) Min: 10.0°C (-4)
SUN RISES 06:41 hrs SUN SETS 17:30 hrs
MOON RISES 02:04 hrs MOON SETS 14:26 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Rajpath shrouded in smog on Monday as Delhi air continues to remain 'severe'. DEEPAK

Total ban on firecrackers in Delhi-NCR: The National Green Tribunal has imposed a total ban on sale and use of firecrackers in Delhi and adjoining areas starting 9 November midnight to 30 November. If anyone is caught bursting firecrackers in this duration, they can be given 1.5-6 years jail term, state Environment minister Gopal Rai said. The ban has been imposed ahead of Diwali to prevent further rise in air pollution. P2

Sensex at new high: Rising for the 6th straight session, the BSE Sensex jumped 704.37 points or 1.68 per cent to close at its lifetime peak of 42,597.43 points on Monday. Intraday, it touched its all-time high level of 42,645.33 points. The previous closing record for the Sensex was 41,952.63 points, hit on 14 January 2020. P8

Paternity leave for Kohli: The BCCI on Monday confirmed that it has granted paternity leave to Indian captain Virat Kohli, who will return from Team India's upcoming tour of Australia after the first Test. The BCCI confirmed Kohli had informed the board about his plans to return home for the birth of his first child. P12

Modi-Xi to come face-to-face virtually at SCO Summit today

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 9 NOVEMBER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will come face-to-face virtually with Chinese President Xi Jinping tomorrow for the first time since the military stand-off at eastern Ladakh began when the two leaders take part in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit.

This is the first time the SCO Summit, which is being hosted by Russian President Vladimir Putin, will be taking place in a virtual format.

It will also be attended by Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan apart from the leaders of four Central Asian countries—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. "The Prime Minister will lead

the Indian delegation to the 20th Summit of the SCO Council of Heads of State, which will be held in the virtual format on 10 November. This is the third meeting where we will be participating as full members," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said.

India, along with Pakistan, became a full-time member of the SCO in June 2017.

The SCO's objectives include maintaining peace in the region and "strengthening mutual trust and neighbourliness among the member states", while promoting cooperation in politics, trade, economy, research, technology and culture, as well as education, energy, transport, tourism, environmental pro-

tection, and other areas".

There is no likelihood of any interaction between Modi and the Chinese leader since the meeting is being conducted in the virtual format.

In any case, Sino-Indian ties have touched a new low ever since the Ladakh stand-off began in April-May.

According to the spokesperson, India will also host a SCO heads-of-government meeting on 30 November where the Prime Ministers of SCO member countries will come together.

Modi and Xi are expected to again come face-to-face virtually during the Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS) Summit on 17 November, and the G-20 Summit on 22 November.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 9 NOVEMBER

Over 45,000 new Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours pushed India's total tally to 85.53 lakh as per the Ministry of Health data.

The coronavirus tally in India stands at 85,53,657 which includes 5,09,673 active cases after a decrease of 2,992 recoveries. Now the recovered cases in India stand at 79,17,373 with 48,405 new discharges in the last 24 hours taking the recovery rate to 92.56 per cent.

The death toll in India is at 1,26,611 with 490 new deaths reported on Sunday. Almost 63 per cent of all deaths in the 24 hours were reported from Maharashtra (125), Delhi (77), West Bengal (59), Uttar Pradesh (26) and Kerala (24), 22 from Karnataka and 20 from Tamil

Nadu. In the last 24 hours, almost 48,000 people fought off the viral disease pushing the recovery rate to 92.6 per cent. The average daily case count has remained 45,000 for about two weeks now.

As the national case rise seems to stagnate, onset of winter and severe air pollution has left Delhi grappling

with a third wave of coronavirus~ its most severe yet.

Globally, 15 per cent Covid cases, amidst the ongoing surge, are linked to air pollution.

The problem has contributed almost 17 per cent to Delhi's third wave, the Indian Medical Association has said.

FACT FILE

TOTAL CASES	85,53,657
ACTIVE CASES	5,09,673
NEW CASES	45,903
NEW RECOVERIES	48,405
TOTAL DEATHS	1,26,611

UNION HEALTH MINISTRY FIGURES AS OF 8.00 A.M. MONDAY 09 NOVEMBER 2020

Bombay HC refuses interim bail to Arnab

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 9 NOVEMBER

The Bombay High Court on Monday refused to grant interim bail to Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami and two others in a 2018 case of abetment of suicide of an interior designer.

A division bench of Justices SS Shinde and MS Karnik while rejecting the interim bail pleas of Goswami and the two other accused—Feroze Shaikh and Nitish Sarda, said "no case has been made out for us (court) to exercise our extraordinary jurisdiction". With the high court refusing interim bail to Goswami, his stay at the Taloja jail will be extended.

Goswami and the two others were arrested by Alibaug police in Maharashtra's Raigad district on 4 November in con-



nection with the suicide of architect-interior designer Anvay Naik and his mother in 2018 over alleged non-payment of dues by companies of the accused.

The HC in its order on Monday said, "The petitioners also sought the efficacious remedy of seeking bail before the sessions court concerned. We have already noted earlier that if such bail plea is filed, then

the sessions court shall decide the same in four days."

The bench noted that refusal of the interim bail applications shall not affect the remedy available to the petitioners and remanding the three in judicial custody.

It said the sessions court shall hear and decide the bail pleas on merits.

"Rejection of interim order

shall not be construed as an impediment to the petitioners seeking alternate remedies.

The observations made in this order rejecting interim bail are *prima facie only*," the high court said in its order.

Goswami was arrested on 4 November from his Lower Parel residence in Mumbai and taken to Alibaug in Raigad district. He and the two other accused were later produced before a magistrate who refused to send them in police custody and remanded them in judicial custody till 18 November.

Delhi HC asks Republic, Times Now to ensure no defamatory content

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 9 NOVEMBER

The Delhi High Court on Monday asked media houses AGR Outlier Media and Bennett Coleman and Company to ensure that no defamatory content is uploaded on social media or displayed on their channels, while hearing a plea by Bollywood producers seeking to restrain them from making irresponsible remarks.

In strong observations while hearing the plea, the high court cited the death of Princess Diana while trying to escape the media chase, and said there needs to be "some toning down" as people are "afraid of the

fourth pillar of democracy" because of its powers.

The court sought replies from Republic TV, its editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami and reporter Pradeep Bhambhani, Times Now editor-in-chief Rahul Shivshankar and group editor Navika Kumar, and intermediaries Google, Facebook and Twitter on the plea.

Leading Bollywood producers have sought to restrain them from making allegedly irresponsible, derogatory and defamatory remarks against the film industry and conducting media trials against its members on various issues following the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

The lawsuit by four Bollywood industry associations and 34 leading producers, has also sought to restrain them from interfering with the right to privacy of persons associated with the industry.

Justice Rajiv Shakdher was assured by the counsel for the media houses that they will follow the programme code and the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act. The court questioned the plaintiffs for not making individual celebrities parties in the suit.

The high court issued summons to the media houses and intermediaries and listed the suit for further hearing on 14 December.

Covid vaccine is looking 90% effective: Pfizer

WASHINGTON, 9 NOVEMBER

Pfizer said on Monday that an early peek at the data on its coronavirus vaccine suggests the shots may be surprisingly robust 90% effective at preventing Covid-19, putting the company on track to apply later this month for emergency-use approval from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The announcement, less than a week after a presidential election that was seen as a referendum on President Donald Trump's handling of the crisis, was a rare and major piece of encouraging news lately in the battle against the scourge that has killed more than 1.2 million people globally.

"We're in a position potentially to be able to offer some hope," Dr. Bill Gruber, Pfizer's senior vice president of clinical development, said. "We're very encouraged."

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious disease expert, said the results suggesting 90% effectiveness are "just extraordinary," adding: "Not many people expected it would be as high as that. It's going to have a major impact on everything we do with respect to Covid," he said.

Pharmaceutical companies and various countries are in a global race to develop a vaccine against the virus. Fauci said that the Pfizer vaccine and virtually all others in testing target the spike protein of the coronavirus uses to infect cells, so the results validate that approach.

Monday's announcement doesn't mean for certain that a vaccine is imminent.

Pfizer Inc. cautioned that the initial protection rate might change by the time the study ends.

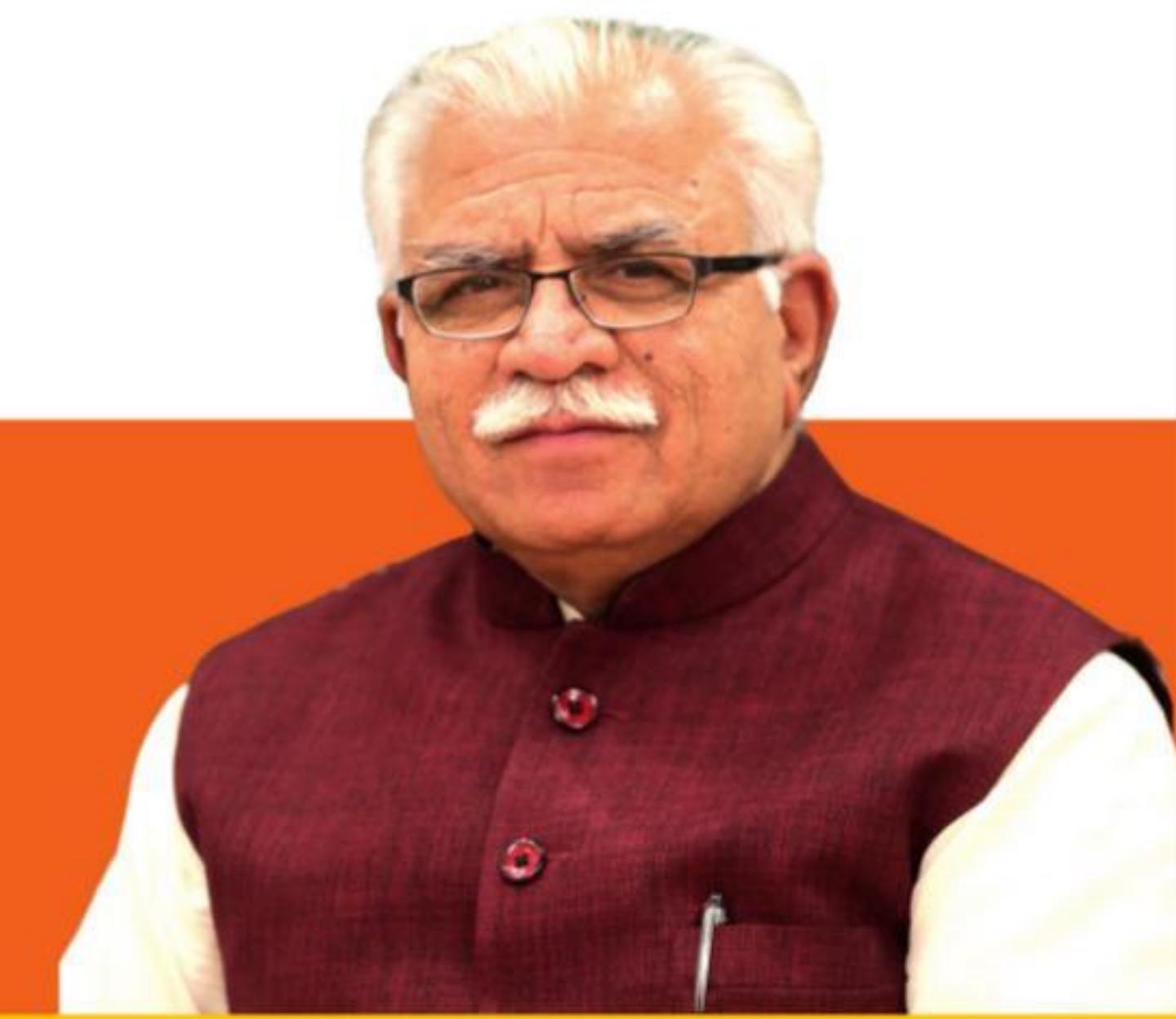
AP



Govt. of Haryana



Haryane Ka Badhiya Haal Chokha Bitya Pehla Saal



Sh. Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana

Healthy Haryana, Empowered Haryana



Haryana First in the Country
in Anaemia Free India campaign



Haryana First State
in the Country to provide free
Hepatitis-B and C medicines

More than **500 medicines**
available for free
in Government Hospitals



Free operations for
228 surgeries, 70 types of tests and
21 types of dental surgeries & treatments



e-Sanjeevani OPD
for Free Medical Facility at Home



For treatment at home,
12 medical mobile units are
running in the State and
aiming to increase it to 60 units

428 ambulances available at 24x7
27 advanced life support ambulances
also available for timely
treatment of the people of State



New initiative of
Free Single Donor Platelets
for dengue patients



Establishment of 6 new medical
colleges in progress and 3 other
medical colleges approved by
the Government in the State



Appointment of
954 new Doctors and
206 AYUSH Voluntary Physicians

Plasma banks opened for Covid-19
patients in Gurugram, Faridabad,
Rohtak, Panchkula and Karnal



The State Government
sets a maximum cost for corona
treatment at all private hospitals



Let's fight together against Coronavirus

Information, Public Relations and Languages Department, Haryana www.prharyana.gov.in | [@Cmohry](https://twitter.com/Cmohry) [@DiprHaryana](https://twitter.com/DiprHaryana)



Karnataka Congress president DK Shivakumar addresses a Press conference, in Bengaluru on Monday.

APP

11 killed in road mishap: In two separate incidents at Bhopal and Satna in Madhya Pradesh on Monday, 11 people, including four children, lost their lives. CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced financial help of Rs 4 lakh each to the families of deceased.

SNS

Jaleel let off: The Customs on Monday let off Kerala higher education minister KT Jaleel, after six hours of questioning. He would be summoned again, if needed, after examining his replies.

SNS

Demand for Bharat Ratna to LK Advani

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 9 NOVEMBER

Five years after Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, one of the two founding members of BJP including LK Advani, was conferred the coveted Bharat Ratna award there has been an rising demand within the ruling BJP for a similar gesture towards nonagenarian Advani who celebrated his 93rd birthday at his residence on Sunday.

One to raise such a demand is senior BJP leader from Karnataka D H Shankaramurthy. In a letter to PM Shankaramurthy has urged him to bestow the prestigious award to L K

TENDER

CORIGENDUM NOTICE

Subject: T.No. OP/2/4/2020-21 - DNIT for running rate contract for repairing / testing of 11/043 KV Aluminium wound 100 KA, 200 KA, 300/315 KV, 500 KVA and 750/800 KVA distribution Transformers under Eletcy OP Sub Divn no 5 Chd.

The subject cited tender due to be opened on date i.e. 09.11.2020 at 16.00 Hrs. is hereby extended upto 16.11.2020 at 14.00 Hrs. for uploading and opening date i.e. 16.11.2020 at 16.00 Hrs. due to some administrative reason.

All the other terms and conditions shall remain the same.

DA/-

—Sd—
Executive Engineer,
Electricity (OP) Division No. 2
Chandigarh, U.T.

WEAR MASK, WASH YOUR HANDS, WATCH YOUR DISTANCE IN BOX FORMAT

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT *NOTICE INVITING TENDER*

Sealed item rate/percentage rate tender on Form No. 6&8 are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Arki Division, HP, PWD, Arki on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh for the following works from the competent (In this regard the decision of the Executive Engineer shall be final) contractors enlisted with HP, PWD in appropriate class whose registration stand renewed as per revised instruction and also registered dealers under the Himachal Pradesh Sales Tax Act, 1968. The application for tender form will be received on 10.12.2020 upto 4.00 P.M. The tender form will be issued on 11.12.2020 upto 4.00 P.M. The tender form will be received on 14.12.2020, upto 10.30 A.M. and will be opened on the same day at 11.00 A.M. in the presence of the contractors or their authorized representative who may like to be present. The form can be had from this office against cash payment as shown below (Non refundable) during the working hours on 11.12.2020. The earnest money should be deposited in the shape of National Saving certificate, Time deposit/Post Office saving bank account in any of the Post Office in H.P. duly pledged in the name of the Executive Engineer, Arki Division, HP, PWD, Arki and tender form will be issued only those contractors who will deposit the Earnest Money at the time of tender. The conditional tenders shall not be entertained. If holiday is declared suddenly by the govt. on the above date due to some reason the tender shall be received and opened on the next working day. The intending contractors/firms will have to produce all required documents at the time of making application such as Income Tax clearance certificate for the proceeding year, registration/renewal of registration and sales tax number (Under H.P.G.S.T.) Act. Special care should be taken to write the rates both in figures and in words, failing which their tender will be rejected. No tender form shall be issued to the contractors/firms who have already two works in H.P.P.W.D. The offer of the tender shall remain open for 120 days from the date of opening of the tender. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept or reject the tender without assigning any reason.

S.N.O.	Name of work	Estimated cost.	Earnest money	Form	Cost of form	Time
1.	Special repair to Health Sub-Centre Building at Kohu, Tehsil Nalagarh(SH-C/o boundary wall & repair walls etc.	4,09,507/-	9000/-	6&8	350/-	1 Months
2.	C/o link road from Melaun Km. 0/0 to T2/400(SH-C/o R/wall 4/780 to 4/800	3,00,000/-	6000/-	6&8	350/-	1 Months
3.	A/R & M/o Surajpur Bhimpuri road Km. 0/0 to 18/0(SH-Prov. & Laying interlocking cement concrete block pavement between Km. 11/70 to 11/220	1,69,709/-	3400/-	6&8	350/-	2 Months
4.	A/R & M/o Surajpur Bhimpuri road Km. 0/0 to 18/0(SH-Prov. & Laying interlocking cement concrete block pavement between Km. 11/70 to 11/220	2,49,696/-	5000/-	6&8	350/-	2 Months
5.	C/o Manjoo to Manan road Km. 0/0 to 2/500(SH-C/o R/wall at RD 1/145 to 1/160	2,31,437/-	4700/-	6&8	350/-	2 Months
6.	Repair & Maintenance of Govt. Sr. Sec. School(Boys)Kunihar Tehsil Arki Dist. Solan(SH-Prov. & fixing steel grating	4,99,424/-	10,000/-	6&8	350/-	2 Months
7.	Repair & Maintenance of Govt. Sr. Sec. School(Boys)Kunihar Tehsil Arki Dist. Solan(SH-C/o PCC drain,interlocking paver and maintenance of ground etc.	4,07,960/-	10,000/-	6&8	350/-	2 Months
8.	A/R & M/o Arki Dhundan Bharatnagar road Km. 0/0 to 18/600(SH-C/o R/wall at Rd 4/485 to 4/515	2,47,472/-	5000/-	6&8	350/-	2 Months
9.	C/o Gagal Kashiyal Kali Mata Mandir Km. 0/0 to 1/800(SH-P/L 20mm thick premix carpet in Km. 0/0 to 0/550	3,88,610/-	7800/-	6&8	350/-	2 Months
10.	C/o Gagal Kashiyal Kali Mata Mandir Km. 0/0 to 1/800(SH-P/L 20mm thick premix carpet in Km. 0/0 to 0/550	3,74,478/-	7500/-	6&8	350/-	2 Months
11.	C/o link road Lahtana from Talog Kotli road Km. 0/0 to 17/705(SH-Widening of road at Rd 0/0 to 0/705	3,11,554/-	7000/-	6&8	350/-	1 Months

TERMS & CONDITIONS:- The tender documents shall be issued only to those contractors/firms who fulfill the following criteria:-
1. The latest renewal of enlistment/proof of valid registration and income tax clearance certificate/Permanent Account Number (PAN) must accompany the request for obtaining the tender documents.
2. The contractor should be registered under H.P. General Sale Tax Act, 1968 and a proof thereof must accompany the request for obtaining the tender documents.
3. The applications for obtaining tender documents must be accompanied with earnest money in the shape of National Saving certificate/Time deposit account in any of the Post Office in H.P./F.D.R. from any Nationalized Bank duly pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer. Tender applications received without Earnest Money shall not be entertained and out rightly rejected and no tender form will be issued.
4. Ambiguous/telegraphic/Conditional tenders or tender by fax/E-mail shall not be entertained/considered and will summarily be rejected.
5. The Assistant Engineer, reserve the right to reject/cancel any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.
6. The offer of the tender shall remain valid upto 120 days after the opening of tender.

4244/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK



TAGGING REPORT OF TELANGANA GIRL WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE CITING FINANCIAL STRESS DUE TO LOCKDOWN

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ndia

PM asks people to promote 'local for Diwali' big time

Inaugurates projects worth ₹614 crore for his Lok Sabha constituency Varanasi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

VARANASI (UP) 9 NOVEMBER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday made a fervent appeal to people to promote 'local for Diwali' big time and buy local products this festival season, saying it will give a new boost to the economy.

He spoke about the agriculture reforms introduced by the government, saying they will connect farmers directly to the market and "send middlemen out of the system".

While inaugurating and laying foundation of various projects worth ₹614 crore for his Lok Sabha constituency, Varanasi, via video-conferencing, he said buying local products will not only strengthen local identity but will also brighten up Diwali for those who make them.

Extending festival greetings to the people, he said: "You are seeing today that along with vocal for local, the *mantra* of local for Diwali is resonating everywhere. Celebrating Diwali with local will give a new boost to the economy. I would like to say to the people of Varanasi and all



countrymen that promote 'local for Diwali' big time," he said.

"Going for local doesn't mean only purchasing *diya* but everything you use in Diwali. It will encourage those making them," the Prime Minister said and added in a lighter vein that by going local he doesn't mean "throwing things you have bought already in the River Ganga".

Highlighting various schemes launched by the government, Modi said under the Swamitva scheme, farmers will be issued property cards, which will not only help them get loans, but the "game of grabbing their properties will also end".

The Prime Minister said that Varanasi is witnessing all-round development in all sectors and this is giving a new identity to the city. "The development is not only helping the people of Purvanchal, who now will not have to go to Delhi for their works, but also helping people from other parts of the country," he added.

Starting his address in Bhojpuri with "Har Har Mahadev", the PM appreciated the people of Varanasi for their "social unity" in fighting the coronavirus pandemic.

He hailed the farmers of Purvanchal, saying even during the pandemic, they worked hard in their fields and are witnessing good crops.

Modi also credited UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath

for the various development projects. "Now with laying foundation of new projects, we are also inaugurating projects and the process will continue. Whatever is being done here is due to the blessing of Baba Vishwanath," he said.

As the coronavirus situation improves, tourists will start coming and they will return with a 'good image' of the city, where dangling wires will go underground, ghats are beautified and LED lights illuminating the city, he said, adding that besides the rail network, the country's first inland water port has been set up in the city.

The PM talked in detail about the projects in his constituency and also interacted with basketball player Prashanti Singh, housewife Neelima Mehta and businessman Vipin Kumar Agarwal.

Adityanath, who joined the event from Lucknow, said that in his six-year tenure as MP the PM gave projects worth ₹18,000 crore to Varanasi. While projects of about ₹9,000 crore have been launched the rest are in pipeline."

Hit by lockdown, financial crisis, LSR scholarship student commits suicide

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD, 9 NOVEMBER

In a tragic incident a meritorious undergraduate student of Delhi's prestigious Lady Shriram College died after committing suicide on 3 November at her home in the Shadnagar area near Hyderabad due to deep financial crisis caused by the pandemic, delay in releasing scholarship amount as well as the inability to follow online classes without a laptop.

IAS aspirant Aishwarya Reddy (19) had topped the SSC exams from her school and was in second year studying BSc(Hon) in Mathematics in Lady Shriram College. She was a recipient of INSPIRE scholarship by department of Science and Technology, Government of India, but she had not received the amount since March. Her father is a small-time mechanic and her mother a tailor and the family was struggling to pay for her educational expenses due to the lockdown.

Their small house was mortgaged, the jewellery too and her younger sister had dropped out to support her studies. The lockdown made it difficult for them to make ends meet.

Also, she was unable to follow online classes without a laptop and the expense of mobile data was burning a hole in their pockets. In the note left behind in Telugu Aishwarya wrote: "No one is responsible for my death. My family had to bear a lot of expenses because of me. I am a burden to them. My education is a burden to them. But I cannot live without being able to pursue my education." She also pleaded saying: "Please see that at least one year's INSPIRE scholarship amount is released."

Aishwarya had returned home after the college was shut due to the lockdown in March and her desperation had increased after receiving a notice for college authorities to vacate her hostel room by 10 November. SFI called the suicide "an institutional murder" and protested in educational institutions across the state demanding justice for her.

Venkatesh Balmoor of NSUI, the student's wing of Congress said: "This is not suicide. This was a case of abetment of suicide. The Central and state governments are the culprits for their failure to make education affordable to the underprivileged and economically backward students."

Fears of Covid norms violation in Kolkata local trains

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

KOLKATA, 9 NOVEMBER

Apprehension of violation of COVID safety protocol is looming large two days ahead of resumption of local train services as the Eastern Railways (ER) and the South Eastern Railways (SER) authorities are full swing at various stations.

Starting from entry points to inside coaches, designated staff were seen putting up guard rails, marking at stations, platforms and coaches, sanitizing etc. The divisional railway manager of Sealdah visited various stations to take note of the preparations.

Both ER and SER are to run over 700 train services in Sealdah and Howrah Divisions. The ER has planned to run 413 suburban trains over Sealdah Division and 202 over Howrah Division.

Of the 413 trains in Sealdah, 270 will ply on the Sealdah Main/North (including circular railway) and 143 in the Sealdah South section.

Out of 270 EMU services in the Sealdah Main/North sections including Circular Railway, 22 trains will run in Sealdah-Krishnanagar section, 24 in Sealdah-Naihati section, 10 in Sealdah-Ranaghat-Lalgola section, 26 in Sealdah-Hasnabadi section, 8 in Sealdah-Barasat-Duttapukur section, 39 in Sealdah-Banganga section.

Out of 143 trains across Sealdah South section, 27 trains will ply in Sealdah-Komagata Maru Budge Budge section, 21 trains in Sealdah-Lakshmi Kantapur-Namkhana section, 24 in Sealdah-Tarakeswar-Diamond Harbour section, 31 in Sealdah-Canning section, 19 in Sealdah-Sonarpur section and 21 trains in Sealdah-Baruipur section.

In the Howrah Division, out of 202 suburban trains, 38 trains will run in Howrah-Bandel section, 10 in Howrah-Tarakeswar-Arambag-Goghat section, 12 in Howrah-Katwa section, 8 in Bandel-Katwa section, 19 in Howrah-Tarakeswar section, 20 in Howrah-Burdwan Main line section, 22 in Howrah-Burdwan chord line section, 18 in Bandel-Naihati section along with services in other routes.

The zonal railways opened the counters for normal journey ticketing from 8 am this morning.

However, few complaints of unavailability of tickets due to link failure were reported from Garia station.

Meanwhile, apprehension increase in demand after local train resumption, Kolkata Metro Railway has decided to run 25 percent additional services on weekdays. Sources said 192 services will be run instead of 152 services on the North South Corridor from 8 am to 10 pm from Monday to Saturday.

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Speaking at the Maldivian Foreign Ministry, Shringla said India was honoured to partner with the Maldives on MoU, granting \$10 million to the island to fund the Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP), which is the largest ever such project in the Indian Ocean archipelago.

The MoU was signed during Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla's two-day visit to the Maldives to meet political leaders and top officials as part of regular exchanges between the two countries.

He noted that India and the Maldives have had to face the enormous uncertainties that the Covid-19 pandemic has brought in its wake.

The Indian diplomat said India believed an economically strong, resilient and prosperous Maldives was fundamentally in its interest.

BJP will meet the same fate as the outgoing US president Donald Trump



POP PRESIDENT MEHBOOBA MUFTI
ATTACKING THE BJP POLICIES

The Statesman

05

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2020

THUMBNAILS



Defence minister Rajnath Singh and transport minister Nitin Gadkari at the inauguration of Anti-Satellite Missile System model at DRDO headquarter in New Delhi on Monday.

Hunar Haat: The Minority Affairs Ministry's 'Hunar Haat' platform for products made by traditional artisans and craftsmen is set to return this week in the national capital. The first 'Hunar Haat' since the pandemic broke out will be held at Delhi Haat, Pitampura, from 11 to 22 November with the theme of 'vocal for local'.

CBI grills Enamul Haq: CBI today quizzed the businessman and alleged linchpin, Enamul Haq, who was arrested by the central agency in Delhi in connection with cattle smuggling racket along West Bengal-Bangladesh border. Haq faced a barrage of questions regarding influential person, those involved in the racket, especially the officers of BSF and customs

Audio, video forensic analysis unit: Himachal Pradesh Police will get an audio and video forensic analysis unit to solve crimes in the digital era and the facility will be inaugurated by CM Jai Ram Thakur on Tuesday.

Congress leaders told to guard EVMs

Almost all exit polls have forecast victory for RJD-led Mahagathbandhan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA, 9 NOVEMBER

Apprehending that rivals might indulge in "foul play" following encouraging exit polls predictions in favour of the Grand Alliance, Congress has asked its senior leaders to be in their place in all the 38 districts and keep a close watch over the EVMs kept in the strongrooms for counting on Tuesday.

Buoyed by the exit polls projections, the party has sent its senior leaders including general secretary Randeep Surjewala and Avinash Pandey, chairman of the BPCC screening committee, to Patna for proper coordination with the allies and possibly also to keep its flock together after the results are declared. "People have misunderstood it. It's not like that... Party leaders belonging to different districts who are currently out of their place, have been asked to go back to their districts and keep a strict vigil at the strongrooms for protection of the EVMs," Mishra said.

"People of Bihar believe in 'atmasamman' (self respect)...any amount of money

while dismissing media reports regarding deployment of party observers in all the districts for counting. Almost all the exit polls have forecast victory for the RJD-led Mahagathbandhan over their NDA in the three-phase Bihar polls.

Congress and the Left Parties-CPI, CPI(M) and CPI(ML)

are members of the Opposition grouping in the Bihar elections. The exit polls are indicating an increase of seats for the Congress and other allies along with that of the Rashtriya Janata Dal. Congress had 25 legislators in the outgoing Bihar Assembly. RJD had 80 MLAs in the previous house and CPI-ML(3). CPI and CPI(M) had no representatives in the outgoing Assembly. "After exit polls results in favour of the party and other allies of the grand alliance, there are apprehensions that people (those in power) may create some sort of disturbances to win the elections and hence leaders have been asked to keep a round the clock watch over the EVMs," Mishra said.

An editorial in Sena mouthpiece Saamana claimed that ahead of the polls in Bihar, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav's rallies received good response, unlike those of his political opponents. "Signs are clear that a change of guard will take place in Bihar as it happened in the US," the editorial said.



A vote counting centre in Patna on Monday.

Guv should be concerned for Naik kin instead of Arnab: Malik

MUMBAI, 9 NOVEMBER

Malik said on Monday. Goswami and two others were arrested last week by the Raigad police for allegedly abetting the 2018 suicide of Naik, an interior designer and resident of Alibaug, over non-payment of dues by Republic TV and a couple of other entities. Speaking to reporters here, Malik, an NCP

minister, said it was not right on part of the Governor to take sides with the accused over Naik's family.

The NCP spokesperson's comments came after the Governor spoke to home minister Anil Deshmukh over the phone to convey his concern on the security of Goswami, who is in jail.

Koshyari also asked Deshmukh to allow Goswami's family to see him and speak to him. The way the Governor has expressed concern for a special 'kaidi' (inmate) Arnab, I think he (the Governor) should understand that Arnab Goswami has been arrested for a serious offence," Malik said.

MORE FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2020

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Deepawali and Chhath Puja Festivals, Northern Railway has planned to run the following additional Festival Special Trains as per schedule given below: (Note:- Passengers are requested to note that all these Festival Special Trains will have reserved accommodation only. Passengers are therefore requested to get their accommodation (berths/seats) booked beforehand. Passengers having reserved tickets will only be allowed to enter the platform to board the train.)

04438/04437 Anand Vihar T.-Jaynagar-
Anand Vihar T. Express Special | 04 Trips

TRAIN NO. 04438	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 04437	STATIONS
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
— 23:55 —	Anand Vihar T.	23:00 —	Jaynagar
22:45 —		01:35 —	

Days of Run : 04438 from Anand Vihar T. on Sunday (15.11.2020) & Monday (16.11.2020) and 04437 from Jaynagar on Tuesday (17.11.2020) & Wednesday (18.11.2020)

Accommodation : Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

Stoppages : Kanpur Central, Allahabad Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara Jn., Patliputra Jn., Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Darbhanga Jn. & Madhubani stations.

04440/04439 Anand Vihar T.-Kathiarpur-
Anand Vihar T. Express Special | 02 Trips

TRAIN NO. 04440	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 04439	STATIONS
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
— 13:45 —	Anand Vihar T.	13:15 —	Kathiarpur
19:20 —		06:00 —	

Days of Run : 04440 from Anand Vihar T. on Friday (13.11.2020) and 04439 from Kathiarpur on Sunday (15.11.2020)

Accommodation : Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

Stoppages : Aligarh Jn., Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Gonda Jn., Balrampur, Naugarh, Gorakhpur Jn., Siswa Bazaar, Narkatiagan Jn., Bettiah, Bapudham Motihari, Muzaffarpur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Khagaria Jn., Saharsa Jn., Dauram Madhpura, Banmankhi Jn. & Purnia Jn. stations.

04442/04441 Anand Vihar T.-Raxaul-
Anand Vihar T. Express Special | 02 Trips

TRAIN NO. 04442	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 04441	STATIONS
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
— 16:25 —	Anand Vihar T.	04:50 —	Raxaul
22:10 —		23:40 —	

Days of Run : 04442 from Anand Vihar T. on Monday (16.11.2020) and 04441 from Raxaul on Tuesday (17.11.2020)

Accommodation : Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

Stoppages : Ghaziabad Jn., Pilkhwa, Hapur Jn., Amroha, Moradabad Jn., Raja Ka Sahaspur Jn., Chandausi Jn., Aonia, Shahjehanpur, Hardoi, Almora, Lucknow, Nihalgarh, Musafirkhana, Sultanpur Jn., Lambhua, Srikrishna Nagar, Jaunpur City, Varanasi Jn., Varanasi City, Aunjhara Jn., Nandganj, Ghazipur Jn., Yusufpur, Ballia, Suraimanpur, Chhapra, Dighwara, Parmanandpur, Sonpur, Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Ranji Saidpur, Sitamarhi, Baraigaon & Gorakhpur stations.

04444/04443 Anand Vihar T.-Raxaul-
Anand Vihar T. Express Special | 02 Trips

TRAIN NO. 04444	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 04443	STATIONS
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
— 20:45 —	Anand Vihar T.	13:45 —	Raxaul
15:30 —		18:00 —	

Days of Run : 04444 from Anand Vihar T. on Sunday (15.11.2020) and 04443 from Raxaul on Monday (16.11.2020)

Accommodation : Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

Stoppages : Moradabad Jn., Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Lucknow, Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur Jn. & Narkatiagan stations.

04446/04445 Anand Vihar T.-Sitarsh-
Anand Vihar T. Express Special | 02 Trips

TRAIN NO. 04446	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 04445	STATIONS
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
— 23:55 —	Anand Vihar T.	20:15 —	Sitarsh
21:15 —		23:35 —	

Days of Run : 04446 from Anand Vihar T. on Sunday (15.11.2020) and 04445 from Sitarsh on Monday (16.11.2020)

Accommodation : AC 3 Tier & Sleeper.

Stoppages : Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Patna Jn., Mokameh Jn., Kui Jn. & Jamalpur Jn. stations.

04458/04457 New Delhi- Patna-New Delhi | 02 Trips

TRAIN NO. 04458	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 04457	STATIONS
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
— 21:00 —	New Delhi	18:15 —	Patna
15:30 —		23:00 —	

Days of Run : 04458 from New Delhi on 13.11.2020 (Friday) and 04457 from Patna on 14.11.2020 (Saturday)

Accommodation : AC 2 Tier & AC 3 Tier.

Stoppages : Moradabad Jn., Bareilly, Lucknow, Varanasi Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn. stations.

04460/04459 New Delhi- Patna-New Delhi | 02 Trips

TRAIN NO. 04460	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 04459	STATIONS
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
— 20:55 —	New Delhi	06:30 —	Patna
11:30 —		14:30 —	

Days of Run : 04460 from New Delhi on 12.11.2020 (Thursday) and 04459 from Patna on 13.11.2020 (Friday)

Accommodation : AC 2 Tier & AC 3 Tier.

Stoppages : Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn. stations.

Biden and India

New Delhi and its amplifiers in media will tell you that US-India ties have reached a level of maturity wherein a change of administration in Washington will not impact fundamentals. It is true that there is bipartisan support for strengthening the US-India strategic, economic and civilisational relationship. But with President-elect Joe Biden now on his way to the White House with Kamala Harris in tow as his V-P, the granular reality is likely to be a little different. India would do well to be prepared for it. Whatever President Donald Trump's angularities, and despite the aesthetic discomfort many have had with his more obnoxious personality traits, he was, like Republican presidents before him post-Ronald Reagan, good for India. Notwithstanding the transactional nature of his Administration's dealings, he was resolute in staving down China, dehyphenating the India-Pakistan relationship and promoting an Indo-Pacific strategic architecture. All in the US' interests, of course, but it gave India leverage in a multipolar world.

President-elect Biden, given what he owes the American left-liberal establishment for getting him elected with the highest ever popular vote to turf out a populist demagogue, will likely have different priorities. From the Indian perspective, on the credit side, will be the likely resurrection of the Iran nuclear deal which will help India in balancing its relationship between Teheran and Washington both of which are of vital strategic importance. A fillip to economic ties with an easing of trade barriers is on the cards and the Indian IT industry is expected to benefit as strict job visa regulations are reviewed. Mr Biden's foreign policy expertise acquired over four decades in public life and his calm demeanour ought to help the US-Russia relationship recover from a collegiate competitiveness between alpha males which is how it's been over the past four years. Again, good for New Delhi, as it is in the Indian national interest not to have Washington and Moscow expending their energy on showing each other down while China acquires more heft. The problem areas for India with Biden in charge are going to be the CAA, NRC, integration of the Kashmir Valley and India's fight against terror – the Indian state's unifying agenda on which a civic nationalism may be premised. Sanctimonious and unsolicited advice bordering on interference is certainly on the anvil from our strategic ally on these issues. Naturally, these fault-lines will be sought to be exploited by India's adversaries. Allegations around human rights as relating to groups rather than individuals – and concomitant notions of intolerance and dissent – too will be areas of disagreement given the Democrats are now the leading global practitioners of identity politics. But our money is on hard-nosed policy establishments on both sides ensuring these do not have a material impact on India-US ties. What will, however, prove to be truly problematic for India, is if President-elect Biden decides to accommodate instead of contain China, engage rather than isolate Pakistan, and push the trope that contemporary global terrorism is not linked to religion.

Battle of wits

Thailand's youth have once again faced the wrath of the country's powerful establishment as they continue to demand the country's Prime Minister should quit. On Sunday, thousands marching to the Grand Palace, ostensibly to deliver a memorandum to King Vajiralongkorn, were restrained with water cannons, the second time this measure has been deployed. The protests would have been especially galling to the monarchy and the government because they were propped up with visual aids guaranteed to catch the camera's eye – among them giant-sized red pillar boxes for those wanting to "post" their grievances to the King and a huge envelope with his name written on it. Despite the severity of the response, the youth appear determined and said they would not budge from their three demands – which are that Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha resign, the Constitution backed by the military be amended and the monarchy's powers be trimmed. In their missive to the monarch, the protestors said, "When you hear all the flattering praise from the people, you must also hear fearless criticisms and suggestions all the same. When the King truly cherishes democracy, all people will find happiness. The three demands from the people are the utmost compromise." The demand to trim the monarch's role is especially contentious and has been provoked by his decision to take personal control of two Army units, and to transfer the Crown's huge assets to his own name. In addition, King Vajiralongkorn has faced wide criticism for his long stays in Bavaria, Germany, at state cost. Some aspects of the protests are noteworthy. First, they seem to continue relentlessly even in the absence – because of arrest – of those who were thought to be its leaders. Second, they are dominated by young people and crowds have contained even high school students. Despite the presence of so many young people and even in the absence of leaders who could rein them in from being provoked, the protests have been entirely peaceful. Finally, through adroit use of social media, protestors have been able to run rings around security forces; last month, for instance, when police cordoned off a site before protestors could gather there, they were able to regroup at an alternate site within an hour. The ruling establishment has tried several things to stop the protestors but have largely failed. Loyal royalists have tried to counter them with their own gatherings, including one where the King was spotted addressing the group approvingly, but without much success. The government tried to buy time by convening a special session of Parliament to discuss the changes that protestors want, but this was inconclusive and has been rescheduled to later this month. One side will have to blink soon, and the youth seem determined to show it will not be them.

In aid of humans

Humanitarian intervention is a serious and comprehensive challenge to the sovereign state as it involves the invasion of territory using military force. The Westphalia system can only work if states recognise each other's sovereignty



Humanitarian intervention is a means to prevent or stop gross violation of human rights in a state that is either incapable or unwilling to protect its own people or is actively persecuting them. Deliberate and systematic violation of human rights often takes the form of forced expulsions, ethnic cleansing and in most extreme cases genocide. Humanitarian intervention can apply also in situations where there is no effective government causing complete collapse of civil order.

Humanitarian intervention is not new. But the recent debate has its origins in the Cold War and was motivated by a number of controversial military actions. Three references are enough. India's intervention in Bangladesh War of 1971 that created Bangladesh as a sovereign state, Vietnam's intervention in Cambodia in 1978 that resulted in the overthrow of the Khmer Rouge regime and Tanzania's intervention in Uganda in 1979 which ousted dictator Idi Amin. These interventions offered a fundamental challenge to the stability of the post-World War II international system and questioned the territorial integrity and sanctity of sovereignty. These interventions took place during the peak of Cold War and superpower rivalry and dominance. Political observers believed that these were not humanitarian interventions but military aggressions with the backing of a superpower.

Many scholars identify the 1990s as a decade during which the UN authorised several interventions on humanitarian grounds. At the same time, the US and its allies took military action on at least three occasions for humanitarian purposes when the specific action was not authorised by the Security Council. Some instances of intervention, though unauthorised, have been declared legitimate like NATO's intervention in Kosovo in 1999. Some case references will make the picture clear. Operation Provide Comfort was a military operation initiated by the USA and other coalition nations of the Persian Gulf in April 1991 to defend Kurdish civilians fleeing their homes in northern Iraq in the aftermath of Gulf War and deliver humanitarian aid to them. It was a military mission. As Russia and China did not support a no-fly zone over Iraq, the operation was conceived as a humanitarian mission to bypass the UN Security Council. This operation remains in the history books as an under-appreciated success story of geo-strategic importance.

Somalia had allied itself with the Soviet Union until 1977, then switched allegiance to the USA in return for substantial military aid. But in 1990, the USA withdrew its support alleging human rights violations. Authority within

the state collapsed, warlords took control of food distribution and famine spread. A small UN mission, already on the ground, was unable to intervene. In December 1993, the UN Security Council approved the insertion into Somalia of a much bigger US-led UN mission to assist aid deliveries. This intervention was explicitly humanitarian and did not have the approval of the target state. The state in any case had collapsed. The intervention appeared successful at first, but the scaling down of the force along with disagreement over mission objectives frittered away the success and the advantage swung back to warlords. Many UN peacekeepers and US Rangers were killed in October 1993. The UN/US mission withdrew soon afterwards, having learnt the hard way that the international community did not have the coordinated military strategy, intelligence and experience at nation-building or commitment from member states to fulfil the goal it had set itself. The failure in Somalia contributed to the inaction of the international community in the face of genocide that took place in Rwanda in 1994. The 1990s ended with the most controversial humanitarian intervention – the NATO action

in Kosovo. Kosovo was the seat of the Serbian Orthodox church. It was also the site of Serbian victory over the Turks in 1912. The minority of Serbs had long bristled at the fact that Albanians who made up nine-tenths of the population, mostly Muslims, were in demographic control of an area considered sacred to Serbs, mostly Christians. Kosovo was an autonomous region until 1989, when Serbia took control of its administration prompting protests from the region's Albanian population. The Albanian Kosovars began a campaign of non-violent resistance. In 1992, they voted to secede from Yugoslavia. Growing tensions led in 1998 to armed clashes between Serbs and the Kosovo Liberation Army. The non-violent resistance became violent. The Serbs responded with a ruthless counter-offensive inducing the UN Security Council to condemn their excessive use of force including ethnic cleansing and to impose an arms embargo.

Russia and China asserted that domestic oppression was not a threat to international peace and security and as such the Council could not authorise an armed intervention against the wishes of a recognised government. However, NATO decided to act in March 1999 on

humanitarian grounds. The intervention was carried out without ground troops as NATO member states were unwilling to risk casualties. It was an air campaign that lasted for 80 days. NATO did succeed in ending Serbian control of Kosovo and bringing back many Albanian refugees. Kosovo came under interim administration of the UN. NATO stayed back in Kosovo and established a long-term unofficial protectorate in the province to provide military cover until Kosovo declared independence in February 2008. After Kosovo and other Yugoslav wars, Serbia became home to the highest number of refugees and internally displaced persons in Europe.

The UN Charter prohibits the use of force except in the case of a decision by the Security Council under Chapter VII or in self-defence against an armed attack – neither of which was present in the case of Kosovo. Birth of Kosovo as an independent state remained a test case for the legitimacy of humanitarian action. In later years, the military intervention in Libya, though frowned upon by several states in the international community, can be said to be lawful since it was authorised by the Security Council. In March 2011, a multi-state NATO

led coalition began a military intervention in Libya in response to events during the Libyan Civil War. The Civil War was considered a crime against humanity. NATO flew 27,000 sorties after taking charge. The military action ended after the death of Muammar Gaddafi. The Security Council voted to end NATO's mandate for military action from 31 October 2011. Humanitarian intervention is a serious and comprehensive challenge to the sovereign state as it involves the invasion of territory using military force. The Westphalia system can only work if states recognise each other's sovereignty. Rulers understand that the right to sole jurisdiction within their territories is to recognise similar rights in others. Thus, one of the principal norms of the system is that of non-intervention; each state must respect the borders of other states to ensure that its own borders remain secure. Territorial sovereignty is inviolable. This is the settled norm of non-intervention. This norm has been reaffirmed as a principle of international order, alongside universal self-determination and the promotion of human rights, in the UN Charter. The Hague Convention, the Geneva Convention and the United Nations all have restricted the actions of sovereign

countries in the international arena, as has International Law.

The norm was radically unsettled during the 1990s due to humanitarian intervention – the forcible invasion of sovereign territory by one or more states, with or without the backing of the United Nations, motivated supposedly to alleviate human suffering within that state. Such action appears to be entirely in contradiction of the principles of the sovereign state system. Its emergence can be linked to the increasing strength of the human rights regime, particularly the regime's conception of legitimate state sovereignty as flowing from the rights of individuals.

The growth of the human rights regime in the 1990s meant that states were held to new standards of legitimacy based on their observance of international human rights laws and norms. State sovereignty and non-intervention began to be seen as privileges, conditional upon observance of international standards. Human rights are rights that belong to an individual. Human rights refer to a wide variety and capabilities reflecting the diversity of human circumstances and history. A logical implication that human rights rank higher than state rights to sovereignty is that intervention in support of human rights becomes legitimate and may even be required. The end of Cold War removed the risk of superpower conflict and created fertile conditions for humanitarian actions as protectorates collapsed and nationalism spread through former socialist states.

Political analysts are debating whether humanitarian intervention using military force is to remain a permanent fixture of 21st century international society. The United Nations started with 51 members in October 1945. Today it has 193 members with South Sudan gaining entry in July 2011. The world has fragmented to such an extent that in 75 years of UN existence, sovereign states have gone up almost four times. Yet, the UN has continuously been involved with issues related to humanitarian intervention within the borders of nations. They are basically domestic conflicts involving violation of human rights. They are trans-boundary military operations.

The military cannot be a humanitarian actor because military action does not recognise principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. No doubt, the UN has to address the crucial issue of reconciling the demands of state sovereignty with the need for humanitarian intervention where there is irrefutable evidence of sustained and systematic violation of human rights but recourse to the military should be the last resort. The UN must think of revising its Charter to include new articles and conditions to cover humanitarian intervention.

A MEMBER OF THE



ASIAN VOICES

Shaping our children's future

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought untold difficulties in the lives of millions of people the world over. As reports pour in about the possible mutation of the virus and the second wave of the pandemic, all we can do is prepare to face the many new challenges that could visit us. Small and resource-strapped as we are though, we cannot afford to not do all in our capacity to address the many strains that Covid-19 has forced upon us. It is not as if all else is less important but one of the most significant sectors that need special attention in these trying times is education and the well-being of our children.

According to a UNICEF finding, Bhutanese children aren't getting enough time to study and so are stressed having to prepare for exams. With schools closed due to the pandemic, children, particularly in rural Bhutan, are snowed under with farm work and other household chores, leaving them with little or no time for academic activities and increasing classwork.

Transition to online classes hasn't been easy for both students and teachers what with an abrupt change in syllabus contents, evaluation methods and technical issues with online applications. The result is immense physical, emotional and psychological pressure on the young minds.

A well-placed university study has found that many students are experiencing higher than normal stress and anxiety levels due to Covid-19-related implications. Many worry about their grades and without strict and proper guidance there is every chance of chil-

dren losing motivation and focus and to sink into the habit of procrastination. Sometimes, sadly, even home is not the safest place for children. In such cases, increasing social isolation can be detrimental to the children's mental health.

The feeling of uncertainty or hopelessness has the potential to lead to depressive thoughts which can be damaging. And, as the pandemic situation prolongs, there is a danger of negative impacts on education itself.

But there are ways to cope. Urgent interventions and preventive strategies can and must be developed. Of course, it is not as if we have been sitting on our hands; we have been acutely aware of the implications on our young people and their future if we stagger in our efforts today. That means bringing in all the support systems together to help our children learn, clear their exams and excel without having to struggle and wither away.

Children and their education ought not to suffer because we are talking about a generation that we could lose if we fail to act now. To children: Do not worry because worrying does not change a situation. Stay focused. Often our behaviour is influenced by how we think and feel; positive thinking is absolutely important. Talk to friends and family members, share your dreams and challenges. We need each other's support more than we know we do.

Education is your future, so strive hard. To parents: Know your child. Talk to him. Find time for him and help him dream. More important, lead him on to the path of success, not with threats and warnings but with love and attention. That's all he needs, now at this formative age.

IN MEMORIAM

GANGULY DEBOBALA — Left us on November 10, 1999. Missed by Chanda, Babu, Munmun and others.

SILENT KILLER

SIR, As the Covid-19 outbreak continues to evolve, comparisons have been drawn to influenza. Both cause respiratory disease, yet there are important differences between the two viruses and how they spread. This has important implications for the public health measures that can be implemented to respond to each virus. While the majority of people recover from Covid-19, more than 232,000 Americans have died after contracting the virus. Researchers continue to explore why some people don't show a single symptom when infected, while others end up fighting for their lives.

According to a new study, it may have something to do with Covid-induced blood clots, and more specifically what causes them in the first place. How blood clots can affect you is a mystery. It is time to ensure your health and the health of others. We believe there is a lot more to it than what meets the eye.

Yours, etc., CK Subramanian,
Navi Mumbai, 5 November.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR editor@thestatesman.com

Of ethics and freedom

SIR, Your editorial 'No easy answers' (6 November) is a marvellous piece on journalistic ethics and Press freedom in view of the recent arrest of Arnab Goswami on charges of abetment of suicide.

If he was arrested following due process by the police, then such a hue and cry should not be raised. Attention should be drawn instead on why the reputable Maharashtra Police that had filed a closure report earlier in this matter, has reopened the case now, and whether any new, strong evidence has come to light.

Firstly, journalistic excess with a political bias by Arnab Goswami was easily discernible in certain events. Journalism in

any medium should be ethical and unbiased. Yellow journalism and political bias should be shunned. Secondly, this matter in my humble opinion is not an assault on Press freedom which is not absolute as such, and it is expected that the procedure

established by law must have been clearly followed. Of course, it is for the court to decide.

The pitiful state of the deceased Anay Naik's family must also be taken into consideration while deciding this matter.

It is aptly said that those

who live in glass houses

shouldn't throw stones. Many

may contend that Mr. Goswami

intruding into the fourth estate.

The mindset of public at large

should also be ethical and unbiased.

The issues are indeed big and there are no easy answers, unless the system in place is transparent and ethical.

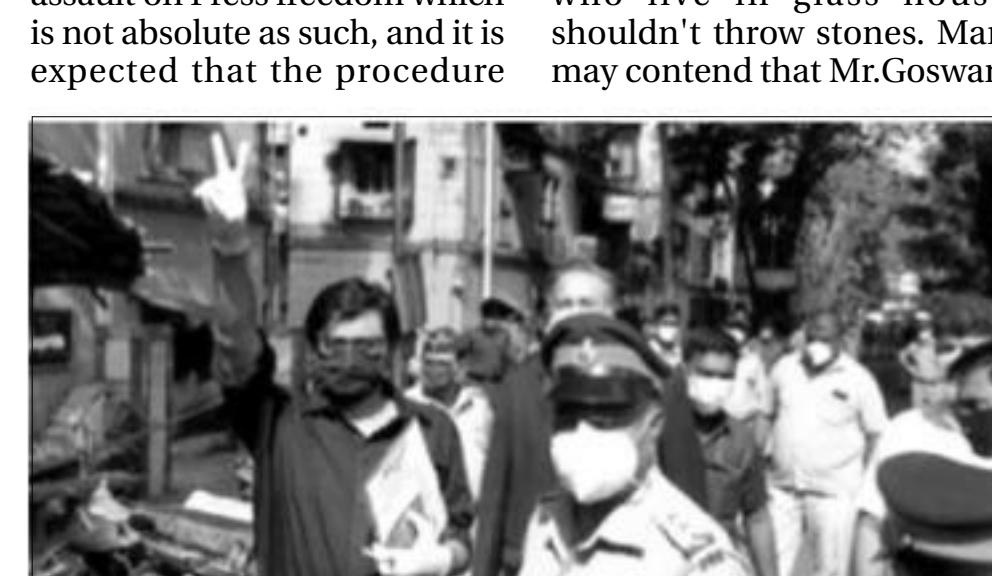
It needs a sustainable and peaceful solution sans any vengeance.

Bapuji rightly said that an eye for an eye will make the world blind.

Yours, etc., Mrs Santwona

Mohanty,

Bhubaneswar, 6 November.



HARSHA KAKAR

An internal communique dated 29 October, from the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), under the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), conveyed the intention of the government to enhance service age limits, while reducing pensions to those who seek pre-mature retirement. The memo, possibly deliberately leaked, directs the concerned branch to process the two cases for government sanction. This evoked across-the-board criticism.

The first proposal concerns enhancing age limits for officers, thus doing away with re-employment. Colonels, who post retirement at 54, were eligible for reemployment till 58, would now serve till 57, without reemployment. Brigadiers till 58 and Major Generals till 59, an addition of a year. This is beneficial as dignity of rank is lost during reemployment.

On the other hand, pensions have been reduced for those seeking premature retirement, commencing from 50 per cent for those leaving before 25 years of service. Full pension would be granted if service is beyond 35 years. In addition, age limit for all personnel in logistics, technical and medical branches, to include EME, AOC and ASC for the army, has been reduced to 57 years.

The intention is evidently to reduce the pension bill, as also retain those gaining specific qualifications at service cost. The letter states, "there are several specialists/super specialists, who are trained for high skill jobs in the services that leave the service to work in other sectors. Such loss of high skilled manpower, results in void in the services skill matrix and is counter productive to the armed forces."

The pension bill has been ballooning over the years. The allocation this year is Rs 1,33,825 crore, which is 28 per cent of the MoD's total budget, 4.4 per cent of the central government expenditure or 0.6 per cent of the GDP. As per data of April 2019, there are 3.24 million pensioners under the MoD of which 2.59 million (80 per cent) are retired military personnel or their families and 0.60 million (approx. 20 per cent) are defence civilians, their dependents or unclassified. Within the next decade or so, all civil defence employees would be covered under the National Pension Scheme, while armed forces would continue under the present Defined Pension Scheme. Currently pensions, pay and allowances comprise 61 per cent of the defence budget.

Pension move may affect morale of armed forces



With premature retirees on the rise, defence pensions would continue increasing with additional strain flowing from OROP increments and future pay commissions. Increasing age limits for all personnel is an option to control the pension bill; however, it has an impact on combat effectiveness and the necessity to maintain a young army. Hence, age increase is only for those of service organisations. This would make services more lucrative than arms for the army, impact on the navy and air force being more severe.

However, there are aspects, mainly involving the individual, which have been ignored.

Every individual possesses ambitions as also visualizes a career for

himself in the regiment or service of his choice when he graduates from the academy. In a service bound by pyramidal structure with limited vacancies, many competent individuals are overlooked, not because of ability or qualifications, but because of vacancies. For them, success in alternative pastures of a growing economy offsets the disgruntlement of being unable to succeed in the service they voluntarily joined.

Reduced pensions would compel many to avoid taking a risk of an alternate career, resulting in the armed forces retaining its cadre by brute force, rather than willingness, leading to large numbers of disgruntled officers who would remain a liability rather than an asset. The armed

forces' morale is dependent on the level of satisfaction of its cadre, which would perform be low.

As regards releasing those who have obtained specialist/super specialist training, the regulations for release rests with the service concerned. The armed forces, unlike other civil services, do not permit cadre to retire prematurely without sanction. This policy can be reconsidered rather than adopting a common approach and discouraging even those whom the forces considered unsuitable for higher ranks to seek alternative avenues.

The impact of directions under consideration will be negative in many aspects. It would promote a culture of sycophancy as without relevance

The writer is a retired Major-General of the Indian Army.

Want gradings, despite qualifications, the future could be bleak for the majority. Those who missed the boat would be compelled to continue serving. Currently, vacancies arise from retirements and releases. With release now being curtailed, there would be an impact on promotions.

With first selections being held with 13 to 14 years of service, the armed forces would be compelled to carry superseded officers for almost two decades, which is detrimental to morale. Is this the best alternative? There is the option of alternate avenues, including employment in CAPFs and central government undertakings. It is here that the MoD has failed.

The responsibility of opening alternate avenues for those who missed the bus is that of the MoD. Central government quotas exist but are neither enforced, nor does it appear that the MoD takes suitable interest in pushing for them. This has compelled many, failing to make the grade in the service, to seek their own avenues. The decision of reducing pensions implies hiding the failure of the MoD while penalizing those who discovered their own avenues as an alternative to serving disgruntlement.

Reduced pensions also imply deducting what the nation owes the individual for his service. On the contrary it is argued that the individual who quits young would earn from his second innings as also in pension, thus earning double, and hence one income can be curtailed. This is a myopic view. Pension is security which supports the individual commencing his new career at a lower salary, hoping to attain the success which he could not while in uniform, and should not be denied.

No organization retains disgruntled employees if it seeks to grow and flourish, nor should the armed forces. Morale of the military cadre has greater value and must dominate decisions. There is a need to reconsider these proposals and look at long term alternatives.

The writer is a retired Major-General of the Indian Army.

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

The occurrence of malaria in England during the war as the result of infection from soldiers returning from abroad has led to a discussion as to whether malaria was ever endemic in England. Undoubtedly cases used to occur, but it is doubtful if the conditions were ever such as to make the spread of the disease possible. The last authentic widespread occurrence of malaria in England took place in the years 1856-60, when four years of abnormally high and continued temperature coincided with the importation of many malaria carriers among invalided soldiers.

A great volume of malarial infection was introduced again in the years 1917-19, and indigenous malaria occurred in these years in numbers proportional to the extent of the malaria incubation temperature. The interesting observation has been made in this connection that a mean temperature of 60 deg. F for sixteen consecutive days is necessary to establish infection. Accordingly there are certain years, of which 1860 was an example. Even in normal times numerous cases of malaria are every year being brought to England and there is no doubt that mosquitoes of the malaria-carrier type are found in parts of England. It is only a suitable temperature that is needed to make the disease endemic, and the uncertainty of summer weather in England and the impossibility of foretelling the temperatures likely to be encountered make it advisable to take preventive measures in the face of a large importation.

NEWS ITEMS

B.I. STRIKERS BACK AT WORK

As a result of negotiations carried on during the week-end between the British India Company's officials and the strike leaders, about 80 per cent of the workers at the Dock at Sultana, and 1,100 of the workshop men, resumed work yesterday morning. The men have been given an increase of 25 per cent on their present wages, while their khoraki (food) allowance for late work has been raised from two annas to four annas. This increase has apparently given satisfaction to the men who are full of praise of their employers. Owing to the Kali Puja holidays intervening, it has not been possible to have the decision more widely circulated by it is expected that when the news becomes known the majority of the men, who are still out, will resume work.

LOYAL STUDENTS OF AGRA

We the students of the Government High School, Agra, desire to welcome your honour Sir Harcourt Butler on the occasion of your visit among us today. We know how valuable your time is, and we are grateful that we have an opportunity of welcoming the representative of the King-Emperor. We are conscious of the many blessings we in Government Schools enjoy, and we hope that by your visit we shall be strengthened in our desire to use our time in school to good purpose and to become good and loyal citizens of the Empire. We shall remember this occasion throughout our lives with feelings of joy and gratitude, and shall never forget the sympathy you have with the cause of education, and the interest you have always taken in the schools of this province.

AUSTRIA'S SORRY PLIGHT

The likelihood of Austria disappearing from the map of Europe was foreshadowed by Sir William Goode, President of the Austrian section of the Reparations Commission. Sir William Goode, interviewed by Reuter, stated that the delegates of nine Powers on his section had presented an unanimous report to the Reparations Commission from which he expected that the Powers would make the grave decision indicated. Conditions in Austria had reached such a point that the corporate existence of the country had become practically impossible. Exchange, he said, had fallen a thousand points in the last four months - the pound sterling was quoted at seventeen hundred crowns. He emphasised that Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and Poland, formerly parts of the Austrian monarchy, were all agreed that immediate action was necessary.

THE SITUATION IN BELFAST

It is officially announced that a great portion of Lisburn, Ulster, has been burned down. Over forty houses have been destroyed. The situation in Belfast is very uneasy. Lisburn is a Unionist town of 12,000 inhabitants, eight miles from Belfast. It is stated that practically all the Roman Catholic premises have been gutted. The Fire Brigade worked unceasingly but they were powerless. The four men who murdered Swanzy apparently taxied from Belfast. They kept the taxi waiting in the outskirts of Lisburn, afterwards returning by it, but half way back they paid off the driver and decamped. Private cars and taxis took up the chase towards Belfast and overtook the murderers' taxi-cab, only to find that the men had decamped. The murder is one of the most daring in the history of Irish crimes.

Gone, but will he rest in peace?



SUNIL SHARAN

It has taken a plague on the epic scale of the bubonic plague to get rid of the American Caesar. It's so ironical because it was a plague that he spurned and disdained and denied that finally consumed him.

Donald Trump was a demagogue in the mould of Marine Le Pen of France and Geert Wilders of The Netherlands promising violence against minorities of colour using his Gestapo police (I don't use the term lightly). In the end, it was a minority, George Floyd, guillotined in broad

daylight by the police, who rose from the grave and quite possibly spurred America's conscience to slay Trump.

Was Trump done in by the plague or by America's conscience? Police brutality against American minorities has been going on for so long that it has become de rigueur. America

doesn't seem to have a conscience when it comes to minorities of colour.

Yes, it was the mishandling of the virus that did Trump in. It wasn't a Republican virus or a Democratic virus but Trump made it to be the latter, forgetting that both Republicans and Democrats were affected equally by it. Masks were meant for the weak at heart went out the call. Social distancing was uncool. Inject bleach inside your body. Shine a light within your body. Such crazy ideas! How could a man such as Trump have become the most powerful man on earth?

Trump refuses to bow out with grace. His close advisors know that the game is over, but Trump has his followers and Trump TV to egg him on. For four long years, his followers, mostly whites, have lorded over the land, even more so and even more explicitly than they have done in modern history. An innocent black person killed by American police at the rate of one every week.

If you are a person of colour driving along the road, and a police car approaches you, you better do your darndest to veer out of the way. Take a side line. If they accost you, you never know what could happen to you. Trump didn't even grieve for as egregious a death as Floyd's. He urged the police to keep going on the rampage. And they did. People like Floyd and Breonna Taylor (an innocent woman killed in 2020 in her own house by white cops) have just become markers on graves in simply a few months after their deaths.

Trump may be gone for now, but Trumpism has not. Two-thirds of whites, over a 100 million people, support his racist rants and antics. People like Nikki Haley are circling around like vultures to capture the racist coalition

that Trump has assembled for their own run for the presidency in 2024.

But Trump will not cede his mantle to any vulture. He's only 74 now. He will be 78 in 2024. He looks to be in rude health. And if he has to give away his laurel, it will be to one of his sons, or his favorite child, his daughter Ivanka.

Trump will spend the next four years race-baiting and ranting. At least with the presidency he had something to do. Even then, he spent most of his time tweeting and watching television. Now he's unemployed. He will be even more unhinged than before. No more foreign pleasure trips as the one he made to India to pass the time. His base is going to get information overload from him the likes of which it perhaps couldn't even have imagined.

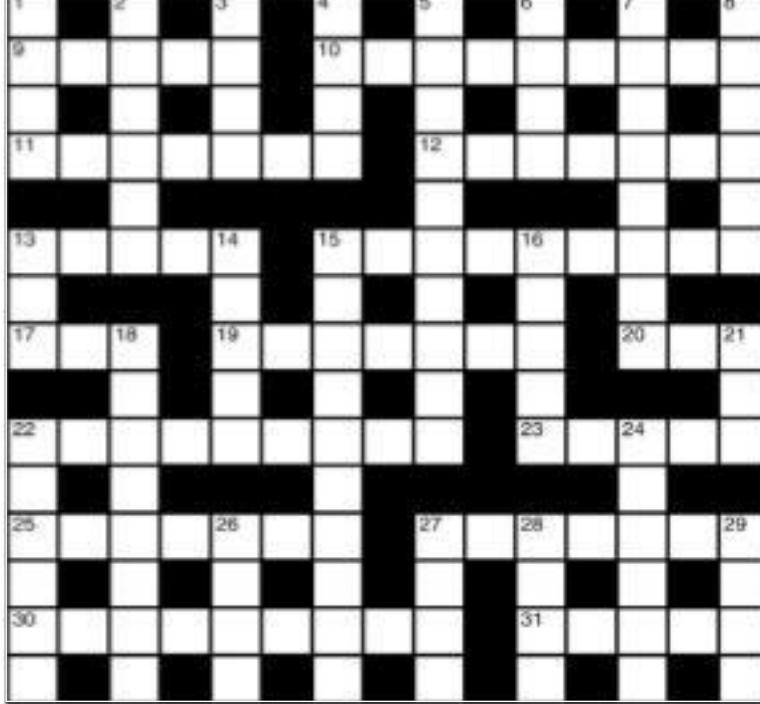
In modern US history, there rarely has been a hater as president as Trump has been. George W. Bush visited a mosque just after 9/11 to allay the fears of American Muslims, but then launched his crusades (in his own words) against Afghanistan and Iraq. JFK and Bill Clinton and Barack Obama were more restrained. History will remember them well. The American presidency has enormous power. For an American president, it is easy to delude himself (or herself) to be a Caesar or a Napoleon.

Even Caesar and Napoleon had redeeming features. Donald Trump had none. This long night of the long knives in American history must come to an end. It must be made to come to an end. Only American whites, many of whom regard themselves as masters of the universe, can be made to do it.

The writer is an expert on energy and contributes regularly to publications in India and overseas.

NO 28130

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

- ACROSS**
- Essentially, tenanting a pigpen's offensive (5)
 - No ordinary version of Beethoven's 3rd – certainly not on morning coffee (9)
 - See 22 Down
 - Party to rig a migrant craft (7)
 - Curtains for Depeche Mode, after half the characters leave – book describes break up (5)
 - Reasonably clear line to call grass – revealing the presence of some low life? (5,4)
 - Grease's Newton-John, not through with work (3)
 - In returning communiqué, I'd nominate French, my Lord (3,4)
 - Every now and then, penalty causes upset (3)
 - Trap crime family first – it's becoming known (7,2)
- DOWN**
- Cockney to steal half this (4)
 - Retreat from term of university living in a hotel (6)
 - Spotted dog's beginning to follow detective (4)
 - Change in yard after assistant referee (4)
 - Spilling 17 under rolling sea, into liquid annihilation (10)
 - Small minded institute removes qualified teacher (4)
 - An airport show's over – this might open up a channel? (8)
 - Uninspiring Prime Minister, changing direction on government (6)
 - Couple united in party (3)
 - Initially, brilliant animators make book into movie (5)
 - Convict arranged filing duty (4,6)
 - Juvenile wildebeest boys discovered when climbing (5)
 - Both sides trouble winger (8)
 - Brown belt (3)
 - Empty apology after firm takes her mum travelling to see a musical (6,7)
 - With leading parts of Mike, Rick, Vyvyan and Neil plus Alexei Sayle, ultimately playing scumbags (6)
 - According to the Queen, my Frank's naked... (4)
 - ...thus King's mortified (4)
 - Season porridge (4)
 - Accountant's on top of hush money (4)

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

THUMBNAILS

Dollar profit: Leading garment & hosiery company Dollar Industries Limited has reported a net profit of Rs 22.37 crore for the quarter ended 30 September 2020, registering a growth of 63.76 per cent over the same period of the previous fiscal. The company's net profit in the second quarter of fiscal 2019-20 stood at Rs 13.66 crore, according to a Press statement issued by the company.

Oppo initiative: Oppo India has announced a CSR initiative ~ Wall of Knowledge ~ to enable access to the virtual world of education for unprivileged children. The company has partnered with select local NGOs from cities like Noida, Lucknow, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Chennai to launch and set up the Wall of Knowledge, said a release.

MooFarm raises ₹4.3 cr: Gurugram-based agritech startup MooFarm raised ₹4.3 crore pre-seed funding round from Rockstart and Navus Ventures, one of the leading global accelerators and Venture Capital respectively. The startup plans to use the funding to strengthen their product-market fit and hire key technology talent to launch new services to farmers, according to a Press release statement. SNS

Eco-friendly 'Gauved Sambrani Cups': Mysore Deep Perfumery House (MDPH) group, one of the fastest-growing agarbatti companies in India and largest manufacturers and exporters of incense stick under the brand name of Zed Black, has launched eco-friendly, organic 'Gauved Sambrani cups' this Diwali a positive step towards protection, promotion and conservation of cattle by using their waste to make products, according to a Press release statement. SNS

Ducati launch: Luxury motorcycle brand Ducati has announced the launch of the all-new Multistrada 950 S, priced at Rs 15.49 lakh (ex-showroom pan India).



Except coking coal, all other coal imports should be stopped in the coming years

PRALHAD JOSHI
UNION COAL MINISTER

Sensex at new peak of 42,597; Biden win sparks global rally

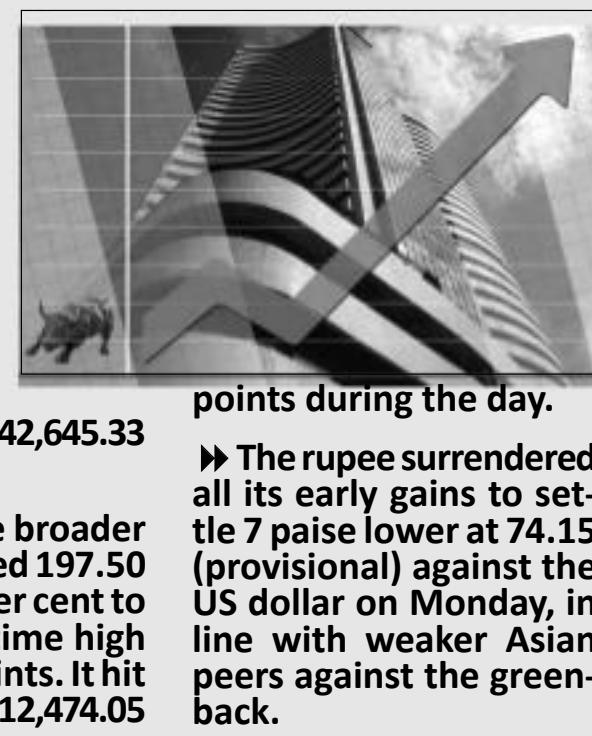
The previous closing record for the Sensex was 41,952.63 points, achieved on 14 January 2020

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 9 NOVEMBER

Stock exchange benchmark indices surged to record highs today, mirroring a rally in global markets as investors wagered on improved trade relations and more fiscal stimulus under a Joe Biden presidency in the US.

Rising for the sixth straight session, the BSE Sensex vaulted 704.37 points or 1.68 per cent to close at its lifetime peak of 42,597.43 points. Intra-day, it touched its all-time high level of 42,645.33 points.

BULL RUN
► Rising for the sixth straight session, the BSE Sensex vaulted 704.37 points or 1.68 per cent to close at its lifetime peak of 42,597.43 points. Intra-day, it touched its all-time high level of 42,645.33 points.



points during the day.

► Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 197.50 points or 1.61 per cent to finish at its all-time high of 12,461.05 points. It hit its record level of 12,474.05 points.

Tata Steel, Titan and HDFC Bank.

Only three index constituents closed in the red - ITC, Maruti and Bajaj Finserv, slipping up to 0.66 per cent.

World markets marched higher after Biden was declared the winner in the tightly-contested US election, though President Donald Trump has yet to concede the race.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 197.50 points or 1.61 per cent to finish at its all-time high of 12,461.05 points. It hit its record level of 12,474.05 points during the day.

IndusInd Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, spurring 4.95 per cent, followed by Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, PowerGrid, Tata Steel, Titan and HDFC Bank.

Only three index constituents closed in the red - ITC, Maruti and Bajaj Finserv, slipping up to 0.66 per cent.

World markets marched higher after Biden was declared the winner in the tightly-contested US election, though President Donald Trump has yet to concede the race.

"Firm global cues and a clear majority to favour the Democratic Party in the US election took main benchmark indices to all time high. The rally in the domestic market was also led by bank-

ing and finance stocks on improved business outlook post Q2 results, end to moratorium and bounce back of economic activities.

"Broader market has shown under-performance compared to headline peers as investors feel safer chasing heavyweights during high market levels. We feel more stimulus measures are required to boost the economy and announcements regarding the same from the government is expected in the near future that can further accelerate our domestic market," said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services.

BSE telecom, bankex, power, metal, finance, consumer durables and teck indices rallied up to 3.81 per cent, while healthcare ended in the red.

Broader BSE mid-cap and small-cap indices rose up to 1.01 per cent. Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Seoul and Tokyo ended up to 2.12 per cent higher. Stock exchanges in Europe were also trading with robust

gains in early deals.

Foreign portfolio investors purchased shares worth a net Rs 4,869.87 crore on Friday, according to provisional exchange data.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 2.26 per cent higher at \$40.34 per barrel.

The rupee surrendered all its early gains to settle 7 paise lower at 74.15 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, in line with weaker Asian peers against the greenback.

Higher crude oil prices also put pressure on the Indian currency.

At the interbank foreign exchange (forex), the domestic currency opened sharply higher at 73.95 a dollar and gained further strength to touch a high of 73.83 during the day.

It, however, could not hold on to the gains and finally settled at 74.15 against the greenback, 7 paise lower over its previous close.

In the previous session, the rupee had gained 28 paise to end at 74.08 against the US dollar.

Finance Commission submits report to Prez

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 9 NOVEMBER

The 15th Finance Commission led by its chairman N K Singh today submitted its report to President Ram Nath Kovind for fiscal years 2021-22 to 2025-26. The report titled ~ Finance Commission in Covid Times ~ contains four volumes each pertaining to an area of the terms of reference of the Finance Commission.

"As per the terms of reference (ToR), the Commission was mandated to give its recommendations for five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26 by 30 October, 2020," reads the Press statement of Finance Com-

mission. The Commission was also asked to examine whether a separate mechanism for funding of defence and internal security ought to be set up and if so how such a mechanism could be operationalised. Volumes one and two contained the main report regarding the vertical and horizontal tax devolution and grants to local bodies and disaster management, volumes three and four were dedicated to the Central and state governments, respectively," reads the statement.

The Commission analysed the finances of each state in great depth and came up with state-specific considerations to address the key challenges. The report will be available in the public domain once it is tabled in the Parliament along with explanatory memorandum/action taken report on the recommendations contained in the report.

RBI lifts restrictions on Equitas SFB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 9 NOVEMBER

Equitas Holdings today said RBI has lifted the restrictions imposed on its small finance bank subsidiary in September last year.

The Reserve Bank lifted the restrictions on Equitas Small Finance Bank (ESFB) subsequent to the listing of its equity shares, Equitas Holdings said in a BSE filing.

"Subsequent to the listing of equity shares of...ESFB, RBI vide its letter dated 9 November 2020 has acceded to request of the bank for lifting the regulatory restrictions," it said.

RBI had restricted ESFB from opening new branches

and froze the remuneration of MD & CEO at the then existing level.

"In this connection, we accede to your request for lifting the regulatory restrictions imposed on Equitas Small Finance Bank vide our letter dated 6 September 2019," the RBI letter attached with the filing said.

The shares of ESFB were listed on stock exchanges NSE and BSE with effect from 2 November 2020.

The listing of the banking subsidiary has been in compliance with requirements of guidelines of licensing of small finance bank by the Reserve Bank of India, Equitas Holdings said in a filing last week.

Passenger vehicle retail sales fall 9% in Oct

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 9 NOVEMBER

Automobile dealers' body FADA today said passenger vehicle (PV) retail sales in October witnessed a year-on-year decline of 8.8 per cent to 2,49,860 units, as registrations slowed down owing to supply issues.

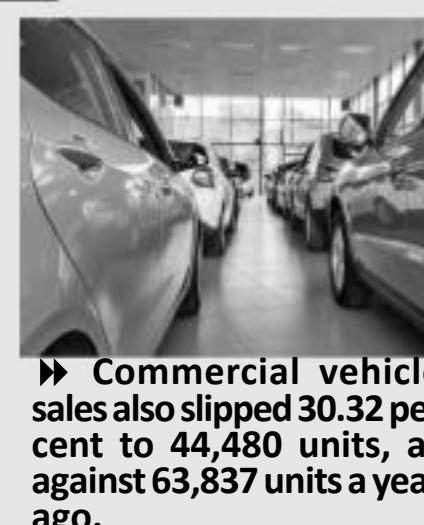
According to The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), which collected vehicle registration data from 1,257 out of the 1,464 regional transport offices (RTOs), PV sales stood at 2,73,980 units in October 2019.

Two-wheeler sales declined by 26.82 per cent to 10,41,682 units last month, as compared to 14,23,394 units in October 2019.

Commercial vehicle sales

FADA DATA FOR OCT

► Passenger vehicle (PV) retail sales in October witnessed a year-on-year decline of 8.8 per cent to 2,49,860 units, according to The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations.



► Two-wheeler sales declined by 26.82 per cent to 10,41,682 units last month, as compared to 14,23,394 units in October 2019.

also slipped 30.32 per cent to 44,480 units, as against 63,837 units a year ago.

Similarly, three-wheeler sales fell by 64.5 per cent to 22,381 units last month, from

63,042 units in the year-ago period.

Tractor sales, however, grew by 55 per cent to 55,146 units last month, against 35,456 units in the same month last

year. Total sales across categories declined by 23.99 per cent to 14,13,549 units last month compared to 18,59,709 units in the year-ago period.

Commenting on the sales data, FADA president Vinakesh Gulati said the Navratri period witnessed robust vehicle registrations, but could not save October to go in red as compared to last year when both Navratri and Diwali were in the same month.

While new launches continued to be in demand in the passenger vehicle segment, entry-level motorcycles witnessed a lean demand in the two-wheeler segment, he added.

"With supply-side mismatch, most of the passenger vehicle dealers ended up with limited stock of high selling

items and odd variants, which did not attract much demand. This coupled with lower discounts, compared to last festive season also played a spoilsport," he noted.

Gulati said that while small commercial vehicles were witnessing robust demand due to local goods transportation back to pre-Covid levels, the medium and heavy commercial vehicle segment continued to bleed.

"FADA urges the government to urgently announce an attractive incentive based scrappage policy. It also requests the government to release funds for infrastructure projects which it has awarded as this will help demand generation and will lead to higher production of vehicles," he added.

PUBLIC SECTOR ROUNDUP

AAI SIGNS MOU WITH NTPC



AAI General Manager (Engineering) Reena Rai and NTPC Vidyavir Vyapar Nigam Ltd. Chief General Manager K S Bandyopadhyay signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the presence of AAI chairman Arvind Singh and NTPC CMD Gurdeep Singh. The MoU was signed on 5 November for setting up solar power plants and adoption of e-vehicles at AAI airports.

NFL continues urea supply amid rail restrictions in Punjab



National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) continued its urea production in its plants in Punjab and also supplied fertilizers to farmers even during ongoing Rail Roko' stir in Punjab.

The company produces around 10 Lakh MT urea (5200 MT/day) in its both Bathinda and Nangal plants in Punjab. NFL's production operations were initially impacted due to non-supply of Coal, which is used for steam generation in

plants during production of urea. Both the plants require around 2,000 MT of Coal everyday and

the supply of the same remained struck in state since 1 October after the halt of rail movement.

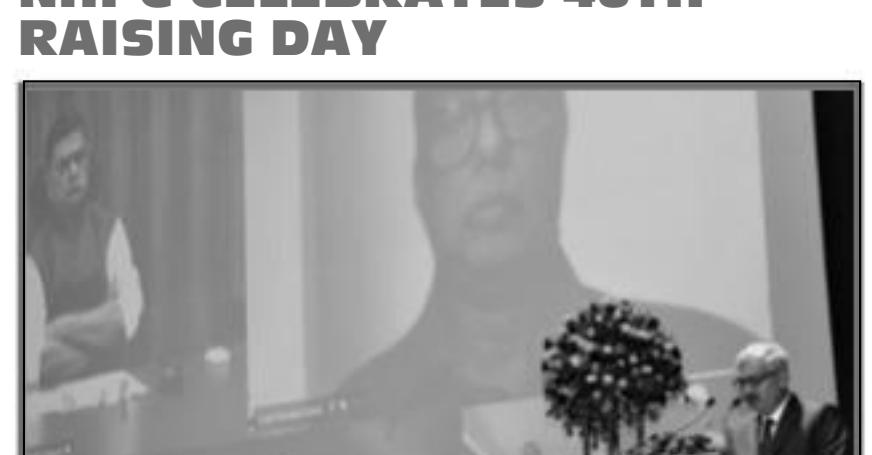
With every passing day, the coal stocks were depleting in plants.

More than 80% of the 5200 MT urea produced daily from Nangal and Bathinda plants is normally dispatched to fields through railway wagons. Rest of the quantities (20%) is sent through trucks to nearby areas in Punjab and neighborhood states of Himachal Pradesh and J&K which were in crucial need of the fertilizer.

plant requires one rail rake (of 42 bogies) every alternative day to dispatch urea to respective locations. Due to the non-receipt of railway wagons after the agitation, the urea stock in these plants started piling up taking the silo stock to the brim.

The company successfully supplied urea from its Nangal plant to some destinations in Himachal Pradesh and J&K which were in crucial need of the fertilizer.

NHPC CELEBRATES 46TH RAISING DAY



NHPC CMD AK Singh addresses the employees on occasion of 46th Raising Day of NHPC on 7 November at its Corporate Office, Faridabad. The Chief Guest, R K Singh, Union Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Power, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Minister of State, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Guest of honour, Sanjiv Nandan Sahai, Secretary (Power) joined the function through video conferencing.

AAI's Rupsi airport is ready to commence operations



AAI's Rupsi Airport in Assam is ready to commence operations under regional connectivity scheme. The airport has been re-developed at an estimated cost of Rs 69 crore and has also received its licence by Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

The airport is one of the

India's newest in RCS route

which will cater local popula-

tion providing direct con-

nnectivity to cities like Guwahati in Assam and Kolkata in West Bengal.

In order to promote the bal-

anced use of fertilizers in the

country, National Fertilizers

Limited (NFL) is encouraging

farmers in its training pro-

grammes to also use non-urea

fertilizers like DAP, MoP, NPK

and Sulphur Based fertili-

zers. With these efforts, the

company has registered growth

in sale of all non-urea fertili-

zers during the first seven months

of the current financial year.

The sale of sulphur based

fertilizers of company - Ben-

tonite Sulphur has registered

a growth of 23% and SSP has

registered growth of 133%

over the CPLY.</



We Germans and we Europeans know that we have to take on more responsibility in this partnership in the 21st century

GERMAN CHANCELLOR ANGELA MERKEL
CONGRATULATING JOE BIDEN ON HIS U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WIN

The Statesman

09

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2020

Suu Kyi's party claims to have won majority in Myanmar polls

NLD spokesperson says out of 642 seats we were aiming to secure 377 seats, but it would be likely more

ASSOCIATED PRESS

YANGON, 9 NOVEMBER

Myanmar's ruling National League for Democracy party claimed on Monday that it has won enough seats in Parliament to constitute an absolute majority and retain power.

It made the claim even though the state Union Election Commission has not yet completed releasing results from Sunday's election.

I can now confirm that we're now securing more than 322 seats, said Monya Aung Shin, a spokesperson for the NLD information committee. There are 642 seats in Parliament. We were aiming to secure 377 seats in total. But it would be likely more than that, said Monya Aung Shin.

There were no reliable official figures available on voter turnout, and the Union Elec-

tion Commission had earlier said that it might take as long as a week to release full results.

A victory by the NLD had been widely expected, though it had been speculated that its deterioration of relations with ethnic minority-based parties, with whom it had cooperated in the last election in 2015, might cut its totals.

Outside of Myanmar, her reputation took a dive in response to her failure to defend the human rights of the country's Muslim Rohingya minority. Her foreign supporters were shocked that she did nothing about the brutal 2017 counterinsurgency campaign of Myanmar's army that forced about 740,000 Rohingya to flee across the border to neighboring Bangladesh.

But the issue was a matter of little concern to most voters, due to deep-seated prejudice against the Rohingya,



for democracy against the military dictatorships that preceded her.

whom many consider illegal immigrants from South Asia despite their families having been settled in Myanmar for generations. Few have citizenship or civil rights, including the right to vote.

Suu Kyi in the past few months has in state media and on livestreamed appearances on social media projected a strong image of leadership as Myanmar has battled a surge in coronavirus infections.

At the same time, much traditional campaigning, such as mass rallies, was curbed by restrictions imposed to control the spread of the coronavirus. More than 90 parties contested the election and 37 million people were eligible to cast ballots, including 5 million first-time voters.

Suu Kyi's NLD in 2015 romped to a landslide victory giving it an absolute majority and ending more than five decades of military-directed

rule. Her government drew criticism from rights groups for how it conducted the election, with a focus on the disenfranchisement of the Rohingya minority.

A core principle of elections under international law is universal and equal suffrage and that is not what took place yesterday, Ismail Wolff, regional director of Fortify Rights, said in a statement released Monday.

The international community must unequivocally condemn the disenfranchisement of Rohingya and other ethnic nationalities or risk paving the path for future violations.

Other concerns include the government's continued crackdown on the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, including the arbitrary arrest and detention of civil society actors and activists, the group said.

Armenia reports battles around strategic city in Nagorno-Karabakh

AGENCIES

YEREVAN/BAKU, 9 NOVEMBER

ministry spokeswoman Shushan Stepanyan.

Emboldened by Turkish support, Azerbaijan says it has since Sept. 27 retaken much of the land in and around Nagorno-Karabakh that it lost in a war over the breakaway territory which killed an estimated 30,000 people in the 1990s. Armenia denies this.

People celebrated in the streets of Azerbaijan's capital, Baku, on Sunday when President Ilham Aliyev announced his country's forces had taken Shushi, which sits on a mountain top overlooking Nagorno-Karabakh's main city, Stepanakert.

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Three ceasefires have failed in the past six weeks and Azerbaijan's superior weaponry and battlefield gains have reduced its incentive to seek a lasting peace deal.

"The combat in the vicinity of Shushi goes on. The Nagorno-Karabakh army units are successfully carrying out their mission, depriving the enemy of the initiative," said Armenian defence

dominantly made up of Azeris before the 1991-94 war, and it is culturally significant to both sides.

RUSSIA AND TURKEY LOOK ON

Russia, which held vast influence in the South Caucasus during Soviet times, has a defence pact with Armenia but also has good relations with Azerbaijan, a gas and oil-producing state whose pipelines have not been affected by the fighting.

Military analysts say direct Russian military involvement in the conflict is unlikely unless Armenia itself is deliberately attacked, and that Turkey will probably not step up its involvement if Azerbaijani advances continue.

"Russia continues to make every effort to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by political and diplomatic means," Russia's TASS news agency quoted Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov as saying.

Turkish finance minister, Erdogan's son-in-law, resigns post

ANKARA, 9 NOVEMBER

Turkey's finance minister and son-in-law to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced his resignation on social media Sunday.

Berat Albayrak said on Instagram that he was stepping down from his post for health reasons and would spend more time with his family. Albayrak, 42, was appointed minister of finance and treasury in July 2018, having previously been energy minister for nearly three years.

His resignation follows the dismissal over the weekend of central bank chief Murat Uysal and his replacement by former Finance Minister Naci Agbal.

I decided not to continue my duty as a minister after five years in office due to health problems, Albayrak said. I will spend time with my mother, father, wife and children, whom I have neglected for many years out of necessity and who have never spared me their support.

The resignation was confirmed by officials at the Finance Ministry, broadcaster HaberTurk reported, although it was unclear if it would be accepted by Erdogan. Before entering politics, Albayrak worked for Calik Holding, rising to CEO in 2007.

Official: Suicide car bomber kills 4 people in Afghanistan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KABUL, 9 NOVEMBER

included both soldiers and civilians.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, though suspicion immediately fell on the Taliban.

Kandahar long has been a stronghold for the militants since the 2001 US-led invasion following the Sept. 11 attacks masterminded by Al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, whom the Taliban hosted at the time.

Violence has soared in Afghanistan in recent months, even as the Taliban and government negotiators hold peace talks in Qatar.

The two sides have made

little progress and attacks continue despite warnings from the US that continued violence could derail the talks.

Under a February agreement signed with the US, the Taliban have committed to fighting militancy and those who threaten the US in Afghanistan, specifically the Islamic State group and Al-Qaida.

Earlier this month, Islamic State militants stormed Kabul University, sparking an hours-long gunbattle that killed 22 people and wounded 22 others at the war-torn country's largest school.

The two sides have made

Cambodia's new virus rules restrain holiday celebrations

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHNOM PENH, 9 NOVEMBER

spread of the virus has shut them down in those places for two weeks.

The new restrictions were issued by the Health Ministry on Sunday because Hungary's foreign minister tested positive for the coronavirus after visiting Cambodia last week.

Peter Szijjarto tested positive upon arrival in Thailand on Tuesday following his one-day Cambodia visit. He was placed in quarantine in Bangkok before leaving for Hungary on Wednesday.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen announced

Saturday that a Cambodian bodyguard for Szijjarto had tested positive for the coronavirus. He said the bodyguard was the only one of more than 900 people who were involved with Szijjarto's visit to test positive.

Hun Sen and four Cabinet ministers are in quarantine because they met with Szijjarto the same day he tested positive. Hun Sen said he has tested negative and will abide by the country's coronavirus guidelines and stay quarantined for 14 days.

All the people involved with the Hungarian foreign

minister's trip were undergoing a second coronavirus test Monday.

They will be tested four times during the 14-day quarantine period.

Education Minister Ros Soveacha issued a statement Monday saying Phnom Penh's Olympic Stadium would close its gym and other facilities because the infected Cambodian bodyguard for Szijjarto also coached sports there.

In his Saturday audio message, Hun Sen said he would not declare a national or local state of emergency, or bar travel by people not involved, but urged people to observe Health Ministry guidelines.

Cambodia has reported a total of 297 cases of the coronavirus, with no deaths.

The Education Ministry said the school shutdown was necessary because it has been unable to collect enough information from the parents of those students who had direct or indirect contact with Szijjarto.

Schools throughout Cambodia reopened on Nov. 2 after being closed since March due to the coronavirus, but with limited class sizes and hours.

According to the GI-TOC report, crystal meth is being smuggled into South Africa through long-established heroin smuggling routes

popularly known in South Africa as tik, is very popular, particularly among unemployed youth who are known to resort to crime to get their hands on the drug.

But drug researcher Monique Marks, head of the Durban University of Technology's Urban Futures Centre, told the weekly that meth is now also used by those in affluent areas in this port city in South Africa.

In Cape Town, the Afghani drug is commonly referred to as Pakistani, with one dealer reportedly claiming to have no idea that there was a country called Afghanistan.

According to the GI-TOC report, crystal meth is being smuggled into South Africa through long-established heroin smuggling routes.

In May this year, during the national lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic, two South Africans were arrested at the Komatiport border post for allegedly trying to smuggle into the country 100kg of crystal meth.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Rabbit-like animal (4)
- 2 Inspector of accounts (7)
- 3 Middle Eastern river (9)
- 4 Waste container (3)
- 5 Dock platform (5)
- 6 Small onion-like bulb (7)
- 7 Large black bird (4)
- 10 Asian beast of burden (5,7)
- 12 Small tower (6)
- 14 Culpable (6)
- 16 Travel hub (5,7)
- 19 Mentally assimilated (8)
- 21 Worshipped image (4)
- 22 Unpleasant (5)
- 23 In a fitting manner (4)

DOWN

- 1 Wedding, 12 Couplets, 13 Edible, 14 Include, 15 Hearts, 16 Close, 17 Solve, 18 Solve.
- 19 Ruler, 20 Pest, 21 Sieve.

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

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

- AIIMS 26588500, 26588900
- Moolchand Medcity (formerly Hospital) 42000000 & 24-hour Chemist Shop 42000447
- Vidyasagar Institute for Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences 26924300, 26924304
- Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre 29051280, 29958747
- Deen Dayal Upadhyay 25496320, 25494403
- Guru Tegh Bahadur 23717473, 23325320

RAILWAY INQUIRY

- General Inquiry 139
- Toll Free Nos. 1800112511
- SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886, 54959, 5676747

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

- ISBT (General Inquiry): 23868836, 23865181
- Haryana Roadways 23861262, 09910383338, 18001803838, Reservation 43513186; Indigo Airlines Airline 23717473, 23325320

FLIGHT INQUIRY

- AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 18001801407
- INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Centre 09910383338, 18001803838, Reservation 43513186; Indigo Airlines Airline 23717473, 23325320

SCRABBLE BRAND

G	R	A	M	S
H	I	L	G	F
S	E	I	E	O
N	I	E	O	J
R	A	R	I	E

PAR SCORE 35-45

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION BY JUDD
RACK 1 = 21
RACK 2 = 58
RACK 3 = 12
RACK 4 = 26
JUDD'S TOTAL = 117

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WEATHER

CITY	MAX(°C)	MIN(°C)
SINGAPORE	29	26 H
HONG KONG	25	22 H
TOKYO	15	09 S
LONDON	15	08 R
DUBAI	32	23 S
SAN FRANCISCO	16	08 H
NEW YORK	21	17 H
MOSCOW	03	-02 H

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

THUMBNAILS



A kid celebrates the victory of newly elected President Joe Biden at Brooklyn's Grand Army Plaza.

AGENCIES

Bangladesh makes masks mandatory at places of worship: Bangladesh has made wearing of masks mandatory at places of worship, including mosques, churches and temples, to contain the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic as the total number of cases crossed 420,000 in the country, according to a media report. As of Sunday, Bangladesh registered 420,238 Covid-19 cases and 6,067 deaths from the deadly disease, the news report said.

PTI

Sri Lanka to strictly enforce virus regulations: Sri Lanka police will strictly enforce mask and social distancing requirements and punish violators starting Monday as other anti-virus measures are eased to reduce the economic pain. Police spokesman Ajith Rohana said 120 people have been arrested for failing to wear face masks and maintain social distancing in public places during the last 10 days. Sri Lanka has counted 13,929 Covid-19 patients with 35 deaths since the pandemic began.

AP



We signed the agreement with the American government not a person...

SPokesman for the Taliban Mohammad Naeem

EXPECTING BIDEN TO ABIDE BY AFGHAN PULLOUT DEAL

World

Biden & Harris gear up to rebuild America

Covid-19, economic recovery, racial equality and climate change top priorities for Biden, Harris

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 9 NOVEMBER

Tackling the Covid-19 pandemic, economic crisis, systemic racism and climate change are the top priorities for the Biden administration, according to his transition team, as President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris gear up for building back everything "better than ever".

Following a tense week of vote tallying, Democratic presidential candidate Biden, 77, on Saturday won the state of Pennsylvania and vaulted ahead in the race to become the next president of the United States. Biden's win in the key battleground state put him over the threshold of 270 electoral votes, cutting off all avenues for his opponent, incumbent Republican President Donald Trump.

As Biden's vice president,

Harris, 56, will make history in myriad ways, becoming the first woman - and the first woman of colour - to occupy the office.

The Biden team updated its website to showcase four policy areas the incoming administration will prioritise: Covid-19, economic recovery, racial equity and climate change.

"We aren't just going to rebuild what has worked in the past. This is our opportunity to build back better than ever," said the Biden-Harris transition team on Sunday, giving details of the priorities for the next administration which will be inaugurated on January 20, 2021.

"President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris are confronting a pandemic, an economic crisis, calls for racial justice, and climate change. The team being assembled will meet these challenges on Day One," the campaign said.

Once sworn into office, Biden and Harris will provide the much-needed national leadership to tackle the pandemic and begin our nation's recovery, it said.

The mandate of the transition team is to put in place the infrastructure that can ensure a smooth transition from the outgoing administration and efficiently run the



administration on day one.

Observing that the American people deserve an urgent, robust, and professional response to the growing public health and economic crisis caused by the coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak, the team said that Biden believes that the federal government must act swiftly and aggressively to help protect and support the families, small businesses, first responders, and care-

givers essential to help them face this challenge.

The Biden-Harris administration will always listen to science, ensure public health decisions are informed by public health professionals and promote trust, transparency, common purpose, and accountability in the government, it said.

The US is currently the world's worst-hit nation from the pandemic and has had more than 9.8 million cases and over 237,000 deaths from the virus since the pandemic started in the central Chinese city of Wuhan last year.

Economic recovery is the second top priority for the Biden-Harris administration.

In this time of crisis, President-elect Biden has a plan to create millions of good-paying jobs, make it easier for workers to organise unions and collectively bargain, and to give America's working families

the tools, choices, and freedom they need to build back better, it said. "That starts with a real strategy to deal with the pandemic. We can't solve the jobs crisis until we solve the public health crisis. Implementing Biden's comprehensive strategy to get the pandemic under control and effectively reopen the economy an approach that will both protect the health and safety of our people and boost economic activity is one of the president-elect's top priorities," said the transition.

"The moment has come for our nation to deal with systemic racism. To deal with the growing economic inequality in our nation. And to deal with the denial of the promise of this nation to so many," said the transition listing out its third priority.

As part of his commitment to uplifting Black and Brown communities, Biden will also

work to build an economy where every American enjoys a fair return for their work, and an equal chance to get ahead.

An economy more vibrant and more powerful precisely because everybody will be included in the deal. An economy where Black, Latino, Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI), and Native American workers and families are finally welcomed as full participants, it said.

President-elect Biden is leading the world to address the climate emergency and leading through the power of example, said the transition.

"Biden knows how to stand with America's allies, stand up to adversaries, and level with any world leader about what must be done. He will not only recommit the United States to the Paris Agreement on climate change he will go much further than that," it said.

Fraud claims aimed in part at keeping Trump base loyal

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 9 NOVEMBER

The Trump campaign's strategy to file a barrage of lawsuits challenging President-elect Joe Biden's win is more about providing President Donald Trump with an off-ramp for a loss he can't quite grasp and less about changing the election's outcome, according to senior officials, campaign aides and allies who spoke to The Associated Press.

Trump has promised legal action in the coming days as he refused to concede his loss to Biden, making an aggressive pitch for donors to help finance any court fight.

Trump and his campaign have levelled accusations of large-scale voter fraud in Pennsylvania and other states that broke for Biden, so far without proof.

But proof isn't really the point, said the people. The AP spoke with 10 Trump senior officials, campaign aides and allies who were not authorised to discuss the subject publicly and spoke on condition of



anonymity.

Trump aides and allies also acknowledged privately the legal fights would at best forestall the inevitable, and some had deep reservations about the president's attempts to undermine faith in the vote. But they said Trump and a core group of allies were aiming to keep his loyal base of supporters on his side even in defeat. There has never been a presidential election in memory where such widespread, conspiratorial fraud was alleged.

Moments after the AP called the race for Biden, Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani stood in front of campaign banner taped over the garage door of a landscaping company in Philadelphia, wedged near a cremation centre and an adult book store called Fantasy Island, with a handful of poll workers and declared they'd been kept too far away to check for any inaccuracies.

Something fishy was going on, he said. We have no way of knowing, because we've been deprived of the right to inspect

ballots, he said.

Partisan poll watchers are designated by a political party or campaign to report any concerns they may have.

They are not poll workers who actually tally ballots. Monitoring polling places and election offices is allowed in most states, but rules vary and there are certain limits to avoid any harassment or intimidation. They are not allowed to interfere with the conduct of the election and are typically required to register in advance with the local election office.

This year, because of the coronavirus that has killed more than 230,000 people across the country, there was litigation in a few states, including Pennsylvania, over

where poll watchers could stand to ensure social distancing.

Lawyers could potentially argue the vote tally should be cast aside over fraud observed by poll watchers, but in order to win that argument they'd need strong evidence, not just allegations the monitors weren't allowed to see clearly enough.

Judges are loathe to dis-enfranchise any voters and there would need to be substantial proof that fraud had so damaged the count it must be set aside. And it would have to happen across multiple states.

Democratic poll watchers, who were also given the same access, have not raised concerns. Giuliani called evidence of fraud circumstantial at the news conference. He said he'd be filing suit in federal court, but the issue has already been before judges.

A federal judge in Philadelphia Thursday might ordered the two sides to work out an agreement on the number of poll watchers and how close

they could be to the counting.

The judge also voiced concerns about the safety of poll workers during the pandemic if poll watchers were allowed to peer over their shoulders.

On Fox News Channel's Sunday Morning Futures Sunday, Giuliani said two additional lawsuits were in the process of being drafted, in addition to existing litigation in Pennsylvania.

By the end of this week, Giuliani predicted the campaign would have filed four or five lawsuits, with a total of 10 possible. Republican lawyers planned a Monday news conference to announce additional litigation.

Voter fraud is extremely rare, and when it does happen, people are generally caught and prosecuted and it does not change the outcome of the election.

Typically, it involves someone wanting to honour the wishes of a loved one who recently died and either knowingly or not commits a crime by filling out that ballot.

Texas becomes first US state to surpass one million coronavirus cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HOUSTON, 9 NOVEMBER

Texas has become the first US state to cross over a million coronavirus cases as President-elect Joe Biden is gearing up to battle the deadly virus which has infected more than 9.8 million people in the country.

According to Johns Hopkins University, Texas is one of the 31 states that has hit a record number of coronavirus cases this week. In Harris County, there are more than 167,000 cases and more than 2,300 deaths with the numbers climbing.

"We have to remember we're still in the middle of a public health crisis. Now, it's starting to creep back up into the 8 per cent range and that starts to concern us," said Dr Umair Shah, the executive director of Harris County Public Health.

The US is currently the world's worst-hit nation from the pandemic and has had more than 9.8 million cases and over 237,000 deaths from the virus since the pandemic began.

It started in the central Chinese city of Wuhan last year.

Johns Hopkins University's coronavirus tracker reported more than 50.2 million Covid-19 cases globally as of Sunday.

There have been more than 1.2 million deaths from the disease worldwide since the pandemic started.

His plan also calls for all governors to issue a mask mandate.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott has already issued a mask mandate over the summer. It requires people to wear a face covering in public in counties with more than 20 confirmed positive cases.

Dr David Persse, the city of Houston's health authority, said, "We still have opportunities to get this under control and drive those numbers down, but that's going to be left up to the individual, it's nothing the mayor, county judge, [or] governor can do."

Persse said, "It's painful when you have to have the governor lock things down. That hurts the economy, so let's not get there. Let's keep this under control with what we can do right now."

Biden on Sunday on his transition website posted

about his plans to fight the coronavirus.

His initial plan calls for doubling the number of testing sites, investing in rapid at-home tests, creating a nationwide pandemic dashboard and mobilizing 100,000 Americans for contact tracing.

He also announced that on Monday he will form a group of leading scientists and experts to bring the coronavirus task force.

Outgoing President Donald Trump has been accused of not listening to his own health experts on how to combat the deadly disease, allowing it to spread across the nation.

Biden on Sunday on his transition website posted

CRESTFALLEN



Trump supporters rallying outside the State Capital in Lansing, Michigan after the presidential election was called for Joe Biden.

AGENCIES

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TOKYO, 9 NOVEMBER

As Asia comes to terms with the reality of a Joe Biden administration, relief and hopes of economic and environmental revival jostle with needling anxiety and fears of inattention.

From security to trade to climate change, a powerful U.S. reach extends to nearly every corner of the Asia-Pacific. In his four years in office, President Donald Trump shook the foundations of U.S. relations here as he courted traditional rivals and attacked allies with both frequency and relish.

Now, as Biden looks to set

the tumultuous domestic issues, there's widespread worry that Asia will end up as an afterthought.

Allies will go unintended. Rivals-and especially China, that immense U.S. competitor for regional supremacy-will do as they like.

A Biden administration could have a calming effect on those frayed ties, according to Alexander Huang, a strategic studies professor at Tamkang University in Taipei and a former Taiwanese national security official.

CHINA
Biden will likely look here first. The two nations are inexorably entwined, economically and politically, even as the U.S.

military presence in the Pacific chafes against China's expanded effort to have its way in what it sees as its natural sphere of influence.

Under Trump, the two rivals engaged in a trade war, and a lively exchange of verbal hostilities.

A Biden administration could have a calming effect on those frayed ties, according to Alexander Huang, a strategic studies professor at Tamkang University in Taipei and a former Taiwanese national security official.

THE KOREAS
Say goodbye to the summits. Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un went from

threats of war to three unprecedented sit-downs, which, though high-profile media events, did nothing to rid the North of its banned nuclear-tipped long-range missiles.

Kim must now adjust to a man his propaganda services once condemned as a "rabid dog" that "must be beaten to death."

Biden, for his part, has called Kim a "butcher" and "thug," and said Trump had gifted a dictator with legitimacy with "three made-for-TV summits" that produced no disarmament progress.

Biden has endorsed a slower approach built from working-level meetings and said he would be willing to tighten

sanctions on the North until it takes concrete denuclearization steps.

North Korea, which has yet to show any willingness to fully deal away a nuclear arsenal that Kim may see as his strongest guarantee of survival, prefers a summit-driven process that gives it a better chance of pocketing instant concessions that would otherwise be rejected by lower-level diplomats.

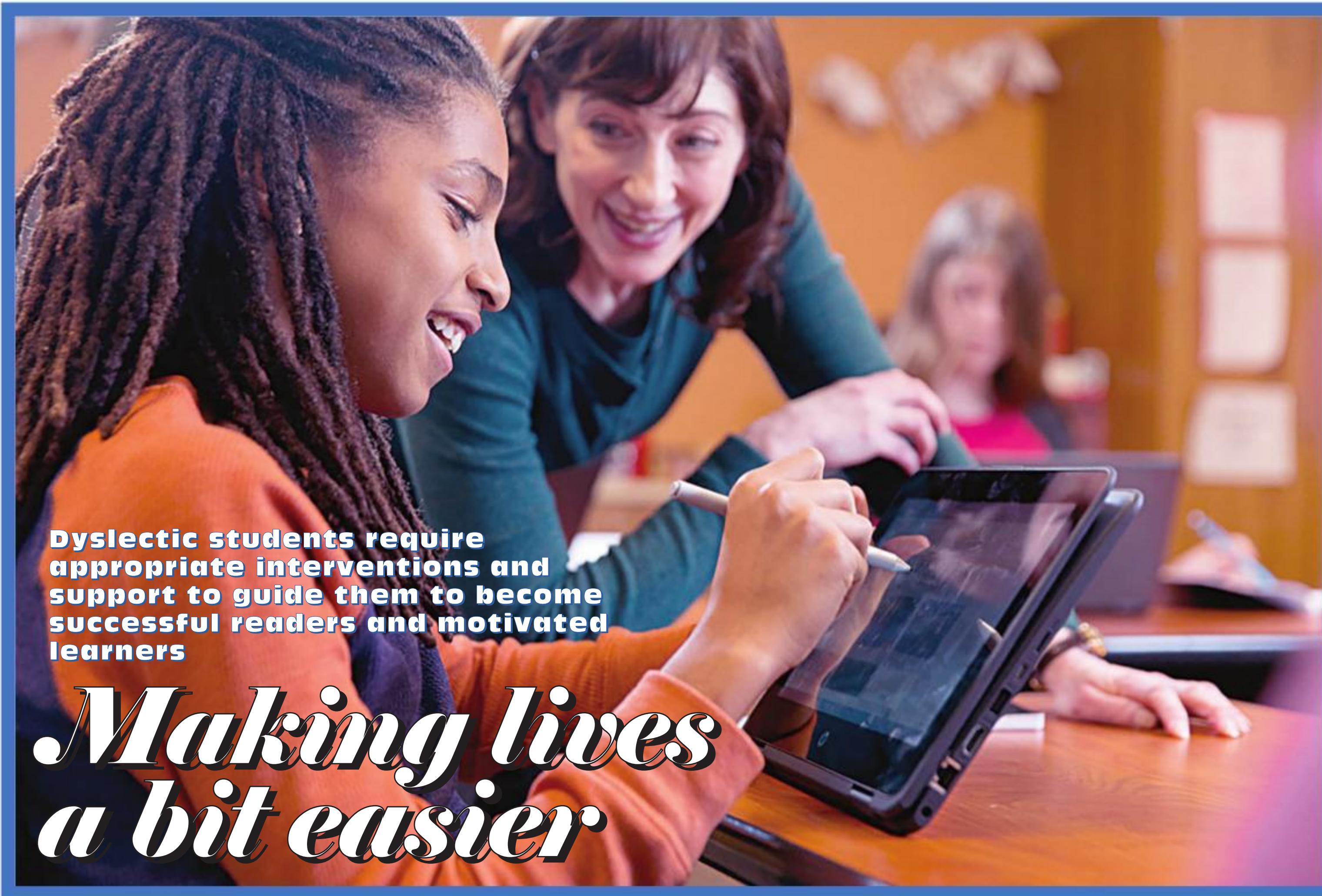
JAPAN
The resignation this year of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe ended one of Trump's few close, productive relationships with a foreign leader.

There's hope in Tokyo that Biden's more progressive ecological policies will help Japanese green companies and that he will take a hard line on China, with which Japan is in constant competition.

Biden's more progressive ecological policies will help Japanese green companies and that he will take a hard line on China, with which Japan is in constant competition.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

The conservative Australian prime minister who was in power when Trump was elected, Malcolm Turnbull, may have spoken for many when he tweeted congratulations to Biden:



Dyslectic students require appropriate interventions and support to guide them to become successful readers and motivated learners

Making lives a bit easier

KHUSHNAVAZ BHATHENA

My awakening to the challenges faced by students with dyslexia occurred when I began my journey of working closely with them. Most students experience some challenge or the other during their school life, some might find certain academic topics challenging, while others struggle during an art class, but at the end of the day, they would find a way to surpass these hurdles and accomplish the task at hand.

Students with dyslexia, however, struggle with tasks like reading and experience great difficulty making sense of the words they read. This may affect not only their academics but also all kinds of everyday activities such as reading the menu at the diner or learning the rules of a new board game. Does this mean they are less intelligent or cannot function in a mainstream school? The answer is undoubtedly a 'no' but they do require appropriate interventions and support to guide them to become successful readers and motivated learners.

SANDEEP JAIN

Undeniably, both the aspects of computer science, both scientific and engineering, somehow interrelate with each other in various outlooks, but this can't prompt us to ignore the distinctive nature of the two disciplines. Computer science came out as an independent field of study around the 1950s (or the early 1960s), and is now considered as a formation of various separated disciplines, majorly computer engineering and computer science domain. And, these two domains gave birth to this long-established debate of scientific and engineering aspects of computer science. Let us explore the several facets of computer science from scientific and engineering perspective to enable candidates to make an informed choice:

Computer science versus computer engineering

Computer science concerns the study of computational theory and concepts such as data structures, algorithms, statistical models, operating system concepts, computer architecture, software engineering principles, and various others. Individuals in this discipline are majorly responsible for algorithms analysis, symbolic representation of data and instructions, protocols for data communication, and other related tasks.

On the other hand, computer engineering is the fusion of computer science and electrical engineering. Candidates of this discipline are majorly concerned with the development of computing systems whether it is for smartphones, laptops, or any other relevant device. They are more likely to spend most of their time in labs.

However, despite the work difference, computer science and computer engineering are somehow entirely dependent on each other and the end goal of both aspects is to come up with optimal solutions using computer devices.

Applications of computer science and engineering in the real world

To understand the application of computer science and engineering in

Making it multi-sensorial

Have you ever danced to help learn mathematics, sang a song to memorise a scientific definition, or painted in physical education? If you have, then you know what I am talking about. Such strategies involving more than two senses work like magic to help students with dyslexia learn and retain that learning. Using visual teaching techniques, as well as incorporating games that include text and/or pictures on paper, posters, videos, fingerspelling (spell or draw pictures in the sand trays or shaving cream) allows them to enhance their memory and learning of written language.

For example, the educator can provide hands-on activities, such as building a three-dimensional map to enhance the lesson by allowing them to touch and see the concepts while they listen to the teacher explaining about it.

Timed tasks are a nightmare

Yes, students with dyslexia require time to not only re-read content but also to process what they have read. Hence they expect a more understanding approach from us. By giving

them an accommodation of extra time, one is not just boosting their confidence, but also giving them an equal opportunity to achieve success like their peers. Repeated instructions, highlighting the keywords, and giving them short breaks in between a lengthy class increase their productivity and focus.

Providing handouts

It is a beyond challenging task for a student with dyslexia to copy notes from the board or take dictation. This is because they often lose their place while reading and feels the need to start again from the beginning. The teacher can hence consider handing out ready notes to these students. Or they can number points on both sides of the board to aid tracking.

Utilising other resources

A simple yet extremely enjoyable method one can use to increase the ability of a struggling reader is "paired reading" or "peer reading". It encourages them to work and support each other. Dyslexic students also benefit when they learn with alternate means such as listening to

audiobooks, typing on a computer or tablet instead of writing, using gaming applications that can make one understand decoding words, etc.

Revamping the organisational structure

Class instructions such as "put your homework on my table"; "remove your pencil from the box"; "put your science book on your table"; and "sit upright", all given at the same time highly confuses students with dyslexia and prevents them from responding appropriately. Therefore, what can really benefit them are step-by-step instructions to provide them with a positive learning experience.

Thus, an understanding of the student's specific difficulties, and how they may affect their classroom performance, can enable the teacher to adapt teaching methods and strategies to help the dyslexic child to be successful in an integrated classroom environment. Dyslexic children, like all children, thrive on challenges and success.

The writer is teaching faculty - junior school, The Aditya Birla Integrated School

PLUS POINTS

Achieving leadership



Nayara Energy- a new-age integrated downstream energy company, signed a tripartite memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT-Delhi and Gexconto to further progress development and implementation of process safety and risk management standards in the manufacturing industry. The MOU will enable Nayara Energy to advance its operational excellence journey and strengthen process safety coherent with global standards.

A distinguished scientist, Dr JP Gupta propositioned an urgent need for India to develop a Centre of Excellence (COE) to promote education, research and development in process safety in line with several global institutes. He alluded that this COE will be the first-of-its-kind in India that will be involved in training, higher education, research, developing innovative solutions and consultancy work in process safety.

Learning new culture



The certificate ceremony of Korean language classes at Indian schools was held recently for the first time since the Indian government chose Korean as a second foreign language.

A total of 140 students from 10 schools completed the hobby class, which began in May 2020, and at the virtual certificate ceremony, the students presented their impressions of learning Korean and sang Arirang. In the meantime, the Korean Cultural Centre India has established sisterhood ties with 106 schools and is making efforts to spread Korean language to Indian schools, starting with Korean language classes.

Significant meet



FORE School of Management, New Delhi in association with Institute of Urban Farming and Sustainability (IUFs), India organised a seminar in virtual platform on "Biosecurity and Agriculture" recently. It brought together a variety of views from academia, farmers, activists, and consultants an important combination for fighting the sustainability battle.

Jitendra K Das, director, FORE School was the session chair for this event, who began proceedings by taking delegates through the importance of biosecurity and sustainable farming in the context of preventing the planet for future generation. There was a panel discussion where eminent speakers were present.

Testing proficiency



The Law School Admission Council (LSAC) announced plans to administer the 2021 LSAT-India for two weeks starting from 10 May 2021, using a proven online format that will allow law school aspirants to take the test in the safety and convenience of their own homes.

To enable students to pursue their education goals despite the ongoing pandemic, the LSAT-India test will be administered through an online test delivery system with artificial intelligence-assisted remote proctoring to ensure the integrity and validity of the test. The test will be delivered on several days and slots, to accommodate the large number of anticipated test takers. LSAC will be hosting a series of webinars featuring top Indian and international legal education leaders and students who took the LSAT-India in previous years as part of their admission process. Students can register by visiting: discoverlaw.in/register-for-the-test

the real world, one can open the search browser and look up for anything one wants. Whether it's about playing a game, listening to music, watching videos, etc. on laptop or any other device, or online shopping or booking a cab, the key factor behind all these is computer science as well as computer engineering and respective concepts such as programming, networking, cyber security, etc.

Furthermore, the latest technologies like IoT, Blockchain, AI and ML, Cloud, etc. have widened the area of practical implementation of computer science and engineering discipline.

Computer science contribution to other disciplines

Both the aspects of computer science – scientific and engineering – are correspondingly responsible

and dependent on each other for any practical implementation or solution. If we look at the designing and construction of smartphones, the computer scientists are responsible for writing operating systems, data communication, networking, etc., whereas, computer engineers are responsible for designing and integration of chips and circuits, and other related tasks to construct together the required components for smooth functioning.

So, if we talk about contributions of computer science in other disciplines, then there are numerous domains which get advanced by computer science such as healthcare and medicine, environment, astronomy, music and art, human assistance, and various

others.

How computer science benefits society?

From connecting with people from anywhere in the world, advancements in the healthcare sector to predicting natural disasters, computer science has indeed been very beneficial for society as it has made the lives of humans quite easy by offering optimal, satisfactory, and affordable solutions to real-world problems. And on top of that, computer science is leveraging the education sector (which is one of the crucial factors for the progress of society) with various advancements such as e-learning, ed-tech, etc. Considering the rapid evolution of this discipline, there is much more yet to come in the upcoming times as well that'll transform the world.

Career prospects in computer science and computer engineering

The career scope and demand for both the disciplines i.e., computer science and computer engineering are quite high. There are various job profiles that are available for a computer science candidate, such as software developers, web developers, database administrators, etc. and if you are into computer engineering, then you can look for roles such as embedded software engineer, hardware engineer, electrical design engineer, and more. Also, companies like Apple, Google, Dell, etc. hire candidates from both the disciplines, and offer a high-paying job for the skills required in these professions.

The writer is founder, GeeksforGeeks



For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THE STRONG MAN

He came up recently with an acrobatic overhead winner that belied his 39 years. Later, it was a towering header in stoppage time that secured AC Milan a 2-2 draw with Verona. Zlatan Ibrahimovic (in photo, left) keeps showing his markers are defenseless against him.

Asked if he thought Italian defenders had dropped in level, he said: "Or maybe Ibra is stronger."

THUMBNAILS

Bhuiyan praised: Nepal goalie Kiran Chemjong Limbu expects Bangladesh skipper Jamal Bhuiyan to "rock in the I-League." The goalkeeper has been playing for Minerva Punjab in the I-League for his second stint and knows India's domestic football inside out.

Maradona sedated: Maradona is sedated and under observation by a team of more than 10 doctors following brain surgery. He has been in intensive care since undergoing a procedure to remove a subdural hematoma at a clinic north of Buenos Aires last Tuesday.

Medvedev triumphs: Daniil Medvedev claimed his first Paris Masters title at Bercy Arena on Sunday, battling back from a set down to beat Germany's Alexander Zverev. He was on top form in a tough encounter, winning 5-7, 6-4, 6-1 to secure his first trophy of the season.

Lonely star: Polarising Australian Nick Kyrgios Sunday admitted to being in a "lonely, dark place" during recent years as he battled depression sparked by the relentless grind of the tennis tour. The temperamental star is one of the sport's biggest drawcards.

In doubt: The Football Association is waiting to see if England's Nations League game with Iceland can go ahead despite the UK government's travel ban on anyone entering the country from Denmark. The Wembley clash on 18 November has been put at risk.

Lille lose: Paris Saint-Germain pulled five points clear at the top of the French league after Lille lost 2-3 at Brest and surrendered the only-remaining unbeaten record. Lille's defeat gave Nice the chance to move into second place with a victory, but they lost.

Leverkusen win: Bayer Leverkusen twice came from behind to clinch a 4-3 win over Borussia Monchengladbach to conclude the seventh round of Bundesliga matches on Sunday. Lucas Alario's brace helped the Werkself overpower Monchengladbach.

Champions Trophy: India's hockey media sumit says that the Asian Champions Trophy, which will be their first assignment since the outbreak of novel coronavirus, will be a perfect platform to test where the team stand. The tournament in Dhaka will be held in March 2021.

Houston Open: Carlos Ortiz held off Dustin Johnson and Hideki Matsuyama by closing with a 5-under 65 to win the Houston Open, becoming the first Mexican to win on the PGA Tour in 42 years. He earned every bit of it, caught in a tight battle on the back nine.

Pak victory: Pakistan proved too strong for Zimbabwe as they won the second Twenty20 International by eight wickets in Rawalpindi on Sunday, taking a 2-0 lead in the three-match series, with half-centuries from skipper Babar Azam and Haider Ali.

Brad collects more points: A wet and wild first weekend comes to an end in Valencia as Stefan Bradl walks away with more points while Alex Marquez shows top-ten potential again. Sunday in Valencia got off to a busy start on a dry circuit, the Repsol Honda Team working to refine their dry race setup in just 20 minutes after a weekend of running in the wet. The Repsol Honda Team applying all of their knowledge to get the most out of the morning's session.

A humdinger on the cards

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI, 9 NOVEMBER

Mumbai Indians will be strongly challenged by a young Mumbaikar by the name of Shreyas Iyer (in photo), who leads a passionate but unpredictable Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League final here tomorrow.

After 52 days of frenetic action against the backdrop of the raging Covid-19 pandemic, it is now coronation time with the IPL's most successful skipper, Rohit Sharma, eager to win his fifth title. It will be Delhi's first final.

There haven't been too many teams that have shown the flair and balance of Mumbai Indians, whom most rivals envy. Mumbai have hit 130 sixes compared with Capitals' 84. Quinton de Kock's panache comes in tandem with Rohit Sharma's style although proving a point to all and sundry about his hamstring injury would also be on the Indian's mind.

Suryakumar Yadav's (60 boundaries and 10 sixes) "I-am-here" gesture after a league game against Royal Challengers Bangalore is now in the MI archive. His elegant way of handling fast bowlers has widened his fan base exponentially.

Ishan Kishan has hit 29 sixes while Kieron Pollard is a legend with a 190-plus strike rate. If Kagiso Rabada (29 wickets) and Anrich Nortje (20 wickets) get rid of this lot, DC will have to deal with the Pandya brothers -- the cool Krunal and the flamboyant Hardik -- both of whom are capable of spectacular hits.

Shikhar Dhawan (603 runs), who has enjoyed his best IPL, will have to do something out of the ordinary to tackle those yorkers from Jasprit Bumrah and those vicious incoming deliveries from Trent Boult.

In three contests this sea-



son, Mumbai have blown Delhi away in one-sided affairs but that will mean little if Iyer, a quintessential Mumbaikar, can ensure that his team are fourth time lucky.

The second qualifier showed that they had found their ideal combination with Marcus Stoinis' all-round game (352 runs and 12 wickets) and his ability to open the innings bringing in the required balance. Shimron Hetmyer's

DC vs MI: Match begins at 7.30 pm IST.

six-hitting prowess will also be required, considering Iyer and Rishabh Pant have not exactly fired for the better part of the tournament.

Another big factor for Delhi could be Ravichandran Ashwin's quality as a powerplay operator. A crafty Ashwin can always alter the length and find out how much impact his bowling would have on Sharma's hamstring if he tries to pace down the track. The subplots are going to be entertaining.

Iyer said last night that

"(It's) the best feeling ever. The journey has been a roller-coaster. The emotions keep going high and low, so you can't have the same routine. We have to keep chopping and changing." Iyer said at the post-match presentation.

"I'm hoping that, against MI, the biggest team, we're able to play freely."

Iyer lauded the collective effort that had carried the side through. "At the end of the day, we stuck together as a family. I'm very happy with the effort every individual has put in. But I've been getting support from the coaches and the support staff as well. On top of that, the team have been so special. I'm really fortunate to have such an amazing team," Iyer said.

We were going at 10 run an over, but we know Rashid Khan can be lethal in the middle ones. The plan was not to give him wickets. We were a little deficient in terms of our opening partnerships, so we needed a rocket start. We thought if Dhawan goes and plays most of the deliveries he can give us a good start," he said.

A disappointed SRH captain David Warner said that he was proud of his team despite their failure to make the final. "First and foremost, no one gave us a chance at the start. Mumbai have a great team, Delhi as well, and RCB, but I'm proud to be where we are today. Natarajan is a find

"We were going at 10 run an over, but we know Rashid Khan can be lethal in the middle ones. The plan was not to give him wickets. We were a little deficient in terms of our opening partnerships, so we needed a rocket start. We thought if Dhawan goes and plays most of the deliveries he can give us a good start," he said.

"I've played quite a bit of IPL cricket, but this is my first final. It's been hard with that quarantine period but a bit of silverware is a good motivating factor," he said.

"MI are a very good team. They have played consistently. But they're due an off game. Our best cricket should be good enough for us to win." Asked about opening the DC innings, he said, "I have done it in the Big Bash League for a couple of seasons and it was nice to get an opportunity in the IPL."

About his bowling, he said: "You never know what's going to be like. There was swing early on. So I had a bit of a look at it before having a crack. It was a really nice wicket. My thought process was to change my grips and see what I was getting out of the wicket and change my tactics with wide yorkers and slower balls."

Blundell blunder

WELLINGTON, 9 NOVEMBER

Batsman Tom Blundell has become only the second player in New Zealand first-class cricket to be given out for obstructing the field.

Blundell had made 101, batting for Wellington province against Otago on the fourth day of a match in the domestic Plunket Shield competition yesterday, when he earned a rare place in cricket history. He edged a ball from Otago swing bowler Jacob Duffy back towards his stumps and first used his foot to try to stop the ball. He then stooped and used his hand to flick the ball away which is not allowed and resulted in his unusual dismissal.

Blundell was the first New Zealand player since John Hayes more than 60 years ago to be out in that manner. The England batsman Len Hutton is the only player in Test history to be given out obstructing the field, dismissed in a Test against South Africa in 1951. AP

Radha bags 5 wkts to restrict Trailblazers to 118/8 in final



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

SHARJAH, 9 NOVEMBER

Supernovas' crafty left-arm spinner Radha Yadav (in photo) captured five wickets to trigger a middle-order collapse and restricted Trailblazers to 118 for eight wickets in 20 overs in the final of the Women's T20 Challenge here at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium.

After captain Smriti Mandhana (68 off 49 balls) and Deandra Dottin (20) provided

a solid start of 71 runs in 11 overs, Trailblazers failed to build on the platform and sensationally caved in to Radha's guiles, after they were asked to bat. Only one other batswoman, Richa Ghosh (10), crossed the double digit mark. Radha finished with excellent figures of 4-0-16-5.

Brief scores: Trailblazers: 118/8 wkts in 20 overs (Smriti Mandhana 68 off 49 balls) and Deandra Dottin 20, Radha Yadav 5/16).

pitch to climb up to ninth. Real's preparations for the trip to Mestalla, where they had only won one of their previous six visits, were disrupted by Casemiro and Eden Hazard testing positive for Covid-19 the day before, while they lost Benzema to a muscle injury later on. Benzema had got Zinedine Zidane's side off to a strong start with his thumping strike from distance in the 23rd minute but Valencia pulled level with the first of Soler's three penalties after a most unusual turn of events.

Soler saw his spot-kick saved by Thibaut Courtois and then hit the post on the rebound, while team mate Yunus Musah netted the loose ball, only to see the goal ruled out after a referral showed him encroaching in the area. A re-take was ordered and

Valencia forward Carlos Soler (in photo, left) scored a hat-trick of penalties as his side beat La Liga champions Real Madrid 4-1 at home in an extraordinary match on Sunday.

Karim Benzema put Madrid ahead with a scorching strike from outside the area but Valencia replied with Soler's penalties and a bizarre own goal from Raphael Varane, inflicting a second defeat on Madrid this season and their heaviest league defeat since losing 5-1 to Barcelona in October 2018.

Madrid are fourth in the

standings on 16 points after eight games, while Real Sociedad are top with 20 after nine games. Valencia recorded their third win of a tumultuous campaign on and off the



Gymnasts show how Tokyo Olympics can pass coronavirus test

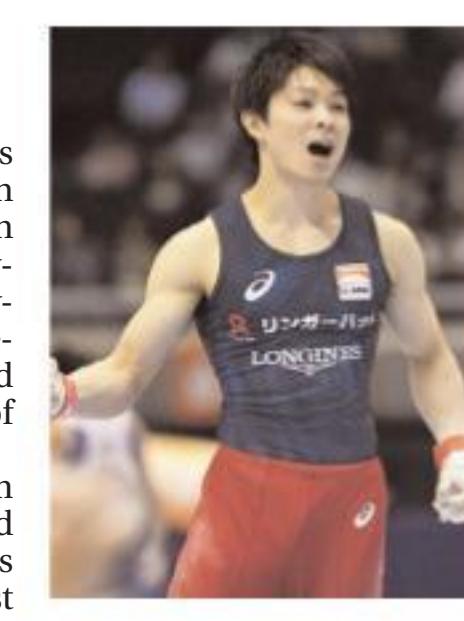
AGENCIES

TOKYO, 9 NOVEMBER

Gymnasts from four nations tumbled, leapt and spun through a friendly meet in Tokyo yesterday in a closely-watched event aimed at showing the world Japan could safely carry out the postponed 2020 Olympics in an era of coronavirus.

Thirty gymnasts from Japan, the USA, China and Russia, including Japan's triple Olympic gold medallist Kohei Uchimura (in photo) and Russia's 2019 World Champion Nikita Nagornyy, took part in the first international event at a Tokyo Olympic venue since the Games' postponement in March due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The one-off friendly event was seen as a crucial trial run for having international athletes travel to and compete in Japan during the Olympics, which will bring more than 11,000 athletes to Tokyo next July. A few international



matches have been held recently, but remain rare.

An opening message from International Olympic Committee head Thomas Bach highlighted the stakes for the meet, which seemed briefly threatened last week when Uchimura had what turned out to be a false positive virus test.

Lauding the "Olympic values" of friendship and solidarity - the names of teams into which the athletes were divided regardless of country

or gender - Bach said the meet played a crucial role.

"You are also setting an example that sport can be organised safely even under ongoing health restrictions," he said in a video message.

"...Giving us confidence in our preparation for future events, in particular of course with an eye to the postponed 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games."

Spectators at the venue, designed by Kenzo Tange for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, clapped enthusiastically but didn't cheer, mindful of posted rules against it - except when Uchimura, who hadn't competed internationally for two years due to injury, completed an electrifying horizontal bar routine.

Uchimura, whose "Solidarity" team edged "Friendship" to win, said the meet went beyond sport.

"It's important to work towards the Olympics next year, but we must also be athletes who give you hope and dreams," Uchimura said.

Valencia forward Carlos Soler scores a hat-trick of penalty goals

AGENCIES

VALENCIA, 9 NOVEMBER

Valencia forward Carlos Soler (in photo, left) scored a hat-trick of penalties as his side beat La Liga champions Real Madrid 4-1 at home in an extraordinary match on Sunday.

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standings on 16 points after eight games, while Real Sociedad are top with 20 after nine games. Valencia recorded their third win of a tumultuous campaign on and off the

pitch to climb up to ninth. Real's preparations for the trip to Mestalla, where they had only won one of their previous six visits, were disrupted by Casemiro and Eden Hazard testing positive for Covid-19 the day before, while they lost Benzema to a muscle injury later on. Benzema had got Zinedine Zidane's side off to a strong start with his thumping strike from distance in the 23rd minute but Valencia pulled level with the first of Soler's three penalties after a most unusual turn of events.

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Valencia forward Lee Kang-in almost struck a third early in the second period but Courtois turned his shot onto the post.

The home side kept up the

momentum though and won two further penalties, for a foul by Marcelo on Maxi Gomez then a handball by Sergio Ramos. Soler converted each time, becoming only the third player in the history of La Liga to score three penalties in a single match.

Arsenal stunned

Ollie Watkins scored twice in three minutes as Aston Villa stunned Arsenal 3-0, leaving the London club with four losses from eight Premier League games. The second-half goals from Watkins added to Bukayo Saka's own-goal in the 25th minute.

It was a quiet return to Arsenal for goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez, who left for Villa Park in the summer transfer window, as Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang endured another frustrating 90 minutes.

The result takes Villa up to

sixth in the table, three points off the lead and with a game in hand on all five sides above them. Arsenal dropped to 11th place a week after winning at Manchester United.

Leicester rose into first

The Statesman Sport

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

Kohli to go on paternity leave after 1st Australia Test; Rohit included, injured Varun out

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 9 NOVEMBER

India captain Virat Kohli (in photo) was on Monday granted paternity leave by the BCCI after the first Test against Australia next month, while his limited-overs' deputy Rohit Sharma was added to the red-ball squad after being initially left out due to a hamstring injury.

Warner, however, admitted that fielding had let his team down in the tournament.

"The main thing is a team's attitude on the field. You can't win if you don't take catches. We'll have to do much better next time - that's what's let us down in this tournament - the attitude on the field," said Warner.

"I've been getting support from the coaches and the support staff as well. On top of that, the team have been so special. I'm really fortunate to have such an amazing team," Iyer said.