



'INDIA IS
SECOND-HIGHEST
IN TESTING'



PROMOTE RUPAY
CARDS: SITHARAMAN
TO BANKS

P8



POLITICAL TURMOIL
OVER PERU PREZ'S
IMPEACHMENT

P9



HONEST JOE HITS
THE END OF THE
DIFFICULT ROAD

P12

WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. Moderate fog in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 29 and 11 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 100% Min: 48%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 30.1°C (+1) Min: 10.7°C (-3)

SUN RISES

06:41 hrs SUN SETS

MOON RISES

03:09 hrs MOON SETS

15:04 hrs

THUMBNAILS



BJP supporters celebrate during the Bihar Assembly poll counting, at BJP headquarters in the Capital on Tuesday.

DEEPAK

Mumbai Indians clinch 5th IPL title: A peerless Rohit Sharma led defending champions Mumbai Indians to their fifth IPL title with a one-sided demolition of Delhi Capitals in Dubai on Tuesday, closing an immensely successful tournament that had to be played in a controlled environment amid the raging Covid-19 pandemic. If last year's one-run win over CSK was an absolute cliffhanger, Rohit's aristocratic 68 off 58 balls made it an anti-climax with Mumbai Indians chasing the target of 157 in 18.4 overs. Five IPL titles are certain to make Rohit the undisputed 'Numero Uno' player-cum-leader in the IPL Universe.

Local trains in Bengal from today: Wearing of masks is mandatory for commuters boarding suburban trains that will resume operation from tomorrow while entry and exit points at stations will be demarcated for facilitating passenger movement and random thermal screening would be conducted for passengers entering the stations part of the 16-point SOP issued by the state home department

India's new cases below 40k for second time in Nov

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 9 NOVEMBER

Coronavirus cases in India neared 86-lakh mark with 38,073 new infections reported in a day. As per the Ministry of Health data, the coronavirus cases in India stands at 85,91,730.

The number of new coronavirus infections reported in India in a span of 24 hours dropped below 40,000 for the second time this month, as India's Covid-19 caseload rose to 85.91 lakh while the total number of recoveries neared 80 lakh, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Tuesday.

The Covid-19 caseload increased to 85,91,730 with 38,073 new infections being reported in a day, while the death toll climbed to 1,27,059 with 448 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The number of people who have recovered from the disease surged to 79,59,406 pushing the

Delhi sees record 7,830 virus cases, 83 deaths

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 10 NOVEMBER

Delhi today recorded 7,830 fresh coronavirus (Covid-19) cases - its highest single-day spike so far - which raised its Covid caseload to 4,51,382, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

These cases were detected out of 59,035 tests conducted in the national capital.

The city had on 8 November recorded 7,745 coronavirus infections - its previous highest single-day spike - which were detected out of 50,754 tests.

It had yesterday reported

national recovery rate to 92.64 per cent, while the COVID-19

case fatality rate stands at 1.48 per cent.

FACT FILE

TOTAL CASES	85,91,730
ACTIVE CASES	5,01,214
NEW CASES	38,073
NEW RECOVERIES	46,084
TOTAL DEATHS	1,27,059

UNION HEALTH MINISTRY FIGURES AS OF 8.00 A.M. TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2020

Republic TV's Arnab moves SC for bail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 10 NOVEMBER

Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami moved the Supreme Court Tuesday seeking interim bail in the 2018 case of alleged abetment to suicide of an interior designer.

The Bombay HC had refused to grant interim bail to Goswami and two others on Monday and asked them to move to the local court for the relief.

The appeal against the high court order has been filed in the top court through lawyer Nirmimesh Dubey.

Besides the Maharashtra government, Goswami who is in Taloja jail, has made the Centre, the SHO of Alibaug police station, Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh and Akshay Anvay Naik as parties to his appeal. State government, through

advocate Sachin Patil, has also filed a caveat in the SC to ensure that no order is passed on Goswami's plea without it being heard in the case.

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

Meanwhile, the hearing on Goswami's bail plea is also scheduled to be heard in the trial court during the day.

The HC, while rejecting the interim bail pleas of Goswami and the two other accused Feroze Shaikh and Nitish Sarda, had said, "no case has been made out for us (court) to exercise our extraordinary jurisdiction".

I am confident that a self-reliant India will prove to be a force multiplier for the world economy and will trigger a momentum for economic development of the SCO countries," he said.

"India strongly believes in peace, security and prosperity, and we have always voiced opposition to terrorism, illegal arms smuggling, drugs and money laundering," Modi said.

In this difficult time of unprecedented epidemic, India's pharma industry sent essential medicines to over 150 countries, he said.

"India strongly believes that a combination of economic multilateralism and national capacity building can help the countries including in the SCO region recover from the economic losses caused by the pandemic," Modi said.

The Prime Minister also talked about India hosting a summit of the council of heads of government of the SCO on 30 November in the virtual format, and said an elaborate agenda is being prepared focussing on economic issues.

The summit will culminate with the release of a Moscow Declaration which will reflect broad agenda of the bloc for one year, sources said.

Separate documents on digital economy and Covid-19 may also be issued.

Respect sovereignty & territorial integrity: Modi's message to China, Pak at SCO summit

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 10 NOVEMBER

In a stern message to China, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today asked members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to respect one another's sovereignty and territorial integrity and, in a veiled reference to Pakistan, regretted that bilateral issues were being unnecessarily brought into the SCO agenda.

In his speech at the eight-member Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, held virtually, Modi said, "India has strong cultural and historical ties with SCO countries... India believes that to enhance connectivity it is important that we move for-



ward while respecting one another's sovereignty and territorial integrity". In an oblique reference to Pakistan raising the Kashmir issue in the past meetings, Modi said, "It is unfortunate that there are unnecessary attempts to bring

bilateral issues in the SCO agenda, which is in violation of SCO Charter and Shanghai spirit."

India, he said, strongly believed in peace, security and prosperity and has always opposed terrorism, illegal

arms smuggling, drugs and money laundering. India has remained firm in its commitment to work as per the principles laid down in the SCO Charter, he added. Modi also called for "reformed multilateralism" to meet the present day challenges facing the global community.

This was the first time since the Sino-India border row in eastern Ladakh began in early May that Modi faced, albeit virtually, Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, Russian President Vladimir Putin and leaders of four central Asian countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan participated in the Summit. Putin

chaired the summit. "India believes that to enhance connectivity, it is important that we move forward by following the core principle of respecting each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity," Modi said while referring to New Delhi's involvement in International North South Corridor project, development of the Chabahar port and Ashgabat agreement.

The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is a 7,200-km-long multi-mode transport project for moving freight among India, Iran, Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia and Europe.

Ashgabat agreement is a

transport agreement among several Gulf and Central Asian countries which is aimed at creating a transit corridor to spur trade and investment. India has been supporting the project.

In mid-September, India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval walked out of a virtual meeting of top security officials of the SCO member states after the Pakistani representative projected a map that inaccurately depicted Kash-

mimir. In his address, Modi also delved into a number of key issues like the threat of terrorism, long-pending reform of the United Nations and the need for concerted efforts to deal with the COVID-19 pan-

demic as well as its adverse impact on global economy.

"India strongly believes in peace, security and prosperity, and we have always voiced opposition to terrorism, illegal arms smuggling, drugs and money laundering," Modi said.

In this difficult time of unprecedent epidemic, India's pharma industry sent essential medicines to over 150 countries, he said.

The Prime Minister also talked about India hosting a summit of the council of heads of government of the SCO on 30 November in the virtual format, and said an elaborate agenda is being prepared focussing on economic issues.

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Separate documents on digital economy and Covid-19 may also be issued.



Today is Nandigram Dibas - the 13th anniversary of the barbaric massacre in the name of new dawn. My homage to all those who have lost their lives due to political violence across the world. Peace must always win

MAMATA BANERJEE
WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

Old units won't pay conversion fee for switch to services: Jain

The new policy to allow only hi-tech and services sector units in Delhi's new industrial areas would help expansion and growth of industrial sector in the Capital, say industry associations

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 10 NOVEMBER

The old units in Delhi's industrial areas will not have to pay any conversion charges if they decide to switch from their existing manufacturing sector to the hi-tech and services sector, Delhi industries minister Satyendar Jain said today.

He asserted that if an entrepreneur wants to change his industry in this regard, he will not be charged a conversion fee as the Delhi government has decided to waive it.

"We are not removing the old industries, we are just making them shift to the hi-tech and services. Second, we have increased the floor area ratio (FAR) of certain industrial plots irrespective of their sizes. The new FAR has been approved as per industrial standards," Jain said at a meeting with representatives of Delhi's industry associations.

According to a recent notification issued by the central government, only hi-tech and service industries will be allowed to operate in new industrial areas in Delhi. The old manufacturing industries will also have the



option to switch to the hi-tech and service sector.

"As per the amendments in the Master Plan 2021, hi-tech industries will be set up in the new industrial areas, something which we had been trying for the last four years. Units relating to these sectors were not legally allowed to be set up in traditional industrial areas earlier. We have now got these areas legalised due to which the old industrial areas can operate both new hi-tech services and old services, and new industrial areas can only set up

hi-tech offices," Jain said.

"The old industrial areas will have the option to shift to new sectors. The new industrial sectors include offices of CAs, lawyers, media houses, computer hardware and software industries, industries doing systemic integration, industries integrating and manipulating the interfaces of computer and telecom facilities, IT services, internet and email providers," the minister said.

During the meeting with industry associations, Jain

addressed their concerns regarding the notification on this policy matter to be implemented by the Delhi government.

The industry associations said the new policy would help the expansion and growth of the industrial sector in Delhi.

Sanjay Vig, general secretary of the Industrial Area Mangolpuri, lauded the policy as a "revolutionary step" for the industries in Delhi.

"This will reverse the traditional trend for the industries in Delhi. It will cut down industri-

al and labour costs, generate employment and prove to be a positive development for the industries in Delhi," he said.

In an ambitious bid to deal with Delhi's persisting pollution crisis and to attract IT and related businesses to the city, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal had on 2 November announced that no manufacturing units will be allowed in the city's new industrial areas which would be available only to services and hi-tech industries.

The move has been envisaged to boost Delhi's economy besides helping the city become a hub of hi-tech and service industries which include IT-enabled services, call centres, software and hardware sector and media programme production as they will now be provided land at cheaper rates by authorities in industrial areas.

Kejriwal then said that the Centre had approved the Delhi government's proposal by changing the definition of industry in the Delhi Master Plan 2021 and issued a notification to implement it. Hi-tech and services activities will now be recognised as industry in the city, he pointed out.

Delhi govt launches drive against sale of spurious sweets during Diwali festival

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 10 NOVEMBER

In a bid to ensure proper quality of sweets being sold during the Diwali festival, the Delhi government has launched a special drive to keep a strict vigil on the sale of "khoya" or "mawa", which are widely used in making most Indian sweets.

The Delhi government has deputed six enforcement teams, which would conduct raids, if necessary, to prevent the sale of spurious khoya or mawa.

The government is strictly monitoring and inspecting the premises of various food businesses related to the sale of sweets to check hygienic processing. Around 1,30,000 food business operators have been sent emails along with attached awareness materials on Covid-appropriate behaviour and food handling during the festive season to check the use of common adulterants in sweets.

Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain said, "The Delhi government is very serious about the health of the people of

HIMS, e-Health card facilities to be implemented in Delhi by Aug 2021: Kejriwal

PTI
NEW DELHI, 10 NOVEMBER

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday held a review meeting on the Health Information Management System (HIMS) and e-Health card facilities for city residents, and said these are likely to be implemented by August next year.

HIMS will be implemented to provide effective healthcare services to the residents of Delhi, in the most efficient manner, through technologically empowered healthcare processes, the city government said in a statement.

"It is our duty to ensure that there is no inconvenience to the people of Delhi. This management system should be able to provide all healthcare facilities to the people. Other than that, by 2021, every resident of Delhi visiting a hospital should be issued a card to avail of the benefits of government healthcare services.

Post the issuing, we have to ensure that this card is integrated with the HIMS," Kejriwal said.

The chief minister said that with the implementation of the

e-Health card, the healthcare facilities will be extended to all city residents seeking treatment in Delhi government hospitals.

The health officials gave a presentation to the chief minister for the implementation of HIMS and issuing of the e-health cards.

Under HIMS, a web portal and a mobile app will be launched to store a database of the health information of the residents of Delhi, the chief minister was quoted as saying in the statement.

The HMIS will be implemented by August 2021 in all Delhi government hospitals, he said.

There will also be a centralised health helpline, for extension of uninterrupted healthcare facilities to the residents of Delhi. The Delhi government will set up a call centre to provide patients with tele-counselling, address information requests, address queries and complaints, and follow-ups, the statement said.

The e-health will be a QR code-based card to identify and track demographic and

basic clinical details of a patient. Through the card, residents of Delhi will be mapped for all eligible schemes and programmes, and the card will also be integrated with the HMIS for smooth information exchange.

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain said, "To ensure an effective reach of healthcare facilities to the people, we will also link call centre facilities to the app launched under the HIMS. This will resolve the issues of people effectively."

"This system will also ensure the availability of a doctor for the people 24x7," he said.

The HMIS seeks to target the healthcare delivery process. All the patient care services, hospital administration, budgeting and planning, supply chain management, and back-end services and processes will be brought under the system, the statement said.

As far as the deployment model is concerned, the entire system will be on the cloud and digitised. This will enable the citizens to avail information on one platform, which will help them in emergency cases, it added.

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

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

CANCELLATION OF MAIL / EXPRESS TRAINS	
Train No. & Name	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
02425/02426 New Delhi-Jammu Tawi-New Delhi Rajdhani Special	11.11.2020
22439/22440 New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Vande Bharat Express	11.11.2020
02462 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Express	11.11.2020
02461 New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express	12.11.2020
02011/02012 New Delhi-Kalka-New Delhi Shatabdi Express	11.11.2020
02029/02030 New Delhi-Amritsar-New Delhi Shatabdi Express	11.11.2020
05211 Darbhanga Jn - Amritsar Express	11.11.2020
05212 Amritsar - Darbhanga Jn Express	13.11.2020
02919 Dr Ambedkar Nagar - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express	11.11.2020
02920 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - Dr Ambedkar Nagar Express	13.11.2020

CANCELLATION OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS

Train No. & Name	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
02422 Jammu Tawi-Ajmer Express	11.11.2020
02421 Ajmer-Jammu Tawi Express	12.11.2020
02231 Lucknow - Chandigarh Express	11.11.2020
02232 Chandigarh-Lucknow Express	12.11.2020
04888 Barmer - Rishikesh Express	11.11.2020
04887 Rishikesh - Barmer Express	12.11.2020
04519 Delhi Jn.-Bathinda Express	11.11.2020 to 20.11.2020
04520 Bathinda - Delhi Jn. Express	12.11.2020 to 21.11.2020
04401 New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express	12.11.2020 to 19.11.2020
04402 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Express	13.11.2020 to 20.11.2020
02471/02472 Shri Gangangan - Delhi Jn. - Shri Gangangan Express	12.11.2020
03255 Patliputra Jn. - Chandigarh Express	11.11.2020
03556 Chandigarh - Patliputra Jn. Express	12.11.2020
09613 Ajmer-Amritsar Express	11.11.2020
09612 Amritsar-Ajmer Express	12.11.2020
09805 Kota Jn - Udhampur Express	11.11.2020
09806 Udhampur - Kota Jn Express	12.11.2020

PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF SPECIAL TRAINS

Train No. & Name	Short Terminate at/ Short originate from	Partially Cancelled between Stations	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
02903 Golden Temple Mail	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	of 10.11.2020
02904 Golden Temple Mail	from Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	11.11.2020
02925 Bandra Terminus-Amritsar Special Express	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	of 10.11.2020
02926 Amritsar-Bandra Terminus Special Exp.	from Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	12.11.2020
02715 Sachkhand Express	at New Delhi	New Delhi-Amritsar	11.11.2020
02716 Sachkhand Express	from New Delhi	Amritsar-New Delhi	12.11.2020
03307 Dhanbad-Firozpur Exp.	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Firozpur	of 10.11.2020
03308 Firozpur-Dhanbad Exp.	from Ambala Cantt.	Firozpur-Ambala Cantt.	12.11.2020
04649/73 Jaynagar-Amritsar Sarya Yamuna Exp.	at Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Amritsar	of 10.11.2020
04674/50 Amritsar-Jaynagar Sarya Yamuna Exp.	from Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Amritsar	12.11.2020
02057 New Delhi - Una Himachal Janshatabdi	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt. - Una Himachal	11.11.2020
02058 Una Himachal - New Delhi Janshatabdi	from Ambala Cantt.	Una Himachal - Ambala Cantt.	12.11.2020
02237 Varanasi-Jammu Tawi Festival Special	at Saharanpur	Saharanpur-Jammu Tawi	11.11.2020
02238 Jammu Tawi-Varanasi Festival Special	from Saharanpur	Jammu Tawi-Saharanpur	12.11.2020
08237 Korba-Amritsar Express Special	At Meerut City	Meerut City - Amritsar	11.11.2020
08238 Amritsar-Korba Express Special	From Meerut City	Amritsar-Meerut City	13.11.2020
02407 New Jalpaiguri - Amritsar Express Special	At Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	11.11.2020
02408 Amritsar - New Jalpaiguri Express Special	From Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	13.11.2020

Note : For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

Security Helpline No. 182
Integrated Helpline No. 139



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Classified

LEGAL NOTICES

PROCLAMATION OF SALES (Order XXI, Rule 66 of the Code of Civil Procedure)

Sh. Tarun Yugesh ADJ-3 (South-East)

Court No. 602 IInd Floor

Distrcit Court Complex

Dwarka, New Delhi.

Civil Suit: 516439/2016

Ex No. 1546/2016

Court Door- 17-11-2020

Sport/Beat of Drun/

Drum/

Action 15-12-2020

Report Dt. 08-01-2021

ORDERS

Shri Narendra Singh, s/o



Govt. of Haryana



Haryane Ka Badhiya Haal Chokha Bitya Pehla Saal

Education for everyone

Under the Super 100 programme,
convenient and free coaching centres
opened in Government schools,
25 students of this programme
qualified for 'IIT' and
72 students for 'NEET'

Extension of State Model Sanskriti
Schools on block level,
establishment of one model
sanskriti school in each block

For the first time CBSE Board
Government schools in the State

15 new Government Colleges
opened in one year

Decision to open
4,000 play-way schools, work on
1135 schools is under process

Online Education System for students,
Education to 52 lakh students
through DTH and Cable TV

Haryana Teacher Eligibility Test
(HTET), eligibility duration
increased from 5 years to 7 years

The process of making passports
started in 111 Govt. colleges.
13,624 students submitted their forms,
Out of which 3,089 students'
Passports have been made



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

Let's fight together against Coronavirus



Smog engulfs the national Capital on Tuesday. IANS

Pb gives go-ahead for 2nd Sero-survey next week: Punjab chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Tuesday gave the go-ahead for the second sero-survey to assess Covid spread in the state. The survey will be conducted in a random sample of 4,800 persons in the third week of November. Results are expected by month-end. SNS

Major fire in Bengaluru chemical factory: A major fire swept through a chemical factory and spread to nearby houses in Bengaluru's Bapujinagar area on Tuesday, police said. Four trapped employees were rescued unhurt while people living in adjacent buildings were evacuated to safety. PTI

Covid-19: Govt says India is 2nd in testing

Says positivity rate down at 7.18 per cent

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 10 NOVEMBER



India has conducted the second highest number of tests for detection of Covid-19 in the world at 11.96 crore with rapid antigen tests comprising 49 per cent and RT-PCR 46 per cent of the total tests done till Tuesday morning, the Union Health Ministry said.

Five per cent tests were carried out using CBNAT and TrueNat till this morning, it said.

Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan told a Press conference that despite such high number of tests conducted in India, the positivity rate is reducing and it has come down to 7.18 per cent.

The positivity rate of 24 hours in the last week was 4.2 per cent, he said. "More than 11.96 crore Covid-19 tests have been conducted in India till now, which is the second highest in the world. On an average, 11,18,072 tests were conducted daily last week," Bhushan said.

"If we take into account last two weeks' figures, we are testing more than any other country in the world," he said. Asked whether Delhi has

reached community transmission stage and if cases would increase during festivals, Bhushan said at the time of festivals or marriage when people gather and do not follow Covid-19 appropriate behaviour, there are chances of the infection spreading.

"Discussion on community transmission is quite often informed by less than adequate information and facts. It should rather be based on science and facts," he said.

While responding to another question Bhushan said that India recorded an average of three new Covid-19 deaths per million population in the last seven days, while the global average stood at seven new deaths per million population.

"In India, 235 new cases per million population were reported in the last seven days, whereas the global average of new cases per million population stands at 482," he said.

"India's Covid-19 recoveries have crossed 79 lakh, which is the highest in world; on an average, 51,476 people recovered daily in the last week," he said.

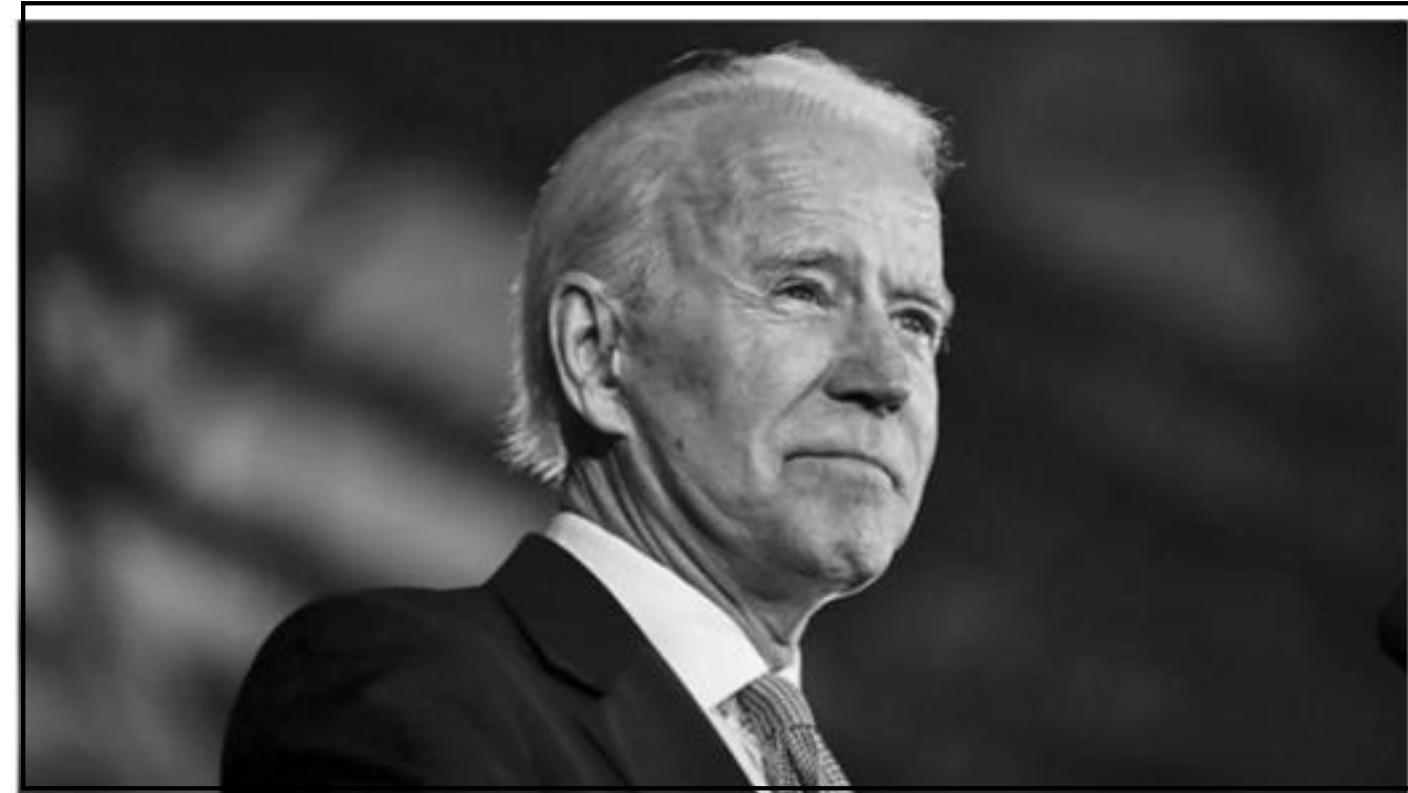
Bhushan also said that 62 per cent of new Covid-19 deaths in the past 24 hours were reported from Maharashtra, Delhi, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Punjab.

While, 54 per cent of new cases of Covid-19 were reported from Delhi, West Bengal, Kerala and Maharashtra, the secretary said.

Meet the other Bidens: Family says living in Nagpur since 1873

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NAGPUR, 10 NOVEMBER



Some of the 'distant relatives in India' US President-elect Joe Biden spoke of in 2013 and then again in 2015, have been living in Maharashtra's Nagpur city since 1873, they claimed on Tuesday.

When Biden, then US Vice-President, was in Mumbai in 2013, he had said at an event that some of his distant relatives reside in India's financial capital.

At the Mumbai event in 2013 and at another one in Washington in 2015, Biden had said that after becoming a Senator in 1972, he had received a letter from one of the Bidens in India and learned that his 'great, great, great, great grandfather' worked in the East India Company.

The letter written by Nagpur-based Leslie Biden, whose grandchildren stay in Nagpur, claim their family has been living here since 1873.

Leslie's granddaughter Sonia Biden Francis, a Nagpur-based psychologist, said 'Bidens in Nagpur and everywhere' are related with Joe Biden's victory in the US presidential election.

Sonia said Leslie Biden was based in Nagpur and was the manager of the Bharat Lodge and Hostel, and Bharat Cafe in the 'orange city', before he died in 1983.

"While reading the Illus-

trated Weekly of India weekly issue of 28 March-4 April, 1981, Leslie came across an article about the then US Senator Joe Biden," Sonia said.

The letter written by Nagpur-based Leslie Biden, whose grandchildren stay in Nagpur, claim their family has been living here since 1873.

Leslie's granddaughter Sonia Biden Francis, a Nagpur-based psychologist, said 'Bidens in Nagpur and everywhere' are related with Joe Biden's victory in the US presidential election.

Sonia's elder brother Ian Biden (44), a former seafarer in the merchant navy, who also stays in Nagpur, said Leslie and Joe Biden shared information regarding a common ancestor John Biden and his wife, Anne Beaumont.

"Leslie and Joe Biden thanked each other for corre-

sponding and committed to continue corresponding with each other. However, Leslie Biden's health worsened and he died in 1983 at Nagpur. Leslie's wife was unable to pursue the family tree further," said Leslie's granddaughter Rowena, who also lives in Nagpur.

The Biden family showed this correspondent letters they claimed were part of the correspondence between Leslie and Joe Biden.

Asked if the Nagpur-based Bidens would attend Joe Biden's inauguration in January, the family members said they are extending their best wishes to the 77-year-old Biden.

"The Bidens of Nagpur, Mumbai, New Zealand and the US gathered in January 2018

for the wedding of Leslie's grandson Leslie David Biden," Sonia said.

Leslie Biden's descendants live in Nagpur, Mumbai, the US, Australia and New Zealand, Sonia said. The Bidens living in Nagpur include Leslie's daughter-in-law Angelina Biden.

Leslie's daughter Evelyn Majumdar, grandson Duncan Biden and granddaughter Sheryl Dweltz live in Mumbai, Sonia said, adding the Bidens have been living in Mumbai since 1971.

Biden had said someone provided him with the details, including phone numbers of the Bidens in Mumbai. He had informed the audience that he was yet to call his kin but was planning to do so.

Gold smuggling case: ED questions Swapna in jail

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 10 NOVEMBER

The Enforcement Directorate (ED), probing the money laundering in connection with the Thiruvananthapuram airport gold smuggling case, interrogated Swapna Suresh on Tuesday and Wednesday in the prison.

The principal sessions court in Kochi on Monday allowed the ED to interrogate Swapna on Tuesday and Wednesday in the prison.

Last week, the ED had interrogated her in jail to get details of financial deals related to gold smuggling, which were done through the diplomatic channel under the cover of the UAE Consulate.

Rs 1,000 on 8 November, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said the move helped reduce black money and gave a boost to transparency.

The Sena also said the BJP raised issues like the construction of Ram temple and death of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput in the Bihar Assembly polls, but they failed to click with the people.

"But the atmosphere in Bihar changed after (RJD leader) Tejashwi Yadav promised 10 lakh jobs. His rallies saw huge turn ups (of the people). These included unemployed youth mostly. What does this indicate?" the Shiv Sena asked.

FAIR CRY



All India Students Association activists join women and girls in their protest against crimes against women, in New Delhi on Tuesday. IANS

TENDER

SECTION-1 CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION (ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT) E-TENDER NOTICE

Percentage rated e-tenders are hereby invited in the 3-bid on behalf of President of India for execution of following work from Experienced firms/ Manufacturer/Electrical contractor / Agencies registered with Chandigarh Administration/Railways/ MES/BSNL/CPWD/State PWD/Municipal Corporation/Other Govt. Organization / DISCOMs/ State Electricity Board/Public Sector Undertaking. The intending bidder are required to be registered with state portal and must possess compatible digital signature certificate of Class-II or III for e-Tendering. The website for online bidding is <https://etenders.chd.nic.in/nicgap/app>.

Milestone dates of Electronic Tendering

1. Tender No:	DNIT for Replacement/ Installation of LTCT Meter Boxes, Current Transformers (CTs), cables and allied accessories for Smart Metering Project under Electr. 'OP' Sub Division No. 5, Electricity Wing of Engineering Department U.T Chandigarh (EWEDC).
Estimated Cost	Rs. 30,39,752/-
2. Earnest Money- To be submitted online	Rs.60,800/-
3. Time Limit	60 Days from the 7th day of issue of LOI.
4. Downloading of e-Tender documents	Start on dated 10.11.20 at 5:00 PM
5. Pre-Bid meeting for the Bidders seeking, any clarifications in the office of undersigned.	On dated 12.11.2020 at 11:00 AM
6. Date of submission of e-Tender	Start on dated 10.11.20 at 5:00 PM
7. Opening of EMD / Technical bid (online)	End dated: 17.11.2020 at 4:00 PM
8. Opening of Financial bid (online)	To be intimated to technically qualified bidders later on

Bid documents consisting of the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be downloaded free of cost /seen at the website of Chandigarh Administration www.etenders.chd.nic.in/nicgap/app.

--sd--

Executive Engineer,
Electr. 'OP' Divn.No.2
UT Chandigarh.
New Power House, Ind. Area Phase-1,
Opp. Transport Area Sector-26, Chd,
Contact No. 0172-2655531(O), 2637890 (Fax)
E-Mail Add : elop-2chd@nic.in

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

TENDERING

The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Shahpur invites following offline tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following:- Last date of offline tenders 16/11/2020 upto 4.00PM and tender opened on 17/11/2020 at 11.30AM.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Cost of tender form	Time Limit
1.	Providing Separate WSS to Village Korian, Sandh, Har and Dadoli for Harizan Basti and adjoining villages. (SH:- Laying, jointing and testing of GI Pipe of 25mm dia at Node No. 42 to 48 and 46 to 47) (RD 4470/0 to 840mts and RD 1350 to 1710 = 360mts).	114075/-	2320/-	250/-	Two Months
2.	Providing Separate WSS to Village Korian, Sandh, Har and Dadoli for Harizan Basti and adjoining villages. (SH:- Laying, jointing and testing of GI Pipe of 50mm dia at Node No. 4 to 12) (RD 2460/0 to 1200 = 1200mts).	126000/-	2520/-	250/-	Two Months
3.	Providing Separate WSS to Village Korian, Sandh, Har and Dadoli for Harizan Basti and adjoining villages. (SH:- Laying, jointing and testing of GI Pipe of 25mm dia at Node No. 12 to 14) (RD 2460/ 1200 to 2730 = 1530mts).	145343/-	2910/-	250/-	Two Months
4.	Providing Separate WSS to Village Korian, Sandh, Har and Dadoli for Harizan Basti and adjoining villages. (SH:- Laying, jointing and testing of GI Pipe of 50mm dia at Node No. 24 to 30) (RD 1960 / 2400 = 2400mts).	250500/-	5010/-	250/-	Two Months
5.	Providing separate LWSS to GP Shahpur from Tube well. (SH:- C/O panel fencing around OHSPR in campus of Civil Hospital Shahpur).	124685/-	2500/-	250/-	Two Months
6.	C/O FIS under GP Kholi (Baddi Kuhl and Choti Kuhl). (SH:- C/O RCC field channel in Choti Kuhl at RD 400/0 to 25mtrs and RD 560/0 to RD 100mtrs RD 1279/0 to RD 40mtrs and RD 1284/0 to RD 100mtrs = 2650mtrs).	343785/-	6880/-	250/-	Six Months
7.	C/O FIS under GP Kholi (Baddi Kuhl and Choti Kuhl). (SH:- C/O RCC in main channel Baddi Kuhl from RD 3433.90/5 to RD 150mtrs = 75mtrs).	226563/-	4535/-	250/-	Six Months
8.	C/O FIS under GP Kholi (Baddi Kuhl and Choti Kuhl). (SH:- C/O RCC in main channel Baddi Kuhl from RD 3433.90/0 to RD 75mtrs = 75mtrs).	226565/-	4535/-	250/-	Six Months
9.	C/O FIS under GP Kholi (Baddi Kuhl and Choti Kuhl). (SH:- C/O RCC in main channel Baddi Kuhl from RD 3433.90/0 to RD 75mtrs = 75mtrs).	226565/-	4535/-	250/-	Six Months
10.	AIR & M/O LWSS Kohala in GP Kohala. (SH:- C/O Nallah crossing 65mm dia G/Main).	152256/-	3050/-	250/-	Six Months
11.	Providing FWP in Kholi. (SH:- C/O wire crate from RD 1160 to RD 1190mtrs = 30Rmts).	190499/-	3810/-	250/-	Three Months
12.	Providing FWP in Kholi. (SH:- C/O wire crate from RD 1088 to RD 1128mtrs = 40Rmts).	254000/-	5080/-	250/-	Three Months
13.	Providing FWP in Kholi Khad. (SH:- C/O wire crate from RD 90 to RD 105mtrs = 15Rmts).	216839/-	4340/-	250/-	Three Months
14.	Providing FWP in Kholi Khad. (SH:- C/O wire crate from RD 105 to RD 120mtrs = 15Rmts).	216848/-	4340/-	250/-	Three Months
15.	Providing FWP in Kholi Khad. (SH:- C/O wire crate from RD 2357.80 to RD 2372.50mtrs = 15Rmts).	216848/-	4340/-	250/-	Three Months
16.	Providing FWP in Kholi Khad. (SH:- C/O wire crate from RD 2372.50 to RD 2387.50mtrs = 15Rmts).	216839/-	4340/-	250/-	Three Months
17.	Providing FWP in Kholi Khad. (SH:- C/O wire crate from RD 2400 to RD 2412.50 = 12.50Rmts).	180711/-	3615/-	250/-	Three Months
18.					



By-elections will prove to be the last nail in the Congress coffin

GUJARAT CHIEF MINISTER VIJAY RUPANI

TERMING BJP'S WIN IN GUJARAT AS A 'TRAILER' FOR THE UPCOMING GUJARAT LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS

The Statesman

05
NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2020

THUMBNAILS



Himachal Governor Bandaru Dattatraya during his visit to the Atal Tunnel in Himachal's Kullu district, on Tuesday.

Shell firms detected: The Uttar Pradesh Commercial Taxes Department has unearthed three shell firms involved in bogus sale of mentha oil, an official said on Tuesday. Of these three bogus firms, two were from Bareilly and one from Shahjahanpur, the official said.

Rain relief for farmers: An amount of Rs 1,336.89 crore has been received by Aurangabad division in Maharashtra to disburse as compensation among farmers hit by crop damage due to heavy rains. Aid money is being deposited directly into bank accounts to farmers who had suffered 33 per cent loss.

Water harvesting project: *Jal Sanchay* (water harvesting), a CSR project of CNH Industrial India, commenced around a year ago, will rejuvenate and conserve four ponds in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. It will fulfill the water supply need to nearby areas after completion of the project till March 2022. Raunak Varma, country manager, India & SAARC, CNH Industrial India, said, "We aim to transform these ponds as a major source of water storage with the proper provision of recharging facilities through monsoon rains and plantation around the perimeters to prevent siltation."

PTI

IIITM
INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION IN TECHNOLOGY & MANAGEMENT
Accredited by NAAC,
Affiliated to GGSIP University, Delhi
D-27 & 28, Institutional Area,
Janakpuri, New Delhi - 110058

ADMISSION NOTICE
FOR MANAGEMENT QUOTA
Academic Session 2020-21
Applications on plain paper are invited from eligible students for Admission to Management Quota Seats in the following courses.

BBA, BCA
B.Com (Hons)
(I & II shift)
Statutory Reservations, as per Govt. Policy, applicable.

Applications enclosing details of CET Rank & attested class 12th marksheet are to be submitted at the Institute Reception. For further details, please visit : www.iiitm.ac.in

SNS

BJP senior partner in Bihar NDA, JD(U) behind

Political analysts believe that BJP after playing the second fiddle in alliance since 2005 will now be more assertive in pushing its agenda

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 10 NOVEMBER

The BJP appeared set to leave its ally JD(U) far behind in the seat tally in the Bihar Assembly elections, emerging as the senior partner in the alliance for the first time in about two decades.

The saffron party was leading or had won in 73 seats in the 243-member Assembly, while the corresponding figure for chief minister Nitish Kumar-led party was merely 41, according to the Election Commission figures at 7.50 p.m. The development can change the power dynamics within the ruling alliance, even if it manages to retain power in the state and Kumar continues to be CM.

The EC trends showed that the contest between the NDA and the RJD-led grand alliance was turning out to be a nail-biter with the two contestants to the power leading in 122 and 113 seats respectively, as per the latest trends.

Political watchers believe that the BJP after playing the second fiddle in the alliance since it came to power in 2005 will now be more assertive in pushing its agenda. All eyes will be on Kumar, who has never shown any particular liking for its ally's Hindutva push, as to how he responds to the bitterly changed realities for his party which had won 71 seats in 2015 as part of an anti-BJP alliance before he switched sides in 2017.

He had broken his 17-year-old alliance with the BJP in 2013 over the elevation of Narendra Modi as its prime ministerial candidate by the saffron party. As Modi led the NDA to a huge victory in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls while the Bihar chief minister's differences grew with the RJD, it prompted Kumar to join hands with the BJP.

In the 2010 Assembly polls, when the JD(U) and the BJP

were together, they had won 115 and 91 seats respectively. The corresponding figures in the October 2005 polls were 88 and 55.

In February 2005 polls, which had thrown up a hung assembly, the JD(U) had won 55 and the BJP 37.

The BJP had won more seats than Kumar-headed Samata Party in the 2000 polls by pocketing 67 seats while its ally got 34. Jharkhand was then part of Bihar. The Samata Party had later merged with the JD(U).

The JD(U) has been hit hard in these polls by Chirag Paswan-led Lok Janshakti Party, which is likely to be instrumental in its defeat in more than 30 seats. The LJP was, however, struggling to retain its tally of two seats with the EC data showing that it was not leading or had won in even a single seat.

Cong's Udit Raj questions reliability of EVMs

After the ruling NDA took an initial lead from the grand alliance in poll trends for Bihar, Congress leader Udit Raj on Tuesday raised questions on the reliability of EVMs asking why they cannot be hacked if satellites can be controlled from the earth. He also asked if Donald Trump could have lost in the US elections had EVMs been used.

If the direction of satellites to Mars and Moon can be controlled from the earth, then why can't EVM be hacked," Udit Raj said in a tweet in Hindi.

If elections were held in America with EVMs, could Trump have lost," he asked.

Dalit leader Udit Raj is the Congress party's national spokesperson. He was a former BJP MP from Delhi.

In another tweet, he took a swipe at the BJP, saying it has been able to sideline Nitish Kumar with its performance in Bihar.

As the results of by-elections in these eight seats trickled in, the BJP looked poised to win them all, including the five turn-coats the party had fielded from the same seats they had won on Congress ticket in December 2017. The Congress MLAs of these eight seats had resigned to join the BJP on the eve of Rajya Sabha elections from the state.

Conceding defeat, the state Congress leadership has vowed to introspect about the causes in the near future.

Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) president Amit Chavda said that the by-elections were forced on the people by the BJP's



BJP supporters celebrate with the party emerging as the single-largest in Bihar Assembly polls, in Patna on Tuesday.

IANS

Gujarat voters endorse defectors

RATHIN DAS
AHMEDABAD, 10 NOVEMBER

Agreed to win one additional Rajya Sabha seat.

"It is unfortunate for democracy that the people's mandate have gone in favour of the defectors," he lamented.

During the bye-election campaign, the state Congress leaders had highlighted the defection aspect of the BJP nominees but the ruling party had responded by quickly linking the resultant increase in Rajya Sabha seats as the defectors' contribution to passing the laws essential to preserve the integrity of the country.

With the ruling BJP already enjoying a comfortable majority in the 182-member assembly, the winning of few more seats gives a big boost to the party while the Congress suffered yet another jolt.

Meanwhile, with the trends of counting of votes on Tuesday showing the BJP leading in all eight Assembly constituencies in Gujarat, the party workers broke into cel-

ebration and burst firecrackers at its headquarter here.

CM Vijay Rupani told that the BJP's showing in these bypolls was just a "trailer" of the outcome to be expected in upcoming elections to local bodies and in 2022 Assembly polls.

The CM and state BJP president CR Paatil arrived at the party headquarter "Kamalam", where they were greeted by upbeat BJP workers who thumped drums and waved the party flags.

Women activists broke into a garba gig while holding small cutouts of lotus, the poll symbol of the BJP, in their hands.

Hailing voters for exercising the franchise for the bypolls held on 3 November amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, Rupani said the constituencies were spread in different regions of Gujarat and consisted of areas dominated by Muslims, Adivasis, Kolis and Patidars among others.

Bypoll highlights

Corona impact in Bihar vote counting: Corona had its impact on the counting of Bihar elections on Tuesday as the counting of votes turned very slow in wake of social distancing norms and Covid-19 protocol followed due to the Pandemic. While in the normal course, the counting of votes could have given a clearer picture by evening, but this time only two-third of votes were counted by 5.30 pm, admitted a senior officer of the Election Commission of India.

SNS

Nagaland's NDPP wins in S. Angami: Ruling NDPP nominee Medo Yhokha bagged the Southern Angami seat, while Independent candidate T Yangseo Sangtam won the by-elections to the Pungro-Kiphire assembly segment in Nagaland on Tuesday. In the Southern Angami segment, Yhokha polled 4,773 votes, defeating rival and independent candidate Seyievile Peter Zashumo by 598 votes.

PTI

BJP wins 2 seats, Independent 1 in Manipur: BJP candidates won two seats while an Independent candidate bagged one in the by-election to four Manipur Assembly constituencies, the results of which were announced on Tuesday, officials said. BJP candidates Oinam Lukhoi Singh and Paonam Brojen Singh won the Wangoi seat and Wangjing Tentha seats respectively, they said.

PTI

Cong retains Baroda as Yogeshwar Dutt loses: The Congress retained the Baroda Assembly seat of Haryana with party candidate Indu Rai Narwal defeating his nearest rival and BJP nominee Yogeshwar Dutt with a margin of over 10,000 votes. Congress received a total of 49.3 per cent votes, while BJP trailed behind and captured 40.7 per cent vote share. By-polls were held on one Assembly constituency in the state on 7 November.

SNS

JMM, Congress retain seats in Jharkhand: The JMM-led ruling coalition of Jharkhand retained Dumka and Berme assembly seats in by-elections defeating the BJP, officials said on Tuesday, though the result was yet to be uploaded on the Election Commission website. JMM candidate Basant Soren, who is the younger brother of chief minister Hemant Soren, defeated his nearest BJP rival Lois Marandi by around 6,500 votes, in Dumka constituency, District Election Officer Rajeshwari B said.

PTI

Ruling BJP wins both seats in Karnataka: The ruling BJP in Karnataka on Tuesday won the by-elections to two Assembly constituencies, wresting the seats from opposition Congress and JD-S. It created history, recording its first ever victory in the Sira Assembly segment in Tumakuru district with party candidate Dr C M Rajesh Gowda romping home with a margin of over 12,000 votes.

PTI

Odisha bypolls: BJD wins both Assembly seats

SNS & PTI
CHANDIGARH, 10 NOVEMBER

The ruling BJD wrested the Balasore Assembly seat defeating the BJP candidate by over 13,000 votes and retained its Tirtol seat with a comfortable margin of over 32,000 votes.

BJD's Swapnil Das won Balasore seat while BJD's Bijay Shankar Das won at Tirtol.

al Green Tribunal (NGT), as well as various judicial orders passed amid reports of fire crackers likely to aggravate the Covid problem.

While on Diwali day (14 November), green crackers can be burst from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., on Gurupurab (30 November), they will be allowed from 4 a.m. to 5 a.m. and from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. On Christmas Eve, people can burst these crackers from 11.55 p.m. till 12.30 a.m. Chairing a virtual Covid review meeting, the CM directed the department of science, technology and environment to issue the necessary notifications.

Only green crackers will be allowed as per these orders, which are in compliance with

the directives of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), as well as various judicial orders passed amid reports of fire crackers likely to aggravate the Covid problem.

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cation in this regard.

Warning against any violation of these curbs, he asked DGP Dinkar Gupta to crack down heavily to ensure penal action as per the law.

The traders and shopkeepers in Delhi said their Diwali has gone up in smoke after the ban on all kinds of firecrackers and that they will face huge losses as crackers worth lakhs of rupees have already been stocked by them.

The traders and shopkeepers in Jama Masjid and Sadar Bazar areas, two of the biggest firecracker markets in Delhi, said the stock was meant for a brisk sale on Diwali, Chhath, Gurupurab and the wedding season.

"Police have stopped us from opening the shops we had

stocked with hundreds of kilograms of firecrackers. This is a seasonal item and will be worthless if not sold in next one to two months," said a fire trader in Jama Masjid area.

The traders said temporary licenses were for up to 650 kg of firecrackers but normally they purchase 400 to 500 kg in view of safety and demand in the market.

According to a Delhi Police officer, a total of 260 applications for licenses were received. Out of them, 138 were issued licenses on meeting all the requirements as prescribed by the Petroleum and Explosives

Safety Organisation.

Digital Diwali in UP

The Uttar Pradesh government has directed the police and district administrations to celebrate Diwali in places like Lucknow, Varanasi and others where the air quality index is poor, while that of Agra, Varanasi, Meerut and Hapur is very poor.

ADDITIONAL PUJA SPECIAL TRAINS

It has been decided to run additional Puja Special Trains to clear extra rush of passengers during Festival as per details given below:

Train No. 04427/04428 Jogbani - Anand Vihar (New Delhi) - Jogbani Festival Express Special Train

Train No. 04427 from Jogbani (on every Wed & Saturday) 12-11-2020 to 22-11-2020 = 08 Trips

ARR. DEP. STATIONS ARR. DEP.

—	17.15	Jogbani	13.15	—
18.45	18.50	Purnia Jn.	11.30	11.35
20.15	20.45	Katihar Jn.	10.10	10.40
00.05	00.15	Barauni Jn.	06.00	06.10
01.45	01.50	Hajipur	04.00	04.05
06.10	06.20	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn.	00.15	00.25
07.10	07.20	Varanasi	22.50	23.00
12.30	12.40	Lucknow	18.10	18.20
18.45	18.55	Moradabad	11.50	12.00
22.15	—	Anand Vihar (New Delhi)	—	09.00

Other Commercial Stoppages: Forbesganj, Araria Court, Naugachia, Khagaria Jn., Begusarai, Patliputra, Ara, Buxer, Bareily.

COMPOSITION: Sleeper Class (six), General Second Class/Chair Car (fourteen) and SLR/SLRD (two) = 22 coaches.

Train No. 04439/04440 Katihar - Anand Vihar (New Delhi) - Katihar Festival Special Express Train

Train No. 04439 from Katihar (on 15-11-2020 to 21-11-2020 = 01 Trip

ARR. DEP. STATIONS ARR. DEP.

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Lumpen narrative

Who started the fire in West Bengal? Was it the corrupt, rent-seeking Congress? The violent and intimidatory Left Front? A combination of the two with enigma variations which is the Trinamool Congress? Or should we lay the blame at the door of the latest entrant, the BJP, which seems to feel that the sins of others excuse their own? BJP state president Dilip Ghosh's speech in Haldia a couple of days ago in which he threatened, at the very least, a trip to the hospital for the Chief Minister's supporters "if they didn't mend their ways" was only the latest in a series of provocative statements which emerge periodically from his mouth. But Mr. Ghosh's limited vocabulary and unlimited virulence are hardly the issue. The fact that an image-conscious ~ its critics would say hypersensitive ~ BJP under Narendra Modi in other parts of the country has made its peace with its leading man in Bengal sounding like a lout tells us something important about the state of play in these parts.

The lumpenisation of the state is so complete that all political parties bar none use the same language, issue similar threats, and more often than not act upon them believing that is the way to win. The lament among many old-timers is that each bunch of politicians is as bad as the other. But it's about time someone pointed out to them that they too are in large measure responsible for the affairs in Bengal. The *bhadralok* have spent the past few decades ensuring inter-generational entitlement for their kin and when that ceased to be a viable option within the boundaries of the state, enabling their children to get out of Bengal. When, due to accidents of history, a societal elite emerges with the levers of power within its grasp to effect systemic change but lets the opportunity slip, the resultant political chaos is a forgone conclusion. That is what residents of the state are living through today. Mr. Ghosh is only the consequence, not the cause of the lumpen political narrative that rules West Bengal. And for that, the state's social-political elite must carry the blame. Many stood idly by when it was still possible to prevent the flight of capital - both financial and human - from Bengal. Some looked the other way as the haemorrhaging of the state's manufacturing base continued apace. Then there were those who watched silently the destruction of its education system. Ditto, those complicit in the unionisation of the workforce from top to bottom. Ironically, the unthinking policies which brought about these disasters gathered mass support primarily because an allegedly enlightened elite failed - or perhaps didn't even try - to address rampant inequality. Decency and maturity having thus been sucked out of the political narrative, and without one notable having attempted to arrest the slide in recent memory, next year's election promises to be another macabre dance of what is euphemistically termed a democratic process.

Ethical questions

Serious questions about how far a media organisation can go in pursuit of a scoop have arisen with the venerated British Broadcasting Corporation being forced to order an inquiry into the circumstances in which a sensational interview with Princess Diana was obtained in 1995. The interview, where the Princess admitted to having had an extra-marital affair and where she said famously that there "were three of us in the marriage, so it was a bit crowded", had shaken Britain's royal family to its core. Within a year of the interview, the royal couple had divorced and a year later, the Princess had died in tragic circumstances in Paris. While allegations about unethical means having been used to obtain the interview have been made in the past, most notably by the Princess' brother, Charles Spenser, who is said to have facilitated the meeting between the journalist and her, it has now emerged that the BBC had conducted its own inquiry at the time. Mr. Spenser says he had learnt just two weeks ago that the BBC knew of the means adopted by its journalist and had "covered it up." He says that BBC journalist Martin Bashir made several allegations at the time to convince the Princess to grant the interview, including that her telephones were bugged by Britain's security agencies and that two senior aides were being paid to provide information, a claim he is alleged to have supported with forged bank statements.

With its professional ethics under a cloud, and with a former head of the organisation having said that BBC "faking documents in the interest of a scoop" raises very serious questions, the organisation has been forced to concede it is in the process of commissioning a "robust and independent investigation." Bashir, who shot to international fame after the sensational interview, is at present BBC's religious affairs correspondent and is said to be on sick leave after heart surgery and a coronavirus affliction. While journalists bending the truth in order to coerce a reluctant news subject to open up is not unknown, this matter is serious for two reasons - the alleged forging of bank documents, which paint the journalist in poor light, and the alleged cover-up, which reflects poorly on the BBC. But would Diana have granted the interview even without being told she was being bugged and her aides being paid off? Circumstantial evidence, including the statement of author Andrew Morton, whose 1992 book first revealed she was trapped in a failed marriage, that she had secretly collaborated with him suggest she might have spoken as she did even without Bashir's questionable tactics. Just as the BBC's reputation has made it the ethical template for media organisations, the extent to which it goes to cleanse itself of the stain of these revelations will be watched keenly by those who cherish its values.

A chance for India

The bitter truth to be admitted is that China is presently quite ahead of India in developing, using and exporting digital technology, the main plank of the much vaunted Fourth Industrial Revolution likely to shape every aspects of our lives, from health and education to entertainment, particularly in a pandemic hit world



In the early days of 2020, neither policy makers nor health experts in India had any inkling that a tiny microbe, spreading fast from our northern neighbour China to different parts of Europe, would soon make entry and rapidly spread in our country as well, metamorphosing into a global pandemic, causing serious disruptions of lives and livelihoods.

For India, a developing country with the second largest population in the world, next only to that of China, containing the contagion turned out to be a stupendous challenge. As policy makers took the decision of imposing a countrywide lockdown to buy time for sprucing up public health infrastructure, a step recommended by epidemiologists but coming at a great cost to millions of daily wage earners and migrant labourers, the country faced another challenge in the form of increasing territorial assertiveness of this same northern neighbour China along the LAC (Line of Actual Control).

Tension between the armies of the two countries along the LAC escalated in June 2020, leading to violent confrontation and loss of lives for the first time in 45 years.

Much has happened since then, with the present political dispensation taking various measures to give a fitting reply to our aggressive neighbour and the country has witnessed a surge of patriotic sentiments, with people endorsing government measures quite vociferously. Certain sections of population even indulged in sabre-rattling, at a time when the country's resources are already under severe strain to manage and mitigate the negative fallout of the pandemic.

India adopted a multi-pronged strategy to respond suitably to the military adventurism of China, which included stern resistance offered by Indian Army to further attempts at incursion, and simultaneous efforts to find a diplomatic solution of the impasse so as to achieve disengagement along LAC. India also resorted to some economic measures to turn the tables on China.

A call to boycott Chinese goods by various members of the ruling establishment received

enthusiastic support from public. The government has also increased scrutiny of Chinese investments in many sectors and is weighing a decision to keep out Chinese companies from 5G trials, in which they are now involved. The moves could potentially cost Chinese companies billions of dollars in contracts and future earnings. The most significant step taken by the Government of India was its June 29 decision to ban 59 apps of Chinese origin, citing data security and national sovereignty concerns.

In the India-China economic relationship, where trade is lopsided in China's favour, both sides have different levers that they could turn to, but the options are tilted in China's favour because China is far less dependent on India's market than India is on Chinese imports. India's biggest lever is its market, which has emerged as one of the important overseas markets for Chinese companies in the technology space and in telecom.

If India does have considerable leverage that could hurt potential revenues of Chinese companies, the problem for Delhi is China could inflict immediate economic pain should it choose to as vital segments of Indian industries, particularly pharmaceutical production, are dependent on imports of vital ingredients from China. Even banning the apps can prove costly for India. Most of these apps have offices and staff in India and there could be a few thousand jobs at stake. The bitter truth to be admitted is that China is presently quite ahead of India in developing, using and exporting digital technology, the main plank of the much vaunted Fourth Industrial Revolution likely to shape every aspects of our lives, from health and education to entertainment, particularly in a pandemic hit world.

For some time now, China has been rapidly building its competencies in areas such as 5G, artificial intelligence, robot-

ics, 3D printing, etc. In terms of research outputs (papers, patents etc), China ranks first in the world while India is in the fifth position presently. The Chinese company Huawei has the largest declared 5G portfolio in the world. While India faces an uphill task in trying to match the military might and economic prowess of China, the area of digital technology is a relatively promising field where India can expect a semblance of balance with China, provided it makes the right moves. The Indian government launched the ambitious programme "Digital India" in 2015, under which it envisioned increased Internet connectivity and making India a digitally empowered nation. This was also seen as being an engine propelling the growth of businesses, employment generation and increasing transparency in major sectors of the economy.

The programme has achieved considerable success. Access to ICT products by Indian citizens has grown substantially. However, the growth in the Internet and broadband connections has been modest. Despite the government's efforts towards increasing ICT goods and services in the economy, there is a clear digital divide in the nation, as shown by data from the ICE 360° survey (2016), which gives insights into economic and social well-being of households. The survey results showed that the level of education and Internet access are highly correlated since every second graduate household has at least one member who accesses the Internet versus every hundredth in the case of an illiterate household.

The digital divide becomes more palpable between the rich and poor. Nearly 47 per cent of rich households (top quintile) have at least one member with access to the Internet in contrast to only 4 per cent of poor households (bottom quintile). There has been significant gender disparity in internet usage as women

are often restricted in accessing the net. The pandemic has brought in focus the digital divide in a much pronounced way as students of rural hinterland struggled to access online classes.

However, the pandemic has created conducive atmosphere for India to give new thrust to its digital drive and its digital outreach towards its South Asian neighbours. As China's relations with the U.S. have worsened, Washington and EU countries are intensifying efforts to constrain China's technological influence, and there is growing suspicion of cyber-attack and cyber spying by agencies backed by China coupled with the resentment towards it because of its failure to adequately warn the world community about the spread of the deadly virus.

Initiatives such as the global anti-Huawei 5G campaign and the new Indo-Pacific focused Digital Connectivity and Cyber-security Partnership (DCCP) threaten the ambitions of Chinese policymakers and are opening up new vistas for the expansion of India's digital economy. In contrast to the scenario faced by China in post pandemic world, India's digital economy seems to be getting a tailwind. Over the past three months, Jio, the largest Indian telecom operator, has managed to get Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of over \$20 billion from 13 global investors for its platforms. Google has announced its intention to invest \$10 billion in India's digital economy over the next five to seven years.

Country's youth have already demonstrated their skill and competence in providing tech solutions across sectors and must be provided with all kinds of support by the government so as to create a vibrant tech and start-up ecosystem.

Celebrated Chinese philosopher and military strategist Sun Tzu is believed to have advised those desiring progress, "keep your friends close and your enemies closer". So, we can take a leaf out of China's book of success and give renewed thrust to spread of education and ICT skill and if needed, even practice protectionist policies to help our domestic app developers to grow so as to defeat the enemy in its own game.

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIAN VOICES

'Fatal' errors found in Indonesian job law

The highly contentious Job Creation Law that Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo signed on Monday contains what some legal experts consider "fatal" errors that expose a flawed legislative process, which may provide strong grounds for a judicial review at the Constitutional Court.

The government uploaded at the 11th hour on Monday the 1,187-page purported final document of Law No 11/2020 on job creation on the official website of the State Secretariat, which allows it to enter into force nearly a month after it was passed by the House of Representatives and following a series of nationwide protests.

However, as various parties began poring over the details of the divisive piece of legislation, legal experts said they had found substantial errors in articles 6 and 175 that could technically void the document, or at least expose serious faults in the procedure. Given that these errors were found in the early pages of the manuscript, the experts said they expected to identify many more as they studied it further. Article 6 makes a clear reference to Clause 1a of Article 5 in stipulating improvements to the investment and business ecosystems by implementing a risk-based approach to business licensure, and by simplifying basic requirements for business permits, industry-specific permits and investments.

Article 5 does not contain Clause 1a. Meanwhile, Clause 5 of Article 175 on government administration refers back to Clause 3 of the same article,

The Jakarta Post

when it actually should have referenced Clause 4, experts found. The fact that there were still errors in the final manuscript meant that the government should not be able to implement the articles in question, nor should they be able to derive any implementing regulations from them, said Bivitri Susanti, a constitutional law expert from the Law and their implementation should be based on what was written and should not rely on the interpretations of those who executed the law, she said.

State Secretary Pratikno brushed off the errors in a statement on Tuesday, saying that his ministry had reviewed the draft law upon its submission by the House. He admitted there were "technical errors" and reported them to the House secretary-general office for revision. "Today we found technical, writing errors ... but they are technical, administrative and won't affect the implementation of the Job Creation Law," Pratikno claimed.

The Centre for Indonesian Law and Policy Studies (PSHK) issued on Tuesday a statement rejecting the argument dismissing the errors as a simple matter of typos.

It said a similar error was found in Clause 4 of Article 116 on criminal provisions in Law No 32/2004 on regional administrations. At the time, a judicial review was filed with the Constitutional Court. "The formulation errors are but one form of violation of the principle of clarity in drafting [law], as regulated in Article 5(f) of Law No 12/2011 on the drafting of laws and regulation," the group said.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Thai youth's voice must be heard

SIR, This refers to the editorial, 'Battle of wits' published today. The pro-democracy movement from July ~ by Thailand protesters against the authoritarian government of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha ~ has been pushing a bold demand to reform the country's monarchy with almost daily demonstrations. Sunday marked the second time water cannons were used against protesters during several months of demonstrations.

International human rights law, as reflected in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which Thailand ratified in 1996, protects the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. But Thai authorities have routinely enforced censorship and gagged public discussions about human rights, political reforms, and the role of the monarchy in society. Clearly, the government has granted itself sweeping powers and wants to crack down on the protests. But this could have the opposite impact.

Now, the protesters are openly challenging the powers of King Vajiralongkorn, who ascended the throne in 2016 after the death of his father, Bhumibol Adulyadej. As a part of the protests, about 5,000-10,000 protesters defied warnings from police and authorities and marched to the German embassy and reportedly presented embassy officials with a letter asking German authorities to investigate the activities of the king and to determine if the royal exercised political powers while in Germany which would be a breach of Germany's territorial sovereignty.

The King and Prayuth

have become symbols of extravagance and oppression for the protesters who have dismissed the emergency decree, saying the movement has gone past the point of no return. Prayuth and his Generals should ask themselves whether they should take matters to such a dangerous turn or reach out to the protesters, seeking a solution to the crisis.

Yours, etc., SSPaul,

Nadia, 10 November

THE LAST WORD

SIR, AK Ghosh has discussed in detail the instances of irreg-



ularities committed by Vice-chancellors of various universities in India in the article 'Vice-chancellor's vices' (November 9). He has also narrated the qualities a VC should possess in order to be successful in his/her highly post. Surely, while appointing a VC the authorities keep these qualities in view.

Ghosh has depicted only one side of the coin ~ the prerequisites of an incumbent to occupy the august post. On the other side are the challenges faced by the VC. He/she usually works in an all-round hostile environment. The student community is divided into hostile ideological groups and inter-union rivalry is commonplace. The VC has to face the brunt of it. Even Suranjan Das, the most successful VC of this time was jostled by the student mob to the extent he had to be hospitalized. A VC must get unstinted support from the Chancellor and the state government in all matters within his jurisdiction. In other words, his must be the last word within the university campus in all matters.

Yours, etc., Sanjit Ghatak,

Narendrapur, 9 November

OVEROPTIMISTIC?

SIR, The government propaganda machinery is drumming aloud the high gross collection of Goods Services Tax(GST) for the month of October. The monthly sales data for the auto sector and fuel consumption have shown an uptick. Railway freight revenue has started showing an increase. But it may be too early to consider these as signs of the economy turning around after its sharpest fall in many decades, as the government wishes us to believe.

The steepness of the fall itself has something to do with the recovery seen now. A part of the increase in GST collections may be attributed to the September 30 deadline for input tax credit. Festival demand, which every year gives a boost to the economy during these months, could have accounted for a good part of high collections. The unlocking of Covid-19 measures may be the cause of some business hike. The sighting of the green shoots should be taken with some caution. It may not be right for individuals to make financial decisions and governments to formulate policy on the indicators available now, because this may be just a demand blip. But individuals, organisations, businesses and government can help the economy by spending as much they can. The government, in fact, has a greater responsibility in this respect. Despite suggestions from all quarters that it should spend more and facilitate more spending in order to stimulate more demand in the economy, its response has been timid. The packages that it has announced have not gone far enough.

Yours, etc., Shovonali Chakraborty, Kolkata, 6 November.

DEBAPRIYA MUKHERJEE

The Covid-19 pandemic has engulfed the world. To contain its spread, lockdown was imposed and that compelled us to retreat into our homes and forgo physical social contact. We are still not sure when we will be back to the "old normal". Practically we are all in a temporary state of lockdown.

During the lockdown, I faced great difficulty in going out to operate the rural science centre established in my village (about 200 km from Kolkata) for the benefit of students (classes V-X) who are deprived of any practical demonstration of science and maths in their schools. In addition to this, activities related to production of vermi-compost, experimentation on organic farming, fish cultivation and manufacturing of handicraft utilizing water hyacinth have been jeopardized. I could not even contact resource persons to discuss scope for improvement.

In this piquant situation, I was demoralized and stressed in the initial phase of lockdown. Stress is a worldwide 21st century problem that can cause physical problems such as higher blood pressure, muscle tension and digestive problems, while long-term stress can lead to serious health issues including depression and anxiety. I was also suffering from digestive problems during this period. Keeping fit and healthy is important at any time, but during the coronavirus pandemic, it was critical. All of a sudden, one message of Confucious - "When it is obvious that goals can't be reached, don't adjust the goals, but adjust the action steps" - helped me to change my action plan.

I realized the crucial bond between humans and the environment particularly flora and fauna around us. The best action is to grow and nurture plants in my home. Based on sound scientific evidence it can be mentioned that gardens and gardening are good for our physical, mental and social wellbeing. Having something to nurture brings a sense of unpressured purpose to our lives. Gardening may provide the health benefits of fresh fruits and vegetables, promote physical activity, and support emotional well-being (EWB), which can reinforce healthy behavior.

Gardening at home has a similar effect on EWB (or happiness) as biking, walking or dining out. Household gardens may be key to providing food security in urban areas and making cities more sustainable and livable. Though I maintain a roof garden, space and resources (like soil and water) available were not optimally utilized. During complete lockdown, many garden centres and retailers were closed, but I utilized this time to

Nature can be our refuge



prepare the garden.

For this purpose I began to collect kitchen waste and aquatic weeds (water hyacinth and pistia) from the ponds close to my house. Cow dung available with me was mixed with these materials for vermicomposting. Vermicomposting using earthworm (*Eisenia fetida*) is being done in my house on a small scale as a source of organic fertilizer for my roof garden. I started to increase production of vermicompost. Within 30 days, about 75 sq ft land and more than 100 pots were ready for sowing seeds and planting vegetables, fruits and flowers.

Different varieties of plants and flowers which are found in our local environment are grown in my garden. By spending time throughout the day connecting with nature I could reduce stressful feelings and increase my wellness with sound sleep at night at the age of 65 years. Sowing seeds is really a relaxing activity for me as I think about the beautiful plants that would be growing for me very soon from tiny seeds. It has been reported by many medical institutes that domestic gardens and indoor plants act as therapy and reduce stress in an age of lifestyle diseases such as hypertension, depression, anxiety, etc.

There are many aromatic plants which help us remain calm and also

ease the flow of blood in our body. Spending active time gardening can also burn up to 1200kcal (almost 300 calories) which can encourage weight loss, improve fitness and overall health and wellbeing. Gardening actually gives us quite a diverse workout. From squatting to stretching, lifting pots, pushing wheelbarrows, digging and walking, our body enjoys the benefits of movement. Though coronavirus has caused severe human suffering but it also provides the time and opportunity to create the garden producing a sense of pride and of course pleasure for my family members.

Every morning, I wake up excited to observe minutely the buds and flowers of plants and the growth of vegetables for harvesting. I go to the roof and adjacent land for watering the plants, removal of weeds, checking for pests and application of organic pesticides, loosening of soil as necessary, removal of infected plants, checking the moisture content of vermicomposting bags and collection of vermi-wash and many other activities. Introduction of vegetable garden along with flower garden gives more EWB. Spending time in the garden with these activities I am actually giving the garden and the plants our positive energy, so this will help them thrive.

The garden also gives all that

great energy back to us in the form of chemical free and nutritious foods. This will also reduce our ecological footprint and also help us save money. Of course at this stage, I cannot depend fully on my house garden to fulfill the daily requirement of vegetables and fruits, but I can offer the hope of some fresh vegetables and the chance to improve and beautify the small pockets of greenery around us. In addition, many plants attract different insects for pollination. The water-stations built in this garden help the birds. Gardening has become a family hobby with everyone taking care of some plants. This has reduced our dependency on using smart phone or watching TV.

Moreover, in this way, we can monetize the waste generated in the house particularly those that are biodegradable as this waste produces valuable compost that is an important requirement for building any type of garden. Also we can upgrade waste management skills and stop throwing away wet waste that ends up in an overflowing landfill and comes back to us in ugly ways. Hence, we can establish the cyclical process of resource-to-resource and learn that nothing in Nature goes "waste". In addition to these, there are numerous environmental benefits of having a

garden. This can provide a partial but important solution to issues of polluted water, parasites, and smoke inhalation.

Thus gardening can be a big part of improving quality-of-life particularly in city. Ever since the industrial revolution, the boundaries of human establishments have been expanding continuously. They keep penetrating deeper into several ecosystems which were initially inhabited by different plant and animal species. Some of these plants and animals are now endangered or are already extinct. Gardens provide a place for experiencing nature and maintain varieties of plants, insects and birds.

Gardens can play an important role in keeping society happy and healthy. Gardening is a practical, cost-effective and sustainable solution for multiple issues that we are facing. A pandemic like Covid-19 can help us realize the vital components of human life and work for a more sustainable future. Looking at nature and appreciating its beauty reminds us of the wonderful things that we have around us. I am sure this is a great way of creating positive thoughts and feelings in us all.

The writer is a former Senior Scientist, Central Pollution Control Board.

100 YEARS AGO OCCASIONAL NOTE

The Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, better known as Moorfields, claims to be the parent of all similar institutions throughout the English-speaking world. Founded in Charterhouse Square in 1804, it removed to Moorfields in 1821, and remained there till 1899, when it moved to the new building in the City Road which it now occupies. In 1811 two young surgeons from America came to the hospital for post-graduate study. Returning to America in 1818, they took steps to found a similar institution there, with the result that in 1820 the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary began its great and benevolent work. Mr. Richardson was working at the hospital at the same time as the Americans and when they went West he came East, entering the service of the East India Company. When in 1819 the directors resolved to establish an eye hospital in Madras he was appointed its first superintendent. In 1824 eye hospitals were established in Calcutta and Bombay, each under the direction of doctors who had studied at Moorfields. The hospital is now appealing to its old pupils, who are scattered throughout the world, to help in raising a fund for the extension of its laboratory accommodation and for the enlargement of its staff in order that more attention may be given to research. It is also hoped to obtain funds to provide accommodation for the nurses who attend the hospital to receive special training in the nursing of cases of eye disease.

NEWS ITEMS MADRAS POLICE AWARDS

His Excellency, the Governor presented the King's Police Medals for distinguished service to officers of the Madras Police at Pudupet Maidan today. Lady Willingdon was also present at the ceremony. Mr. N.E.Q. Mainwaring, Deputy Inspector-General of Police who served as District Superintendent and Deputy Inspector-General for over twenty years gave material help in establishing the police school at Anantapur. Mr. A.P. Sadagopa Pillay, Sub-Inspector, who in September, 1918, acted with courage during the riot at Kumudi on which occasion his promptness saved the situation. Syed Abdul Rahim Sahib, Inspector who enlisted as constable and rose to the present rank by his ability and continued good work. His Excellency, after presenting the medals, congratulated the recipients and thanked them for the admirable discipline, steadiness, and self-restraint shown by them often under most trying circumstances.

YOUNG MARKSMEN

The National Rifle Association has issued the 1920 results of the Annual Imperial Challenge Shield Miniature Rifle Competition, for boys of the Empire for shields, medals and prizes presented by Lieut.-Colonel R.W. Fennell, of South Africa. Eight hundred and twenty teams entered in the Senior Division for boys over fifteen years of age, and 569 teams in the Junior Division, representing a total of over fourteen thousand boys. The feature of the results in the Senior Competition is that the Australasian cadets again win most of the leading prizes. It is regretted that India does not figure in the prize list, but a special prize has been awarded to Lawrence Military Asylum at Sanawar for entering a number of teams.

COMPANY MEETINGS IN BOMBAY

The ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Andhra Valley Power Supply Co., was held yesterday when the directors' report was adopted, and a resolution passed authorising the payment of interest out of the capital during the construction, on preference shares and ordinary share capital for the half year ending December 31, at the usual rate, when it becomes due. The retiring directors were re-elected. The ordinary general meeting of the Tata Hydro Electric Co., was held yesterday when the directors' report was adopted and a final dividend at the rate of seven per cent per annum on preference and ordinary shares, old and new, was sanctioned, and the retiring directors, Messrs. Marotam Moraji and H.P. Gibbs were re-elected.

RICE CONTROL

The Rice Merchants Association, Rangoon, have sent a telegram to the Secretary, Government of Burma for submission to the Government of India, in which they petition the Government to abolish rice control from Burma for the next year, giving the following reasons: When the Government of India, while introducing the control, expressed in its support that there being famine and scarcity in India rice control was a necessity during the time for protection gave an undertaking that as soon as these conditions were improved then the control would be removed. Now, as the Bengal rice crop first forecast is about 86 per cent, and later rains have been very beneficial to the standing rice crop in India, our Association requests that the control should be abolished.

Trump shadow on Biden presidency

ARIFA NOOR

The excitement over Joe Biden's election was a little reminiscent of the headiness of election victory of Barack Obama. After eight years of a trigger-happy president, who led the US into Iraq—an invasion rather widely condemned—witnessing the election of the first black president was history in the making. I remember someone laughing as they recounted a message from an American friend: "I hope the world likes us a bit more tonight."

Were such messages exchanged this time around too? Perhaps they were but it did seem that the happiness was directed inwardly, this time around. It may not be wrong to say that Trump, unlike George Bush, was more a burden domestically than internationally, for the Americans. (One year after he was elected, Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize; it was perhaps the singular piece of evidence of the hope that internationally was pinned on him.) On the other hand, Trump's election and his defeat, rather than Biden's victory, underlines the insularity of American politics at the moment.

The US is now more polarised and divided than it was then. As of Monday morning, according to The Washington Post, Biden's lead in Arizona, Pennsylvania and Georgia over Trump was less than one per cent. This could, however,

change in the days to come but so far it simply reflects a divided American society.

But Trump's electoral defeat does not mean the end of the crisis in American politics. And this crisis will continue whether he remains in politics or not.

Trump's victory four years ago (and Hillary Clinton's defeat then) was proof of an electorate which is not interested in what traditional political parties and traditional politicians have to offer. Indeed, Trump's success four years ago showed—for lack of a better phrase—that the traditional political system upheld by the parties was broken. And it is still not fixed.

As a historian quoted in The New Yorker says, "The component of both parties that did not grapple with the insecurity of most Americans—that created the opportunity for exclusionary politics. It's not Trump. It's an opportunity that Trump seized."

He tapped into the people's discontent over economic issues; he appeared more populist and anti-elite than Clinton in 2016, and for his own supporters he more or less was able to sustain this image four years later too.

(So far it seems that Biden's victory was driven by greater mobilisation of the Democratic vote than in 2016.) That Trump didn't deliver on his populist politics in four years didn't deter his supporters is the biggest takeaway from



this election.

This economic insecurity will not vanish with Biden's election—and the Republicans will be tempted to tap into it. Trump or his son or someone else from the party could make a similar pitch, at the time of another election. This may prove to be the biggest challenge for the new president.

Hence, the shadows of Trump will continue to haunt Biden; after all, Obama was constantly hindered by the Republican Party during his presidency. One can only imagine the mood of the party after Trump; anyone showing any

hint of cooperation will face pressure or criticism from within the party and few will be willing to withstand it especially as this is also the mood within the electorate/the party's support base.

Along with this polarisation in society, the divisions within the Democratic Party will not make it an easy ride for Biden either. Analysts are already predicting the problems he will face, especially when faced with a legislature in the hands of the Republicans—so far, it seems that the Republicans have a good chance of retaining the Senate and reducing the Democratic majority

in the House of Representatives—and a conservative Supreme Court.

In addition, the Democratic Party is also not a unified force, and some feel that there will be pressure from within his own party—Bernie Sanders et al—to put in place more progressive policies. Even during such a crucial election, the more conservative members of the party were criticising others of having cost them votes because of their 'socialism'. The 'left wing' of the party is no less angry—Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's recent interview to The New York Times says it all where she accuses her party of hostility. "It's your own party thinking you're the enemy. When your own colleagues talk anonymously in the press and then turn around and say you're bad..." she is quoted as having said.

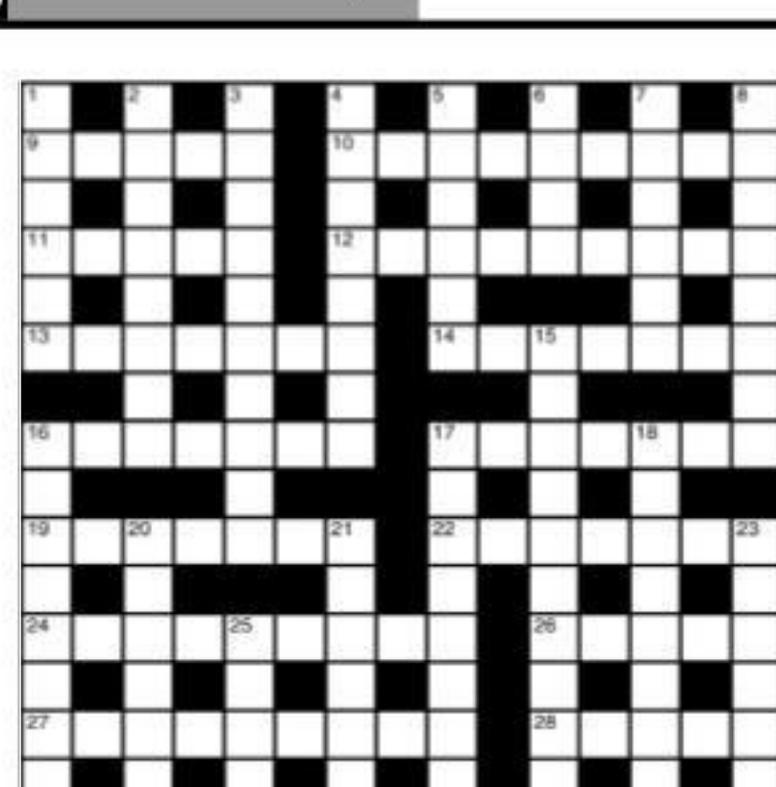
Of course, this is not to say that all the predictions are gloomy. It is always possible that Joe Biden is the centrist who manages to paper over the divisions between his own party and the society he is now leading. He is, after all, a white man who has won the election and is known for his qualities of empathy—his election campaign made much of his own personal tragedies and his ability to connect with people due to his own suffering.

But few are willing to bet on the more hopeful end of the analysis spectrum; after all, it's hard to forget that eight years of Obama ended in a Trump victory.

Dawn/ANN.

NO 28131

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS

- 9 Barge over knight, and prepare to be knighted? (5)
- 10 Desperate to be a man, I feel hatred (9)
- 11 Idiot about to make ingredient of rocket fuel (5)
- 12 3D representation of female with half-ripped pants (6,3)
- 13 Heading west, Spanish artist almost damaged culture (7)
- 14 Continue to block a medical treatment (7)
- 16 German article on, say, lust and introduction to eroticism is indefinitely postponed (4,3)
- 17 Dalibor's talent stopped by prison (7)
- 19 Rodent smell surrounds retrograde animal sanctuary (7)
- 22 Lane close to Kent bores drunk musician (7)
- 24 Agreed on a fresh drink (9)
- 26 Expert tours large Dutch city (5)
- 27 Queen barred from engaging, mostly, with bit of effervescence in bowel (9)
- 28 Even English game bird passes over India (5)

DOWN

- 1 Diet of family in South American city (6)
- 2 Fold to add shape (8)
- 3 Outcry as Oxford player crows (4,6)
- 4 Strangle fish with bad cut (8)
- 5 Helping model to get work (6)
- 6 Delivery that must be repeated (4)
- 7 Limb inserted into upset male animal (6)
- 8 Lay odds of trek maps being seen before test (8)
- 15 Blair dared to transform aid to keep seafarer afloat (3,7)
- 16 Representative limbos extremely carefully at sea (8)
- 17 Squint, as overbearing editor receives tip from Eccles (4-4)
- 18 Hearing range in rehearsal (5,3)
- 20 Increase in temperature in inadequate rough hut (6)
- 21 Sad tidings to start with: Corona, possibly, has returned (6)
- 23 Felt tattooist up to check rumours (6)
- 25 He perhaps gets heroin cut (4)

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



We believe we have gained good understanding about the real estate business and its intersection with finance

PIROJSHA GODREJ

CHAIRMAN, GODREJ HOUSING FINANCE

THUMBNAILS

Mahindra aircraft biz: Mahindra Group on Tuesday said it has closed down its aircraft manufacturing business in Australia and is scouting for a buyer, more than a decade after venturing into high-cost plane-making business. The decision also comes little over a year after one of the planes, manufactured at the Australian facility, crashed in Sweden killing nine persons. In 2009, Mahindra Group acquired 75.1 per cent stake each in two Australian aerospace firms "Gippsland Aeronautics" (Gipps Aero) and Aerostaff Australia ~ for Rs 175 crore as part of its plans to manufacture aircraft and allied components.

PTI

Winvesta: In a move to provide Indian investors with better access to global markets, UK-headquartered fintech platform Winvesta now enables investments in over 3,000 US stocks and ETFs through its platform. Indian investors can now take exposure in over 3,000 popular US stocks and ETFs such as Apple, Google, SPDR S&P 500 ETF, and Vanguard Bond ETF, with no upfront costs, annual maintenance fee, or commissions, said a Press release.

SNS

IDFC First Bank profit: IDFC First Bank has reported a net profit of Rs 101 crore for the July-September quarter of the current fiscal on healthy interest income and lower provisions. The private sector lender had posted a net loss of Rs 680 crore in the same quarter a year ago. The bank's total income grew by 21 per cent to Rs 2,288 crore in July-September period of fiscal 2020-21 from Rs 1,884 crore, according to a Press release.

PTI

Insurance: Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance has announced the launch of Covid Shield+, an individual Covid-19 life insurance product. The product, which carries a 1-year tenure, offers a substantial critical illness benefit, a term cover, is cost-effective and offers instant decisioning without any medical examination, said the company.

SNS

Mi India: Mi India has emerged as the top brand for delivering top-notch quality smartphones measured via having the lowest failure rates in the smartphone industry. The findings are part of a study conducted by RedQuanta, a customer intelligence firm, across more than twenty-five cities with over a thousand respondents.

SNS

Ratan Tata investment: Healthcare services start-up iKure on Tuesday said veteran industrialist Ratan Tata has invested in the company an undisclosed sum. The company, which delivers primary healthcare services, said it plans to rapidly scale up operations across India and globally with fresh funds coming in.

PTI

Wipro's Premji most generous Indian

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI, 10 NOVEMBER

IT major Wipro's Azim Premji donated Rs 22 crore a day or Rs 7,904 crore in a year to emerge as the most generous Indian in FY20 and top a list of philanthropy.

Premji pipped HCL Technologies' Shiv Nadar, who had earlier topped the list collated by Hurun Report India and Edelgive Foundation, by a wide margin. Nadar's donations stood at Rs 795 crore for FY20 as against Rs 826 crore in the year-ago period. Premji had donated Rs 426 crore in the previous fiscal.

Richest Indian Mukesh Ambani of Reliance Industries retained the third spot among

States may cut capital outlay on infra by 40%

States account for 37-40 per cent of total infrastructure capital expenditure

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 10 NOVEMBER

Impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic states are likely to cut capital outlay on infrastructure by up to 40 per cent, rating agency Icra has said.

States account for 37-40 per cent of the total infrastructure capital expenditure, it said.

The rating agency said major states together had a budgeted capital outlay of over Rs 5.7 lakh crore for fiscal 2020-21 as against revised estimate of Rs 5.1 lakh crore in fiscal 2019-20.

"However, with Covid-19 severely impacting revenues of state governments, and additional expenditure towards healthcare and public welfare, the capital outlay on infrastructure by states could decline by 10-40 per cent in FY2021," Icra said in a statement.

It said some states could witness a steeper decline depending on the extent of additional borrowings, which is awaited.

With Covid-19 and the



► Rating agency Icra said major states together had a budgeted capital outlay of over Rs 5.7 lakh crore for financial year 2020-21 as against revised estimate of Rs 5.1 lakh crore in fiscal 2019-20.

related slowdown in the economic activities, states are starting a significant decline in their revenues, which in turn could push them to cut down on discretionary expenditure including deferment of capital outlay.

"Furthermore, of the Rs 111 trillion worth infrastructure investments planned under the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), about 40 per

cent is from state governments. "NIP envisages the state's budgetary outlay on capital investments to be around 1.7 per cent of GDP and states are expected to fund 24-26 per cent of the total expenditure under NIP," Jain said.

To bridge the shortfall, states' unconditional borrowing limit has been raised from 3 per cent of gross state domestic product (GSDP) to 4 per cent of GSDP for 2020-21, the statement said.

States also have the option of availing another 1 per cent of the GSDP, but on completing specified reforms, it added.

Shubham Jain, senior vice-president and group head, corporate ratings, Icra, said while on one hand states will gen-

erate lower revenues, they would also need to increase expenditure towards health care and social welfare.

Various policy measures in response to Covid-19 could cost over 0.3 per cent of GDP.

"Hence, to reduce the impact states are likely to curtail some revenue expenditure as well as capital expenditure. In the past, states had cut their capital expenditure by an average of 0.5 per cent of GDP to meet fiscal deficit targets."

"Given the current fiscal position, it is likely that states would cut the capex by a higher proportion in FY2021. However, capex in health and education sectors could increase," Jain said.

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WhatsApp rolls out shopping button

NEW DELHI, 10 NOVEMBER

WhatsApp today said it has added a new shopping button on its app to make it easier for people to discover a business' catalogue to get information about the goods and services offered by the firm.

More than 175 million people message a WhatsApp Business account every day and more than 40 million people view a business' catalogue each month, including more than 3 million in India.

"And, we want to make the shopping experience even better, especially as we get ready for a holiday shopping season unlike any other when people will need helpful ways to make purchases remotely and businesses want digital tools to close sales," WhatsApp said in a statement.

It added that the Facebook-owned company is rolling out a new shopping button on WhatsApp to make it easier for people to discover a business' catalogue so they know what goods or services it offers.

Previously, people had to click into the business' profile to see if the business had a catalogue.

Godrej forays into financial services

PTI & SNS
NEW DELHI, 10 NOVEMBER

The Godrej Group today announced its foray into financial services, by committing to infuse up to Rs 1,500 crore which will be needed by the business in the first three years.

It may look at getting an external investor on board after three years and an initial public offering in 6-7 years once the need for more capital arises.

Shah said that plans to enter the business were afoot for over 18 months, and sought to downplay the concerns over the risks posed by the pandemic, asserting that it never a bad time to enter a fray.

Bad loans are made during good times and good loans are made during bad times, he said, pointing out that GHF's strengths include a strong lineage which will make cheaper borrowings possible and also give cross-sell opportunities, and also the low housing loan penetration.

To start with, GHF will be operating in Mumbai, Delhi, Pune, and Bengaluru which occupy around half of the market and then gradually expand out, Shah said.

Audi to hike prices by up to 2% from January

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 10 NOVEMBER

German luxury car maker Audi today announced a price increase of up to 2 per cent across its entire model range from 1 January next year owing to weakening of the rupee and rising input costs.

Commenting on the development, Balbir Singh Dhillon, head of Audi India, said: "At Audi India, we strive to give our customers the best, but the rising inputs costs and currency fluctuations have put a strain on our cost structures and we are forced to make amends to prices. While we have tried to absorb the impact at various levels, the current situation necessitates an increase in price for sustainable growth."

Dhillon further said: "Continuing our focus on customer-centricity, we have ensured that the impact is as minimal as possible. We are offering several service related packages that will ensure ease of ownership for our customers."

To kick-start the festive celebrations, Audi India introduced the Audi Q8 Celebration model priced at Rs 98.98 lakh ex-showroom. For the newly launched Audi Q2, the brand is offering a "peace of mind" package that comes bundled with a 5-year service package with 2+3 years extended warranty and 2+3 years road side assistance.

In addition, Celebration Programs on certain products, including the Audi A6, are currently on offer for the festive season. This may include a lower rate of interest or a peace of mind package up to five years, the company said.

Revenue from operations rose to Rs 4,011.39 crore for the quarter under review, as against Rs 3,778.51 crore in the year-ago period, Exide Industries said in a regulatory filing.

Exide Industries MD and CEO G Chatterjee said there was improvement in demand for replacement sales of automotive and UPS batteries during the second quarter.

Exide Q2 net rises by 4% to ₹257 cr

NEW DELHI, 10 NOVEMBER

Battery maker Exide Industries today posted a 3.81 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 256.62 crore for the quarter ended 30 September 2020.

The company had reported a net profit of Rs 247.18 crore during the July-September period of the preceding fiscal.

Revenue from operations rose to Rs 4,011.39 crore for the quarter under review, as against Rs 3,778.51 crore in the year-ago period, Exide Industries said in a regulatory filing.

Exide Industries MD and CEO G Chatterjee said there was improvement in demand for replacement sales of automotive and UPS batteries during the second quarter.

M&M Q2 net dips 88% to ₹162 cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 10 NOVEMBER

Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) today reported 88 per cent drop in its profit after tax to Rs 162 crore for the second quarter ended 30 September 2020, mainly on account of the impairment provision of Rs 1,149.46 crore for certain long-term investments.

The auto major along with one unit - Mahindra Vehicle Manufacturers Ltd (MVML) - had reported a PAT of Rs 1,355 crore during the July-September period last fiscal.

Revenues of the company, however, increased to Rs 11,590 crore in the second quarter, as against Rs 10,935 crore in the same period of the previous fiscal, M&M said in a regulatory filing.

The Mumbai-based firm sold 87,332 units in the second quarter, down 21 per cent from 1,10,824 units in the

year-ago period.

Tractor sales, however, increased by 31 per cent to 89,597 units in the July-September period as compared to 68,359 units a year ago.

The exceptional items on account of impairments have led to a drop in the profit after tax in the current quarter as compared to the corresponding quarter in the previous year.

The company said an exceptional item of Rs 1,149.46 crore during the September quarter represents impairment provision for certain long-term investments.

On the outlook, the company said with the government spending and rural demand anchoring economic activity, manufacturing and some categories of services have gradually recovered in the second quarter.

Proactive steps from RBI have kept domestic finan-

cial conditions easy and system liquidity in surplus, the company noted.

Besides, Kharif sowing and the recent agricultural reforms portend well for the rural economy, it added.

"However, the turnaround in urban demand may continue to lag, especially the contact-intensive services sectors. Manufacturing capacity utilisation is expected to recover in the third quarter and activity to gain some traction from the fourth quarter onwards," M&M said. Capex and exports are likely to remain subdued, it added.

GAIL profit dips 9%: GAIL India Ltd, the nation's biggest gas company, on Tuesday reported 8.5 per cent drop in September quarter net profit after losses on gas marketing offset gain made in the gas transportation business.

Consolidated net profit of

Rs 1,068.16 crore, or Rs 2.47 per share, in July-September is compared with Rs 1,167.58 crore, or Rs 2.59 a share, net profit in the year-ago period.

GAIL said in a filing to stock exchanges. Turnover slipped 23.7 per cent to Rs 14,104.80 crore, largely due to lower gas prices during the quarter.

GAIL reported a pre-tax loss of Rs 334.55 crore on its natural gas marketing business as the pandemic impacted demand. The loss was, however, lower than Rs 614.06 crore pre-tax loss in April-June. The business had Rs 241.72 crore of pre-tax profit in July-September quarter 2019.

The firm which owns most of the nation's cross-country gas pipeline network saw its pre-tax profit from the gas transportation business rise 27 percent to Rs 1,021.18 crore in the second quarter of the current fiscal.

Promote RuPay cards: FM to banks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 10 NOVEMBER



Banks should ideally make sure that all accounts are linked with Aadhaar number of respective customers by December. If it is not complete, then the linking should be done by 31 March 2021.

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN
UNION FINANCE MINISTER

instant real-time payment system, developed by NPCI, to facilitate inter-bank transactions through mobile phone.

According to the minister, financial inclusion story is not over and there are many bank accounts that are still not linked with the Aadhaar numbers of the account holders.

She said banks should try and ensure that all accounts are linked with Aadhaar numbers of respective customers by 31 March 2021.

About amalgamation of banks, the minister said she wishes to have each of the amalgamated banks to be as big as State Bank of India.

"We can have eight more SBIs in this country post-amalgamation. I am sure you are putting your energies in seeing how best you can be, not just in size but also in the kind of diversified activities that you can undertake and therefore India is thirsting for large banks," she said.

RuPay is a payment card launched by NPCI, an umbrella organisation for operating retail payment and settle-

Adani, Piramal, others revise offers for DHFL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 10 NOVEMBER

Suitors for the troubled non-banking finance company Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL) have raised their offer price in the revised bids submitted for the company, sources said.

Adani Group, Piramal Enterprises, US-based Oaktree and Hong Kong-based SC Lowy have submitted 10-70 per cent higher price for either a stake in the company or buying out some of its assets.

Oaktree Capital has raised its bid price for the entire portfolio to Rs 33,000 crore from Rs 27,800 crore earlier, sources with knowledge of the development said.

Piramal has significantly revised its bid for the retail book to Rs 26,500 crore from

Rs 15,000 crore offered earlier.



I wish we could have expected something different from Trump, but this is the ridiculous behaviour that we have seen for four years.....

INDIAN-AMERICAN CONGRESSWOMAN PRAMILA JAYAPAL

WEATHER

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

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

THUMBNAILS



A man takes photos of the City of London shrouded in fog on London on Tuesday. **AP**

Polish cardinal hospitalized: A prominent Polish cardinal, Retired Archbishop Henryk Gulbinowicz who was recently sanctioned by the Vatican over sex scandal cases has been hospitalized since last week and remains unconscious, Polish media said Tuesday. He was sanctioned last week after he was accused of sexually abusing a seminarian and of covering up abuse in another case. **AP**

Amazon antitrust charges: European Union regulators have filed antitrust charges against Amazon, accusing the e-commerce giant of using data to gain an unfair advantage over merchants using its platform. The EU's executive commission, the bloc's top antitrust enforcer, said that the charges have been sent to the company. **AP**

Lockdown declared word of 2020 by Collins Dictionary

LONDON, 10 NOVEMBER

Lockdown, the containment measure implemented by governments around the world to mitigate the spread of Covid, has been named the Collins Word of the Year 2020. According to the dictionary, lockdown is defined as "the imposition of stringent restrictions on travel, social interaction, and access to public spaces".

Orlexicographers chose lockdown as Word of the Year because it is a unifying experience for billions of people across the world, who have had, collectively, to play their part in combating the spread of Covid, Collins said.

"Language is a reflection of the world around us and 2020 has been dominated by the global pandemic," said Helen Newstead, language content consultant at Collins.

"Lockdown has affected the way we work, study, shop, and socialise. With many countries entering a second lockdown, it is not a word of the year to celebrate but it is, perhaps, one that sums up the year foremost of the world," she said.

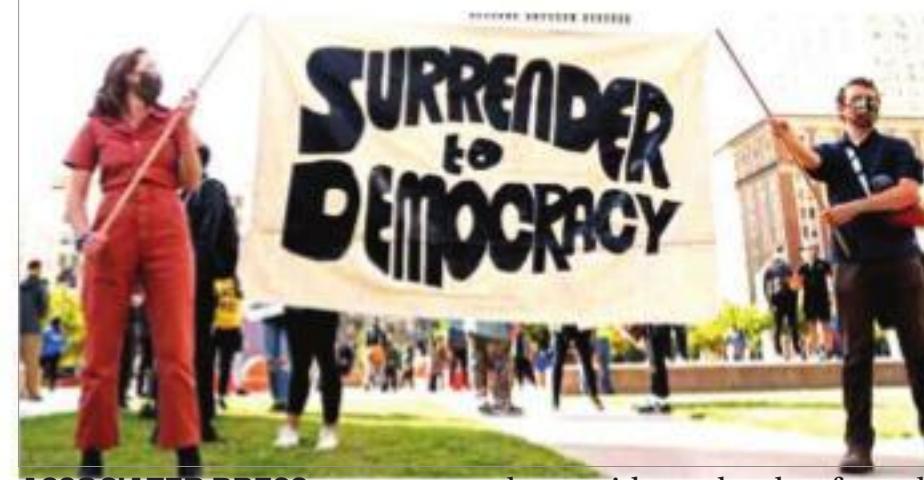
The dictionary said it registered over a quarter of a million usages of the word lockdown during 2020, against only 4,000 the previous year.

Several other words related to the pandemic are included in Collins' long list of the top 10 words of the year, which include furlough or the temporary laying-off of employees, usually because there isn't sufficient work to employ them, and self-isolate, or to quarantine oneself if one has or suspects contagious disease.

The word coronavirus is there too, with an extraordinary 35,000-fold increase in use year-on-year, and defined as any of the group of viruses that cause infectious illnesses of the respiratory tract, including Covid-19. But the social impacts the changes to behaviour and the human way of life dominate the list for the year. **AP**

Trump campaign says election far from over

President's refusal to accept the results means the election disputes could drag for weeks as states certify their tallies or push to mid-December



ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 10 NOVEMBER

As President-elect Joe Biden is gearing up for administering the country, the defiant Trump campaign has asserted that the 2020 US presidential election is far from over and indicated that it will explore all possible options to obtain "an accurate and honest vote count."

Outgoing President Donald Trump has declined to concede the closely-fought 3 November presidential race to Democrat Biden and is mounting legal fights in several key battleground states, but there has been no evidence of voter irregularities or widespread fraud in the election - bidden as one of the most divisive and bitter in recent American history.

The president's refusal to accept the results means the election disputes could drag for weeks as states certify their tallies or push to mid-December, when the 538-member Electoral College is set to vote. President Trump has made repeated and baseless claims that the Democratic Party has tried to steal the election. According to several US media projections, Biden has won at least 290 electoral votes, 20 more than the required 270 out of the 538 Electoral College votes. Trump has received 214 electoral votes.

Speaking in her capacity as a Trump campaign Advisor, McEnany attacked the Democratic Party, saying there is only one party in America that opposes voter ID, verifying signatures, citizenship, residency and eligibility. There is only one party in America trying to keep observers out of the courtroom and that party my friends is the Democratic Party. You don't take these positions because you want an honest election, she said.

'Media should be called out for poll interference'



ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 10 NOVEMBER

US President Donald Trump on Monday said the mainstream media were so inaccurate in their polls that it amounted to "much more voter and campaign finance suppression" and that they should be called out for election interference.

In a series of tweets, Trump said that Fox News, Quinnipiac Poll, ABC/Washington Post, NBC/Wall Street Journal were so inaccurate with their polls on him that it really is tampering with an election.

"They were so far off in their polling, and in their attempt to suppress - that they should be called out for Election Interference," Trump said. "ABC/WaPo had me down 17 points in Wisconsin, the day before the election, and I WON! In Iowa, the polls had us four points

You don't oppose an audit of the vote because you want an accurate count, you don't oppose our efforts at sunlight and transparency because you have nothing to hide. You take these positions because you are welcoming fraud and you are welcoming illegal voting, she claimed.

McEnany said that the position of the Trump Campaign is clear. We want to protect the franchise of the American people. We want an honest, accurate, lawful count. We

want maximum sunlight; we want maximum transparency. "We want every legal vote to be counted and we want every illegal vote to be discarded," she said. In Pennsylvania, she alleged, poll watchers who were legally permitted to be there and observe the vote count were blocked from observing the count.

McDaniel told reporters that in Michigan the party has filed two new lawsuits against alleged electoral irregularities.

Trump fires Mark Esper

WASHINGTON, 10 NOVEMBER

US President Donald Trump has fired his Defence Secretary Mark Esper. "I am pleased to announce that Christopher C Miller, the highly respected Director of the National Counterterrorism Center (unanimously confirmed by the Senate), will be Acting Secretary of Defense, effective immediately," Trump said in a tweet on Monday.

"Chris will do a GREAT job! Mark Esper has been terminated. I would like to thank him for his service, he said in his second tweet.

Trump's first firing of his Cabinet colleagues comes days after major media outlets declared that he has lost the November 3 elections to Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden. **PTI**

lots is turning out to be even bigger than originally anticipated. A very large number of ballots are impacted. Stay tuned! Trump said.

Barr OKs election probes

WASHINGTON, 10 NOVEMBER

Attorney General William Barr has authorised federal prosecutors across the US to pursue "substantial allegations" of voting irregularities before the 2020 presidential election is certified, despite little evidence of fraud.

Barr's action comes days after Democrat Joe Biden defeated President Donald Trump and raises the prospect that Trump will use the Justice Department to try to challenge the outcome. It gives prosecutors the ability to go around longstanding Justice Department policy that normally would prohibit such overt actions before the election is formally certified.

Trump has not conceded the election and is instead claiming without evidence that there has been a widespread, multi-state conspiracy by Democrats to skew the vote tally in Biden's favour.

Biden holds a sizable lead in multiple battleground states and there has been no indication of enough improperly counted or illegally cast votes that would shift the outcome. **AP**



People watch fireworks after media announced that Joe Biden won the 2020 U.S. presidential election, in Wilmington. **FILE PICTURE**

UK PM Johnson cautiously welcomes loud toot' of vaccine bugle

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON, 10 NOVEMBER

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has cautiously welcomed the promising results from the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine and warned people not to rely on this news as a solution as it is still "very, very early days".

Addressing a briefing from 10 Downing Street here on Monday, Johnson urged the British public not to slacken their resolve as it is still very, very early days, even as he confirmed that the UK had pre-ordered 40 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine - enough for about a third of the UK population, taking into account that two doses each are required.

The Pfizer/BioNTech Vaccine has been tested on over 40,000 volunteers and interim results suggest it is proving 90 per cent effective at protecting people against the virus. But we haven't yet seen the full safety data, and these findings also need to be peer-reviewed, said Johnson.

We have talked for a long time, or I have, about the distant bugle of the scientific cavalry coming over the brow of the hill, and tonight that toot of the bugle is louder. But it is still some way off. And we absolutely cannot rely on this as a solution, he said.

He reiterated that it is crucial not to overdo things and follow the lockdown rules strictly until December 2,

As virus spikes, Europe runs low on ICU beds, hospital staff



ASSOCIATED PRESS
PARIS, 10 NOVEMBER

In Italy lines of ambulances park outside hospitals awaiting beds, and in France the government coronavirus tracking app prominently displays the intensive care capacity taken up by Covid patients: 92.5 per cent and rising. In the ICU in Barcelona, there is no end in sight for the doctors and nurses who endured this once already. Intensive care is the lastline of defense for severely ill coronavirus patients and Europe is running out — of beds and the doctors and nurses to staff them.

In France, more than 7,000 health care workers have undergone training since last spring in intensive care techniques. Nursing students, interns, paramedics, all have been drafted, according to Health Minister Olivier Veran.

One hospital in the southern city of Marseille recently wheeled in refrigerated rental trucks ahead of a feared rise in ICU deaths there.

In Italy, Filippo Anelli, the head of the national doctor

after which England is set to revert to a tiered lockdown system.

We cannot let our enthusiasm (about a vaccine) run away with us. It is more vital now than ever that we follow the basics on Monday that its vaccine candidate has proven

90 per cent effective in a large trial. This is a very important scientific breakthrough. I am certain of that. I am hopeful because of that, but not yet certain that we could begin to see some vaccine by Christmas. I think we have to be optimistic but we have to wait and

see how vaccine manufacturer goes, said Prof Van-Tam.

Alas, the death figures are tragically rising, running at an average of over 300 a day sadly double where they were 24 days ago. The number of COVID-19 patients in hospital has risen from just over

10,000 two weeks ago to nearly 13,000 on November 5, and we are heading towards the levels of the previous peak, said Johnson, as the experts ran through the statistics with him.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock said the National Health Service (NHS) is ready to start providing the new coronavirus vaccine "as fast as safely possible, with vaccination clinics to be open seven days a week."

In the past two weeks alone the number of patients treated in ICUs in Germany has almost tripled, from 943 to 2,546. Still Janssen acknowledged that the situation in Germany is better than that of France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Britain.

In all, 391 coronavirus patients were in Portuguese ICUs as of Monday, when the country imposed a curfew. During the worst week last spring, the ICUs had 271 coronavirus patients.

The main focus of Johnson's briefing on Monday was on the mass testing rolled out in Liverpool on Friday, which the prime minister said were being widely taken up in the city and urged others to also come forward and get tested for your friends, for your relatives, for your community. He confirmed that the government is going beyond the city-wide pilot and sending out hundreds of thousands of rapid lateral flow tests to local authorities right across England and other parts of the United Kingdom.

About 12 million low-income people are covered through the health law's Medicaid expansion, now available in most states.

PREVENTION- Most American women now pay nothing out of their own pockets for birth control. That's covered as a preventive service, free of charge to the patient, under the ACA.

Many other services, from colonoscopies to flu shots, are also free. If people again face copays for routine preventive care, that may discourage some to go for tests shown to detect diseases like cancer at early stages when they are easier to treat.

RETURN OF MEDICARE GAP- "Obamacare" took the first major steps to close Medicare's unpopular "donut hole," a coverage gap that used to leave seniors on the hook for hundreds of dollars in prescriptions drug costs. Congress later accelerated the timetable.

LONGER RUNWAY SHORTENED- One of the earliest benefits to take effect after the passage of "Obamacare" was a requirement that insurers allow young adults to stay on a parent's plan until they turned 26.

That provided a longer economic runway for millions of young adults, who back then were struggling with the lingering effects of the Great Recession. Nowadays it's the consequences of the coronavirus economy. Before the ACA's coverage extension, insurers routinely cut off young adults upon graduation.

TAX CUT FOR THE WEALTHY- "Obamacare" raised taxes on upper-income individuals to help finance its coverage expansion.

If the entire law is repealed, that would deliver a tax cut to well-to-do people, many of whom have escaped the economic shock of the Covid-19 pandemic because stock market investors have continued to do well.

POLITICAL RUBIK'S CUBE- Passing the 900-page-plus ACA was a political challenge that took more than a year at a time when Democrats controlled the White House and both chambers in Congress.

Putting together a replacement under a divided government would be the ultimate political puzzle. Neither Democrats nor Republicans agree even within their own ranks what that should look like.

UK govt defiant after House of Lords rejects Brexit bill

LONDON, 10 NOVEMBER

The British government is refusing to withdraw legislation that breaks a legally binding Brexit treaty, despite a resounding rejection of the bill by the upper house of Parliament.

The House of Lords voted by large margins late Monday to strip from the Internal Market Bill clauses that give the government power to break sections of the divorce agreement it signed with the European Union before the U.K. left the bloc in January.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government acknowledges that the bill breaches international law, and the legislation has been condemned by the EU. U.S. President-elect Joe Biden and scores of British lawmakers, including many from Johnson's Conservative Party. Former Conservative leader Michael Howard, said he was dismayed by the bill and urged the government to think again. But the government said it would restore the rejected sections when the bill returns to the House of Commons in the coming weeks. It says the bill is needed as an insurance policy to ensure smooth trade among all parts of the U.K. - especially Northern Ireland. **AP**

Farming in the ant colony

Human foibles seem to be a natural trend gone astray

S ANANTHANARAYAN

Much of our current climate crisis is blamed on using too much chemical fertiliser to promote farm productivity. A study shows that the tendency is also found in the natural world.

Jonathan Z Shik, Pepijn W Kooij, David A Donoso, Juan C Santos, Ernesto B Gomez, Mariana Franco, Antonin JJ Crumière, Xavier Arnan, Jack Howe, William T Wcislo and Jacobus J Boomsma, from the University of Copenhagen, the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama City, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, London, Universidad Tecnológica Indoamérica, Quito, St John's University, New York, Centre de Recerca Ecològica i Aplicacions Forestals, Cerdanya del Vallès, Spain, describe in the journal, *Nature Ecology and Evolution*, a study of farming methods of colonies of ants, and find trends that could "shed light on nutritional trade-offs that shaped the course of culturally evolved human farming."

Striving to strengthen the source of food has been a driver of evolution in the natural world and has given rise to forms of farming and social organisation among bacteria and insects, just as it has, by a cultural driver, among humans. While one should tread with care when "drawing analogies between domains," the paper says, it is reasonable to take it that both forms of farming have grown in sophistication over time. The plants that we grow today, for instance, are quite different from their ancestors in the wild -- with cultivated varieties showing more nutritious or enlarged leaves, roots or seeds. And domestication of the wild varieties has called for trade-offs, sacrificing resilience and needing special conditions, of sun or shade, water or nutrients. These are the choices that the impetus to secure the food source forces the farmer to make. And human farmers, the paper says, "managed to push these trade-offs to extremes." A few high yielding varieties of crops have been widely farmed, "even though the vulnerability of the plants to herbivores and pathogens has often increased." This has called for the manufacture and use of pesticides. And then technological solutions, like synthetic fertilisers, have shrunk the size of the niche where the crop can flourish.



A parallel world of farmers is that of some ants, termites and bees, which, over millions of years, much longer than the time that humans have been farming, have evolved to depend on and support different sources of nutrition. The study has considered a particular group of ants, the attine ants, found in the Americas, which live on fungi that the ants cultivate with nutrition, including grasses and leaves that the ants bring to the nest. Unlike human farmers, who grow a variety of crops, however, fungus-growing ants specialise in promoting in the nest basically only a single form of fungus. A disadvantage in this specialisation, or lack of diversity, is that the strain of fungus is sensitive to changes in nutrition and susceptible to infection. The ants, accordingly, have evolved ways to recycle fungal enzymes, to improve productivity, and powerful antibiotic defences to control disease, the paper says.

And it is the specialisation, in the strain of fungus, and the attendant measures, that have led to the 19 different groups of these ants, with more than 240 distinct species to arise, from Argentina to north-eastern United States.

The interplay of the extent of specialisation of the fungi and the sources of nutrition was studied, first by identifying the specific nutrition that different fungi required -- by growing the fungi in the laboratory, in glass dishes, with controlled supply of protein and carbohydrates -- to

reveal the different Fundamental Nutritional Niches into which the fungi had painted themselves. To cater to these nutritional needs, the ants harvest what they can from the available debris, even freshly cut bits of leaf, and convert the harvest to a form suitable for fungi. This form, of the main nutrients that the ants offer to the fungi they cultivate, was determined by field surveys, where the material was extracted from the ants' jawbones, when they were returning to the nest, and analysed. The comparison of what the ants harvest, and what the fungi need, brings out the "provisioning strategy" the ants employ -- for analysis in terms of how far the nutritional niche of the fungi has narrowed and the stage of evolution of the species of ant.

A first result of the investigation was that the earliest species, closest to the ancestral line, supported fungal varieties that showed broad FNN -- viz, they were the least specialised in their nutritional requirements, and growing well even with a wide range of the mix of protein and carbohydrate as nutrition. The colonies were also of modest productivity and size. The fungi, however, could be far more productive with richer nutrition, in the lab, than what their natural caterers, the ants, could provide.

The fungi cultivated by the next evolutionary group of ants was the domestication of a specialised line of fungi, which sprouted nutrient-rich swellings for the ants to feed on.



Although the ant colonies as well as the extent of cultivation stayed modest, the specialisation led to shrinking of the nutritional niche. That this was happening became apparent because fungus cultures in the laboratory were not able to survive if they were not provided their narrower range of nutrients.

And further along the timeline were the ants with large colonies and complex social organisation, the leaf-cutter ants, which bring to the nest freshly cut vegetation from hundreds of plant species. The fungal variety which the leafcutter cultivates is a specific species and it can grow only with the nutrition the ants bring. The fungi support huge colonies, of millions of ants, but cannot survive a blend of nutrition outside their FNN. The leaf-cutters, with this fine-tuned appetite of the fungi they cultivate, have hence evolved different measures to manage even with changes in the kind of leaf or grass that is available.

The writer can be contacted at response@simplescience.in

The study reveals the trend, over the millions of years of evolution, of increasing specialisation of the fungi cultivated by the ants, which supports greater productivity and colony size, matched by increasing capacity of the ants to cater to the nutritional needs of the fungi. The parallel with the development in human farming is striking -- we now cultivate far more crops and get more yield per hectare than our ancestors. But our methods, energy and the use of fertilisers and insecticides, threaten our very existence. The great increase in human agriculture has been only since the last century. But the attine ants had millions of years to adapt and provide for the insecurity that dependence on a narrow band of resources must bring with it. Getting to understand how the ants do it could show us the way to deal with our own problems!

PLUS POINTS
Nature's soothsayers



Bats are extraordinary animals -- they are the only truly flying mammal species, and they are so adept at it that they can outmanoeuvre birds. They also pollinate plants, use echolocation like sonar to navigate through the darkest nights, are known to trade food for sex, and even know to self-isolate when they get ill.

But the latest scientific research into bats reveals these matchless mammals are such highly evolved creatures, they can accurately "predict the future," when it comes to tracking their prey.

So, while their oracular abilities may not be much use in a casino, bats are very skilled at predicting one thing -- where to find dinner. Bats calculate exactly where their prey is going by building on-the-fly predictive models from echoes.

Researchers from John Hopkins University in Maryland, US, said the bats' predictive models are so robust, they can continue to track their airborne prey even when it temporarily vanishes behind echo-blocking obstacles like trees. The researchers said that while the prediction of possible paths based on visual information has been extensively studied, their project is the first to do so using auditory information.

The team said their work could help scientists gain greater insights into auditory-guided behaviours among humans and other animals, including sight-impaired people who use sounds to track objects around them. "Just the way a tennis player needs to find out when and where they will hit the ball, a bat needs to anticipate when and where it will make contact with the insect it's hunting," said senior author Cynthia Moss, a neuroscientist and professor of psychological and brain sciences at John Hopkins University. "The insect is flying. The bat is also flying. In this very rapidly changing environment, if the bat were to just rely on the information it got from the most recent echo, it would miss the insect."

Bats use the time delays between each echolocation call and the resulting echoes to determine how far away prey



is. The researchers said the bats tilt their heads to catch the changing intensity of echoes to figure out where the prey is in the horizontal plane. They then must put together echo information about object distance and its direction to successfully track an erratic moving insect. But because the bats are so adept at this, the research team wondered whether in addition, the bats could also be somehow using this information to predict where their prey is going.

To test this in the lab, they designed an experiment that closely mirrored the situation of a bat hunting in the wild. They trained bats to stay on a perch and track insects. The team recorded each bat's echolocation calls and head movements as they changed where the insects moved and how quickly. They also added obstacles to interrupt the echoes.

If the bats were not predicting where the insects were going, then their head movements would always lag behind the target. But the scientists found that wasn't the case. And if the bat kept his head in a fixed position, which sometimes reflected where the insect ended up, that would eliminate the prediction theory. But that wasn't happening either. And if the bat was only using information from the echoes to estimate velocity, that wouldn't be enough to explain the extent of the bat's precision.

"We found that bats use both the velocity information from the timing of the echoes and further adjust their head aim," said co-first author Angeles Salles, a postdoctoral fellow.

The findings upset the previously accepted notion that bats do not predict an insect's future position -- a conclusion largely drawn from a 1980s study done before high-speed video was widely available. The research is published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

— THE INDEPENDENT

TURNING TWENTY

The International Space Station offers hope and a template for future cooperation

WENDY WHITMAN COBB

On 2 November this year, the International Space Station celebrated its 20th anniversary of continuous human occupation. With astronauts and cosmonauts from around the world working together, the ISS has demonstrated humankind's ability to not only live and work in space but cooperate with one another. This remarkable achievement is significant as countries and companies around the world look to expand space exploration beyond Earth orbit.

The path to this anniversary was not easy; like most things done in space, the cost and the difficulty were high. Supported by the Reagan administration as part of the Cold War competition with the Soviet Union, the ISS began its life in the 1980s. Following the Challenger disaster in 1986, planning fell by the wayside as costs increased. Facing delays and cost overruns, the space station -- then known as Freedom -- was nearly cancelled by the House of Representatives in the early 1990s. While already bringing international partners aboard to lower costs, the Clinton administration invited Russia to participate, leveraging the station as a tool of foreign policy between former adversaries.

What began as competition has turned into fruitful cooperation not just between Russia and the US but Canada, Japan, Italy, the European Space Agency and over 100 other countries. As a space policy expert, I argue that the achievements of the ISS to date are indeed significant, but they also point the way ahead for cooperation and commercialisation in space.

Accomplishments and significance

By the numbers, the ISS is indeed impressive. At 357 feet in length, it is just one yard shy of an American football field. More than 241 individuals from 19 countries have visited, and at least 3,000 research projects have taken place on the ISS. The ISS is the third brightest object in the night sky and can often be spotted worldwide. Even Lego has immortalised the station with its own building set!

The ISS has proven that humans can live and work in space. These experiences are key as countries look to longer term exploration. The



The first female space tourist, Anousheh Ansari, in the ISS in 2006

ISS has led to advances in understanding how the human body reacts to sustained microgravity and increased exposure to radiation. Other experiments have allowed researchers to study materials and chemicals in a microgravity environment. Astronauts have also learned how to grow food on the station, leading to insights on how plants grow on Earth.

These accomplishments have not come without criticism. It cost more than US\$100 billion to construct; some have questioned the amount and value of the science that has been conducted. More recently, limits on the number of crew residing on the station have reduced the amount of time available for scientific experiments.

However, perhaps one of the most significant legacies of the ISS is the long-term cooperation that has enabled it. While the US and Russia are the countries most closely identified with the programme, Canada, Japan and the European Space Agency also take part. While not always easy, sustained cooperation in a place where operations are difficult and costly is impressive.

For the US and Russia in particular, this achievement is unique. While there was some cooperation between the two during the Cold War, the ISS is the first major space programme in which the two have worked together. Even as relations between Russia and the US have deteriorated over the last several years, the partner-



ship on the ISS has continued. While scientific and space cooperation does not solve all terrestrial issues, it can strengthen other diplomatic relationships.

The future of the ISS

Though turning 20 may not seem like a milestone, for a complicated piece of machinery operating in the dangerous environment of space, the ISS is approaching old age. In recent years, it has suffered several problems, most recently an air leak in the Russian module, Zvezda. However, recent assessments support continued operation of the ISS for at least another 10 years.

In that time, the ISS will likely see an increase in commercial activity. Recently, cosmetics company Estee Lauder launched one of its products to the station to be featured in a commercial filmed there. SpaceX is looking to make the ISS a tourist destination following NASA's 2019 decision making it easier for space tourists to visit. Another space company, Axiom, recently received a contract to build a commercial module to be added to the ISS in 2024. The module would give additional living and working space to astronauts aboard the station as well as serve as the starting point for a future commercial space station.

Thinking beyond Earth orbit, international cooperation in the ISS provides a solid example for future cooperation in space. As NASA seeks to



Expedition 1 crew members (from left to right) Commander Bill Shepherd, and Flight Engineers Yuri Gidzenko and Sergei Krikalev pose with a model of their home away from home

return to the Moon, international cooperation will be a way of reducing costs, normalising behaviour in space and increasing national prestige. NASA has made efforts in these areas through the Artemis Accords, an agreement outlining norms and behaviours for lunar exploration. Additionally, NASA is partnering with the European Space Agency and others on its plans for the Gateway, a mini-space station in lunar orbit.

The ISS experience has been fundamental to all these developments as it continues to launch the next generation of space endeavours.

The writer is professor of strategy and security studies, US Air Force School of Advanced Air and Space Studies. This article first appeared on www.theconversation.com





MILESTONE MAN

Lewis Hamilton (photo, left) has the first chance to become a seven-time Formula One world champion at this weekend's Turkish Grand Prix, giving him the opportunity to pull level with Michael Schumacher's all-time record. The Briton leads the 2020 drivers' championship by 85 points over Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Maradona recovering: Diego Maradona is progressing well after brain surgery on a blood clot and could be discharged this week, his doctor said on Monday. Maradona, 60, underwent surgery last Tuesday to remove a clot lodged between his brain and skull.

Tokyo trial: Organisers of a weekend international gymnastics meet in Tokyo, seen as a major test ahead of next year's postponed Olympic Games, lauded on Tuesday the success of the event, saying the athletes' fear of the coronavirus had been replaced by joy.

Garcia out: Sergio Garcia has withdrawn from The Masters golf tournament after testing positive for the coronavirus. The Spaniard, who won the Green Jacket at Augusta National three years ago, was due to take part in this week's delayed event, but pulled out.

Offices raided: Portuguese authorities raided the offices of Benfica, Sporting Lisbon and Santa Clara as part of an investigation into fraud, corruption and money-laundering. All three clubs confirmed the searches and said they were cooperating with the officials.

Dope case: Australia could lose a swimming medal from the 2012 London Olympics in a doping case. The Court of Arbitration for Sport said it had held a hearing on the previously confidential case of Brenton Rickard, who tested positive years after the London Games.

Coach fired: Flamengo fired coach Domènec Torrent after the Copa Libertadores and Brazil champions suffered two embarrassing defeats in the past two weeks. The club announced the decision on social media 101 days after taking the 58-year-old Spaniard.

Iachini out: Fiorentina fired coach Giuseppe Iachini and replaced him with Cesare Prandelli, who returned to the Italian club after a 10-year absence. Fiorentina have won only two of their seven league matches and are nine points behind leaders AC Milan.

Five changes: The five-substitute rule could be introduced in the Premier League this season. The English top flight is the only major league in Europe which does not allow five changes in a game by a team with the Champions League also permitting five substitutes.

Starc reality: A prolonged stay in bio-secure bubbles is not a "sustainable lifestyle" and is bound to take a toll on a cricketer's body and mind, Mitchell Starc said on Monday. Playing in bubbles has become the new normal since the Covid-19 pandemic disrupted cricket.

Iyer, Pant take DC to 156 for 7



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI, 10 NOVEMBER

Delhi Capitals captain Shreyas Iyer (in photo) and the mercurial Rishabh Pant responded to the call of the team on the 'D Day' with contrast-

ing-yet-stylish fifties but Mumbai Indians claimed the early edge by restricting them to 156 for 7 in the IPL final on Tuesday.

The two rising stars of Indian cricket came to the party on the big day, after Trent Boult pegged them back at 22 for 3 inside the Powerplay, adding 96

runs in 11.3 overs for the fourth wicket.

However, Mumbai Indians came back strongly during final five overs as Capitals managed only 45 runs, losing four wickets in the process.

While Iyer displayed more conservative shot selection in his 65 not out of 50 balls, the unconventional free-flowing Pant was back in his elements with 56 off 38 balls, his first half-century in 15 innings.

Discarded from India's white ball set-up, Pant let his bat do the talking on the final day, showing the world why he is considered to be special during which a knock in which he smashed four fours and two sixes.

The treatment meted out to Krunal Pandya was that of pure disdain.

A straight six coming down the track, a slog sweep over cow corner for another maximum. Then there was an awkward but effective half sweep-half flick behind '45'. A customary fallenslog off Nathan Coulter-Nile behind square brought about his 50 but he tried one shot too many to perish.

Skipper Iyer, at the other end, was more classical with two cover driven boundaries off the over

dangerous Trent Boult (3/30 in 4 overs). A flick off Coulter-Nile helped him settle down and allowed Pant to go on the offensive at the other end.

Iyer hit six fours and two sixes but the standout shot was the one in which he made room and hit Jasprit Bumrah (0/28 in 4 overs) over extra-cover for a boundary.

The evening, however, started well for MI with Boult taking charge at the onset just like he has been doing over the tournament. Boult's opening spell in the Powerplay was hardly indicative of any groin strain that he had sustained during the qualifier 1.

The first delivery of the final

was a real beauty that kicked up

SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS INNINGS

MP Stochnis c de Kock b Boult	0
S Dhawan b J Yadav	15
AM Rahane c de Kock b Boult	2
SS Iyer not out	65
RR Pant c HPandy b Coulter-Nile	56
S Hetmyer c Coulter-Nile b Boult	5
AR Patel c sub (Roy) b Coulter-Nile	9
K Rabada run out (Yadav/Coulter-Nile) 0	
Extras: (lb 1, w 3)	4
TOTAL: (20 Ov, RR: 7.8)	156
Yet to bat: P Dubey, R Ashwin, A Norton	

Fall of wickets: 1-0 (Marcus Stochnis, 0.1 ov), 2-16 (Ajinkya Rahane, 2.4 ov), 3-22 (Shikhar Dhawan, 3.3 ov), 4-118 (Rishabh Pant, 14.6 ov), 5-137 (Shriman Hetmyer, 17.2 ov), 6-149 (Axar Patel, 19.2 ov), 7-156 (Kagiso Rabada, 19.6 ov)

BOWLING: TA Boult 4-0, 30.3 J Bumrah 4.0, 28.0 J Yadav 4.0, 25.1 NM Coulter-Nile 4.0, 29.27 K Pandya 3.0, 30.0 KA Pollard 1.0, 13.0

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Salma Khatun's was winning spell, says skipper Mandhana



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SHARJAH, 10 NOVEMBER

Trialblazers' skipper Smriti Mandhana (in photo) says she always believed in her team's potent spin attack to defend a low total in the Women's T20 Challenge final, which her side won by 16 runs against Supernovas here.

Despite a fiery start, Trailblazers could post only a modest 118 for eight on Monday but Mandhana said she knew the slow nature of the surface would help her side.

"I believe Azhar still has a lot of cricket left in him and Pakistan cricket can continue to make the best use of his experience and knowledge as a specialist top-order batsman moving forward," said Mani in a statement.

"I want to thank Azhar Ali for stepping up last year by captaining the side in what was a historic first home Test series in over a decade."

Pakistan confirmed the development in a statement.

Babar, 26, is now Pakistan captain across all three formats and his first assignment will be the ICC World Test Championship fixtures against New Zealand, which will be played in Mount Maunganui and Christchurch from December 26-30 and January 3-7.

"At present, the Victorian government has approved 25,000 fans for each day of the Boxing Day Test across public, member and corporate Sen."

"We're thrilled Virat is coming out for three ODIs, three T20s, the first ever day-night Test against India and we have to respect the fact he wants to be there for the birth of his first child. Clearly, (he is) one of the game's absolute superstars. We're looking forward to seeing him here for seven out of the 10 matches," he said.

Hockley said both teams had enough stars to ensure that cricket fans would relish the series. "You've got a good number of players from both sides who played the last series in Australia which India won. There'll be a huge amount to play for ... it will be a fascinating series." Hockley said that it was highly unlikely that Kohli could get back to Australia to play in the later part of the series.

Azhar, 35 and Pakistan's most experienced Test player in the current side with 81 appearances, has always been seen as the fall-guy in Pakistan cricket and he was informed about the PCB's decision after meeting with chairman Ehsan Mani on Tuesday in Lahore.

Azhar also led Pakistan in ODIs from 2015-2017 before deciding to step down due to poor results.

His removal came after he was appointed as Test captain last year and Babar captain in white-ball formats in October following the decision by the board to sack wicket-keeper-batsman Sarfaraz Ahmed from all formats.

"With his consistent performance and leadership skills, he has demonstrated that he is ready to take on the additional responsibilities of a captain."

Babar said he felt honoured to have been appointed Test captain.

"I can now say with conviction that dreams can come true only if you chase them with honesty, dedication and commitment."

"I am ready and prepared to take up the additional responsibility and the thing that gives me additional confidence that I can do the job is the experience that is available to me in the changing room in the shape of the players and support staff."

was a good advertisement for women's cricket. She also took a stunning catch in the cover region.

"There were 2-3 brilliant fielding efforts, especially Chantham. I have not seen a girl field like that."

Mandhana herself was played a key role in her side's total as she stroked her way to a brilliant 68.

Talking about her own innings, the captain said she was in good rhythm and all she needed was to find the gaps.

"I was timing the ball well (even) in the last match but unfortunately I was finding the fields but today it was a conscious effort to hit the ball in the gaps. That was the only thing I was thinking."

Playing cricket after a long seven-month gap obviously made the players happy, she said.

"We were looking to play and meet everyone. We did not meet for 7 months, that is very rare. Last six months were tough for whole world. It was worth to come and play. I thank BCCI for organising this. Hopefully we (will) keep playing, it keeps us happy," she said.

Supernovas' senior player Shashikala Siriwardene also thanked the BCCI for conducting the event in challenging times and said the tournament was a great platform for the youngsters.

"We can play and watch in bio bubble, they have planned it, so I thank BCCI. We have to do some sacrifice due to COVID-19. Girls will be motivated to come to sport and it impacts women's cricket."

27,000 spectators for each day of pink-ball Test



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SYDNEY, 10 NOVEMBER

Cricket Australia today announced that up to 27,000 spectators - or 50 per cent of the stadium's total capacity - would be allowed each day at the Adelaide Oval for the first day-night Test between India and Australia starting on 17 December.

In a world scarred by the Covid-19 pandemic, cricket matches are being played inside empty stadiums in strict bio-bubbles. However, the series between India and Australia is to take in some spectators.

The Indian team will head to Australia for a full series comprising three One-Day Internationals, as many Twenty20 Internationals and four Tests. The tour will begin on 27 November with the first ODI in Sydney while the Test series starts on 17 December in Adelaide.

"At present, the Victorian government has approved 25,000 fans for each day of the Boxing Day Test across public, member and corporate Sen."

"With the improving Covid-19 situation in the city, it is hoped more tickets may be put on sale closer to the time, but this is yet to be confirmed."

The second Test will be played at the Sydney Cricket Ground also has a cap of 23,000, or 50 per cent of the stadium's total capacity.

Cricket Australia chief executive Nick Hockley is not surprised by Kohli's withdrawal from three Test matches as he prepares for fatherhood, taking solace from the fact that the superstar will be there for a major part of the eagerly-awaited showdown across the formats.

Hockley said that Kohli missing a major part of the Test

series had been expected but he was glad that the Indian would be available for the three T20s and as many ODIs. "Since they announced the pregnancy earlier, I think it was always on the cards," Hockley told Sydney radio station SEN.

"We're thrilled Virat is coming out for three ODIs, three T20s, the first ever day-night Test against India and we have to respect the fact he wants to be there for the birth of his first child. Clearly, (he is) one of the game's absolute superstars. We're looking forward to seeing him here for seven out of the 10 matches," he said.

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the world are working to create their own Foles moment with the delayed Olympics and Paralympics giving those who failed to make a chance to re-qualify for the Games in 2021.

The Covid-19 pandemic has offered them a do-over, just as it might for Denly if next summer requires separate squads in different bubbles as it did this year.

Denly leaves with plenty to keep him warm over the coming winters. One of just 695 men to have played Test cricket for England, and of 459 to represent them in a marquee Ashes series. He also managed to bag the best T20 figures for an English spinner with four to 19 against Sri Lanka.

He also played an important hand in one of Test cricket's most remarkable victories. Without his second-innings 50 at Headingley last summer, which ensured he and Joe Root spent almost four hours together at the crease on the penultimate evening of the match, Ben Stokes' miracle the following day

would have been all the more unlikely.

Even through indifferent form, he was a teammate supportive of all, particularly those youngsters he ensured were not exposed to too much too soon, and are now thriving.

That essence of a team player resonated with swathes of England supporters, making him an unlikely cult hero.

At first, it rallied against the mainstream criticism that he was out of his depth, which grew especially louder as his scores dipped towards the end, failing to make it to 50 in his last eight innings.

But his doggedness, invariably putting in a shift before falling - important to England's series win in South Africa earlier this year - inspired borderline fan-fiction thanks to a group of ***Twitter*** obsessives calling themselves the #DenlyMemeTeam. He was presented with their work at the end of this summer, much to his amusement, confusion, a little fear and, ultimately, gratitude.

Chantham was a live-wire on the field. The boundary she saved with her acrobatic effort

RAWALPINDI, 10 NOV