

IN BRIEF

'Corona spares no major organ: Experts'

New Delhi: On the eve of the "World Diabetes Day," health experts, on Friday, claimed that coronavirus not only impacts ones respiratory health but may also affect other organs as well and it can cause high blood sugar levels in many patients. Recently, doctors successfully treated a 63-year-old patient whose sugar levels increased post Covid.

Experts pointed out that lack of awareness is a matter of concern with India being already infamous as the diabetes capital of the world. According to Dr Pradeep Kawatra, the diabetologist of the Apollo Spectra Hospital, it is a known fact that India already has a major diabetes problem and a lot of individuals go undiagnosed. Covid-19 poses double trouble because of a bidirectional relationship between Covid-19 and diabetes. "It is being observed that after Covid-19, many people have been detected with insulin resistance and diabetes. The exact effect of this virus on glucose metabolism remains unclear, but a few Covid-19 patients seem to have spontaneously developed diabetes and arrive at hospitals with high sugar levels," said Dr Kawatra.

4 men arrested for selling firecrackers

New Delhi: The Delhi Police on Friday arrested four people and registered cases against them for selling firecrackers, officials said. Earlier this week, the National Green Tribunal had imposed a total ban on the sale or use of all kinds of firecrackers in the National Capital Region (NCR) from November 9 midnight to November 30 midnight. "Among the four cases, one was registered in east district, one in Shahdara, one in northwest and another in west," additional PRO (Delhi Police) Anil Mittal said. Four people have been arrested for selling firecrackers, he said, adding that 85.33 kg of firecrackers have been recovered from them. The police on Friday also registered three cases for bursting firecrackers, including one in east and two in northwest parts of Delhi.

Man sets self ablaze after firm refuses to replace faulty mobile

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 13

A 40-year-old man set himself ablaze on Friday in Rohini after a mobile phone company's service centre refused to replace an allegedly faulty handset which he had gifted to his niece for her online classes, police said.

Singh's condition is stated to be stable and he is being attended to by his family members, they said.

Police received information at South Rohini police station on Friday that a man had tried to self-immolate at a prominent mall in the area.

The victim, Bhim Singh, a resident of Prahladpur village, was rushed to BSA hospital for treatment after the incident, police said.

Police reached the hospital and recorded Singh's statement in front of a doctor and his wife in which he said he had purchased a mobile phone for Rs 16,000 around a month back from a store near Prahladpur, a senior police officer said.

Singh said he had gifted the phone to his niece for her online classes. However, the phone started

giving problems and did not work properly, a senior police officer said. He then approached the company's service centre for the phone's replacement on November 6 but the service centre declined his request citing company policy.

Singh kept approaching the company regarding the issue, but nothing happened, the officer said.

"On Friday morning, he decided that if his request was not addressed, he will set himself ablaze. He reached the service centre and urged the staff which again declined his request citing company policy. Thereafter, he set himself on fire by spraying petrol," deputy commissioner of police (Rohini) P.K. Mishra said.

According to police, he went to the parking area, took a bottle from his scooter, filled it with petrol and decided to kill himself by setting himself on fire.

Delhi Mahila Cong chief gifts onions, potato & tomato to Tiwari, Gambhir

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 13

Delhi Mahila Congress president Amrita Dhawan, on Friday, met BJP MPs Manoj Tiwari and Gautam Gambhir and gave them potatoes, onions, and tomatoes as Diwali gift and urged the duo to help homemakers and the common man struggling against price rise as ruling party parliamentarians.

A delegation led by Ms Dhawan also gave a memorandum to Mr Tiwari and Mr Gambhir, requesting

them to urge the Centre to control inflation and make these common items within the reach of people.

Ms Dhawan said that due to rise in recession, unemployment, and mismanagement of the government during the corona pandemic, essential items have been out of reach of the common man's pockets and has been missing from their kitchens. With this meeting, she wanted to draw the attention of the government to help the common man by taking corrective measures.

Covid situation should get better in 7-10 days: CM

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 13

Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said the Covid situation in the national capital should come under control in seven to 10 days and that his government is taking several steps in this regard.

Mr Kejriwal also said that pollution is the "biggest" reason behind the spike in coronavirus cases in the city.

"Covid cases have been increasing for the last few days. I am also concerned about it. We have been taking all appropriate measures to control it. We are considering taking more steps next week. I think the situation should come under control in 7 to 10 days and the cases should start decreasing," he said during a press conference.



People visit a crowded Barafooti Bazar during Dhanteras festival on the eve of Diwali amid the ongoing Covid in New Delhi on Friday.

"Pollution is biggest reason behind the spike in Covid cases in Delhi. We had situation under control until October 20," the CM said.

Citing a report, Mr Kejriwal also said that the

anti-stubble solution prepared by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, decomposed 70 to 95 per cent of crop residue in 24 villages in Delhi.

The Delhi government

will submit the report along with a petition to Commission for Air Quality Management in the NCR) and adjoining areas, and urge it to issue directions to all state government to implement it.

Delhi's air quality likely to become 'severe' on Diwali

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 13

The national capital recorded its air quality in the "very poor" category on Friday and it was likely to become "severe" on Diwali night, according to government agencies.

Delhi recorded a 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) of 339. It was 314 on Thursday.

The neighbouring cities of Faridabad (319), Ghaziabad (382), Noida (337), Greater Noida (336) and Gurgaon (324), which fall in the National Capital Region (NCR), also recorded their AQI in the "very poor" category.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said a fresh western disturbance was likely to increase the wind speed and improve the air quality in Delhi-NCR post-Diwali.

Light rain is likely to occur on Sunday under the influence of a west-

ern disturbance. It remains to be seen if it is enough to wash away pollutants,

Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of the IMD's regional forecasting centre said.

"However, Delhi-NCR's air quality is likely to improve post-Diwali due to an increase in the wind speed. On Sunday, the maximum wind speed is expected to be around 12 to 15 kilometers per hour," he said.

V K Soni, the head of the IMD's environment research centre, said calm winds and firecrackers emissions may push the air quality to the "severe" zone on Diwali night.

Wind speed is expected to pick up thereafter and the wind direction will be east-southeasterly. There will be a significant improvement in air quality by November 16, he said.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, SAFAR, said the PM 2.5 concentration in Delhi on Diwali is likely

to be the "lowest" in the last four years if no firecrackers are burnt.

It said pollution levels in Delhi during the Diwali period are likely to remain in the higher end of the "very poor" category in the absence of emissions due to fireworks.

Stubble burning-induced impact on AQI is expected to increase from "negligible to moderate" in the next two days, SAFAR said, adding the biomass plume transport-level winds have become northwesterly and predicted to continue until Saturday which is not good.

Fire-related intrusion along with stagnant surface winds is acting adversely. Hence, AQI is predicted to remain in the higher end of the "very poor" category to the lower end of the "severe" on Diwali night, it said.

A spike in PM 2.5 in the wee hours of November 15 is likely in case of fire-related emissions, it said.

AQI 'very poor' in Noida, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon

Noida, Nov. 13: The air quality deteriorated slightly but stayed in 'very poor' category in Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad, Faridabad and Gurgaon in the NCR on Friday, according to a government agency. However, the concentration of major air pollutants PM 2.5 and PM 10 remained high in the five immediate neighbours of Delhi, according to the air quality index (AQI) maintained by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

According to the index, an AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'. The average 24-hour AQI at 4 pm on Friday was 382 in Ghaziabad, 337 in Noida, 336 in Greater Noida, 324 in Gurgaon and 319 in Faridabad, according to the CPCB's Sameer app.

— PTI

'Herbal based adjuvant therapy effective in treating diabetic coronavirus patients'

New Delhi, Nov. 13: Anti-oxidative herbal medicines with evidence-based useful impacts in the treatment of diabetes can be used as an adjuvant therapy to the conventional treatment of diabetic Covid patients, according to researchers in Tehran.

The researchers, however, noted that better designed experimental and clinical studies are urgently required to confirm their beneficial effects.

In a review published in the National Centre for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), they said "anti-oxidative herbal medicines can be used as adjuvant to currently prescribed drugs to treat coronavirus in

patients with diabetes and also can be considered as a suitable source to identify novel therapeutic agents for Covid".

"Certain herbs work as antioxidants and check free radicals apart from maintaining normal blood glucose levels," A K S Rawat, former senior scientist with CSIR- National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), said.

He also referred to anti-diabetic herbal formulation, BGR-34, developed using extracts of herbs like Giloy, Vijaysar, Daruharidra, Gudmar, Methika and Majeeth.

The formulation has been scientifically developed by NBRI in collaboration with

the Central Institute for Medicinal and Aromatic Plant (CIMAP), both Lucknow-based CSIR labs.

BGR-34, commercially manufactured by Aamil Pharmaceuticals, has shown therapeutic efficacy for treating newly diagnosed type 2 diabetes, as found in independent clinical trials conducted at Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi last year.

As the world observes November 14 as Diabetes Day, Rawat also said that herbal ingredients like Giloy used in BGR-34 also corrects immunity, while compounds in

Dharuharidra help in insulin release in type 2 diabetic patients. —PTI

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH

E-Tender Notice No. PI(EP)/20-21/05

Phone No. 0172-2756469

Tender applications are invited for purchase of various items against tender No. 1-12 from the Manufacturers or their sole authorized distributors/agents. The bidders can place their bids as per terms & conditions contained on <https://cpocure.gov.in/cprocure/app>.

Sr. No	Equipment/Item Name	Quantity	EMD	Bid submission date	Bid Opening Date	Deptt. Name
Non Pre Bid Cases						
1	Intracranial Pressure Monitors	05Nos.	80,000/-	01-12-2020	02-12-2020	Neurosurgery
2	CUSA	01No.	80,000/-	-do-	-do-	Surgical Gastroenterology
3	Semirigid Uteroscope with Accessories	02Sets.	20,000/-	02-12-2020	03-12-2020	Urology
4	Non Contact Tonometer	10Nos.	1,30,000/-	-do-	-do-	AEC
5	Yag Laser	01No.	44,000/-	03-12-2020	04-12-2020	AEC
6	1,3-Beta-D Glucan detection kits and other necessary consumables	120 Kits	2,14,000/-	-do-	-do-	Medical Microbiology
Pre Bid Cases						
7	Cardiac Digital Fluoroscopy composite Interventional Lab with CT for Cardiac Intervention and Complex Cardiac Structural Procedures-01 No. on buyback basis of Existing Cath lab.	01No.	30,00,000/-	07-12-2020	08-12-2020	Cardiology
8	Cytogenetic Microarray System with Software for Analysis	01No.	4,00,000/-	-do-	-do-	Pediatrics
9	Nephelometer	01No.	1,20,000/-	08-12-2020	09-12-2020	Medical Microbiology
10	High Throughput sequencer for exome sequencing	01 No.	8,00,000/-	-do-	-do-	Paediatrics
11	Automated Karyotyping System	01 No.	4,00,000/-	09-12-2020	10-12-2020	Paediatrics
12	Bioreactor	01 No.	33,940/-	-do-	-do-	Translational and Regenerative Medicine (R.G.C.)

Tender List can also be downloaded from website www.pgimr.edu.in and can be applied on website www.cprocure.gov.in. Cost of Tender fee is Rs.200/- (non refundable) which can be deposited in the shape of Demand Draft in favour of Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) must be in the form of FDR /TDR valid for a period of one year from any scheduled bank in the name of the Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh. EMD in any other form will not be accepted. Tender fee and EMD should be submitted at the Procurement Branch (Import) manually by 2:30 PM on or before the date of opening of bid mentioned against respective item. The tenders shall be opened on the next day at 03:00 PM in the presence of the authorized intending tenders. Tenders not submitted on the prescribed form accompanied with Tender fee and valid Earnest Money shall be summarily rejected straightaway. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason thereof. **"PRE-BID CONFERENCE"** WITH INTENDING BIDDERS FOR ITEM Sr. No. 07 to 12 shall be held on 20-11-2020 from 03:00 P.M. ONWARDS IN THE PI(EP), OFFICE, PGIMER, CHANDIGARH For more details contact: 0172-2756469 at Procurement Branch (Import).

NOTE 1. The terms and Conditions of the original Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) available on PGIMER Website will remain same. However on switching over to e-tendering on e-Procurement, the bids will be received in electronic form on e-Procurement website and no bid will be received in Physical form.

NOTE 2. If any of the tender opening dates happens to be a holiday in PGIMER, Chandigarh, then the same shall be opened on next full working day.

Additional Terms and Conditions

- All the bidder are required to furnish a Certificate as per newly introduced rule 144(Xi) of GFR-2017.
- As per rule 150 of GFR-2017 all bidders are required to provide their GeM registration Id. Without this Id Supply order will not be issued even after being I-1.

PROFESSOR IN-CHARGE (EP)

Tender List can also be downloaded from website www.pgimer.edu.in and can be applied on website www.cprocure.gov.in. Cost of Tender fee is Rs.200/- (non refundable) which can deposited in the shape of Demand Draft in favour of Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) must be in the form of FDR /TDR valid for a period of one year from any scheduled bank in the name of the Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh. EMD in any other form will not be accepted. Tender fee and EMD should be submitted at the Procurement Branch (Import) manually by 2:30 PM on or before the date of opening of bid mentioned against respective item. The tenders shall be opened on the next date at 03:00 PM in the presence of the authorized intending tenderers. Tenders not submitted on the prescribed form, not accompanied with Tender fee and valid Earnest Money shall be summarily rejected straightway. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason thereof. "PRE-BID CONFERENCE" WITH INTENDING BIDDERS FOR ITEM Sr. No. 07 to 12 shall be held on 20-11-2020 from 03:00 P.M. ONWARDS IN THE PI(EP), OFFICE, PGIMER, CHANDIGARH For more details contact: 0172-2756469 at Procurement Branch (Import). NOTE 1. The terms and Conditions of the original Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) available on PGIMER Website will remain same. However on switching over to e-tendering on e-Procurement, the bids will be received in electronic form on e-Procurement website and no bid will be received in Physical form. NOTE 2. If any of the tender opening dates happens to be a holiday in PGIMER, Chandigarh, then the same shall be opened on next full working day. Additional Terms and Conditions 1. All the bidder are required to furnish a Certificate as per newly introduced rule 144(XI) of GFR-2017. 2. As per rule 150 of GFR-2017 all bidders are required to provide their GeM registration Id. Without this Id Supply Order will not be issued even after being L-1. PROFESSOR IN-CHARGE (EP)

SEARCH FOR MISSING

Rubi

General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Rubi D/o Vijay Singh** R/o H.No. H-49B, Gali No.29, Jai Prakash Nagar, Delhi has been missing since 04.11.2020. In this regard a **FIR No. 702/20 u/s 363 IPC** dated 07.11.2020 has been lodged at PS, New Usmanpur, Delhi. The description of missing girl is as under:

Name : Rubi, **Father's Name :** Vijay Singh, **Age :** 16 years, **Height :** 5', **Face :** Long, **Complexion :** Fair, **Built :** Medium, **Wearing :** Black Colour Suit Green Colour Leggi.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
e-mail : cic@cbi.nic.in
Fax : 011-24368639
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641
Extn No. : 2101
DP/407/NE/2020

SHO

P.S., New Usman Pur, Delhi
Ph. : 011-22172410

8750870726

NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

E-TENDER NOTICE No. EEP/CLZ/TC/2020-21/11 Dated:- 11.11.2020
Executive Engineer (Project) CLZ on behalf of Commissioner, North DMCC invites online bids from reputed firms/contractors in two bid system for the work of "Construction of Roads by constructing pavement with RMC to mitigate Air & Dust Pollution in A, B, & C Block, Phase-1, Sanjay Gandhi Transport Nagar in CLZ" under H/A XL-VIII-R-II (UDF) and 86-1264.

Tender Amount/Estimated Amount: Rs.58,61,88,026/- /Rs. 68,22,64,000/-
Earnest Money: Rs. 20.00 Lakh & FDR/Bank Guarantee of Rs. 58.23 Lakh & **Tender Cost:** Rs. 1500/-

Technical bid open Date: 07.12.2020 at 12:15 Hrs. & **Financial bid open Date:** to be informed to responsive bidders Time of completion/Rate holds good: One Year / Five Months

For full details and submission of bids, please see the website <https://www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMCCETENDER> from 18.11.2020 at 17:30 Hrs. The detailed NIT can also be seen at web-site www.mcdonline.nic.in.

Sd/-
R.O. No. 32/DPI/North/2020-21 E.E. (Pr.)/CLZ

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Namely:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** about 28-30 years, **Height:** 5' 4", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Normal, **Wearing:** Shirt, Pant and Jacket, who was found at District Park Nand Nagri, Kashi Puragaon, Delhi. In this regard a case **DD No. 21-A Dated 10.11.2020** has been registered at **P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi**.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

Sd/- SHO
P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi
Tel.: 011-22137761
DP/411/NE/2020

**National Green Tribunal Has****PROHIBITED****the Sale and Use of Firecrackers****From Midnight of November 9th to December 1st, 2020****How Firecrackers are harmful to health:-**

Smog caused by firecrackers is harmful when inhaled

The fumes that these crackers produce are harmful to the environment and us

Causes irritation in the respiratory tract

Reduces the oxygen carrying capacity of blood, leading to anaemia.

Delhi Police wishes citizens to celebrate a clean and pollution-free Diwali

E-mail to CP, Delhi at: cp.snsrshivastava@delhipolice.gov.in

Write to CP, Delhi at P.O. Box No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL : 112

TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL : 1090

SHORT TAKES

4 beaten to death by man in Bengal

Asansol: Four people were allegedly beaten to death by a man at a liquor shop in West Bengal's Paschim Burdwan district, following which the police nabbed the accused, who is suspected to be mentally unstable, the police said. Three of the victims were sleeping inside the liquor shop in Shibpur area of Asansol, when the accused apparently attacked them with a stick in the dead of the night, beating them black and blue. They immediately raised an alarm, following which a few locals gathered, the police officer said. Some of them informed the nearby police station. The accused, after coming out, attacked another local, who had visited the spot on hearing the cries, before the police took him into custody. All four were rushed to a hospital, where the doctor declared them "brought dead", the officer added. — *PTI*

3 die in oil tanker explosion in Punjab

Chandigarh: Three people died and two more were injured, one of them seriously, on Friday when an oil tanker exploded at a roadside eatery near Sarseni village in Punjab's Mohali district, the police said. The blast took place in the tanker parked near Rama Dhaba at Derabassi when some people were trying to steal oil from it, they said. The deceased were identified as Jaswinder Singh (35), Bablu (20) and Vikram (24), the police said. Another person suffered more than 80 per cent burns and is in a critical condition, they said, adding that he was undergoing treatment at PGI, Chandigarh. — *PTI*

Admiral Karambir visits INS Baaz at Campbell Bay

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 13

Indian Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh on Friday visited *INS Baaz*, the Naval Air Station located at Campbell Bay, Great Nicobar Island. The geo-strategically located air station, *INS Baaz*, overlooks critical International Sea Lanes passing through the Indian Ocean Region. The airbase supports operations of a multitude of military aircraft, which enable surveillance over the Southern Bay of Bengal, South Andaman Sea, Malacca Straits and the Southern Indian Ocean. The Malacca Strait is a crucial sea trade route for China. The Navy chief was received by Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande, Commander-in-Chief Andaman & Nicobar Command. He was briefed on the operational preparedness and infrastructure aspects of the command, including readiness in the prevalent security scenario. During his interaction with personnel at *INS Baaz*, the Navy Chief acknowledged their contribution in keeping the strategically important base operational at all times.



TMC & Gurung's GJM plotted attack on my convoy: Ghosh

Claims Mamata-led party 'distributing money' in Hills to increase base

Mamata offers talks and post to rebel TMC mantri

RAJIB CHOWDHURI
KOLKATA, NOV. 13

Within hours of foiling TMC MLA Becharam Manna's exit from the party, West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday evening reached out to her rebel cabinet colleague: Shubendu Adhikari through her election strategist Prashant Kishor with offers of talks and post in her desperate bid to stop his defection to the BJP ahead of the next year's Assembly polls.

Mr Adhikari, however, remained out of her radar. Revolving against the Trinamul supremo's style of leadership at various rallies under apolitical banner, the Nandigram MLA has been maintaining distance from her and the ruling party for the last several months. The heavyweight minister with three key portfolios was also conspicuous by his absence in the recent Cabinet meeting chaired by Ms Banerjee at Nabanna.

streets. People are with us. We will ensure they get to vote freely," Mr Ghosh insisted.

He said several national leaders of the BJP reached out to him and inquired about his well being after Thursday's incident, which left his vehicle partially damaged. Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent remark "*maut ka khel se mat nahi mil sakte*" (game of death cannot get you votes), the state BJP chief said, "A day after the honourable PM made this comment, one of our activists were killed in Purba Medinipur, and my convoy was attacked. These are telltale signs."

Stones were hurled and black flags shown at Ghosh's convoy at Jaigaon area in Alipurduar district on Thursday, where he had gone to attend party programmes, police said. — *PTI*

Hills and the plains. "Our workers are not scared... we are not scared. We will continue to hit the

44K new Covid case, 547 deaths in 24 hrs

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 13

With 44,879 fresh cases, India's overall tally of novel coronavirus reached 87.28 lakh on Friday. However, the number of active cases are 4,84,547 and the total recoveries have crossed 81.15 lakh taking country's recovery rate to 92.97 per cent.

The death toll has reached 1,28,668 after 547 more fatalities were reported in the last 24 hours as Covid-19 case fatality rate declined to 1.47 per cent.

"India continues to report a trend of steadily declining active cases. For the third day after the active cases dropped below the 6 lakh mark after nearly three months, the progressive decline has been maintained. The active cases have dropped to only 6.97 per cent of the total positive cases of the country demonstrating a steady

COVID WATCH
4,84,547
ACTIVE CASES
81.15L
PEOPLE CURED

falling percentage of the total cases," Union health ministry officials said. Officials added with the consistent decline in the active cases, the cases per million in India are among the lowest in the world. India's average cases per million stand at 5,930.

With over 7,000 cases in a day, Delhi is not the epicenter of the Covid-19 virus followed by Kerala and West Bengal. However, northern states like Haryana and Rajasthan that have seen a drop in new cases are once again reporting a surge in fresh cases.

Former NC MLA Kaloo barred from Dubai visit

AGE CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, NOV. 13

A former NC legislator claimed on Friday that he was prevented from travelling to Dubai by the Immigration officials at New Delhi's IGI Airport and forced to return to Srinagar.

Altaf Ahmed Kaloo, the NC's former MLA representing Pahalgam constituency of Anantnag district, said that he was stopped at the immigration counter at the IGIA, detained for more than four hours and barred

from travelling to Dubai where he had to attend a function of the extended family.

"I was barred to board a Dubai-bound airplane. I was scheduled to visit Dubai to attend a family function but to my shock, I was stopped and detained for more than four hours," he said. He alleged that he went through "a lot of embarrassment" and it was only after he spoke to some senior police officers back home over the phone that he was allowed to take a flight back to Srinagar.

Social distancing goes for a toss amid Diwali celebrations



People visit a crowded wholesale flower market amid the Covid-19 pandemic in Kolkata on Friday, the eve of Diwali festival. — *PTI*

Cong in a tizzy over Obama's upcoming book

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 13

The mention of Rahul Gandhi in the review of former United States President Barack Obama's soon to be out book has sent the Congress in a tizzy.

Former US President Obama's new book *A Promised Land* lands a sharp left hook on Mr Gandhi's "nervous, uni-nformed quality" while directing warm, not-so-political praise at Mr Gandhi's mother Sonia Gandhi, according to a book review Thursday in the *New York Times*.

Several leaders of the BJP, including Amit Malviya and Kiren Rijiju, on Friday took a jibe at Mr Gandhi.

After spending 20 yrs in Pak jail, Odisha man finally home

AKSHAYA KUMAR
SAHOO
SUNDERGARH, NOV. 13

Birju Kullu, a 45-year-old tribal man who was recently released from Pakistan's Lahore jail after languishing for 20 years, returned his home in Odisha's Sundergarh district on Friday morning.

He was greeted by the senior officials of the district administration at Sundergarh.

Local Kutra block development officer (BDO), block chairperson and people's representatives received Birju from the district administration and took him to his village Katang where the villagers received him with warm welcome. The BDO



Birju Kullu

said Birju would be provided a ration card and house under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

Birju Kulu was put behind the bars in Pakistan on the suspicion of working as an agent of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW agent), the foreign intelligence agency of India.

According to reports, Birju, the only son of Kamli Kullu of Katang, was a mentally challenged

person since his childhood. He left his family at an age of 25 years without informing anyone and moved to Ranchi in Jharkhand where he worked in a hotel as a helper.

A few days later, the hotel owner informed that Birju had gone missing.

The family of Birju searched him at all possible locations but failed to trace him.

The family was shocked when details about him were revealed by the local Kutra police in 2019.

Source said that Birju had mistakenly entered Pakistan after crossing the Indian border due to his mental illness. The Pakistan army caught him suspecting him to be an Indian spy.

was released for West Bengal and ₹500 crore for Odisha, in advance, on May 23 for immediate relief activities in the two states.

In addition, the Prime Minister had also announced ₹2 lakh ex-gratia for the next of kin of the dead and ₹50,000 for the injured, which was over and above the ex-gratia provided through the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and the NDRF the statement said.

In all the six states, the Central government had deputed Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) immediately after the calamities, without waiting for the receipt of memorandum from the affected states.

In addition, during the financial year 2020-21, till date, the central government has released ₹15,524.43 crore to 28 states from the SDRF, the statement added. — *PTI*

BJP won't be in power in Maha for 25 yrs: Raut

SONU SHRIVASTAVA
MUMBAI, NOV. 13

Upset over BJP leader Kirit Somaiya's allegations of corruption against the Thackeray family, Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut on Friday said that his party will ensure that the BJP remains out of power in Maharashtra for next 25 years. Another Sena leader Gulabrao Deokar said that Mr Somaiya has mental problems and needs to be given "electric shock".

Mr Raut also termed Mr Somaiya "enemy of Maharashtra" and said that no matter how much Mr Somaiya prattles on, the MVA government will remain in power for the next five years and the BJP would sit in opposition for 25 years.

BJP leader Kirit Somaiya has alleged that chief minister Uddhav Thackeray's wife had done 21 land transactions with Anvay Naik, who had committed suicide in the year 2018. Last week, editor-in-chief of *Republic TV* Arnab Goswami was arrested for abatement of suicide of Naik.

The BJP leader has claimed that he has official papers of the transactions, which are "suspicious".

Rebutting the allegations, he said that Mr Somaiya is free to go anywhere be it ED for probe into the land dealings.

Pak violates ceasefire

Continued from Page 1

districts to target its forward positions and civilian areas early Friday.

In Friday's firing, several houses in Indian villages falling in close proximity of the de facto border were damaged in artillery shelling, forcing the residents to flee to safer locations.

The Army, BSF and police sources said that three jawans of the Army's 59 MR and a Border Security Force (BSF) official and at least four civilians, including a woman, were killed and three soldiers and four civilians injured in the Pakistani firing and shelling in Hajipir and Kamalkote sectors and adjoining areas of Uri belt in Baramulla.

The slain BSF official has been identified as sub-Inspector Rakesh Doval who was critically injured in the Pakistani firing at Tootmar Gali in Handwara area of Kupwara and later succumbed in the hospital.

"Three Indian Army soldiers have been killed in action (KIA) and three soldiers injured. The nation

salutes their supreme sacrifice," Colonel Kalia said.

The civilians killed in firing and shelling include Farooqa Begum, Taib Ahmed Mir, Irshad Ahmed and Afrar Ahmed. Another civilian identified as Nasdar Hussain was critically injured, sources said. A report said that Hussain lost his legs in the incident.

Amid roaring of guns, people including women and children were seen running out of their homes in Dawar forward area of Gurez belt of Bandipore, a video of which went viral on social media.

The villages in Hajipir and Kamalkote sectors of Uri which have witnessed artillery shells fired from across the de facto border falling and exploding in the middle of frightened civilian populations in Sultan Daki, Badgara, Sarai Bandi, Charonda, Chinaware, Kamalakote and Balkote. "The artillery shelling from almost all sides started at around noon and intensified after about one hour, causing havoc. Though it continues even now (6.45 pm), the inten-

sity has come down considerably," said a local reporter Irshad Ahmed over the phone.

Earlier, five civilians including a middle aged woman and two porters were injured in the Pakistani shelling and firing in Sawjian sector of Mandi tehsil in Poonch district. They have been identified as Hajira Begum, siblings Touseef Ahmad and Muhammad Rashid and two civilian porters Muhammad Afaraz and Muhammad Ibrahim working for the BSF's 183 Battalion, the sources said.

The Army and J&K police sources said that the cross-LoC firing and shelling in this sector started at around 1.40 pm and continued as reports last came in. Sawjian's medical officer, Dr Ali Muhammad, confirmed that three civilians including a woman and two children were brought to the hospital and that since the condition of the 55-year-old woman Hajira Begum was "serious" she was referred to the sub-district hospital in the township of Mandi for treatment.

WHO traditional medicine centre

Continued from Page 1

healthcare, but they have not received enough attention, the WHO DG said.

The Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA), Jamnagar, Gujarat, and the National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Jaipur, Rajasthan, are premier institutions of Ayurveda in the country.

The Jamnagar institute has been conferred the status of an Institution of National Importance (INI) by an act of Parliament and the one at Jaipur has been designated an Institution Deemed to be University (De novo Category) by the University Grants Commission (UGC), according to the Ayush ministry.

Mr Modi said work is on to develop the National Sowa-Rigpa Institute for research and other studies related to Sowa-Rigpa

in Leh.

He said the significant increase in export of spices like turmeric, ginger, considered as immunity boosters, shows the sudden boost in confidence in Ayurvedic solutions and Indian spices in the world.

In many countries, drinks related to turmeric are also increasing and the world's prestigious medical journals are also seeing new hope in Ayurveda, he noted.

Mr Modi pointed out that research is going on in more than a hundred places, including at the All India Institute of Ayurveda in Delhi, which has conducted research related to immunity on 80,000 Delhi Police personnel. It may be the world's largest group study and there are encouraging results, he said. A few more international trials are to be started, he added.

BJP names new state in-charges

Continued from Page 1

Pradesh's in-charge along with Pankaja Munde and Bisweshwar Tudu as co-incharges. National general secretary Bhupendra Yadav will continue looking at the party's affairs in Bihar and Gujarat while Baijayanta Panta has been appointed as

Assam and Delhi's in-charge.

National spokesperson Sambit Patra has been appointed Manipur's in-charge while Rajya Sabha MP Arun Singh has been appointed as Rajasthan and Karnataka's in-charge. National general secre-

tary Tarun Chugh has been given the charge of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Rajya Sabha MP Dushyant Kumar Gautam has been appointed Uttarakhand's in-charge. National general secretary C.T. Ravi has been appointed as Maharashtra in-charge.

Elected NDA MLAs to meet Nov. 15, pick Nitish their leader

Continued from Page 1

tally, Mr Kumar is all set to take oath for the fourth consecutive term as chief minister of Bihar. According to reports, he may take oath either after Diwali or Chhath Puja.

The NDA has won 125 seats, three more than the required number to form the government in Bihar. JD(U) is the third-largest party in Bihar with 43 seats. The BJP has emerged as the second-largest party with 74 seats

and the Opposition RJD has won 75 seats in Bihar.

Meanwhile, speculation is rife that the BJP might push for a fresh face for the post of deputy chief minister in Bihar. It is however not clear whether Sushil Kumar Modi, who has been the deputy chief minister for almost 15 years since 2005, will be replaced or elevated to another role in the BJP.

One of the names being floated by a section in the

BJP is that of Dalit leader Kameshwar Chaulap. He has his roots with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and also a member of Ram Jannbhoomi Teerth Kshetra. He is also known for laying the foundation stone in Ayodhya in the 1990s.

"I do not know about the development. But I am a dedicated soldier and ready to accept any role offered to me by the party," Mr Chaulap told reporters on Friday.

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	43,443.00	0.20
Nifty 50	12,719.95	0.23
S&P 500*	3,566.86	0.84
Dollar (₹)	74.61	0.04
Pound Sterling (₹)	98.19	0.21
Euro (₹)	88.11	0.049
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	50,425*241	0.47
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	42.87	-0.66
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.878	-0.024
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.893	0.007

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Fuel demand sees first annual growth since Feb.

The country's fuel demand posted its first yearly increase since February as a spurt in diesel demand ahead of the festival season pushed consumption to pre-Covid-19 levels. Total demand for petroleum products rose 2.5 per cent in October to reach 17.77 million tonnes as compared to 17.34 mt a year back, according to provisional data published by the oil ministry's Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell.

Forex reserves surge \$7.78 bn to record \$568.49 bn



The country's foreign exchange reserves jumped by a massive \$7.779 billion to touch a life-time high of \$568.494 billion in the week ended November 6, RBI data showed. In the previous week ended October 30, the reserves had increased by \$183 million to \$560.715 billion. The jump in reserves was mainly on account of an increase in foreign current assets, which increased by \$6.403 billion to \$524.742 billion.

Experts can submit Budget ideas via e-mail

The finance ministry said a dedicated e-mail ID would be created to receive suggestions from industry bodies and experts on the Union Budget 2021-22, instead of physical pre-Budget consultations that have been happening over the years, owing to the pandemic situation. Also, the Centre's 'MyGov' portal would provide a platform to receive ideas from public on the Budget and would remain open from November 15 to 30.

China halts seafood imports from Indian firm

China has suspended the import of seafood products from an unnamed Indian company for a week, starting from Friday, after traces of Covid-19 were reportedly found on the outer packaging of some samples of frozen cuttlefish exported by the firm. China's General Administration of Customs suspended the import of seafood products from an Indian company for one week the state-run *Global Times* reported.

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Poonawalla says inoculation may begin next month

CHRIS KAY NOV. 13

The world's largest vaccine maker is ramping up production of AstraZeneca Plc's Covid-19 shot, aiming to have 100 million doses ready by December for an inoculation drive that could begin across India that same month.

If final-stage trial data show AstraZeneca's candidate gives effective protection from the virus, the Serum Institute of India Ltd—which is partnered to produce at least one billion doses—may get emergency authorisation from New Delhi by December, said Adar Poonawalla, chief executive officer of the family-owned firm in Pune.

That initial amount will go to India, Poonawalla said in an interview on

Thursday. Full approval early next year will allow distribution on a 50-50 basis with India and Covax, the World Health Organization-backed body that's purchasing shots for poor nations. Serum, which has tied up with five developers, has so far made 40 million doses of AstraZeneca's vaccine in the past two months and aims to start manufacturing Novavax Inc's contender soon.

"We were a bit concerned it was a big risk," said 39-year-old Poonawalla. But both AstraZeneca and Novavax's shots "are looking pretty good."

The haste underlines Poonawalla's confidence in one of the main vaccine front-runners. AstraZeneca CEO Pascal Soriot has said he is preparing for the possibility of large-scale vaccina-

VACCINE MAKERS STAKING REPUTATIONS: GLAXO CEO

THOMAS MULIER & THOMAS BUCKLEY NOV. 13

Vaccine makers have a lot at stake if any of the shots designed to protect against Covid-19 fail, according to Emma Walmsley, CEO, GlaxoSmithKline Plc. The industry's commitment will help ensure that the shots that do make it to the market are safe after a one-year development cycle, which is a fraction of the normal time need-

ed, the head of the largest vaccine maker said.

"The world will pay a very big price, not just for Covid, but beyond that if we break trust in the quality of vaccination," she said in a TV interview.

The race to develop vaccines and treatments for Covid is set to permanently accelerate drug discovery, Walmsley said. Advances in processing genetics and genomics data, as well as developments in artificial intelligence and machine learning, have a

"real, real shot over the next decade to improve the productivity of R&D and science in my industry incredibly," she said.

Walmsley also said the pandemic has mobilised the world to find faster solutions, with businesses working in concert with regulators to speed the roll-out of inoculation without compromising on safety.

Still, further vaccines are needed to make the world safe from Covid, she said. — Bloomberg

tions as early as December and once the UK grants its own emergency licence, Serum will submit that same data to Indian counterparts. Drugmakers are just

now getting data that will show how well their vaccine candidates work, but there are plenty of hurdles remaining as the global race to find an effective shot against the pathogen

reaches its final stages. Astra and co-developer University of Oxford still need to see testing results. And even if their vaccine proves effective and gets a nod from regulators, there

Jewellers say sales back by 65-70%; light-weight pieces in demand Dhanteras exceeds expectations

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 13:

Despite being overshadowed by pandemic fears and gold price rise, Dhanteras this year clocked 65 to 70 per cent of the sales volumes of last year. Dhanteras sales were much better than that on Akshya Tritiya, which was washed out by the lockdown.

"Jewellers have reported that they have garnered 65 to 70 per cent of last year's sales volumes," said Somasundaram PR., managing director, India, World Gold Council.

According to him, foot-

falls were much better, which indicates that customers braved the pandemic to grab the yellow metal on the auspicious day.

Organised players have seen better sales as part of the shift in customer preference that has been underway in recent years.

"In terms of volumes, we would have reached 65 per cent of last year and in terms of value it would be around 80 per cent, as the gold prices are much higher than last year's Dhanteras," said Joy Alukka, chairman, Joyalukkas.

Gold prices are higher by more than 30 per cent this time compared to last



Dhanteras. The higher prices too have dampened the sales.

"There is a popular perception that gold prices have gone up due to the

pandemic and now that a vaccine is likely to be released soon, prices might cool down to previous levels. Many customers have been postponing their wedding purchases expecting that prices will come down," said Somasundaram.

According to Bachchraj Bawalwa, past chairman, All-India Gems and Jewellery Trade Federation, customers preferred to pick up light-weight jewellery as a token on the auspicious day.

WGC found that coins too were in demand in line with the increased investment demand in the

September quarter.

Online players as well as organised players who have been promoting digital sales, have seen better sales this time compared to last year. Online jeweller Melorra has seen maximum demand for light-weight jewellery coming from young adults between the ages of 25-35 years.

"Digital platforms are receiving new customers and they are becoming an integral part of the jewellery industry. Even during Akshaya Tritiya, organised players have been promoting online sales," said Somasundaram.

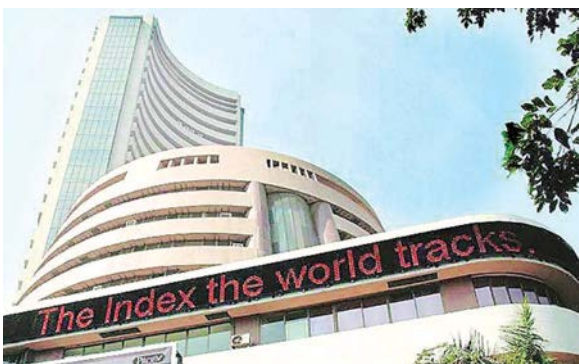
Market looks bullish as Samvat 2077 dawns

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, NOV. 13

Despite huge volatility in Samvat 2076, the Sensex return was a healthy 10.68 per cent from the close of last Diwali at 39,250.20 on October 27, 2019. The index closed at 43,443 on November 13, 2020, the last day of the Samvat.

Nifty-50's return during the same period was 9.4 per cent, as it went up from 11,627.15 points to 12,719.95. The broader market return was also healthy, with the BSE Midcap Index returning 9.93 per cent, as it went up from 14,441.06 to 15,876.49.

The uncertain and highly volatile market post-the pandemic-forced lockdown saw a huge rush from retail



investors in the hope of making some money, as they were working from home and the lockdown had severely impacted household income.

According to the BSE data, over 1.59 crore new investors have joined the

equity market during the year, taking the count of registered investors to over 5.67 crore. Due to the huge volatility seen post-the Covid break out, the Sensex had slipped from a January 2020 high of 42,273.87 to

25,639.90 in March. But the process of unlocking from June led to revival in the market and the indices galloped like never before and in a span of five months the Sensex regained pre-Covid levels and even surpassed January 20, 2020 high to set a new high at 43,708.47.

Now Samvat 2077 begins on Saturday with a special Diwali Muhurat trading session in the evening i.e. on November 14 where analysts expect the bullish tone to continue.

Sameet Chavan, chief analyst-technical and derivatives, Angel Broking, said, "Year 2020 has not been great for mankind as we have had to make a lot of forceful changes in our lives. The

RBI's Patra says bond rates rest on complex relationships

FC BANKING BUREAU MUMBAI, NOV. 13

Global uncertainty and liquidity are the main drivers of the term premium—the difference between long and short-term bonds—and has a limited correlation to the market's inflation expectations, RBI deputy governor Michael Debabrata Patra has said in a paper.

Patra's views have come just weeks after the monetary policy committee (MPC) last month saw dissent by newly appointed external member Jayanth R. Varma on the transmission to markets achieved through monetary policy.

The argument between the two centres around whether the nation's steep yield curve reveals a lack of market confidence in the RBI's inflation estimates or is a reflection of excessive focus on old data. Both Patra and Varma are members of the six-member MPC.

In the article, Patra says the term premia in bond markets depends on complex relationships. "The underlying relationships that drive term premia are complex and constantly shifting. Empirical analy-



Michael Debabrata Patra

sis over the period from January 2006 through September 2020 suggests that global uncertainty and liquidity are the main drivers of the term premium in India," said Patra.

From July 2019 to August 2020, the gap between the policy repo rate and the 10-year bond yield rose 150 basis points to 215 bps. It's now at 189 bps, with the repurchase rate at 4 per cent and the 10-year yield at 5.89 per cent.

Varma was the sole dissenter last month, when the RBI kept the rates unchanged and said accommodative policies would extend into the next fiscal. Varma contended that the stance on lower-for-longer rates should not be a decisive one. A hallmark of a credible inflation-targeting regime is a substantial compression of the inflation risk premium, he had said.

Disney+ booms in India

CHRISTOPHER PALMERI NOV. 13

The growth of Walt Disney Co.'s streaming service in India and Indonesia has been staggering, with the countries now accounting for more than a quarter of its 73.7 million customers globally.

What's less staggering is the price most of the subscribers pay: Even the premium plan is just \$20 a year. That's a fraction of the \$70 that US customers shell out and illustrates the challenge the company faces as it takes its streaming platform to more countries.

The growth of Disney+, which launched a year ago, has far exceeded the expectations of both Wall Street and the company itself. It was a bright spot in Disney's latest quarterly results, released on Thursday. But keeping up its pace will mean tapping markets with less spending power.

"If you get enough sheer volume, you can make it work even at a relatively low price per subscriber," said David Heger, an analyst at Edward Jones.

The company serves India and Indonesia with a product called Disney+ Hotstar, a rebranded plat-



form born out of a business acquired from Fox last year. Those two developing countries now represent 18.4 million Disney+ subscribers.

Hotstar was rechristened with the Disney+ name on April 3 in India. The product launched in Indonesia in September. Since the streaming platform had 33.5 million subscribers globally at the end of March, that means the two countries accounted for almost half of new customers over the past six months.

India, with its massive population, has the potential to become the biggest market for Disney+, Heger said.

"When you look at a country with 1.3 billion people, your potential is significant," he said. An additional 270 million people live in Indonesia. Hotstar originally launched in 2015 as an ad-supported service and

are questions over how easily and quickly the shot can be distributed. Poonawalla reiterated that it will take until 2024 to vaccinate the entire world and two years to see a real reduction in infections, due to affordability and manufacturing hurdles.

After talks with the government, Poonawalla said he is confident in their plans to get initial vaccines to the vulnerable and frontline workers. The challenge will be in getting it to India's 1.3 billion population, especially in the vast countryside where past inoculation drives have struggled due to patchy health networks.

He said AstraZeneca has a significant edge over a rival candidate from Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE. Expensive cold-chain infrastructure is needed to

transport and store that vaccine at -70 degrees Celsius. Poonawalla said it was "just impossible" for most of the world to use at scale, compared to those his company will produce that can be stored at fridge temperatures.

"I don't think even 90 per cent of the countries will be able to take it, because you just don't have deep freezers everywhere," he said of the Pfizer shot. "In a pandemic, always remember that simplicity is the key."

New Delhi has set aside about Rs 50,000 crore (\$6.7 billion) for vaccines, people with knowledge of the matter said last month. However, in September, Poonawalla argued that India would need Rs 80,000 crore. Poonawalla declined to comment further.

—Bloomberg

months combined, says an EY release.

The largest deals in October 2020 saw Brookfield acquiring 12.5 million square feet commercial space from RMZ Corp, including its shared working space COWRks, followed by Blackstone buying the rental income assets of Prestige Group for \$1.6 billion.

Between January and September, investments in real estate and infrastructure were down 82 per cent to \$2.9 billion against \$16.1 billion during the same period last year. The share of these sectors was just 10 per cent of the total PE/VC investments till September.

VITOL TO BUY OIL LIQUIDS MADE FROM TYRES

ANDY HOFFMAN & LARS ERIK TARALDSEN NOV. 13

Vitol Group, the world's biggest independent oil trader, is betting on a new technology to produce hydrocarbon liquids from recycled car and truck tyres.

The trading giant unveiled a 10-year off-take agreement on Friday to buy and sell naphtha, distillates and bunker fuel produced by Norwegian startup Wastefront AS. The products will be produced at a tyre recycling plant in Sunderland, UK, starting in 2023.

The agreement marks the latest foray by big energy merchants seeking greener alternatives to traditional sources of oil. Vitol has already invested in a company turning plastics into oil liquids as well as another that is using coal waste to produce fuels.

Vitol has been in talks with Wastefront for about two years, providing advice to the startup as to how best to use its technology and ensure it had a commercial outlet, Chris Bake, a senior executive at the trading house, said.

"It's to help make sure it happens," he said.

It's also another move by Vitol to stake out a fresh position in the life-cycle of transportation vehicles. The trading house recently took a surprise leap into the used car business with a startup called Vava Cars. The recycled tyre oil products will amount to about 30,000 tonnes a year—the equivalent of about 220,000 oil barrels. That's a drop in the ocean compared to Vitol's total daily traded volumes that topped 8 million barrels a day in 2019.

Most waste tyres in Europe are exported for re-use or recycling in developing countries. Wastefront plans to build more plants now.

—Bloomberg

THE ASIAN AGE

14 NOVEMBER 2020

Brainstorm revival steps to take in the short term

Announcing the third tranche of the stimulus package on Thursday, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government's focus was on bringing back the economy on the growth path. The stimulus package was estimated to be Rs 2.7 lakh crores, which translates to 1.4 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The package touches upon all key segments of the economy, such as industry, agriculture, employment generation, real estate and infrastructure, among others. Reforms address some of the long-pending demands of the industry, such as production-linked incentives, which could potentially attract companies that want to diversify their supply chains.

Notwithstanding its goal, the stimulus package does not give the economy and its people what they need right now: Revival of demand. Most of the announcements, which are part of the Thursday stimulus package, are of the medium-term nature. They are, no doubt, good, but they won't provide any solution to the current problem, which is sagging demand. The Covid-19 pandemic has made several contact-intensive industries to shut or operate at abysmally low capacities, which resulted in massive retrenchments. While this had eliminated the enormous purchasing power that these people collectively wielded, the reluctance of those having cash to splurge in these uncertain times has further mauled the demand in the Indian economy.

Though there have been encouraging signs of demand revival as suggested by the collection of Good and Service Tax, one cannot say if it is a normal demand revival or the pent-up demand, which was released ahead of the festive season. The revival of demand, therefore, should have been the focus of the government. However, it continues to ignore the advice of the economists and appears keen on letting the economy heal itself — a course that would be painful for most of the population. Despite its claims of providing a combined stimulus, whose size is 15 per cent of GDP, experts claim that the actual fiscal component — the money being spent by the government — would be less than two per cent of the GDP. Further, the government expects no additional borrowing. In the backdrop of falling tax revenue, no additional borrowing means the government would be diverting other budgeted expenditure for spending on the stimulus package, which means it won't spend any extra money.

Incentives offered for real estate, and housing could improve home sales and have a spill-over effect on other businesses, such as furnishing and building products, and create employment in the construction sector. This alone, however, cannot restore the demand in the economy. If one goes by data of inflation and industrial production (IIP), there is nothing to cheer about as yet. The demand for capital goods, which indicates a booming economy, continues to be in the negative territory. Retail inflation continued to be high, which, unless addressed immediately, could affect people's lives and also slow down India's economic recovery. The government should, therefore, also focus on immediate short-term steps to revive the economy, without losing focus on medium-term and long-term economic goals, because as famous economist John Maynard Keynes said, "In the long term, we are all dead".

Owaisi's reach is growing

The Hyderabad-based All India Majlis-e Ittehadul Muslimeen (or Muslim Unity Party) and its leader Asaduddin Owaisi have lately drawn analytical attention. Were it not for this party being in the fray in the recent Bihar Assembly polls in a Muslim-preponderant region, many think the NDA might have lost to the Mahagathbandhan, the Opposition coalition of RJD, Congress, and Left parties. The AIMIM won five seats and 1.24 per cent of the votes, but this percentage would be higher if voting for only the Seemanchal region is considered. If the AIMIM had received just half a per cent fewer votes, the anti-NDA parties could have made it.

But it is clear that Mr Owaisi has every right to contest elections where he wishes. It is for the anti-BJP parties (the so-called secular forces typically) to open political channels to the AIMIM. This is not likely to be easy, though. To begin with, Mr Owaisi aims for Muslim votes. Therefore, the parties that attract his ire in an election are those that have traditionally attracted Muslim votes. This is why, politically, he does not go for the BJP and its allies, giving them an easy ride.

In that sense Mr Owaisi's forays in Muslim areas are useful to the BJP. But what appears evident is that Mr Owaisi is doing his best to grow the AIMIM as an all-India Muslim party, inasmuch as the BJP is a Hindu party. In 2015, his party drew a blank in Bihar but this time round it has won as many as five seats. In Maharashtra Assembly too it has won seats and also has an MP from that state. Now the AIMIM leader has announced his intention to fight in West Bengal and UP.

The continued existence of caste and religious parties is not healthy for the spread of the democratic ethos in this country. Identity-based electoral and political consolidation is a complex phenomenon but in part it derives from the failure of centrist forces represented by the Congress or the Janata Party earlier, or even the Left.

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Subhani



How to be a good loser... Don needs crash course

Shobhaa De

This year, Dhanteras was celebrated on what the West deems an ominous day — Friday the 13th. Well... ominous for some is auspicious for someone else. India is lighting diyas, and let's not spoil the fun. I know I should be focusing on momentous events, closer to home — like the Bihar elections. But a timely meme said it all. It showed a super glamourised image of actor Ratna Pathak (bouffant hair, cat eyeglasses) advising her beta not to discuss the Bihar elections, since it is so "middle class". Such is the dilemma faced by us urban idiots, we did indeed follow the American presidential race pretty breathlessly, while being pretty indifferent to what was going on in *hamara* Bihar. Well, that's also because we kinda knew what would happen in Bihar — and it did! Whereas the bitterly fought battle for the White House, between Orange Hair and Boring Biden, provided more *mazaa*. If you ask me, the guy who really won the White House back for his party (the Democrats) is the guy who never wanted to leave it in the first place — Barack Obama. It was this man's solo crusade that did the trick for Boring Biden. Because, in truth, the average American is not all that different from the average Indian — we happily fall for "BS". Besides, Donald Trump did indeed bag eight million more votes this time! Had it not been for the most charismatic living politician (Obama) working relentlessly for Boring Biden and Coma-la, Orange Hair would have cruised back in *aram se*. This is the thing about democracies (please note: India still counts itself as

one), the lowest common denominator generally leads the rally. Barack Obama galvanised the troops and tapped into the seething rage generated by #BlackLivesMatter, as he went after Donald Trump in a campaign that should serve as the ultimate master class in astute politicking. Back home, we have become accustomed to the BJP winning — whatever, whenever, and however! Anything else comes as a jolt. Nitish Kumar has been lording it over Bihar for 15 long years. He really doesn't give a flying eff about dull issues like the future of migrant workers or how to deal with Covid-19. His gameplan is simple — to stay put. Finished. But aha — how can we overlook the Owaisi factor? What was that? Should we take it at face value? Is it just a simple case of a shrewd tactician playing his cards expertly? Or... or... or! Politics is all about "setting" and "jugaad". Owaisi did his numbers well. Cannot take that away from this wily fox who can out-talk even the most garrulous anchors and panelists on television "debates". With Bihar behind us, the IPL over, and Covid still around, everyone is wondering what to do during this festive season. The "no *patakas*" ruling (thank God!) in most

states indicates that it may be a far quieter Diwali. With luck, this ban on toxic *pataka* fumes will also reduce lung damage. *Khair*... what got me going far more than Rohit Sharma's MI win (tell us something we can't predict) was a letter which did the rounds after Trump was trumped (though it ain't over till it is over [and] the fat lady sings). It was a handwritten note from George H.W. Bush Jr to his successor in the White House, Bill Clinton, in 1993. Read it! That's called a class act. It is a friendly, man-to-man handwritten note which strikes the right balance — it is not "chummy", it is not condescending, and it is anything but whiney. This is how seasoned politicians/statesmen/statewomans accept defeat. Losing is an art. A sore loser goes down in history as a pathetic, insecure person, who is unable to move on and concede the top spot to the next, more deserving individual. Nobody expects grace or courtesy from Donald Trump — the most boorish American President in history. And he is not ready to make that concession speech either. Take that, Boring Biden. In the international sports arena, there are no better examples of greatness who display exemplary character traits as one another's biggest rivals than Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal. Their goodwill looks genuine, they clearly share a comfortable sense of bonhomie, and one can sense mutual respect of the highest order! This level of professional public relations

Nobody expects grace or courtesy from Donald Trump — the most boorish American President in history. And he is not ready to make that concession speech either. Take that, Boring Biden.

cannot be manufactured by managers and agents. It is so evident that these two all-time great tennis champions possess the one quality that separates the men from the boys — an abundance of confidence. Compare them to the Joker with his tantrums on and off the court, and one can easily see who wins the popular vote.

It is said true character gets revealed not when you win big but when you lose even bigger. Some of our superstars in Bollywood and cricket need to remind themselves of this aspect of competition — films flop, someone else gets the role, heartbreaks happen, box office records are broken, more wickets are taken, and the spotlight shifts to the next one and the next one and the next one. True achievements never tarnish. In India, we have any number of sterling examples — men and women, who inspire generations to put the best foot forward and not obsess over "legacy".

There is something truly hideous about boastfulness, especially during a time like this, when the whole world is dealing with stress and confusion. Chest thumping is easy — watch an alpha male gorilla to figure out how it's done. But when the prevalent and dominating political culture in the country actively advocates belligerent egotism and steps in with unseemly alacrity to "save" a particularly obnoxious television anchor who has made a career out of bulldozing opponents and fabricating narratives, it is best to say "Hari Om!", and remind ourselves that even the mighty eventually fall with a thud despite all the cushioning provided by powerful mentor-sponsors. You can be the biggest loser on earth while foolishly believing you have won! BTW, the biryani in Talaja remains top class.

Readers can send feedback to www.shobhaade.blogspot.com

LETTERS

FESTIVE CHEER

The 12-point stimulus package in the form of Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0 unveiled by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman provides festive cheer. The stimulus package aims to generate jobs, offer credit support to 26 stressed sectors identified by the Kamath Committee, and boost the realty sector. These latest measures along with two others in the Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) series and the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana payout announced earlier are welcome steps and would do much to re-energise the economy.

N.J. Ravi Chander
Bengaluru

POSITIVE POLITICS

TEJASHWI YADAV might have failed to achieve his ultimate mission of dethroning NDA, but in moral terms he is indeed the winner. With Narendra Modi and Amit Shah campaigning for his opponents, he had the might of the Indian State pitted against him but still emerged the leading party in terms of seats won — an excellent feat getting masked by the shrill cheers of BJP! Yadav didn't stoop to mudslinging but confined himself to bread and butter issues (including health and education). If such positive politics isn't rewarded it is society's loss.

Kajal Chatterjee
Kolkata

DIWALI IMPERFECTION

Released on Amazon Prime Video, *Chhalaang* is an old-fashioned romance and sports comedy that is a bit too eager to hit all the right political notes. It entertains nevertheless. The story, a tad predictable, has a happy ending. As the antagonist, Mohd Zeeshan Ayyub delivers a superb performance. Rajkumar Rao is easy on the eyes and a very intelligent actor, but is now running the risk of being typecast. He has played the timid 'loser' hero for too long. We want to see him play a more confident person.

Priyanka Mathur
Chandigarh

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

Farrukh Dhondy
Cabbages & Kings



"Why do we in temperate India Read about poetic snows Which foreign poets celebrate In metaphors none of us knows? Yes, we sing hymns to the monsoon, The downpours which each year Bring promises of renewal When thunderous clouds appear. — From *Godrej to Road Rage* by Bachchoo

Dear Narendra Sahab, Pradhan Mantriji,

I address you as a petitioner on a matter which has, I am sure, occupies the minds of millions in our constantly changing world. I mean, as you can see from global reports, particularly in the last weeks from France and Vienna, that there have been murders and terrorist attacks in the name of Islam in Europe. After the beheading of a schoolteacher in France and the murder of people in the Notre Dame cathedral of Nice, President Emmanuel Macron declared his policy of war on Islamist terrorism. He was, commendably, careful to say that his offensive was not against the religion but against those that interpret it as an injunction or licence to

murder the innocent.

He has declared a relentless campaign by the French state to eliminate terrorism emanating from this particular interpretation of Islam which, according to very many scholars and to the philosophy of many schools of the religion, is anti-Islamic and amounts to the ideas of deviant savants who instituted death-cults and insisted they were the authentic religion.

President Macron's declared offensive is fraught with difficulty as the French police say they have 20,000 individuals whom they need to keep under surveillance as they have indicated in one way or another their adherence to or sympathy for the ideas of the contemporary death-cult. Mr Macron's initiative is welcomed by the citizens of France but his efforts and that of the French state, or that of the Austrians, British, other Europeans, Americans or even the Pakistani state (which has been ambivalent towards this phenomenon) will obviously not solve what is now a universal occurrence. The Trump administration of the US didn't seem to distinguish between Islam and the Islamicist death-cults. Mr Trump

and his aides perhaps didn't understand any distinction and declared bans on citizens of certain parts of the globe.

The reason is that Islam today is a universally divided house. In the states which call themselves Islamic, the factions of Sunnis and Shias fight and kill each other in terror attacks as in Pakistan, or in factional armies, supported by foreign powers, as in Syria, or as opposing national states with deadly foreign-manufactured-and-marketed weapons as in the Yemen. ISIS, declaring itself heir to the world, began its murderous campaigns in Islamic countries, fighting Muslims in the name of Islam.

No country, no state, has gone any distance to set any sort of example to bring peace where there is war and hope where there is the underlying despair that leads to the murder of innocents. The wisest world opinion has concluded that only Muslims can bring about this peace or defeat of death cults in the Islamic world. That's as obvious, gentle reader, as the nose on your face (apologies to Surpanakha of the *Ramayan* who had hers cut off by Lakshman). But can they? Unlike Christianity, Islam

has no Pope or archbishop to make a ruling. The fatwas abound, the killing continues.

And yet Narendrajiji, there is one country that can offer examples of an attitude, a policy, strategies towards the future and set patterns and ideals for the rest of the world. Yes, *Pradhan Mantriji*, that country is *Bharat Mata*.

The theology of Islam didn't come to India in the shape of Muslim conquest. It came in the guise of the Sufi evangelists, the Chishtis and the Olyas. A scholar and prince such as Dara Shikoh, the brother of the bigoted Aurangzeb, recognised the closeness of Sufi Islam to the philosophical Advait Vedant of Shankara.

Every religion has beliefs and writings from the past which the modern worshipper discards and is forced, by sheer common sense and humane values, to neglect as things which have outlived their origins. No Christian should act on the dictates and punishments that Leviticus prescribes in his book in the Bible. Just so, there are passages in the Hindu scriptures about castes and the status of women which don't accord with the democracy that brought your party and you to power. Of

course, all the modern movements of Hinduism understand that.

Millions of our citizens go to temples to worship and also make a pilgrimage to Ajmer to the shrine and presence of a Sufi saint.

Yes, as my late friend V.S. Naipaul insisted, we should tell the truth about the atrocities that were visited by conquerors on the Indian population. Nothing should be swept under the carpet, including the atrocities, through thousands of years, of the ruling upper castes against those born as lower.

In the moments of the Black Lives Matter *morchas* in the United States and Britain we saw whites and blacks saying let us, while acknowledging it, put the history of division behind us.

I address this to you, Narendrajiji, as being uniquely placed in the world to lead a country with a unique history to put the divisions of that history behind us and discover, recognise the inevitability of and anoint the avatar of the future India... of freedom from the devils of conflict. *Jai Hind!*

Ever,
Farrukh Dhondy

Open letter to PM Modi: Let Bharat Mata set an example

SHORT TAKES

BRITISH PM HAILS ATLANTIC OCEAN'S NEW MARINE ZONE

London, Nov. 13: Prime Minister Boris Johnson hailed the creation of a large marine preservation zone in the Atlantic Ocean on Friday, burnishing his green credentials days after finding common ground on climate change with U.S. President-Elect Joe Biden.

In a slickly-produced video published on Twitter Johnson said he was delighted at the creation of a reserve around the South Atlantic British Overseas Territory of Tristan da Cunha — the world's most remote human settlement.

He used the video to promote the climate change agenda he wants to push under Britain's leadership of the COP26 U.N. Climate Change Conference.

"We have a real chance to push for urgent action on climate change, to protect our planet and all its fantastic biodiversity on land and sea," he said.

"We must make this a reality." The 687,000 square kilometre (265,252.18 square miles) marine reserve will close 90% of waters around the volcanic island to harmful fishing methods, and mining. It takes Britain past a target of protecting 4 million square kilometres of ocean.

SEVEN KILLED IN NORTH CAROLINA FLASH FLOODS

North Carolina, Nov. 13: At least seven people died in North Carolina on Thursday as flash floods swept through parts of the state, authorities said, adding at least two people were missing.

In the state's Alexander County emergency responders found three bodies and evacuated more than 30 people from a campground, emergency services said.

A fourth person in Alexander County was killed in a car when floodwaters destroyed a bridge and two others were killed in the Iredell County, authorities added. The Wake County Sheriff's Office said a child had drowned in Rolesville.

Five counties in North Carolina declared a state of emergency on Thursday, according to the state's deputy director of emergency management.

They included Alexander County, where at least four bridges and 50 roadways were breached by floodwaters. The county's website said that emergency personnel ended the search for missing people around 6 p.m. and will resume at 8 a.m. on Friday.

In Charlotte, rescuers evacuated 143 students after Charlotte Corvian Community School became inundated, the Charlotte Fire Department said.

Electric utility Duke Energy said about 3,100 customers were without electricity across North Carolina as of Thursday afternoon.

TESCO FAST-TRACKS EMISSIONS TARGET WITH SOLAR PUSH

London, Nov. 13: Britain's biggest retailer Tesco will set up solar farms, fit more solar panels in its stores and roll out electric vehicles, bringing forward a target for its UK business to be net zero carbon emissions by 15 years to 2035, it said on Friday.

Supermarket groups are responding to growing consumer demands for less waste and more action on the environment.

Britons have become increasingly aware of the urgency of addressing climate change, spurred on by campaigners including veteran naturalist and broadcaster David Attenborough and Swedish teen activist Greta Thunberg.

Tesco said a new partnership with renewable energy investor, Low Carbon, will see three solar farms set up in Anglesey, Wales, and in Essex and Oxfordshire in southern England.

The farms will generate up to 130GWh of energy per year, enough to power 44,828 three-bedroom homes, and help Tesco procure more renewable energy with additional energy for the national grid.

Tesco has committed to use only renewable electricity by 2030, saving 30,308 tonnes of CO2 per year, the equivalent of taking 14,457 cars off the road.

Tesco said last year it would begin sourcing renewable energy from five onshore windfarms.

It is fitting thousands of solar panels across its UK store network, with 60 stores fitted out so far.

Typhoon leaves high water, mud in Philippines, 30 dead

3.8 mn households in metropolitan Manila, outlying provinces lost power

Manila, Nov. 13: Thick mud and debris coated many villages around the Philippine capital on Friday after a typhoon caused extensive flooding that sent people fleeing to their roofs and killed at least 39 people. Thousands of people have been rescued, though waters have mostly receded.

The military was rescuing people in places where waters remained high. Amphibious assault vehicles usually used in counter-insurgency operations were deployed for the rescue work, military chief of staff General Gilbert Gapay said in an emergency meeting with disaster-response officials.

"We'll continue to look for the missing, help in damage assessment," Gapay said. He reported 39 deaths and 32 other people missing. Typhoon Vamco passed north of Manila between Bulacan and Pampanga provinces overnight Wednesday and early Thursday, toppling power poles and trees and



A resident uses a dust pan to shovel away muddy water next to debris in front of her flood-damaged home in a residential area in Marikina City, suburban Manila, on Friday. — AFP

damaging homes. More than 3,50,000 people had been evacuated to safety, mainly residents fleeing vulnerable coastal and low-lying areas before the typhoon hit. Philippine National Police said more

than 1,00,000 people had been rescued, including 41,000 in the capital region. At least 3.8 million households lost power in metropolitan Manila and outlying provinces, but crews have restored elec-

tricity in many areas and power was expected to be fully restored in about three days.

Government offices were closed and classes suspended for public schools on Friday. Vamco hit the Phil-

● **PHILIPPINE NATIONAL** Police said more than 1,00,000 people had been rescued, including 41,000 in the capital region.

● **TENS OF THOUSANDS** of people remain displaced. The Philippines is hit by about 20 typhoons and tropical storms each year and also had active seismic faults and volcanoes, making it one of the world's most disaster-prone countries.

ippines on the heels of Typhoon Goni, one of the strongest typhoons in the world this year, which left more than 30 people dead or missing and damaged or destroyed 2,70,000 houses.

Tens of thousands of people remain displaced. The Philippines is hit by about 20 typhoons and tropical storms each year and also had active seismic faults and volcanoes, making it one of the world's most disaster-prone countries. — AP

JAPAN PLANS TAX BREAKS, FUND TO AID ZERO-CARBON

Tokyo, Nov. 13: Japan plans to introduce tax incentives and create a research fund to support so-called green investment, as the government pushes to meet a target of carbon-neutrality announced earlier this month, the *Nikkei* newspaper reported.

The government plans to include the incentives and fund in next financial year's tax revision plan and in a supplementary budget this fiscal year ending March 31, the *Nikkei* said on Friday, without citing sources.

The incentives will be targeted at boosting investment in wind turbines, next generation lithium-ion batteries for electric and hybrid vehicles, and semiconductors that regulate voltage and save power, the *Nikkei* reported. They may be extended to other areas, it said.

Government approval will be required for investment plans to qualify for the tax breaks and a bill will be introduced in next year's parliamentary session, the *Nikkei* said.

The research fund will provide money for areas such as hydrogen fuel, power storage, carbon recycling and offshore wind power, the newspaper said, with some government officials asking for 1 trillion yen (\$9.5 billion) to be set aside in the supplementary budget.

MEXICAN JAGUAR BACK INTO WILD AFTER 100 DAYS REHABILITATION

Mexico City, Nov. 13: Gracefully and somewhat hesitant at first, the jaguar ventured out of the wooden crate that had transported him deep into the Sian Ka'an reserve in the Mexican state of Quintana Roo, video footage showed.

Then, after 100 days of rehabilitation, the young male silently disappeared into the wild.

Calling it "a monumental success," the International Fund for Animal Welfare (ifaw), the global non-profit which only recently made the rare video footage available, said it was the first successful rescue, rehabilitation and release of an injured jaguar back into the wild in the region.

"He left without making a single noise, and in a wonderful way he began to integrate into the jungle, immediately camouflaged," said Joaquin de la Torre, the group's regional director for Latin America and the Caribbean. — Reuters



A resident wades through a flooded street carrying a bird in a cage in Villahermosa, Mexico. Flooding has affected thousands in the Gulf coast state of Tabasco, under water for days, sending nearly 10,000 people to shelters and killing at least five. — AP

Rain and dam discharge cause flooding in southern Mexico

Villahermosa, Mexico, Nov. 13: Torrential rain from Hurricane Eta and water discharged from a dam that had reached capacity meant continued flooding in parts of the southern Mexican state of Tabasco ON Thursday.

At least six regions, including Centro, where the state capital of Villahermosa is located, were severely affected, with around 12,000 people forced to take refuge in shelters.

"What we want most is food and sustenance," cried a man who watched the flood from the second floor of his home.

● **AT LEAST** six regions, including Centro, where the state capital of Villahermosa is located, were severely affected, with around 12,000 people forced to take refuge in shelters.

Local authorities have reported eight deaths in recent days, and 1,50,000 affected by rivers that overflowed their banks when Eta arrived from the Caribbean, inundating Central America and southern Mexico with rain.

And on top of that, two towns were flooded when

the Federal Electricity Commission (CFE) released water from the Penitas dam, which had reached its maximum capacity.

Locals in hard-hit area Macusapana told AFP that water levels had exceeded buildings' first floors.

"There are people who don't even have clothes. I left everything, it was a tremendous thing," said Macusapana resident Teresa Cordoba, who had to abandon her house. "We don't have anybody's help here, we're abandoned." Residents were seen resorting to canoes

—some improvised — to check up on their houses or loved ones.

Many flood victims retreated to the upper levels of their houses, preferring to stay home for fear of looting or encountering Covid-19 in shelters.

The government of Tabasco, a coastal state that has also seen flooding in previous years, has threatened to sue the CFE for damage caused by the dam overflow.

Authorities in neighboring Chiapas state reported the deaths of at least 20 people due to heavy rains and flooding last week.

— AFP

Saudi reports fire at oil terminal after Huthi attack

Riyadh, Nov. 13: A fire broke out at an offshore Saudi oil terminal after two explosives-laden boats launched by Yemen's Huthi rebels were intercepted by Saudi-led troops, the energy ministry said on Friday.

The "limited fire" at a terminal off the southern province of Jizan caused no casualties, a ministry statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency said.

The fire erupted after the coalition on Wednesday intercepted and destroyed two boats rigged with explosives, which were launched by the Iran-aligned rebels.

"The operation, which occurred in close proximity to a floating offloading platform that belongs to the Jizan oil products terminal, resulted in a limited fire on the platform's floating hoses," the ministry said.

"The fire has been dealt with according to the rules." Yemen is mired in civil war between the Huthi rebels, who control the capital Sanaa, and a beleaguered internationally recognised government supported by the Saudi-led coalition.

The Huthi rebels have

stepped up attacks on neighbouring Saudi Arabia, mainly targeting southern provinces along their shared border.

Saudi Arabia has repeatedly accused Iran of supplying sophisticated weapons to the Huthis, a charge Tehran denies.

The attack highlights the vulnerability of Saudi Arabia's oil infrastructure as the war grinds on.

In September 2019, attacks on the Abqaiq processing plant and Khurais oilfield temporarily halved the kingdom's crude output and caused turmoil on global energy markets.

The United States and Saudi Arabia held Iran responsible for those attacks.

After the latest assault, the ministry said "such criminal acts directed against vital facilities do not target the kingdom alone, but also the security of oil exports, the stability of energy supplies to the world".

The coalition, which is backed by Western powers including the US, intervened in support of the Yemeni government in 2015 as the rebels closed in on its last stronghold in the south. — AFP

Second Libya shipwreck raises death toll to 100

Tripoli, Nov. 13: A shipwreck off the Libyan coast has killed 20 people, Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said, just hours after news of a separate incident in which at least 74 migrants died.

MSF teams in the north-western city of Sorman "assisted three women as the lone survivors of another shipwreck where 20 people drowned," the group said on Thursday on Twitter.

"Rescued by local fishermen, they were in shock and terrified; they saw loved ones disappear beneath the waves, dying in front of their eyes," it added.

Earlier Thursday, the UN's International Organisation for Migration (IOM) reported "a devastating shipwreck which claimed the lives of at least 74 migrants today off the coast of Khoms," a port city 120 kilometres (75 miles) east of the Libyan capital Tripoli.

It said that 47 survivors had been brought back to shore and 31 bodies retrieved, adding that the boat was reported to be carrying more than 120 people.

Bodies from that shipwreck were lined up grimly along the beach on Thursday, some still wearing life jackets.

Traumatized survivors sat in shock on the shore while others huddled under blankets as aid workers distributed food parcels.

The IOM said on Friday

that "many women and children" were aboard the two boats, adding that the body of a toddler was among those retrieved.

"Staff in the region reported that more bodies continued to wash ashore overnight," the IOM added in a statement.

So far this year, more than 900 people have drowned in the Mediterranean trying to reach European shores, it said.

More than 11,000 others have been returned to Libya, it added, "putting them at risk of facing human rights violations."

Human traffickers have taken advantage of persistent violence in Libya since the 2011 overthrow of dictator Moamer Kadhafi, turning the country into a key corridor for migrants fleeing war and poverty in desperate bids to reach Europe.

While many have drowned at sea, thousands have been intercepted by the Libyan coastguard, which has been backed by Italy and the EU, and returned to Libya.

They mostly end up in detention, often in horrific conditions.

The IOM called for "a change of approach to Libya and the most dangerous maritime route on earth that ends the return of migrants to the country" and establishes "predictable safe disembarkation mechanisms".

— AFP

FIERY | FUTURE

Australia devastated by bushfires after hottest year, UK-size area gets burnt

Climate change worsening Oz's weather

Sydney, Nov. 13: Climate change is already buffeting Australia with extreme bushfires, droughts and cyclones, and the fossil-fuel reliant country should brace for worse to come, according to the country's top science and weather agencies.

The government's top science body, CSIRO, and its Bureau of Meteorology released a report on Friday outlining a sobering future for the vast continent nation that was devastated by bushfires in 2019-2020 after its hottest and driest year on record.

The blazes burned an area roughly the size of the United Kingdom, leaving 33 people dead, killing or displacing nearly three billion animals and costing the economy an estimated US\$7 billion.

"Ten or 20 years from now, we won't be saying 2019 was really hot — 2019 will just be usual. There will be nothing exceptional about 2019," CSIRO Climate Science Centre director Jaci Brown told public broadcaster ABC.

"In fact, in the next century, this decade will seem cool." The State of the Climate report, which comes out every two years, found less rain is falling in Australia's southwest and bushfire-ravaged southeast, even as it increased in the north — hit by major flooding and destructive tropical cyclones in recent years.

Australia has warmed on average by 1.44 degrees Celsius (2.59 degrees Fahrenheit) since 1910, the scientists said, nudging the ultimate Paris



Climate change is already buffeting Australia with more extreme bushfires, droughts and cyclones — and the fossil-fuel reliant country should brace for worse to come, according to Australia's top science and weather agencies. — AFP

Agreement targeting of keeping global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Oceans have warmed by around one degree Celsius over the same period, causing acidification and more frequent marine heatwaves, the report con-

tinued.

Australia's Great Barrier Reef has suffered three mass coral bleaching events in five years, losing half its corals since 1995 as ocean temperatures have climbed.

The report predicted sea

● **AUSTRALIANS ARE** increasingly concerned about climate change, with a recent poll by Sydney's Lowy Institute showing almost 90 percent believing it is a critical or important threat.

levels will continue to rise in line with global trends while tropical cyclones become less frequent but more intense.

"Climate change is happening now and it will continue to happen," Brown told the ABC.

The CSIRO has previously called for Australia to tap "abundant natural resources and extensive know-how" to become "a world-class clean energy and technology provider", putting it at odds with the conservative government,

which has slow-pedalled measures to tackle climate change.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has repeatedly played down the link between climate and the bushfires, and has committed to keeping Australia as one of the world's leading fossil fuel exporters.

But Australians are increasingly concerned about climate change, with a recent poll by Sydney's Lowy Institute showing almost 90 percent believing it is a critical or important threat.

Survey respondents placed drought and water shortages exacerbated by climate change above even the Coronavirus pandemic and the global economic crisis as the top threat facing the country. — AFP

IN BRIEF

'Yorkshire Ripper'
UK killer dies at 74

London: A notorious British serial killer dubbed the "Yorkshire Ripper" after murdering 13 women across northern England between 1975 and 1980 died on Friday aged 74. Sutcliffe was convicted in 1981 of 13 murders and seven more attempted murders after a reign of terror that is still seared on the public memory. He received 20 life sentences and was ordered to serve at least 30 years in prison, but in 2010 a High Court judge ruled that he should never be freed. Sutcliffe had tested positive for Covid-19 but according to British media reports this week had refused treatment. No immediate cause of death was given. Boris Johnson's spokesman said the prime minister's thoughts were with the victims, survivors and their families, calling Sutcliffe "a depraved and evil individual".

7 killed in Beijing
factory explosion

Beijing: Authorities say seven people have been killed and one injured in a factory explosion southwest of Beijing. The expanded polyethylene plant in Hebei province's Wuji county went up in flames around 6 pm on Thursday. Expanded polyethylene is a type of foam used in packaging and other industrial uses. The county government said search and rescue work has been concluded and the cause was under investigation. With its heavy industrial base, China suffers frequently from factory fires and explosions. In August 2015, a massive warehouse explosion rocked the port city of Tianjin, killing 173 people and injuring nearly 800. Investigators found the warehouse held illegal stores of ammonium nitrate, which caught fire and caused a series of blasts.

Suicide bomb kills
2, 4 hurt in Afghan

Kabul: A suicide car bomb exploded at the western entry gate of the Afghan capital on Friday killing at least two government security troops and wounding four others, an Afghan official said. Interior Ministry spokesman Tariq Arian said the explosion targeted a government forces checkpoint near the gate. No one immediately claimed responsibility, though suspicion immediately fell on the Taliban. Violence and chaos have increased in Afghanistan in recent months even as government negotiators and the Taliban are meeting in Qatar to find an end to decades of relentless war in Afghanistan. The two sides have made little progress. The attack on the army checkpoint follows weeks of violence, including an attack by gunmen earlier this month claimed by the Islamic State group affiliate at Kabul University that killed 22 people, mostly students.

RISHI SUNAK
LIGHTS DIWALI
CANDLES

London, Nov. 13: UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak marked the festival of Diwali by stepping out of his No. 11 Downing Street home in London to lay out a rangoli decoration and light four diyas at the doorstep. The 40-year-old Indian-origin finance minister, who is married to Akshata Murthy – the daughter of Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy, has spoken about being a "proud Hindu" over the years. His celebratory gesture on Thursday night marks a first for Downing Street, which annually sees the UK Prime Minister host a Diwali gathering and an Annakut, or spread of festive food, from London's Swaminarayan Mandir next door at No. 10. Sunak's message this Diwali was for British Hindus to follow the lockdown rules and refrain from the usual tradition of getting together with friends and family. "I know how difficult it is not to be able to see each other," Sunak said. "Just a couple more weeks and we are going to get through this and it's going to be so much better on the other side. We will have lots of happy times afterwards. But, to keep everyone safe right now, just follow the rules," he said. Diwali – which symbolises the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance – will be celebrated on Saturday.

Hesitant China finally congratulates Biden

Chinese foreign ministry is more forthcoming on Harris' win

Beijing, Nov. 13: China on Friday shed its initial hesitation and congratulated US President-elect Joe Biden and his deputy Kamala Harris for their victory in the 2020 US presidential election, saying Beijing respects the choice of the American people.

"We have been following reactions on the US elections from both within the US and the international community," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here when pointed out that more world leaders as well as United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres have congratulated 77-year-old Biden.

"We respect the American people's choice and we extend congratulations to Biden and Harris and we understand that the result of the US presidential elections will be determined following the US laws and procedures," Wang said.

China initially hesitated to congratulate Biden, a Democrat, after Republican incumbent President Donald Trump refused to concede. On November 9, Wang had declined to congratulate Biden on his victory, saying the outcome of the American election should be determined by the country's laws and procedures.

He, however, was more forthcoming on the victory of Harris as the first woman Vice-President-elect. When reminded about Chinese President Xi Jinping's statement calling for greater gender equality in a recent UN conference on women and does China have any comment on Harris, Wang quoted a Chinese saying which states women hold half of the sky. "In China, there is a saying that women hold half of the sky. China has been committed to realising gender equality and advancing women's development around the world," he said.

—PTI

Mark Zuckerberg 1st tech giant head to acknowledge Biden

Washington, Nov. 13: Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has become the first head of a US tech giant who has acknowledged Democrat Joe Biden as the next president of the country, a media report has said.

Zuckerberg told his employees that the outcome of the November 3 election is now clear and Biden was to take over as the new president of the country, BuzzFeed, which obtained an audio of the meeting, reported on Thursday.

"I believe the outcome of the election is now clear and Joe Biden is going to be our next president," Zuckerberg was quoted as saying in the report on Thursday. The US media

NO EVIDENCE AMERICAN VOTE WAS COMPROMISED, SAYS ELECTION BODY

Washington, Nov. 13: There is no evidence of compromised ballots or corrupt voting systems in the US election, officials said on Thursday, as a top Democrat accused Republicans who refuse to accept President-elect Joe Biden's win of "poisoning" democracy.

Their messages came hours after President Donald Trump once again

cried foul, retweeting a baseless claim that an election equipment maker "deleted" 2.7 million votes for him nationwide.

Biden, who leads by more than five million in the popular vote, cemented his victory late Thursday by winning Arizona, US networks said, flipping the state Democratic for the first time since 1996.

—AFP

has projected Biden, a Democrat, as the winner of the 2020 presidential election. However, incumbent President Trump, a

Republican, is yet to concede defeat, vowing to mount legal fights in several key battleground states.

—PTI

Chinese firms out of bounds in US

Washington, Nov. 13: US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order banning Americans from investing in Chinese firms deemed to be supplying or supporting Beijing's military and security apparatus, earning a sharp rebuke from China.

The order listed 31 companies on Thursday it said China was using for the "increasing exploitation" of US investment capital to fund military and intelligence services, including the development and deployment of weapons of mass destruction.

US-China relations have deteriorated sharply during Trump's presidency, and this was the latest in a series of executive orders and regulatory actions

that have targeted China's economic and military expansion.

On Friday, Beijing lashed out at the US for "abusing state power to arbitrarily oppress Chinese companies", saying the move "severely undermines" trade and investment cooperation between both countries.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a regular press briefing that the US should "stop its wrong behaviour" and withdraw its decision.

"This measure not only severely harms the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies, it also hurts the interests of international investors including those from the US," Wang said.

—AFP

BIDEN CONQUERS ARIZONA TOO, FIRMLY ON TOP

Washington, Nov. 13: Joe Biden has won the state of Arizona, US networks said late Thursday, further cementing his lead in the Electoral College and flipping the state Democratic for the first time since 1996.

NBC, CBS, ABC and CNN declared Biden the winner in the tight race with a lead of more than 11,000 ballots, giving him the state's 11 electoral votes.

Fox News and The Associated Press called the race in the southwestern state in Biden's favor on Election Night, triggering the wrath of president Donald Trump, but the other outlets held off on declaring a winner until after nine days of ballot counting.

—AFP

UK PM's top aide to exit amid power struggle

London, Nov. 13: The disquiet caused by a power struggle at the very top of the UK government, which spilled out into the open earlier this week with a high-profile exit from Downing Street, seemed to intensify on Friday as it emerged that UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's senior-most aide is to also resign by Christmas next month. Dominic Cummings, one of Johnson's most influential and high-profile aides as his Chief Strategy Adviser, has not formally announced his resignation but a Cabinet minister confirmed that he is on his way out.

"He'll be missed... But advisers come and go," UK Transport Secretary Grant Shapps told Sky News. "In any government, you

● **AS PART** of Johnson's top team, Cummings, 48, is widely credited with helping secure the UK Prime Minister's thumping General Election victory in December 2019.

require people who are going to shake things up and come up with ideas, and he's actually been that person," he said.

As part of Johnson's top team, Cummings, 48, is widely credited with helping secure the UK Prime Minister's thumping General Election victory in December 2019.

The largely behind-the-scenes influencer found himself in the limelight earlier this year when he was accused of breaching lockdown rules by making

a trip from London to the north-east of England, at a time when he feared he could have contracted Coronavirus.

There were resounding calls for him to step down or be sacked but he instead hosted a press conference to deny allegations of wrongdoing. In a blog post in January, Cummings had hinted that he planned to leave his role by the end of the year, saying he hoped to make himself "largely redundant" by then.

However, according to sources being quoted across the UK media, the exit of one of his own close allies in Downing Street — Lee Cain as the No. 10 Director of Communications — had precipitated his exit plans.

—AP

US makes comeback in Covid restrictions as infections surge

Washington, Nov. 13: The mayor of the United States' third biggest city Chicago issued a new stay-at-home advisory on Thursday, as the country's Covid-19 outbreak shattered records in the absence of a national strategy by President Donald Trump.

Lori Lightfoot called on the Midwestern city's 2.7 million people to go out only for essential tasks or to attend work or school, to scrap Thanksgiving plans and to avoid travel.

"Every single one of us needs to step up and 'Protect Chicago' right now, or 2020 could go from bad to worse," said an explanatory note on the city's website.

It comes as the United States, already the world's

France remembers 2015 Paris attacks



Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo, left, and French Prime Minister Jean Castex, 2nd left, participate in a wreath laying ceremony, marking the 5th anniversary of the November 13, 2015 attacks outside the Bonne Biere cafe bar in Paris, on Friday. In silence and mourning, France is marking five years since 130 people were killed by Islamic State extremists who targeted the Bataclan concert hall, Paris cafes and national stadium. —AP

Obama recalls Rahul as a 'student eager to impress'

New York, Nov. 13: Former US president Barack Obama says Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has a "nervous, unformed quality" about him like a student eager to impress the teacher but lacking aptitude and passion to "master the subject."

The New York Times reviewed Obama's memoir 'A Promised Land', in which among other issues, the first person of colour American President has talked about political leaders from around the world.

On Gandhi, Obama says he has "a nervous, unformed quality about him, as if he were a student who'd done the coursework and was eager to impress the teacher but deep down lacked either the aptitude or the passion to master the subject," according to The New York Times review.

Gandhi's mother and Congress president Sonia Gandhi also appears to find mention in the memoir. The NYT review said in the memoir "we are told of the handsomeness of men like Charlie Crist



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with former US president Barack Obama. — Twitter

and Rahm Emanuel, but not the beauty of women, except for one or two instances, as in the case of Sonia Gandhi."

Former US Secretary of Defence Bob Gates and former Indian prime minister Manmohan Singh both come across as having a kind of impassive integrity, the review states.

It added that Russian President Vladimir Putin reminds Obama of the tough, street-smart ward bosses who used to run

the Chicago machine. "Physically, he was unremarkable," Obama writes of Putin.

The 768-page memoir, expected to hit the stands on November 17, chronicles Obama's childhood and political rise, before diving deeply into his historic 2008 campaign and first four years in office.

Obama was the first African-American president of the United States. He visited India twice as the US President — in 2010 and 2015.

—PTI

PESHAWAR HC CJ WHO SENTENCED MUSHARRAF DIES OF CORONAVIRUS

Peshawar, Nov. 13: Peshawar High Court Chief Justice Waqar Seth, who handed down the death sentence to former Pakistan president Gen (Retd) Pervez Musharraf in the high treason case, passed away due to coronavirus-related complications at a private hospital in Islamabad, where he succumbed to the deadly viral infection on Thursday, the officials said.

He was 59 and is survived by his wife and a

daughter. He belonged to Dikhan district of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Seth tested positive for Covid-19 on October 22 and was subsequently admitted to a hospital in Peshawar. He was later shifted to Kulsum International Hospital in Islamabad, where he succumbed to the deadly viral infection on Thursday, the officials said.

—PTI

hardest hit country, experiences its third and worst-by-far spike in Coronavirus cases.

The seven-day-average of new daily cases currently stands above 1,25,000, more than 65,000 people are hos-

pitalised, and more than 1,000 people are dying every day, according to data from the Covid Tracking Project.

Four states, including former global epicenter New York, have in recent days ordered restaurants and bars to close at 10:00 pm. And in embattled North Dakota, the governor has authorized Covid-19 positive medics who don't have symptoms to keep working in virus wards.

President Trump, who has focused his energies recently on trying to overturn the election victory of his rival Joe Biden through legal challenges, rarely talks about the pandemic anymore, but has always opposed sweeping lockdowns.

—AFP

VIRAL | VIDEO

Stunt 'violated the professional requirements' for protection of panda

Korean group's panda stunt angers China

Beijing, Nov. 13: A publicity stunt involving South Korean girl group Blackpink and a cuddly baby panda has prompted outraged comments and calls for an apology from some in China.

The endangered animals are native only to China, which claims ownership over all pandas loaned to foreign zoos, including those born abroad. Many Chinese are particularly sensitive about representations of what they view as a national symbol, sentiments fed by rising nationalism that often takes its most virulent form on the internet.

The outrage over a video of group members cuddling the baby panda in Everland Zoo near Seoul may also reflect a growing awareness of animal wel-



Rose, Jenni Kim, and Lisa of Blackpink perform at the Coachella Music & Arts Festival in Indio, California. A publicity stunt involving South Korean girl group Blackpink and a cuddly baby panda has prompted outraged comments and calls for an apology from some in China. — AP file

fare, with the China Wildlife Conservation Association among those raising their voices.

The stunt "violated the professional requirements

for protection of the giant panda," the group said, adding that the zoo should improve its management to ensure such incidents do not happen again.

THE ENDANGERED animals are native only to China, which claims ownership over all pandas loaned to foreign zoos, including those born abroad

In comments under a posting of national broadcaster CCTV's report on the controversy, users called for apologies from the band and their management and some form of explanation from the zoo itself. "If it's all about the money and you cannot or don't wish to take proper care of (the pandas), then give them back to us," wrote one person, using the name Jenea.y. "K-pop" bands such as Blackpink are hugely popular in China, as well as in South Korea, Japan and

elsewhere. But politics poses a particular challenge for those seeking fame and fortune in the vast Chinese market. Any hint of criticism of China's ruling Communist Party — and its take on major historical events — or support for an independent Taiwanese identity or for the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong can bring a major fan backlash, egged on by state media and Chinese diplomats.

South Koreans tend to be the biggest targets of such attacks, along with Americans and Japanese. Last month, Chinese nationalists unloaded on South Korean boy band BTS after its leader thanked Korean War veterans for their sacrifices.

—AP

SHORT TAKES

Prajnesh downs Sock, in quarters

Cary, USA: Fighting hard, Prajnesh Gunneswaran prevailed over tough nut Jack Sock in three sets to sail into the quarterfinals of the Atlantic Tire Championships, an ATP Challenger event, here. The fourth-seeded southpaw beat the former top-10 American 6-7 (3), 6-2, 7-6 (5) in a tight round two contest, which lasted almost three hours.

The gritty Indian broke the serve of Sock, who reached a career-high singles ranking of eight in 2017 but is now placed 253, thrice and dropped his own serve only once in the slugfest. Prajnesh, ranked 146, next faces Brazilian qualifier Thomaz Bellucci for a place in the semifinals of the \$52,080 hard court tournament. — *PTI*

Naser dope case appeal in CA

Paris: The Athletics Integrity Unit announced on Thursday that it had appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport after the anti-doping charges against Salwa Eid Naser were dropped. Naser was charged with breaking whereabouts rules and provisionally suspended in June, but was cleared last month by World Athletics' Disciplinary Tribunal. "The AIU has submitted an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) against the Disciplinary Tribunal's decision to dismiss the charges against Salwa Eid Naser (BRN) for Whereabouts failures," the AIU said. The AIU is the independent anti-doping watchdog for track and field, set up in 2017. — *AFP*

USA lambasts Wada proposal

Montreal: Tensions between the World Anti-Doping Agency and the United States flared Thursday as a US government representative called a proposal to sanction countries that withdraw agreed upon funding "a direct attack on the United States." A virtual meeting of WADA's Foundation Board saw officials from both the global watch-dog and the US voicing the need for cooperation. But Anthony Jones, representative of the US Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), bristled at a proposal to punish member countries that opt out of funding. That's just what the ONDCP recommended US lawmakers be given the power to do in June, accusing WADA of failing to implement governance reforms. — *AFP*

Liverpool's Salah is Covid positive

Cairo, Egypt: Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah has tested positive for Covid-19 while on international duty for Egypt without showing any symptoms, the Egyptian Football Association announced Friday. Medical swabs on the national team "showed that our international player, Mohamed Salah, Liverpool star, was infected with the Coronavirus," it said in a tweet, adding he was "not suffering from any symptoms". The tweet said other members of the Egyptian national team tested negative. Salah was observing medical protocols agreed in consultations between doctors in Egypt and Liverpool, a Coronavirus hotspot, and self isolating in a Cairo hotel room. — *AFP*

Live on TV

CRICKET

Women's Big Bash League: Hobart Hurricanes vs Sydney Sixers from 10.10 am; Sydney Thunder vs Melbourne Stars from 1.35 pm; Sydney Thunder vs Perth Scorchers from 4.50 am (Sunday) on Sony Six

FORMULA ONE

Turkish Grand Prix: Third practice from 2.25 pm, Qualifying from 5.25 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD

GOLF

Augusta Masters: From 11.30 pm on Star Sports Select 1, HD

UFC FIGHT NIGHT

Islam Makhachev vs Rafael Dos Anjos and other bouts from 5.30 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

Scotland soar

End two decades wait, qualify for prestigious Euro

Belgrade, Nov. 13: Scotland qualified for a first major international tournament since 1998 by reaching Euro 2020 thanks to a 5-4 win on penalties over Serbia after a 1-1 draw in Belgrade.

The Scots' demons of two decades without qualifying seemed set to reappear when Luka Jovic's 90th-minute header sent the game into extra time.

Ryan Christie's opener had deservedly put the visitors in front during what had been a fine performance from Steve Clarke's men.

But just like in a semi-final shootout win over Israel, Scotland kept their cool with five perfect penalties and finally got over the line when David Marshall saved from Aleksandar Mitrovic.

Goalscorer Christie and captain Andy Robertson welled up with emotion as a generation of Scots can look forward to a major tournament for the first time. There is an extra reward of two matches at Hampden against the Czech Republic and Croatia and a clash with England come June.

Christie missed the play-off semifinal win over Israel last month after he



Scotland players celebrate after winning the Euro 2020 play-off qualification football match against Serbia at the Red Star Stadium in Belgrade on Thursday. — *AFP*

ARGENTINA HELD BY PARAGUAY

Buenos Aires, Nov. 13: Argentina had to come from behind to draw 1-1 with Paraguay in a World Cup qualifier at La Bombonera on Thursday, after Lionel Scaloni's team claimed narrow wins last month at home to Ecuador and away to Bolivia. They thought they had gone in front in the 58th minute when Giovanni Lo Celso pulled the ball back for Messi to sidefoot low into the net,

home of Boca Juniors. The result ends Argentina's perfect start in their bid to qualify for the 2022 finals in Qatar, after Lionel Scaloni's team claimed narrow wins last month at home to Ecuador and away to Bolivia. They thought they had gone in front in the 58th minute when Giovanni Lo Celso pulled the ball back for Messi to sidefoot low into the net,

was categorised as a close contact of Stuart Armstrong, who tested Covid-19 positive after joining up with the Scotland squad. He spoke openly about the mental challenge of self-isolation for 14 days on his return to playing and hoped qualification can offer some relief to those struggling with lockdown restrictions in

Scotland. Scotland are now unbeaten in nine games stretching back 13 months and the confidence Clarke has instilled in his side showed as the visitors controlled the first 90 minutes.

Serbia had all the momentum going into extra time with Clarke having withdrawn Lyndon Dykes, Christie

and McGinn towards the closing stages of normal time.

Marshall had to produce a brilliant save from Nemanja Gudelj a winner. And the Derby goalkeeper was the hero in the shootout after Leigh Griffiths, McGregor, Scott McTominay, Oli McBurnie and Kenny McLean had found the net. — *AFP*

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Easy victory for England

London, Nov. 13: Gareth Southgate admitted he was impressed with Jack Grealish as the England winger sparkled and Harry Maguire enjoyed a moment of redemption in Thursday's 3-0 friendly win against the Republic of Ireland.

Just 48 hours after the resignation of English Football Association chairman Greg Clarke following his offensive comments about the BAME and LGBT communities, Southgate's

side showed no signs of being distracted by the controversy. After being sent off in his previous England appearance against Denmark, Maguire captained his country for the first time and scored the opening goal at Wembley.

It was a welcome boost for Maguire, who has endured a difficult campaign marred by his Greek court case and poor form for Manchester United and England.

Jack Grealish bagged

England's second goal and Dominic Calvert-Lewin made it three with a second-half penalty.

That was enough to seal England's first success against the Republic since 1985. Grealish, starting against the country he represented at youth level, caught the eye on the left flank as he justified the constant calls from fans and pundits for the Aston Villa star to be given a sustained run in the team.

— *AFP*

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

It is notified for the information of all concerned that Railways have decided to Cancel / Partially Cancel / Short Terminate/Short Originate/Divert following Passengers Special Trains / Festival Special Trains/Parcel Express Trains in view of the Kisan Agitation in 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	14.11.2020	
22439/22440 New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Vande Bharat Exp.	14.11.2020	
02462 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Express	14.11.2020	
02461 New Delhi-Shri Math Vaishno Devi Katra Express	15.11.2020	
02011/02012 New Delhi-Kalka-New Delhi Shatabdi Express	14.11.2020	
02029/02030 New Delhi-Amritsar-New Delhi Shatabdi Express	14.11.2020	
05211 Darbhanga Jn. -Amritsar Jn. Special	14.11.2020	
05212 Amritsar Jn. - Darbhanga Jn. Special	16.11.2020	
02053/02054 Haridwar Jn. -Amritsar Jn. - Haridwar Jn. Express	14.11.20 & 15.11.20	
09803 Kota - Shri Mata Vaisno Devi Katra Express	14.11.2020	
09804 Shri Mata Vaisno Devi Katra - Kota Express	15.11.2020	

CANCELLATION OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS			
Train No. & Name	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)		
04624 Amritsar - Saharsa Special	14.11.2020		
04623 Saharsa - Amritsar Special	15.11.2020		
05251 Darbhanga - Jalandhar City Special	14.11.2020		
05252 Jalandhar City - Darbhanga Special	15.11.2020		
02422 Jammu Tawi-Ajmer Express	14.11.2020		
02421 Ajmer-Jammu Tawi Express	15.11.2020		
02231 Lucknow - Chandigarh Express	14.11.2020		
02232 Chandigarh-Lucknow Express	15.11.2020		
04888 Barmer - Rishikesh Express	Upto 20.11.2020		
04887 Rishikesh - Barmer Express	Upto 21.11.2020		
04519/04520 Delhi Jn.-Bathinda - Delhi Jn. Special	Upto 20.11.2020		
04401 New Delhi - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Special	Upto 19.11.2020		
04402 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - New Delhi Special	Upto 20.11.2020		
02471/02472 Shri Ganganagar - Delhi Jn. - Shri Ganganagar Special	20.11.2020		
02331 Howrah-Jammu Tawi Festival Special	14.11.2020		
02332 Jammu Tawi-Howrah Festival Special	16.11.2020		
09611 Ajmer-Amritsar Special	14.11.20 & 19.11.20		
09612 Amritsar - Ajmer Special	17.11.20 & 19.11.20		
09613 Ajmer - Amritsar Special	16.11.20 & 18.11.20		
09614 Amritsar - Ajmer Special	15.11.20 & 20.11.20		
02588 Jammu Tawi - Gorakhpur Special	14.11.2020		
09027 Bandra (T.) - Jammu Tawi Special	14.11.2020		
09028 Jammu Tawi - Bandra (T.) Special	16.11.2020		

PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF SPECIAL TRAINS
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