



FADNAVIS DOWNPLAYS
FORMING GOVT
WITH AJIT PAWAR

P5



HK ACTIVIST TO
PLEAD GUILTY TO
PROTEST CHARGES

P9



PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION

BIDEN EXPECTED TO
NOMINATE BLINKEN AS
SECY OF STATE

P10



'LIFE IN BIO
BUBBLE
IS TOUGH'

P12

WEATHER

Partly cloudy sky. Mist/ shallow fog in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 25 and 07 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 95%	Min: 34%
TEMPERATURE	
Max: 26.2°C (O)	Min: 06.3°C (-5)
SUN RISES	SUN SETS
06:52 hrs	17:25 hrs
MOON RISES	MOON SETS
14:16 hrs	02:14 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Union home minister Amit Shah and health minister Harsh Vardhan at the inauguration of a Covid-19 RT-PCR mobile testing laboratory van at ICMR. In New Delhi on Monday. DEEPAK

NCMC takes stock of preparedness for Nivar: The National Crisis Management Committee on Monday reviewed the status of cyclone Nivar that is expected to hit the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry between Tuesday and Thursday and directed that fishermen should not be allowed to venture out to sea. The NCMC, headed by Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, also directed everyone concerned to continue to work with an aim of zero loss of life and early restoration of normalcy in the affected areas.

PS

FM assures industry on economic reforms: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman assured the industry that momentum of economic reforms will continue to make India a hotspot of global investment. India has turned the crisis created by Covid pandemic into an opportunity to push the economic reforms, which remained pending for decades, she said while addressing the National MNC's Conference 2020 organised by industry chamber CII.

Stung LDF govt puts 'draconian' Police Act on hold

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
23 NOVEMBER



the party would review the amendment. Following this, the CPI-M state Secretariat met here and decided to put on hold the implementation of the Kerala Police Act Amendment.

It may be noted that CM Vijayan has on Sunday defended the amendment claiming that it 'won't curb the freedom of Press' adding that it won't be against 'impartial media' or 'free speech'.

"However, after the amendment was brought in, people from different walks of life, including those who support the Left Front and those who stand up for democratic values, expressed concern. Taking this into consideration, the government has decided not to implement the amendment," said CM Vijayan.

On Monday morning, CPI-M general secretary Sitaram Yechury had said including women and transgenders, with defamatory and obscene postings.

"We are not intending to implement the amended Kerala Police Act. A detailed discussion will be held in the state Assembly in this regard and further steps will be taken after hearing the views from various quarters," CM Vijayan said in a statement.

Vijayan said that the government brought in the ordinance in view of widespread abuse of social media, using the platform to attack various sections in the society,

including women and transgenders, with defamatory and obscene postings.

"However, after the amendment was brought in, people from different walks of life, including those who support the Left Front and those who stand up for democratic values, expressed concern. Taking this into consideration, the government has decided not to implement the amendment," said CM Vijayan.

On Monday morning, CPI-M general secretary Sitaram Yechury had said

that his heart has stopped, following which the GMCH superintendent confirmed that he is no more, he said.

Kovind said Gogoi's passing away marked the end of an era and his long tenure in office was a period of epochal change in the state.

"Extremely sad to know of the demise of Shri Tarun Gogoi, former Chief Minister of Assam. The country has lost a veteran leader with rich political and administrative experience. His long tenure in office was a period of epochal change in Assam," Kovind tweeted.

He will always be remembered for the development of Assam and especially towards

his efforts to improve law and order and fighting insurgency in the state, he said in another tweet.

"His passing away marks the end of an era. In this hour of grief, condolences to his family, friends and supporters," the President said.

Expressing his anguish at the death of Shri Tarun Gogoi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi described him as a popular leader and veteran administrator who had years of political experience in Assam as well as at the Centre.

Modi tweeted, "Sri Tarun Gogoi Ji was a popular leader and a veteran administrator, who had years of political experience in Assam as well

as at the Centre. Arghued by his passing away. My thoughts are with his family and sup-

Vijayan is treading over freedom of speech and rights in a way similar to that of Adolf Hitler. BJP Kerala president K Surendran said that the amendment had sought to curtail the freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under Article 19 (I) of the Constitution.

The introduction of the new section through an ordinance triggered massive outrage, with people from all walks of life, including supporters of the LDF government, criticising it for being unconstitutional.

Leader of the Opposition Ramesh Chennithala, KPCC president Mullapally Ramachandran and United Democratic Front (UDF) convener MM Hassan staged a sit-in protest in front of the Secretariat asking the government to invalidate the draconian provision.

Speaking on the occasion, Ramesh Chennithala said chief minister Pinarayi

class of persons or any other person in whom they have interest shall on conviction, be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees or with both."

The introduction of the new section through an ordinance triggered massive outrage, with people from all walks of life, including supporters of the LDF government, criticising it for being unconstitutional.

Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) leaders Shibu Baby John and others have also filed petitions in the High Court challenging the Constitutional validity of Section 118A and seeking for a declaration that this amendment is unconstitutional.

Speaking on the occasion, Ramesh Chennithala said chief minister Pinarayi

is treading over freedom of speech and rights in a way similar to that of Adolf Hitler. BJP Kerala president K Surendran said that the amendment had sought to curtail the freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under Article 19 (I) of the Constitution.

BJP state president K Surendran on Monday approached the Kerala High Court seeking to quash the amendment that gave freehand to the police to stop humiliating, abusing and threatening individuals through any content and disseminated the same through any mode of communication.

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The Trinamul Congress should have supported the call if they were opposing the BJP

ASOK BHATTACHARYA, SENIOR CPI-M LEADER

ON THE 26-NOV GENERAL STRIKE CALLED BY CENTRAL TRADE UNIONS AGAINST THE CENTRE'S POLICIES

Delhi logs 1/4th of India's single-day Covid deaths

Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain attributes the high Covid death rate in the city to the air pollution caused by stubble-burning, expects a decline in it over the next two-three weeks

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 23 NOVEMBER

Delhi has accounted for nearly one-fourth of the total Covid deaths recorded in the country in 24 hours since yesterday morning, according to the Union health ministry's coronavirus figures updated at 8 am today.

During this 24-hour span, 5 persons died due to Covid every hour on an average in Delhi as compared to at least 21 coronavirus fatalities per hour recorded in the country.

This analysis was based on the data from the Union health ministry, which gave the total number of deaths recorded in the country and all states and Union Territories due to Covid-19 in the 24 hours preceding this morning. While a total of 511 Covid deaths were recorded across the country, Delhi reported 121 coronavirus fatalities, according to the official data.

The national capital yesterday reported 6,746 coronavirus infections and 121 Covid fatalities which raised its death toll to 8,391, according to the Delhi government's health bulletin issued late last night. These new cases were detected out of 54,893 tests. The positivity rate was 12.29 per cent.

This was then the fifth day over the last 11 days that the daily Covid deaths count crossed the grim 100 mark in Delhi.

The national capital had



Some relatives of a Covid victim along with a few workers carry the victim's mortal remains for cremation, at Nigambodh Ghat in the Capital on Monday.

in the next two-three weeks since pollution due to stubble-burning has lessened in the last few days, he said.

"There was heavy pollution due to stubble-burning amid the Covid pandemic and it came as a double attack. Since the pollution due to stubble-burning is less now, the downturn in deaths will be there in a few weeks," Jain claimed.

Experts attribute the high figure of daily Covid deaths in the national capital to a large number of "critical" non-resident patients coming to the city for treatment, an unfavourable weather, pollution and a better "reporting and mapping" of fatalities.

They say the easing of restrictions has exposed the vulnerable population, such as the elderly and those having comorbidities, to the deadly virus.

Jain said the number of fresh cases as well as the positivity rate are gradually going down in Delhi, showing that the Covid situation was improving.

Since 7 November, when the coronavirus positivity rate was more than 15 percent in Delhi, it has come down to over 12 per cent now. The number of fresh cases was over 8,500 a couple of weeks ago, which came down to 6,746 on Sunday, he said.

The health minister said 9,418 hospital beds have been occupied by Covid patients in Delhi currently, while 7,900 such beds are still vacant.

Order to shut two markets in West Delhi withdrawn

PTI

NEW DELHI, 23 NOVEMBER

An order to close two evening markets in Nangloi in West Delhi for violation of COVID-19 safety measures was withdrawn by the district administration hours after it was issued, officials said on Monday.

The Punjabi Basti Market and Janta Market in Nangloi were closed till November 30 through an order of the West Delhi District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) CEO and ADM and sealing action was taken by teams of district officials backed by municipal corporation and police personnel on Sunday.

However, the order for closure was withdrawn hours later as the Delhi government proposal for regulation of markets amid the pandemic is pending with the Central government.

"The order for closure of market has been withdrawn because a proposal of Delhi government for regulation of markets in view of COVID-19 surge is pending with the Central government. The district officials can take action against individuals for violation but cannot seal an entire market," said a senior government officer.

Amid a spurt in COVID-19 cases in Delhi, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had last week sought power from the Centre to impose restrictions in those markets which may emerge as COVID-19 hotspots.

The chief minister had in an interaction with market associations on Friday last had said that his government does not wish to shut any market.

Local BJP worker shot dead, son injured over personal enmity in Delhi

PTI

NEW DELHI, 23 NOVEMBER

head, while his son was attacked with a sharp-edged weapon, police said.

The two were taken to a nearby hospital, where Qureshi was declared brought dead by the doctors, police said.

His son is undergoing treatment at the hospital and his condition is stated to be stable, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northeast) Ved Prakash Surya said.

According to the police, the two were also involved in several criminal cases.

It is suspected to be a case of personal rivalry but all angles are being probed, he said.

"We have registered a case and efforts are underway to nab the suspects," Surya said.

2 held for molesting, raping Mumbai-based event manager

PTI

NEW DELHI, 23 NOVEMBER

Two men have been arrested for allegedly raping and molesting a 28-year-old Mumbai-based freelance event manager in Delhi's Aerocity area, police said on Monday.

The incident was reported on Friday.

The woman told the police that she met Mehta on social media. She came to Delhi on Wednesday and was staying at a hotel in Aerocity. The next day, she met Mehta and his friend Dawar at Connaught Place, police said.

The woman alleged that Dawar tried to molest her. Later, Mehta came to drop her at the hotel and allegedly raped her inside her room.

Mehta was booked under section 376 (rape) and is in police custody, while Dawar, who was booked under section 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), has been sent to judicial custody, a senior police officer said.

Classified

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE COURT OF SH. ARVIND BANSAL
ACJ/CCJ/ARC-(South East)
Saket Courts, New Delhi
SS-60/2020

In the matter of :
Ritu Arya, w/o Umesh Kumar, Aged about 42 years, Resident of 39, Subhash Khand, Girija Nagar, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019.

Mobile No. 9818119791

Email : ruti_arya@yahoo.com

- Petitioner

Versus
State Through The Office of the District Collector, District - South East.

Email : dcse.rev@delhi.nic.in

Phone No. 011-26476402,

2. Neetu Malhotra, Resident of V/10, A-Block, Ganesh Nagar, Pandav Nagar Complex, East Delhi-110092.

Mobile No. 8585967398.

Email : malhotramohita2301@gmail.com

3. Seeti, w/o Gagan, Resident of 376/23, Ward No. 11, Near Red Cross Society, Jawahar Nagar Camp, Palwal, Palwal, Haryana-121102.

Mobile No. 9992329268.

Email : See-tuthakur2002@gmail.com

4. Anmol Gupta, w/o Sanjay, Resident of Jawahar Nagar Camp, Palwal, Palwal, Haryana-121102.

Mobile No. 8221949498

Email : anmolkalra452@gmail.com

- Respondents

Whereas, an application U/s 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 has been made by Ritu Arya, successor of Late Raj Gupta for grant of Succession Certificate in respect of debts/securities deceased.

And whereas the said applicant shall come for hearing on 16-12-2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Therefore, the public at large is hereby given notice if any person has objection to the grant of Succession Certificate in favour of the said applicant, he may appear and file objections in writing, in person or through duly appointed pleader, on the said date and time.

Given under my hand and Seal on 11-11-2020.

ACJ/CCJ/ARC-(South East)

Saket Courts, New Delhi

Seal of the Court

For details logon to
https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?rs=district_notice&district=gurugram.

Dated, this day of 20-11-2020.

Civil Judge
(Junior Division),
Gurugram

Seal of the Court

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MUHAMMAD

Shahnawaz Khan and Md Shahnawaz Khan and my father Mohammed Basir Khan are same and identical, vide affidavit of the Ld. Metropolitan Magistrate, 1st Class, Kolkata on 11 November, 2020.

I, MOJAFAR Gazi, s/o. Kuddush Gazi, Vill. + P.O.: Ganghabaduli, P.S.: Bishnupur, 24 Pgs (S), PIN- 743503, in my Passport No. J1554066 was a spelling mistake. On 16.03.20 in Alipur Court I filed a Affidavit No. 147995. Mojaffar Gazi and Mojaffar Gazi are same and one identical person.

I, SUSANTA Kumar Maji, employed as Tradesman, Mate at Ministry of Defence (Govt. of India) have change my name Susanta Maji to Susanta Kumar Maji for all purposes, before the Ld. Metropolitan Magistrate, Kolkata, dated 27.02.2020.

MY YOUNGER son Muhammad Yousf Khan and Md Yousf Khan are same and identical and I

Mohammed Basir Khan and Md Basir Khan are same and identical, vide affidavit of the Ld. Metropolitan Magistrate, 1st Class, Kolkata on 11 November, 2020.

I, BIBEK Gupta Agrahari, S/o. Jay Prakash Gupta Agrahari, resident of Lal Dighi North Bye Lane, P.S.: Kotwali, P.O.+Dist.: Cooch Behar, West Bengal-736101 executed an Affidavit / Declaration before the Executive Magistrate, Cooch Behar, Sadar, West Bengal on 10.11.2020, that from today all my documents Caring Name 'Bibek Gupta' is considered as 'Bibek Gupta Agrahari' as both are same and one person.

ALL CLASSIFIED ARE CARRIED FREE OF COST ON OUR WEBSITE

The Statesman

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Ph: (0522) 2206705



I have seen in newspapers that Basmati rice and 'postor bora' were served... the coriander leaves which the family members were shown chopping were not used in any of the items. People these days can see through such things

MAMATA BANERJEE
WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

Khattar govt comes up with policy for MBBS students

The Haryana govt will repay education loan of MBBS students opting for public health institutions

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 23 NOVEMBER

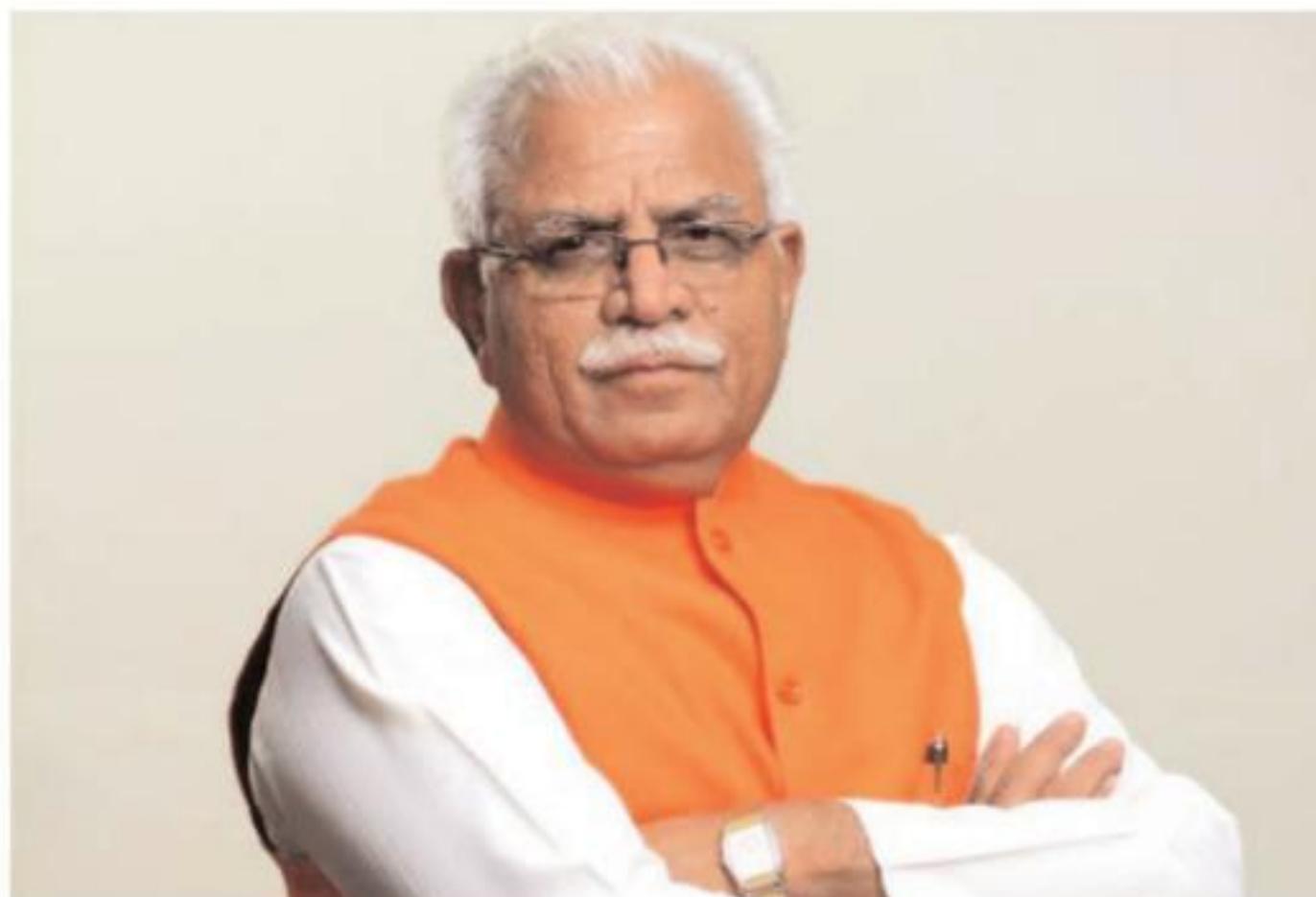
The MBBS students in Haryana will now get incentive to opt for government service while retaining the option to work anywhere instead of being forced for compulsory government service.

An official spokesperson said to meet the growing and pressing need for doctors in public healthcare institutions in Haryana, the state government has formulated a policy for the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) students.

He said as per the directions given by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar the government has recently introduced this "unique policy".

The spokesman said that as per the policy a candidate selected for the MBBS degree course at the time of admission will have to pay an annual bond amount of Rs 10 lakh minus annual fee paid.

The candidate will have the option of either obtaining an education loan from a bank



duly facilitated by the state government or pay the entire bond amount without recourse to the loan. No candidate will be refused or denied the education loan if he or she so desires.

The spokesman said that on graduation (including

internship), in case the candidate is successful in obtaining employment with any public health institution of the state government after due process as may be specified, then the state government will repay the instalments of the loan (both principal and interest) till the time the candidate is in the service of such public health institution of the state government which will be in addition to the salary and other allowances due.

The spokesman said that if the candidate does not wish to obtain employment

in any public health institution of the state government, then the candidate will be liable for the repayment of the loan obtained (including interest).

He said that in case the candidate remains unemployed after graduation or is unable to obtain any form of government employment (including contractual employment) despite sincere efforts, then the state government may step in to pay the loan amount through the Credit Guarantee Trust without burdening the student, the spokesman said.

Through this policy, the government aims to incentivise student-doctors to obtain government employment while at the same time protecting students who are unable to obtain such employment despite sincere efforts.

Only those students who wish to proceed for employment in the private sector or not work in the medical field on graduation will have to pay the loan amount, the spokesman said.

HP BJP prepares roadmap for retaining power in 2022 polls

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 23 NOVEMBER

Himachal Pradesh BJP in-charge Avinash Rai Khanna on Monday said the ruling party has prepared a roadmap for "Mission Repeat" in 2022 state assembly polls in which frontal units and various cells of the party will play a vital role.

After a meeting with the party's 7 frontal units and 12 cells, Khanna said for the Mission Repeat 2022, the frontal units and cells of BJP will play an important role.

Besides, the roadmap for ensuring party's win was discussed extensively with the state chief Suresh Kashyap, State co-incharge Sanjay Tandon, organisational secretary Pawan Rana and all the frontal units and cell heads, he added.

Khanna further stated that all the units and cells will extensively work at booth level which was the core ground of BJP.

"In times to come, the people who have benefitted from the Centre or the state government's schemes will be contacted by BJP workers at booth level.

Approximately 150 farmers per polling station have



HP BJP in-charge Avinash Rai Khanna

been benefited by the Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme of the Central government and this shows the seriousness of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government towards the farmers' welfare," he said.

He said that Yuva Morcha will appoint 20 youth per polling station while Kisan Morcha and Mahila Morcha will appoint 15 and 20 workers per polling station respectively.

"This will truly display the art of booth management of BJP and this kind of work will help in achieving the target of Mission Repeat in Himachal Pradesh," he added.

A meeting of BJP State Office Development Committee was also held today in which discussion was held to complete construction work of district party offices on time whose foundation was laid by party national chief P Nadda.

"It was the dream of former BJP chief Amit Shah that all districts should have their own offices.

The plans and layout of the office buildings have been finalized and implementation of the same has been proposed soon while the work on all the sites will start soon on war footing," the committee chief Satpal Singh Satti said.

BJP'd form next govt in Punjab, claims Chugh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 23 NOVEMBER

Two days after Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh dismissed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as a non-entity in Punjab's political arena, BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh on Monday claimed that the saffron party was coming strong in Punjab in a big way and would form the next government in the state.

Chugh said even in 1992 when the party contested the Assembly elections all by itself, it had captured six seats with 16 per cent vote share. "The party has come a long way from there and has strengthened its presence in the state," he said while asking the Punjab CM to come out of his ivory tower and give up an ostrich-like approach to understand the ground realities of Punjab politics.

The CM had said on Saturday that the BJP was welcome to contest all 117 Assembly seats in the state though the party would not be able to win a single seat without an alliance partner.

Ridiculing the above observation, Chugh said "It is a childish statement coming from a senior Congress leader and clearly demon-

Himachal shuts schools, colleges till 31 Dec due to Covid surge

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 23 NOVEMBER

Concerned over increasing number of Covid cases and deaths in Himachal Pradesh, the Jai Ram Thakur Cabinet on Monday decided that all government educational institutions, including schools and colleges will remain closed till 31 December for students in the state.

However, online studies would commence from 26 November, 2020.

In a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur here, the cabinet decided to impose night curfew from 8 PM to 6 AM in Shimla, Mandi, Kangra and Kullu districts from 24 November to 15 December, 2020.

An official spokesman said the cabinet decided that the teachers would continue to work from home till further orders. Offices of High Schools, Senior Secondary Schools and Colleges would function with effect from 26 November, 2020. Principals would be at liberty to call faculty members as per local requirement.

The spokesman said the cabinet decided that winter closing Institutions would remain closed from 1 January to 12 February, 2021. However, online studies would continue even during the winter time. The session would be extended in case of winter closing schools and



HP to impose night curfew in four districts, including Shimla, Mandi, Kangra and Kullu, from 24 November

students of classes 1 to 4 and classes 6 and 7th would be promoted as per the provision of RTE, 2009. As the students of the winter closing schools/ colleges would not be attending the classes, therefore winter vacation 2021-22 would be allowed to the teachers posted in winter closing institutions.

It was also decided that final examinations for class 5 and 8th, 9th & 11th would be conducted simultaneously for winter and summer closing schools in March 2021. Board Exams for 10th and 12th classes would be conducted in March 2021 together for winter and summer closing schools with 30

percent relaxation in syllabus already carried out by HP Board of School Education.

In the wake of Covid-19 pandemic, the cabinet decided to restrict attendance of Class-III and IV government employees to 50 percent. 50 percent employees would attend office for three days and remaining 50 percent for next three days till 31st December, 2020.

The cabinet also decided that all the social/ political/cultural/ sports etc. gatherings in open areas would be restricted to 200 persons with social distancing.

It also decided that a fine of Rs 1000 be imposed for not wearing a face mask in public places. All the buses in the state would ply with 50 percent of occupancy till 15th December.

The spokesman said the cabinet decided to hold the elections to the newly constituted Municipal Corporations

rations of Mandi, Solan and Palampur with the elections of Dharamshala Municipal Corporation in the month of March/ April next year.

It decided to locate the headquarters of one Platoon of Home Guards Volunteers at Kaza in Lahaul- Spiti district, so that Home Guard volunteers were readily available to the local authorities to meet any eventuality.

The spokesman said the cabinet gave its consent to open new Jai Shakti Division at Amb by transferring Swan River Flood Management Project Division Haroli to Amb in Chintpurni/Vidhan Sabha area of Una district.

It decided to allow contract farming by interested registered farmers on private land with Himachal Pradesh Nurseries Management Society under World Bank funded Himachal Pradesh Horticulture Development Project for cultivation of fruit plants/tree nurseries/orchards/ post entry quarantine sites/poly houses/ greenhouses/ net houses/water storage/harvesting tanks/farm sheds/grading/pack houses etc.

It gave its consent to create and fill up four posts of Associate Professor and Assistant Professor in Pathology General Medicine and General Surgery Departments of Dr Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College Tanda.

Delhi riots: Umar Khalid alleges before court his custody extended 'illegally'

PTI
NEW DELHI, 23 NOVEMBER

Former JNU student leader Umar Khalid alleged before a court here on Monday that his custody in a case related to the northeast Delhi riots in February was extended illegally, mechanically and without prior intimation to his lawyers.

The submission was made before Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Dinesh Kumar through video conferencing in the case related to rioting in Khajuri Khas area.

Khalid was arrested in the case on October 1 and is in judicial custody. He was earlier arrested in September in a separate case related to larger conspiracy in the riots which erupted between anti-CAA protesters and those supporting the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, killing over 50 people and scores injured.

Advocate Sanya Kumar, appearing for Khalid, alleged that since the beginning of his arrest in the case, his lawyers were not given copies of the remand applications and denied information about when and before which judge he would be produced.

Time and again the remand was mechanically granted. Case diaries were not signed, we were not supplied a copy of the remand application, he claimed.

The court has put up the matter for further hearing on November 27.

The application, moved by advocates Trideep Pais and Kumar, sought directions to the investigating agency as well as the jail authorities to provide a copy of the application seeking remand/extension of remand to Khalid's counsels in advance to the proceedings.

It also sought directions to the police to intimate the counsels about the time, place and manner of all future remand proceedings for Khalid one day in advance.

It requested the court to clarify that the proceedings for remand or its extension cannot be carried out mechanically and that the counsels for Khalid be permitted to participate effectively, either physically or through video conferencing, in all such proceedings as they were told there was no material required for extension of judicial custody.

It is absolutely against settled principle. Umar Khalid's custody was extended illegally and mechanically. This is a serious issue. The logistical difficulties due to COVID-19 pandemic cannot come in the way of the rights of an accused or their counsel, she further said.

Special Public Prosecutor Manoj Chaudhary, appearing for the police, said moving an application every 14 days for extension of judicial custody was not by law but by precedent.

WINTER RAIN



A girl walks with an umbrella during rain in Shimla on Monday.

Himachal Pradesh CM calls for ensuring Covid patients survival

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 23 NOVEMBER

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur stressed on the need for increasing survival rate of Covid patients in the state, saying that the patients should be referred to major hospitals at the early stage.

After a meeting of the district level officers at Mandi to review the Covid situation last evening, he said the health authorities should make efforts to motivate the attendants to attend their patients admitted in the hospitals by providing PPE kits to make patients feel better.

"Efforts should be made to hand over the dead bodies of the Covid patients early to avoid embarrassment to the family members of the deceased," he added.

Thakur directed to ensure checking of fever and oxygen level of such patients besides educating them to take medicine properly in a regular manner.

He further stressed that these patients should be served hot food and water so that their condition does

not deteriorate further due to cold weather conditions.

"Keeping in view the upsurge in the Covid cases in the state, the state government would impose new restrictions to avoid social gatherings and ensure that people take all necessary precautionary measures.

It is also important to regularly monitor the Covid positive cases kept in home isolation as their number is more than those admitted in hospitals," he said.

He also directed to ensure that the health authorities should make efforts to motivate the attendants to attend their patients admitted in the hospitals by providing PPE kits to make patients feel better.

After a meeting of the district level officers at Mandi to review the Covid situation Sunday evening, he said the health authorities should make efforts to motivate the attendants to attend their patients admitted in the hospitals by providing PPE kits to make patients feel better.





Left and Congress trade union during a rally in Kolkata on Monday.

Arrested for assault: Two persons have been arrested on Monday in connection with assaulting a petrol pump manager at Kasba on Sunday night under Kasba police station in West Bengal, police said. A group of bike-borne miscreants at around 3 am had come to a petrol pump at Kasba for allegedly for "refueling" and were about to leave without paying for the fuel which was challenged by manager. SNS

Mamata condoles Gogoi's death: West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee on Monday expressed grief over the death of ex-Assam CM Tarun Gogoi. Sadened to hear about the passing away of veteran leader and former Chief Minister of Assam for 3 terms, Tarun Gogoi Ji," Banerjee tweeted. PTI

Saradha scam: CBI arrests Nazubuilla

NEW DELHI, 23 NOVEMBER

The CBI has arrested the Managing Director of Angel Agitech group, Nazubuilla, who is an alleged absconder in one of the ponzi cases of West Bengal, commonly known as Saradha scam, officials said Monday.

Nazubuilla was produced in a special CBI court, Baruipur which remanded him in 10 days of CBI custody, they said. The CBI case pertains to swindling of Rs 454.54 crore of public money collected from gullible investors, they said.

"It was further alleged that the accused fled after cheating the said investors and misappropriated the invested money," CBI Spokesperson RK Gaur said. PTI

ER runs 61 additional trains in Sealdah div

Non-suburban trains still await nod of West Bengal government

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 23 NOVEMBER

The Eastern Railway rolled out 61 additional local trains in Sealdah Division today to cater to the huge demand in various sections.

According to sources, the zonal railway is witnessing increasing demand for suburban train services. Even on a Sunday when offices were closed, the Eastern Railway is said to have received a footfall of around 12.60 lakhs at Howrah and Sealdah yesterday. While the Howrah Division receives a huge number of passengers, the rush in the Sealdah Division is more resulting in high demands. Considering the situation, nearly 95 percent train services were being run in Sealdah Division so far. The zonal rail-



way authorities were operating over 550 trains in Sealdah Division. "Around 552 trains were being operated in this division on an average," informed sources in Eastern Railway. "However, the num-

ber was being increased to 553 or 554 depending upon the requirement."

The number will now be increased to 613. The increased trains will be operated in all sections and lines of the divi-

sion," he added. Meanwhile, the resumption of non-suburban train services is awaiting a nod from the state government. After resumption of local trains in other parts of the state, there has been a growing demand from passengers and railway staff to restart services in these sections including Purulia, Adra, Bankura, and so on. A response on the matter from the state government officials, as informed by sources, was expected to be given after Kali Puja and Diwali.

As informed by sources, a meeting on the subject was supposed to be held between the officials of the state government and the representatives of the railways, last Saturday.

However, the meeting could not be held and is likely to take place later this week.

TMC, BJP spar over Sputnik V trials in Bengal

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 23 NOVEMBER

Controversy in connection with the Phase II clinical trial of Russian Covid-19 vaccine Sputnik V candidate in Bengal got involved in political attack and counter-attack between ruling Trinamul Congress and opposition BJP today.

While addressing a programme at Khatra in Bankura district today chief minister Miss Mamata Banerjee said that the Centre is playing drama on vaccine issue.

"We have the power to launch the vaccine in our state but the Centre should inform us about the organisation that will supply it for clinical trial," Miss Banerjee said.

The state BJP president Dilip Ghosh, on the other hand, has scathing attack on Miss Banerjee's government saying, "The state government did not allow Phase II clinical trial of the Russian vaccine at College of Medicine and Sagar Dutta Hospital in the outskirts of Kolkata.

Centre had taken the initiative for the vaccine trial in the teaching hospital."

"The state government is

surprisingly reducing the number of swab sample tests of Covid-19 suspects in Bengal at a time when the affected cases are on the rise," Ghosh alleged.

The clinical trial of the Russian vaccine to prevent coronavirus infections has been put on hold at the Sagar Dutta Hospital owing to state government's delay in grant of approval of the project.

The trials were proposed to begin at the state-run teaching hospital at Kamarhati in North 24 Parganas district adjoining Kolkata later this week along with six other centres in different parts of the country.

"We will not be able to hold the Phase II trials of Sputnik-V vaccine at the Sagar Dutta Hospital because of the

slow approach of the state health department in giving the approval. We had applied for the approval on 4 November and there is no response yet. It's too late now," according to the sources in the health ministry.

While the initial feasibility process at the hospital started along with the other centres where the trials are to take place, the approval could not be obtained in time, the sources said.

After securing the health department's approval, the consent of the hospital's Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) is also required before starting the trials. The IECs of the rest six institutions have already given the go ahead for the trials.

AIMIM's key Bengal leader, other members join TMC

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 23 NOVEMBER

AIMIM's West Bengal unit leader Anwar Pasha along with some 25 members joined the Trinamool Congress on Monday, claiming that the Asaduddin Owaisi-led party was only acting as a polariser of votes to help the BJP.

Alleging that a section of people is trying to take the country towards destruction using religion, Pasha said that those who are eyeing Bengal at present, whether "wearing saffron or green", should know that there is no place for such division in this state.

"AIMIM has played a hand in the polarisation of votes in Bihar and thus helped the BJP in forming the government there, but this will not happen in Bengal," he said.

Pasha, who was welcomed to the TMC fold by ministers Bratya Basu and Moloy Ghatak, said that 30 per cent of West Bengal's population are Muslims, asserting that the political developments in Bihar cannot be emulated in this state.

Pasha who joined AIMIM in 2013, today lashed out at Owaisi stating the role played by him in Bihar poll is

deplorable.

Urging the Muslims in the state to stand by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, he said AIMIM chief Owaisi should not come to Bengal.

Owaisi had said on Sunday that the party is deliberating with the West Bengal unit over contesting the Assembly elections, likely in April-May, and will take a decision after getting feedback from them.

Pasha said that fear was being created in the minds of minorities over CAA and NRC and the West Bengal chief minister "is fighting for us and has taken to the streets to support us".

"Making a law in Parliament is not the end, it has to be implemented on the ground," he said.

Pasha said, "We have joined the Trinamool Congress because we have realised that she is a leader who believes in communal harmony and she and her party alone can fight the divisive forces," adding, "communal harmony among the different religious people is maintained. We cannot allow division of minority votes in West Bengal as it happened in Bihar. We are against the communal BJP and in Bengal we will not allow Owaisi to divide the minority votes".

ICG's valour averts massive oil spill disaster

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 23 NOVEMBER

In an act of valour, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has managed to avert an ecological disaster of immense magnitude by putting a stop to a heavy-loaded oil tanker that was drifting towards an island in the Nicobar and could have resulted in massive oil spillage.

The coast guard headquarters reported it was a swift sea-air operation through which an ICG ship succeeded in towing the oil tanker to safe waters. The tanker "MT Anastasia-I" was bound for Dubai but a sudden and total power failure onboard, left its 24 crew members jostling to keep the vessel from drifting



The rescue operation involved an ICG multi-mission vessel "Vishwast" that was on a routine surveillance off the Nicobar Islands and was diverted. An ICG boarding team managed to embark

another eight months to be made available. Also, a vaccine injection would cost Rs 25,000."

Then, she claimed: "We spent Rs 1.5 Lakh in the treatment of every Covid-19 patient from our own exchequer. Our fund got exhausted to help treatment of the COVID-19 patients."

Then she said: "May I suggest Centre to provide fund to help buying Covid-19 vac-

cines directly to us, which I think would expedite the process of vaccination in the state."

As Centre inches closer to much awaited vaccine, PM Narendra Modi is reaching out to the CMs to discuss the vaccination strategy and distribution plans tomorrow. The CM will attend the PM's virtual meeting from Bankura Circuit House, the officials said.

As National Library reopens in Kolkata, senior researchers vexed over entry ban

ARUNIMA CHOSH
KOLKATA, 23 NOVEMBER

The National Library reopened today after eight months but has restricted entry of members above 60 years due to Covid pandemic thereby leaving senior researchers in difficulty.

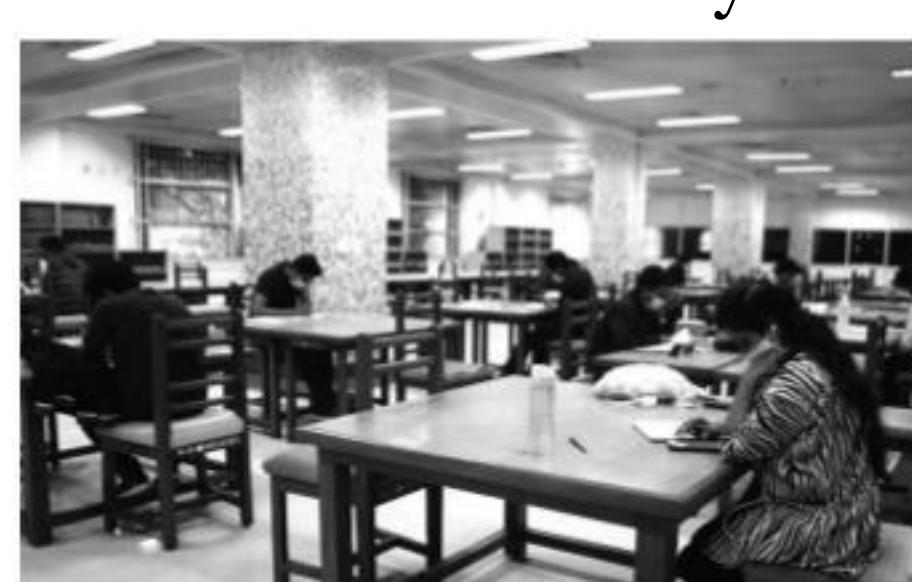
Senior scholars and researchers, who comprise a significant portion of the total members, complained that their work was getting further hampered due to the restricted entry.

"Work has already been delayed for eight months and now even though the library is open we are not being allowed. My research project is for three years and it will complete next year. If I am unable to start the library work now then I cannot proceed any further," said Dr Jayanti Mukherjee, who is doing a research project of Sri Aurobindo Ashram in Pondicherry. If the library authorities take necessary measures and follow the Covid protocols then why should the senior members not be allowed, she questioned adding that even Metro Railways allows senior citizens though initially there were some restrictions.

Asked Modi's meeting with the CM tomorrow, where BJP said state government had failed to control Covid, Jahan retorted, "In BJP-run states like Gujarat and MP, night curfew was imposed but in West Bengal, the state government successfully controlled Covid even during Bengal's greatest festival Durga Puja and Kali Puja and Deepavali."

She said today she wanted to project how youths are benefitted in West Bengal as IT sector flourishes from 500 to 2,600, and under Utkatsha Bangla scheme where about six lakh youths got trained to become self-reliant.

"I was working in the last



National Library after it reopened for the readers in Kolkata on Monday.

portion when the library was closed following the lockdown. My book is almost complete and unless I give the finishing touches at the library I would miss my deadline," he said.

Saibal Chakraborty, state secretary of Joint Platform of Action said that a complaint has been submitted to the Ministry of Culture in this regard. Other institutions under the Ministry namely Indian Museum and Asiatic Society have not imposed any such bar on senior members, Mr Chakraborty added.

A library official said that

Nusrat Jahan lashes out at BJP over 'false' job promises

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 23 NOVEMBER

Basirhat Trinamul MP Nusrat Jahan today lashed out at Bengal BJP chief Dilip Ghosh for making false promises of employment generation.

Jahan said BJP failed to create employment across the nation and "We have educated people in Bengal. We're not going to buy his bluff," the MP said.

She said in past nine years of Mamata Banerjee's government, about one crore youth were employed and 40 per cent employment opportunities were generated in Bengal.

She reminded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised of 35 lakh employ-



ment generation and two crores of unemployed youth will get employment every year.

The MP challenged the BJP leaders to come up with documents to vindicate Modi's assertions.

She pointed out that 28,000 youths have been given loan upto Rs 10 lakh under Gati-dhara project and Miss

TENDER

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान (एम्स), भुवनेश्वर
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), BHUBANESWAR
Sijua, Post : Dumuduma, Bhubaneswar - 751019

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar invites e-Tender for "Annual Operation & Maintenance Contract of Pump Houses and Fountains at Hospital and Housing Complex, AIIMS, Bhubaneswar". Detailed description, terms & conditions and document for processing e-Tender along with last date of submission can be viewed and downloaded from e-Tender portal of AIIMS, Bhubaneswar website www.aiimsbhubaneswar.nic.in.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer (Electrical)
AIIMS, Bhubaneswar



We are burning inflated electricity bills as protest...the government should wake up soon or else, the anger will intensify

AS BJP PROTESTS AGAINST THE MVA GOVERNMENT FOR NOT GIVING RELIEF TO CONSUMERS

MAHARASHTRA BJP CHIEF CHANDRAKANT PATIL

The Statesman

05

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2020

THUMBNAILS



A butterfly takes rest on a tree twig in Chandigarh on Monday.

PARDEEP SAINI

AIMIM MLA uses 'Bharat' instead of Hindustan during oath, sparks row

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

PATNA, 23 NOVEMBER

The inaugural session of the new Bihar Assembly began on a turbulent note today with the ruling coalition and the Opposition trading barbs over a legislator using the word 'Bharat' instead of Hindustan while being administered the oath of office by the pro-tem Speaker.

The controversy erupted after Akhtar Iman, state president of Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM, asked the pro-tem Speaker Jitan Ram Manjhi to use the word 'Bharat' as mentioned in the Indian Constitution, rather than Hindustan while taking oath of the office. He raised the demand soon after noticing the word Hindustan must go to Pakistan," said BJP leader Neeraj Kumar Babloo.

The demand left the pro-tem Speaker a bit perplexed who said as per the convention those who take oath in Urdu say 'Hindustan'. But as Iman remained adamant on his demand, the pro-tem Speaker eventually allowed him to use the word Bharat in oath. Iman said there was nothing wrong in making this demand. "I had raised no objections. I had simply made

a point that whenever we read the Preamble of the Constitution, in whichever language, it mentions the word Bharat. In the light of this fact I felt that since we are taking oaths in the name of the Constitution, it would be proper if we use the same term for the name of our country," Iman told newsmen.

He asserted that he had no problems with the word Hindustan as he grew up reciting Iqbal's famous poem "Saare jahan se achchha, Hindustan hamara..."

However, the move drew bitter comments from the NDA camp with a senior leader suggesting the AIMIM legislator to settle in Pakistan. "Those who have problems in uttering the word Hindustan must go to Pakistan," said BJP leader Neeraj Kumar Babloo.

Some 100 legislators out of total 243 elected were administered the oath of office on the first day of the oath-taking ceremony. The remaining will take oath tomorrow. The NDA returned to power for the fourth term with simple majority in the House even as the RJD emerged the single largest party for the second consecutive time.

PM: 2014-29 period 'very imp'

Says last 6 yrs have been 'historic' for India's growth, lot to be done in remaining period

SNS & PTI

NEW DELHI, 23 NOVEMBER

Asserting that the 2014-29 period between the 16th and 18th Lok Sabha is "very important" for a young democracy like India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the past six years have been "historic" for the country's development and a lot remains to be done in the remaining period.

As the age of 16, 17 and 18 years is very important for the youth, so is the time between the 16th and the 18th Lok Sabha for a young India, he said while digitally inaugurating 76 multi-storeyed flats in the national capital for Members of Parliament.

He said: "Green Building norms have been incorporated in this multi-storeyed flats for MPs. Hope with this the problem of accommodation for MPs has been solved.

The 16th Lok Sabha (2014-19) has been historic for the country's progress, and the 17th Lok Sabha has already become a part of history due to a number of decisions it has taken, he said, referring to the passage of landmark legislations aimed at reforming farm and labour sectors



besides abrogation of Article 370 and the citizenship law.

"I am confident the next Lok Sabha (2024-29) will also play a very important role in taking the country ahead in this new decade... There is so much for the country that we have to achieve. Be it 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' campaign, or economic targets or many other pledges like these, we have to achieve them during this period," he said to an audience of parliamentarians, including ministers and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

People of Jammu and Kashmir have also joined the mainstream of development, with many new laws coming into effect in the Union Territory for the first time, he said in a reference to the abrogation of Article 370, which had granted the erstwhile state a special status.

The second term of the Modi government is scheduled to end in 2024 when the next general election will be

held.

The ruling BJP has already set its sight on the next Lok Sabha polls with its president J P Nadda set to undertake a 120-day nationwide tour to tune up the saffron party's organisational machinery with a focus on regions and seats where it had not done well in 2019. In his speech, Modi referred to the GST rollout, enactment of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and a law proposing death sentence for those convicted of raping children as among the major achievements of his government's first term between 2014-19.

India now has resources and a strong resolve to fulfil the dreams of its 130 crore citizens and attain the goal of self-reliance, he said.

Asserting that the country's "new mindset and mood" is reflected in the composition of the 16th Lok Sabha, which had over 300 first-time MPs, and the current Lower House, which has 260 MPs elected for the first time, the Prime Minister noted it has over 400 parliamentarians who are in their first or second terms.

The current Lok Sabha also has a record number of woman MPs, he said. Parliament's performance is at its best in two decades, Modi said.

MPs have focussed on "product and process" as well as passing more Bills and also debating more, he added, noting they engaged in two-three hours of debates in passing more than 60 per cent of Bills in the last Lok Sabha.

On this occasion, he also greeted Birla on his 58th birthday and lauded him for his focus on quality while also saving time in running the House.

In an implicit dig at previous Congress dispensation at the Centre, the PM said many construction projects in Delhi which were incomplete for many years were taken up by this government and finished before the scheduled time.

The government said the construction of the flats has cost 14 per cent less than the projected expenditure and it was completed well in time despite the adverse circumstances due to the Covid-19.

These towers, which have come in place of eight 80-year-old bungalows, have been named after Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati. He referred to the completion of the Ambedkar International Centre, Central Information Commission building and War Memorial in this regard.

India briefs key countries on Pak involvement in Nagrota incident

NEW DELHI, 23 NOVEMBER

India today briefed a select group of countries on the major terror attack planned by Pakistan-based JeM terrorists who were killed in an encounter with alert Indian security forces in Nagrota district of Jammu and Kashmir on 19 November.

Foreign secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla is understood to have shared with the Heads of Missions (HoMs) the evidence suggesting the involvement of Islamabad in the planned attack and its implications on security, diplomacy and battle against terrorism.

The meeting was attended, among others, by the envoys of the US, France, Russia, Japan and some other key nations.

The HoMs were also provided with a list of items and munition that were recovered from the four slain terrorists, clearly indicating their Pakistani origins, sources said.

The HoMs were told that it was quite obvious that the terrorists were planning a major attack in India on the anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai attack. The purpose was to sabotage the ongoing local District Development Council (DDC) polls.

113 fresh Covid cases in Darjeeling distt

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

SILIGURI, 23 NOVEMBER

Darjeeling district recorded a total of 113 fresh cases of Covid-19 today, sources said.

Forty-five of the new cases were from the Siliguri Municipal Corporation, two from Darjeeling Municipality, five from Kharibari, three from Sukna, four from Kurseong Municipality, 24 from Matigara, eight from Mirik, 11 from Naxalbari, nine from Phansidewa, and two from Pulpabaria/Bijanbari.

A total of 21 cases were also found in the Jalpaiguri portion of the SMC. Also today, 69 Covid patients either ended their home isolation period or were discharged from hospitals, the sources added.

Three die in Siliguri

Three persons who had tested positive for Covid-19 died in the dedicated hospitals for Covid patients in Siliguri in the past 24 hours.

A 76-year-old resident of Kadamtala under the Matigara block, who died at the hospital in Kankahali today, had been admitted there on 22 November, sources said.

Malda recorded its lowest daily count of Covid cases after a peak when only 10 samples were tested positive at the VRDL in the Malda Medical College and Hospital last night

hour after his admission there last evening.

An 82-year-old resident of Vivekananda Pally in Siliguri also died at the Matigara-based Covid hospital today.

He had been admitted to the hospital on 22 November, sources said.

Malda recorded its lowest daily count of Covid cases after a peak when only 10 samples were tested positive at the VRDL in the Malda Medical College and Hospital last night.

The district had been recording a dip in the daily cases for the past few days. The highest daily count of cases recorded in the district was 147 on 4 November.

The fresh cases have now taken the district's tally of covid cases to around 11,150 so far, with 95 deaths and around 350 active cases, sources said today.

A year on, Fadnavis downplays forming govt with Ajit Pawar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI/AURANGABAD,
23 NOVEMBER

A year after the unprecedented installation of the short-lived BJP-Ajit Pawar government in Maharashtra, former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday dismissed it as an incident "not worth remembering", while the Shiv Sena hit out at its former ally over the "dark" episode.

On this day last year, BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis and NCPs Ajit Pawar sent shock waves in the state's political circles after they took oath at dawn as chief minister and deputy chief minister, respectively, as Raj Bhavan.

However, the BJP-Ajit Pawar government proved to be short-lived with the NCP leader tendering his resignation just 80 hours after its formation, paving the way for the Shiv Sena-led MVA administration to assume office a few

days later.

Fadnavis, sought to downplay the entire episode and went on to add that if the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government falls, the oath ceremony will not take place at dawn as was the case

a year ago.

"If the present government in the state collapses, the oath ceremony will not take place at dawn. But such incidents need not be remembered," the former CM said. Sena MP on Fadnavis's Karachi remark

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena MP

Sanjay Raut on Monday said Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) should be wrested back before one can talk of Karachi being part of India.

Raut was responding to remarks by BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis, who said his party believes Karachi will be a part of India one day.

The former Maharashtra chief minister's remarks came days after a Shiv Sena worker asked owners of Karachi Sweets outlet in Mumbai to rename it and justified the demand by calling Pakistan a country of terrorists.

Raut had then said the demand for changing the

name is not the official stance of Shiv Sena. He told reporters on Monday that Shiv Sena will welcome Karachi becoming a part of India, adding India should wrest back PoK first.

Asked about the Sena worker's demand to rename Karachi Sweets shop, Fadnavis said, "We are the people who believe in akhand bharat (integrated India) and we believe Karachi, too, will be part of India one day.

The former Maharashtra chief minister's remarks came days after a Shiv Sena worker asked owners of Karachi Sweets outlet in Mumbai to rename it and justified the demand by calling Pakistan a country of terrorists.

Raut had then said the demand for changing the

NCM takes stock for approaching cyclone Nivar

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI/CHENNAI,
23 NOVEMBER

The National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) on Monday reviewed the status of cyclone Nivar that is expected to hit the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry between 24-26 November and directed that fishermen should not be allowed to venture out to sea.

The NCMC, headed by

Cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba, also directed everyone concerned to continue to work with an aim of zero loss of life and early restoration of normalcy in the affected areas, an official statement said. The chief secretaries briefed the NCMC about their preparedness and mentioned that the authorities are fully prepared to meet any eventuality.

They also informed the NCMC about the coordination with the National Dis-

aster Response Force (NDRF) and other agencies to tackle the challenge. The director general of the India Meteorological Department (IMD)

made a presentation on the current situation and said the status is being shared with the states concerned. Tamil Nadu, especially

Chennai, on Monday said preparations are in place and district officials have been put on alert as parts of Chennai and Tamil Nadu are likely to witness extremely heavy rains and fishermen have been asked to return to the coast from the sea.

District administration has been told to take precautionary measures to tackle Nivar and has pushed NDRF teams to carry out relief operations. The cyclone is expected to cross Tamil Nadu and Puducherry coasts between Karaikal in Puducherry and Mahabalipuram in Chennai on 25 November

between Karaikal in Puducherry and Mahabalipuram in Chennai on 25 November.

"We are closely monitoring the cyclonic depression, minister for revenue and disaster management RB Udayakumar said while talking to reporters. Through satellite communications, we have informed fishermen to reach the shores. The rivers and lakes are monitored to avoid breaches and efforts are taken to strengthen the bunds," he added.

Online payment stress, as paddy procurement begins in Bengal

SRIKANTA THAKUR

BALURGHAT, 23 NOVEMBER

The office of the district controller of food and supplies department in South Dinajpur today started paddy procurement from farmers.

Eight procurement centres are functioning all over the district to collect paddy from the farmers, while they have been asked to follow all Covid-19 guidelines, officials said, adding that four additional procurement centres may be opened to maintain less gathering of people.

Officials also said that they have stressed on online payments for the procurement process so as to avoid crowding.

South Dinajpur is one of the biggest paddy producing districts in north Bengal, while it produces more than the total requirement, source said.

To put a stop to distress sale by farmers, the state as well as the central government has decided to purchase paddy directly from the farmers from their nearest paddy procurement centres.

The food control department of the state government has fixed a target of 95,000 metric tons of paddy for the district this year, which is 5,000 metric tons less than the pre-



vious year. One farmer can sell 10 quintals of paddy at the government procurement centres that have been opened in every block of the district.

This year, an additional four centres are being prepared in blocks like Balurhat, Gangarampur, Tapan and Kumarganj, to avoid crowding, an official source at the food department said.

Initially, 30 farmers can sell their paddy at a centre. The number may increase during the peak time of the sale, the source added.

According to the source, the

KCR jibe at BJP & Congress: Both parties are 'utter flops'



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD, 23 NOVEMBER

Telangana chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao today dismissed both national parties - BJP and Congress - as "utter flops"

although he refrained from naming either Prime Minister Narendra Modi or the Congress leadership while outlining his plans to form a new political platform to provide an alternative to the nation.

Rao made the comments while releasing the manifesto for the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) where he promised sops, including free water supply up to Rs 20,000 litres to domestic households and free electricity to salons and laundries. He also promised to fight against Centre's efforts to privatise public enterprises such as BSNL, Railways and LIC in an attempt to woo the voters.

With the South Central Division of the

Healthcare muddle

The findings of a parliamentary panel that concluded private hospitals charged exorbitant sums of money from those afflicted by novel coronavirus only confirms what has been widely reported across the country in the past few months. The panel, which submitted its report to the Rajya Sabha chairman, Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu, has sought a sustainable pricing model for private hospitals to ensure that patients are not taken to the cleaners. This is easier said than done, and efforts to rein in the greed of hospitals made by some governments when the first reports emerged as early as May or June, came to naught essentially because specialists at these hospitals, many of whom are stakeholders in the institutions, had managed to inveigle themselves into the expert's chair in television studios and successfully pulled the cloak of corona-warriors over a multitude of sins. It is no one's case that a private hospital is not entitled to fair compensation for the services it offers, or that its staff - doctors, nurses and paramedical staff - do not deserve to be rewarded for the hazards they undertake in the service of patients. Equally, it is no one's case that the management of virus did not entail some additional costs in terms of personal protective equipment. But reports of several lakh rupees being charged - in many cases on admission of patients - at private hospitals confirms the need for what the panel has termed a sustainable pricing model. It is for the Union Health ministry to prepare such a model, and for administrations across the country to ensure it is enforced.

But the larger malaise remains, as admitted by the panel, inadequate funding of health by the government. Against the National Health Policy target of spending up to 2.5 per cent of GDP on healthcare by 2025, actual expenditure has hovered at about half that sum, or perhaps even less. Successive finance ministers have failed to provide enough, and to expect the current one to remedy the situation in the next budgetary essay will be unrealistic, given that resources have been severely strained by the epidemic. But it is not just a matter of providing funds. For even if the government finds it within its ability to start funding public health facilities at levels that are warranted, it will face an uphill battle in convincing ailing citizens to put their trust in them.

The fact is that years of neglect of this vital sector have so reduced public hospitals in public esteem that they are used only when there is no other option. For instance, even in Delhi which is facing severe pressure on healthcare facilities following a renewed wave of Covid cases, the demand is most acute in private hospitals. This must be seen in context of the fact that Delhi's public hospitals, even in their denuded state, are a far sight better than government-run medical establishments elsewhere. Doubtless, this panel report will meet the fate of other essays that have pointed to glaring anomalies in our institutions. Except here, we will pay with our lives.

Crown pebbles

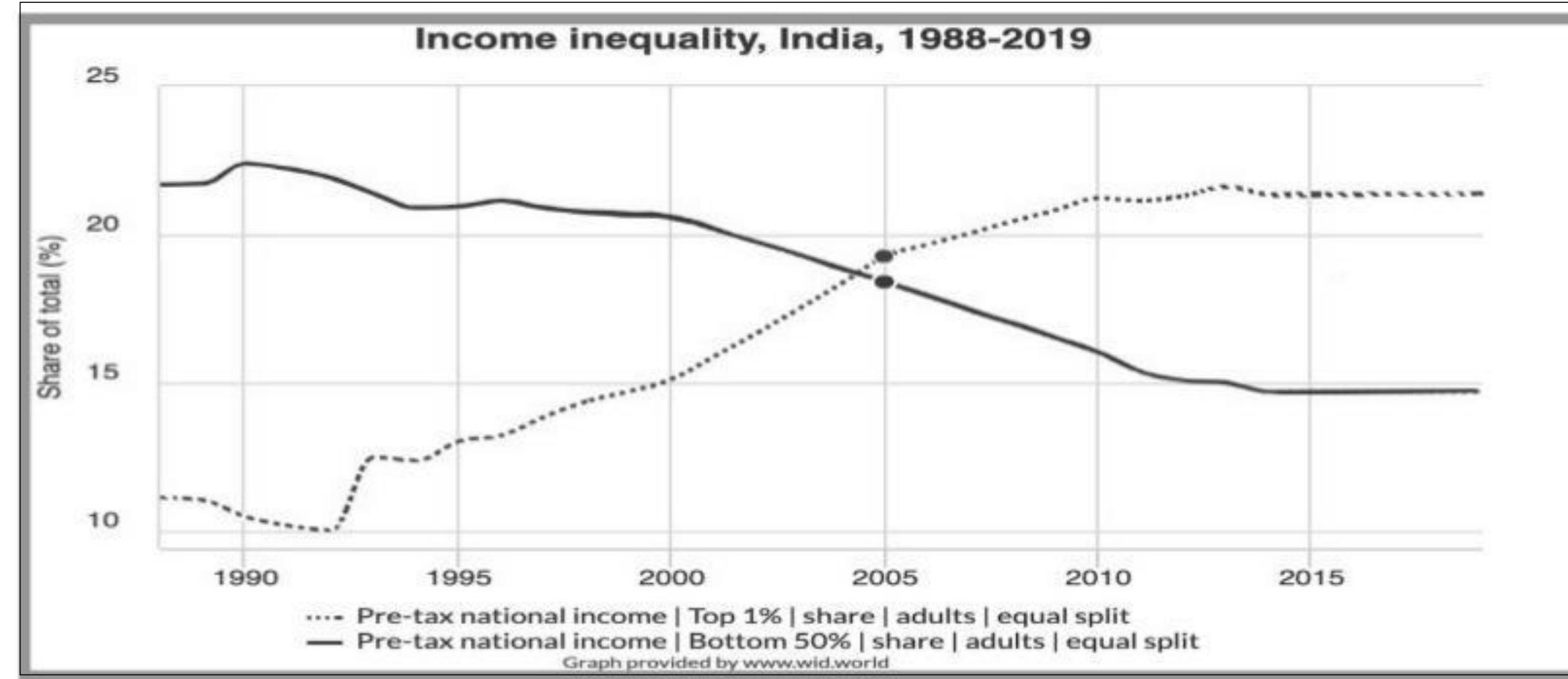
The runaway multi-season hit drama *The Crown*, a fictionalised account of the travails and triumphs of the British royal family over the past 70 years, currently airing its fourth season on a major OTT platform, has run into controversy over its depiction of the breakdown of the 'fairy tale' Charles-Diana marriage. The British media is awash with reports that Prince Charles, the heir to the throne, is trying to get Season 4 - which portrays in granular detail the troubled and ultimately tragic end of his union with Diana - suppressed. Charles is apparently deeply upset at the less-than-flattering, some feel vicious, approach of the show in delineating his character and in the apportioning of blame for Diana's troubles which ultimately led to her death in a Paris car crash in 1997. That this brouhaha over a real-life controversy comes simultaneously with a row over the real-life, famously 'last-straw interview' given by Princess Diana to the BBC's Martin Bashir which the journalist has been accused of using fake bank statements and other misrepresentations to procure, is further grist to the mill. Additionally, the second-in-line to the British throne, Charles' and Diana's elder son Prince William, has come out in support of the inquiry into the facts, circumstances and methods used by the broadcaster and its representative to gain access to Diana.

The cult of celebrity has been with us since time immemorial. So, it is only to be expected that one of the biggest scandals of the late 20th century is resurrected in an age of global celebrity obsession feeding off social media frenzy. It's the business model. But apart from an aesthetic disdain many may have for the intrusion - in Diana's case, invited largely by herself - into what was essentially a private matter and its presumably traumatic repercussions on the adults and children involved dressed up as concern for the Constitutional scheme of things, the row is a telling commentary on our collective obsession with the culture of blame. Everything must be somebody else's fault, ideally the person one disagrees with and/or dislikes.

Yet, it would not do to make sweeping generalisations about the whole affair. Deconstructed to its parts, the BBC inquiry, headed by the Master of the Rolls, the second most senior judge in England and Wales till he retired in 2016, could be an important investigation into media ethics. And the prima facie slanderous portrayal of Prince Charles in *The Crown* may set a legal precedent for the limits of artistic licence in the depiction of real-life characters if he takes the makers of the show to court. The rest is all noise. After all, *The Crown* is fiction, not history.

Economic Recovery

With the capacity of the Government to grant further stimuli restricted because of falling revenues and burgeoning expenditure, and a further cut in interest rates by RBI looking difficult because of mounting inflation, new measures are required to raise revenue and put the economy back on rails



Last week, two headlines, on the same day, caught one's attention for their mutual incongruity: the first was a 'nowcast' (current forecast) by RBI titled "An Economic Activity Index for India" that stated that the Indian economy was in a 'technical' recession for the first time in history and the other was a statement of the Finance Minister predicting a fast recovery by the Indian economy. These, seemingly incompatible, propositions were sought to be reconciled by the FM who stated that "Quite a few indicators (are) showing a distinct recovery in the economy."

Frankly, such sophistry is beyond the understanding of most of us. To add to the prevailing confusion, the issue of economic recovery is being endlessly debated with contradictory, and often counterintuitive, pronouncements appearing daily in the media with columnists suggesting slow, medium, fast, U-shaped, V-shaped, W-shaped or K-shaped recovery and variants thereof. The prescriptions for ensuring a quick recovery are equally varied with some suggesting increased fiscal stimulus and others battling for cost-cutting measures.

These apparent contradictions can be somewhat understood if we look at the economy, not as a monolithic whole, but as an aggregate of disparate parts. Some parts of the economy like agriculture never went into recession and others like the medical and pharma sectors recovered in the first quarter and still others like the auto sector started doing well by the end of the second quarter. Still others, like hospitality and construction will take a while to recover. The path and pace of recovery of each sector is different and can be U, V, K or W shaped.

While trade bodies have their own compulsions for projecting a particular point of view, Government spokesmen would be failing in their duty if they do not sound optimistic. The labelling of the current recession as 'technical' by the RBI does not soften its rigour in any way. Conflating financial statistics with anecdotal evidence one can easily see the havoc wrought by the recession - the closed shops, the retrenched neighbour and other similar indicators of a slowing economy.

Incongruously, while the

coronavirus pandemic made millions lose their means of sustenance, and while the Indian economy contracted by 23.9 per cent in the first quarter and is expected to contract by 8.6 per cent in the second, the IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2020, found that cumulative wealth of the richest 827 individuals, who had wealth exceeding Rs. 1,000 crore, increased by 20 per cent in the last one year, ended 31 August 2020. Hurun also reported that the number of such ultra-rich individuals had increased three-fold in the last five years and the average wealth of these 827 individuals stood at Rs. 7,300 crore.

Visiting the relationship between taxation and inequity, the French economist Thomas Piketty had observed in his treatise "Capital in the Twenty-First Century," that economic inequality was worsening not by accident, but rather as a feature of capitalism, which had to be reformed to preserve democratic order, and social and economic stability. Piketty hypothesised that there is concentration of wealth, if in the long term, the rate of return on capital exceeds the rate of economic growth. Piketty proposed a global system of progressive wealth taxes to help reduce inequality and avoid the trend towards a tiny minority controlling the vast majority of wealth.

In the Indian context, much of this inequity is a result of the tinkering of successive governments with the taxation system put in place by the economist Nicholas Kaldor. Only income-tax remains of the four taxes (Income-tax, Wealth-tax, Estate Duty and Gift-tax) proposed by Kaldor. Now, with the capacity of the Government to grant further stimuli restricted because of falling revenues and burgeoning expenditure, and a further cut in interest rates by RBI looking difficult because of mounting inflation, new measures are required to raise revenue and put the economy back on rails. The increase in inequality and the need for more revenue make out a strong case for re-introduction of wealth tax, at least on the

ultra-rich. Many countries with a progressive taxation system like Switzerland levy wealth tax. Wealth tax was abolished in India because the cost of collection was stated to be inordinately high but with the complete computerization of the Income-tax Department, this impediment in the levy of wealth tax has been removed. So, wealth tax may be reintroduced with suitable amendments and substantial increase in the earlier threshold of Rs 30 lakh.

Similarly, the reintroduction of Estate Duty or a tax on inheritance, would reduce the propagation of income inequality, through successive generations. Here again, computerization has cleared the way for smooth levy. Notably, most countries like the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and France impose a tax on inheritance.

Then, there is a need to have a more equitable income-tax regime.

One finds that while individuals are taxed at 30 per cent (on income exceeding Rs 15 lakh) and firms are taxed at 30 per cent on all income, manufacturing companies are taxed at 15 per cent and non-manufacturing companies are taxed at 22 per cent. Firstly, high rates of personal taxation combined with low tax rates for companies incentives tax evasion with owners declaring higher corporate income and availing various doubtful exemptions on personal income. The legendary investor, Warren Buffet, found that while he was paying taxes at 18 per cent, his secretary was being taxed at 35 per cent. Such anomalies are best avoided. Secondly, small businesses, which are more labour intensive, are generally organised as firms and consequently suffer a higher rate of tax. Given the requirement of numerous statutory compliances for corporates, it is not easy to run a company, so a higher taxation rate for firms disincentivises small businesses. To promote small businesses and generate employment, tax rates for firms should be brought on par with those of corporates. The cost to the exchequer would not be high. Income-tax Departmental statistics for the assessment year 2018-19 show that the aggregate tax liability for 12,69,736 firms was Rs 42,993 crore while aggregate tax liability for 8,41,942 companies was Rs 4,31,041 crore. Thus, halving the tax rate for firms would result in an outgo of less than Rs 20,000 crore which could be made up in due course from the increased income of firms. Moreover, smaller businesses are also entitled to some small relief, in view of the tax write down of Rs 1,45,000 crore for corporates.

A more serious and complex issue is that of reforming the GST regime. As a general principle, indirect taxes are regressive, affecting the poor more than the rich. The tendency of the Government to boost revenue collection by increasing GST rates, like in the case of raising GST on petroleum products to astronomical levels, should be discouraged. As of now, the share of indirect taxes in Government revenues has progressively increased to equal that of direct taxes. This trend should be quickly reversed.

Also, we have adopted multiple GST rates which are politically attractive because they ostensibly - though not necessarily - serve an equity objective, but the administrative price for addressing equity concerns through multiple GST rates has proved quite high. The cost effectiveness of our multiple-rate system should be carefully reviewed. Then, the credit mechanism for GST is excessively restrictive (that is, there are denials and delays in providing proper credits for GST on inputs), especially when it comes to capital goods. As these features allow a substantial degree of cascading (increasing the tax burden for the final user), they reduce the benefits of introducing GST in the first place. A number of input credit frauds have also been noticed. Steps should be taken to rectify these limitations in the GST design and administration.

Paying tax is never a pleasant experience, but it could be made bearable by having a transparent and equitable tax regime. The ancient economist Chanakya recommended that tax collectors be like honey bees, collecting taxes like the bees collect nectar, causing the least discomfort to flowers.

Chanakya's ideal has not been realized till now but is worth striving for.

A MEMBER OF THE



Reforestation is key

According to Pagasa weather forecasters, some 150 mm of heavy rains fell in a 24-hour period when Typhoon "Ulysses" barreled through Luzon last week, only a third of the 445 mm of rainfall during Typhoon "Ondoy" in 2009. And yet Marikina River breached the 21.5-meter depth occasioned by Ondoy by half a meter, overflowing its banks, inundating surrounding plains, and trapping people on rooftops as record-high floods swirled below. Up north in Cagayan Valley and Isabela, entire towns similarly fled to rooftops barely visible above muddy floodwaters. This, just 11 months after a "100-year flood" totally submerged six barangays and affected more than 10,000 families. Then as in last weekend, water cascaded from rivers made swollen by the Sierra Madre and that was released from Magat Dam.

Like Cagayan, Marikina is a valley nestled at the foot of several mountains. The mountains are watersheds meant to store rainfall in their forests and prevent it from flowing into communities below. But the forests in these mountains have been eaten up by quarrying and mining as well as road construction, while the trees have been mowed down by illegal logging and slash-and-burn farming. The Upper Marikina River Basin, another watershed, faces the additional challenge of land conversion and urban development. With more of such activities further denuding the forested mountains over the past 11 years since Ondoy, it's no wonder that more water would pour unimpeded over Marikina, Rodriguez, and Cainta, completely engulfing these catch basin areas. Such disastrous flooding and its underlying causes point to the most viable, and probably the only sustainable, solution to this perennial problem.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
lem, according to the Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB): reforestation, and the conservation of our remaining forests. The group noted that the Sierra Madre, which represents 40 percent of the country's forest cover, is a biodiversity hotspot that will not only break strong winds but also absorb large amounts of rainfall.

Reforestation should help restore the country's fast-vanishing forest cover which, the Forest Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said, the country is losing at a rate of 47,000 hectares a year due to deforestation. Per a 2010 DENR report, some 161,240 ha of forest were recorded lost from 1988, mostly due to illegal logging. But though reforestation has again become the battle cry - with a regional official from the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board suggesting that members of cooperatives must plant 500 trees before being granted a franchise - it would serve us well to look back at the previous fails and the best practices of earlier greening campaigns to do better this time. The mayor of Alcala town, Cagayan, for instance, has turned to science and heeded the advice of Dr Fernando Siringan, former director of the UP Marine Science Institute, and his fellow geologist Kean Jershon Sarmiento, whose thorough study from July to September 2020 pointed to several factors behind the massive flooding in the province. Based on the recommendation of the two scientists, Alcala Mayor Tin Antonio has convinced farmers to abandon yellow corn and to shift to agroforestry. The Siringan-Sarmiento study had cautioned against yellow corn farming on slopes and the use of herbicides which kills all vegetation and weakens the soil.



HUGE VOID

SIR, The passing away of veteran and stalwart actor Soumitra Chatterjee leaves a huge void in the field of Bengali cinema. Chatterjee was the face of Satyajit Ray's *Apu* and *Feluda*. He was also well known for his splendid recitation of poetry and prose, especially of Rabindranath Tagore. He was a multi-faceted personality in Bengali theatre, who brought his unique sensibilities as an artist to the fields of writing, directing and acting, carving out an imprint that was truly his own.

A politically involved person, Chatterjee was one among a legion of eminent personalities who wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking his intervention to end mob lynching across the country.

"Theatre was certainly my first love," he said in Amiava Nag's book, *Beyond Apu-20 Favourite Film Roles of Soumitra Chatterjee*. Though Chatterjee survived a bout of cancer, Covid-19-related complications finally brought the curtain down on the illustrious career of the great thespian.

Yours, etc., Ranganathan Sivakumar, Chennai, 18 November.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Political demand

SIR, This is with reference to the letter written by Mrs Santwona Mohanty, published in your newspaper today.

I wholly agree with the opinion expressed by Mrs Mohanty. Indeed, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had been a stalwart of our freedom struggle against the mighty British Raj. He has been very well remembered and regarded as one of the tallest freedom fighters our country has ever seen. Unfortunately, his name is always dragged into debates by the political class just to score points.

I have travelled to Delhi and Mumbai quite often over the past couple of decades. People in both these metropolises have spoken so much about the



valour and courage of Netaji. They hold very high regard and respect for Netaji.

ji as an erudite, intelligent and powerful leader. People do have vast knowledge about the approach and programmes initiated by Netaji during our freedom struggle.

In fact, I have found many people in these two cities discuss more about the stature and leadership prowess of Netaji than of most other freedom fighters.

To demand Netaji's birth anniversary (January 23) be declared as a National Holiday is more political than anything else. His name will be etched in everybody's memory forever.

Yours, etc., Anupam Neogi, Kolkata, 23 November.

LOCKDOWN

SIR, The hint given by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar of a

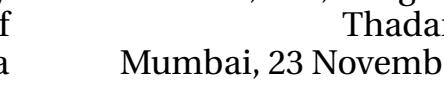
lockdown due to surge in Covid-19 cases is a step in the right direction.

I strongly feel that to review the situation after 8 to 10 days is wrong as Covid-19 cases in the state are increasing at an alarming rate.

There must be immediate lockdown for minimum of 2 to 3 months with very strict and tough restrictions, guidelines and norms to avoid a disaster. If not, Maharashtra will become like the worst-affected Delhi.

Without bothering about the hue and cry raised by certain selfish elements in the name of a falling economy, there must be a lockdown with immediate effect to save the state and its people.

Yours, etc., Bhagwan Thadani, Mumbai, 23 November.



Desperation within Pakistan

HARSHA KAKAR

The encounter last week where four Pakistani terrorists were eliminated at Nagrota while attempting to infiltrate into the valley from Samba with large quantities of arms and ammunition is an indicator of increasing desperation within Pakistan. Surge in ceasefire violations, targeting Indian civilian population in Uri and Tangdar, increased attempts at infiltration, all of them failing, has added to their desperation. They see their Kashmir strategy going up in smoke.

As per reports only 20-25 Pakistan-trained terrorists have managed to infiltrate into the valley this year. Most of them have been killed, leaving most terrorist groups leaderless. Total terrorists eliminated this year has crossed the 200 mark, most being locals. With no funds being transferred through hawala, overground workers have failed to provoke violence or incite fresh recruits needed to keep terrorism alive. Violence in support of terrorists trapped in encounters has receded. Even areas which were pro-Pakistan are now witnessing a change.

Pakistan released a dossier blaming India for supporting terrorism within their country. This was aimed at enhancing pressure on India but has failed. In the dossier, it blames India for ceasefire violations and targeting of civilians. It was hoping that Chinese actions in Ladakh would push India on the defensive, but that too failed adding to their woes. India has not only held the Chinese at bay but gained advantage by securing the Kailash Ridge. To display its confidence, India is not rushing for talks nor accepting limited withdrawal with China and is prepared to continue with the standoff through the winter.

There is no doubt that Pakistan is aware that time for infiltration in the valley is fast running out as the winter is setting in. With snow falling, tracking terrorists becomes easier. Hard Indian retaliation targeting terrorist camps and supporting Pakistan posts, with attendant collateral damage has pushed Pakistan to the brink. They are unwilling to risk any major operation which could lead to an Indian counterstrike.

Any counterstrike on Pakistan would adversely impact the power



and control of the Pakistan army, which is already facing intense internal pressure from the People's Democratic Movement and other rising protests across the country. There are demands from every quarter for the army to return to the barracks, which it has so far managed to stall. In case it is embarrassed by an Indian strike, it would either be compelled to counter or face internal political humiliation. Comments by Ayaz Sadiq, in the national assembly, projecting panic within the Pakistani military and political leadership after the Balakote strike continue to haunt the Pakistani leadership.

Aware that it can no longer play the nuclear card, the deep state is

being careful in its approach. It has realised that its global support base has reduced with even close allies including Saudi Arabia and UAE singing the Indian song. China is already stalled in Ladakh and would be unwilling to enhance pressure to support Pakistan. Economically, Pakistan is in dire states. Its oil reserves cannot even sustain a few days of operations. The same is the state with its ammunition stocks.

What is hurting Pakistan even more is the announcement of the District Development Council (DDC) elections in Kashmir. The announcement of elections displays the confidence within the Indian government that the situation is near normal and

terrorism is on the wane. To add to Pakistan's woes is that their favourite proxy, the Hurriyat, is currently in a state of near collapse, with no ability to either enforce violence, protests or bandhs. Its silence since the abrogation of article 370 indicates this.

Increased surrenders of local terrorists, their reduced lifespan after joining terrorist groups and shortage of arms and ammunition available to them in the valley displays Pakistan's failing strategy. Its attempts to employ drones to drop weapons in the region have met with limited success. Narco-terrorism is equally ineffective as monitoring is effective.

To add to Pakistan's misery are the conditions created by the central

government leading to the participation of all major political parties in the forthcoming DDC elections. The PAGD (Political Alliance for Gupkar Declaration), a grouping of 11 valley based political parties have realised that if they do not participate, they would lose control of the state to the BJP ending their political future.

While the PAGD continues to rant about restoration of article 370, this election would determine their fate. The elections, if conducted smoothly and without terrorist strikes, would be a battle between the BJP and all other political parties. For the globe, it would display return of democratic process in the valley and still Pakistan's cries of resistance and forced incarceration of the region.

Victory by the BJP would indicate that the population has rejected Pakistan and accepted abrogation of Article 370. It would end Pakistan's claim to the region as also prove that the valley is peaceful, and the population unwilling to support terrorism. This scenario is a nightmare for Pakistan. Hence, it would make every attempt to stall the elections. The latest encounter is a desperate attempt by Pakistan to push in terrorists to disrupt the peaceful election process currently underway.

The Indian government needs to act and ensure failure of Pakistan's designs. Security to candidates, an action already being implemented, greater vigilance along the LOC and the IB, detailed checking of vehicles moving into the region, accompanied by strong retaliation to Pakistan ceasefire violations must be adopted. The fact that the terrorists eliminated last week had infiltrated through the IB in the Samba sector is indicative of Pakistan exploiting weak spots, which need to be strengthened.

The next few weeks are testing times. If India is to change the global narrative on Kashmir, then these elections must be conducted smoothly and without violence. Pakistan would make every attempt to disrupt the same as their Kashmir strategy depends on violence, intimidation and terrorism, all of which are waning. The game is on and India cannot afford to lose. It has gained the upper hand and it must ensure it does not lose it.

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

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

The National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis has been holding its eighth annual conference at Liverpool, attended by nearly a thousand delegates from all parts of the United Kingdom. It is evident from the discussions that even experts are by no means agreed about the best means of treatment and prevention. Some doctors condemn as preposterous the idea that cases should be selected for admission with a view to getting good sanatorium statistics, but others are equally emphatic in declaring that if advanced cases are admitted the early curable cases will refuse to go. Some interesting experiments have been made in America in the way of carrying out sanatorium methods in the patients' homes. Classes have been formed in connection with several churches in Boston. Tents, blankets, and reclining chairs are provided by the churches, and patients living in their homes are encouraged to spend practically the twenty-four hours in the open-air. It is reported that patients living according to this regime in a city street have gained twice as much as patients sent to a sanatorium seventy miles away. In connection with the milk supply as a means of infection, it is suggested that everything should be done to encourage the use of and the trade in milk, for the more prosperous the milk industry is the better it will be able to resist the temptation of selling anything but clean and pure milk.

NEWS ITEMS

THE NEW BUDDHISTIC VIHARA

Calcutta will have the privilege on Friday of witnessing a scene the like of which has not happened in India during the last 700 years, says a correspondent. On that morning Lord Ronaldshay will hand over to the Maha-Bodhi Society of Calcutta a well-authenticated relic of the Lord Buddha to be enshrined in the new Buddhistic Vihara which is fast approaching completion at College Square. Though India is the birthplace of Buddhism, the name of the Compassionate One had been forgotten in this country. What remains of the Buddha in India at present is not any trace of his noble religion but the vestiges of archaeological interest of the Buddhistic period. It ought to be therefore a matter for great congratulation to the Buddhists and Hindus alike that on Friday a Buddhistic Vihara will be opened in Calcutta where a genuine relic of the Lord is to be enshrined.

SEQUEL TO JUTE PRESS STRIKE

Mr. K.N. Bannerjee, sixth Judge, Calcutta Small Cause Court, passed orders yesterday in the suit brought by Janadau Chowdhry to recover Rs 569-8-6, due from Babu Sukdeo Prosad Gorle Sunker for the supply of coir labour to the Ocean Jute Press at Chittagong, during the strike of the Press hands. The defendant admitted there was an agreement in writing but argued that as it was executed at Chittagong, this Court had no jurisdiction. The agreement, as a matter of fact, was signed in Babu Dooly Chand Marwari's house at Cotton Street and leave was previously obtained from the Court to institute the case there on the ground that the agreement was executed in Calcutta. The Judge in passing orders decreed the suit in full, with costs, and certified for pleaders' fees.

THE CONNAUGHT RANGERS' TROUBLE

H.E. Commander-in-Chief regrets to have to announce that serious cases of mutiny occurred in 1st Battalion Connaught Rangers at Jullundur and Solon, in consequence of which sixty-nine non-commissioned officers and men were brought to trial on charges of varying degrees of mutiny. Of these, sixty-one were found guilty and eight were acquitted. Of those found guilty, fourteen were sentenced to death by being shot. In the case was one Private, the sentence of death was carried into execution at day-break on November 2. In the case of the remainder, the death sentence was commuted to penal servitude for life and less. Thirty-six were sentenced to varying terms of penal servitude, eleven were sentenced to varying terms of imprisonment. In both the above cases the sentences were in many instances commuted.

CEYLON TEA SALES

About one million six hundred thousand pounds were offered at today's sale. The selection was fair with indications of improving quality especially from the Uva side. The market opened actively, and the majority of buyers being interested, competition became fairly keen for all qualities and grades, except very undesirable liquor kinds. The feature of the sale was the rise in prices all round. Broken grades advanced three to six cents and sometimes more when improved quality or liquoring were apparent. Orange pekoes rose two to four cents, while dusts and fannings sold irregularly. The strong demand with which the sale opened was maintained throughout.

No justice for Nepal's victims

SUMAN ADHIKARI

My father Muktinath Adhikari, a school teacher, was abducted and brutally killed by Maoist rebels during the decade-long conflict in Nepal. After completing the death rituals, we registered a complaint with the District Police Office, Lamjung to seek justice, demanding that a thorough investigation of the killing be conducted and the perpetrators punished. Later, I also filed complaints with the National Human Rights Commission and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, but there has been no progress towards justice even after 19 years.

We, the conflict victims' community, have been demanding an end to the victimisation of people like us. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed by the government and the Maoists on 21 November 2006. During the peace talks in 2006, we lobbied with the political parties and civil society demanding a provision to formulate a truth commission. Thus, the agreement contained commitments to address the injustice and pain of the civilians who were severely victimised due to the serious human rights violations committed by the state and the rebels.

The CPA contained a commitment to revealing the whereabouts of people disappeared or killed during the war within 60 days of signing the pact. The CPA also contained a pledge to form a National Peace and Rehabilitation Commission to establish peace in society, carry out relief and rehabilitate people victimised and displaced by the war. The peace accord included a commitment to set



up a high-level Truth and Reconciliation Commission in order to investigate the truth about serious human rights violations and crimes against humanity, and ensure the right to justice of the conflict victims, torture victims and the families of the disappeared.

The CPA included a commitment to create a record of the government, public and private buildings, lands and other properties captured during the conflict and return them immediately. We were so happy to see these commitments and provisions to address the pain and rights of the victims. We were truly confident that the state would acknowledge our pain, take sincere steps to heal the pain, and make us realise justice and reparation. The National Peace and Rehabilitation Commission was never

formed, and the whereabouts of the disappeared have not been revealed even in the 14 years since the CPA.

The pain, tears and blood of the conflict victims created the federal democratic republic of Nepal. But every successive government after the CPA was signed has remained indifferent and insensitive towards that pain of the victims and their kin, and refused to bear the responsibility to provide guardianship and ensure justice to the voiceless victims. Each government followed the strategy of delaying, diluting and denying justice with the intention of providing immunity to the perpetrators. The transitional justice efforts in the last 14 years have not been sincere. They are cosmetic efforts designed to fool the international community that the commissions are working for justice

and tire out the victims and make them forget. The parties imposed their interests while developing transitional justice laws and forming the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons (CIEDP). They fully ignored the state's obligations and stakeholders' concerns and collaboration. Neither the government nor the commission has a clear-cut vision, road map and plan of action to resolve the more than 66,000 complaints. The prime minister, foreign minister and government officials have been repeatedly promising to amend the laws to comply with Supreme Court verdicts and international human rights obligations. They have promised to adopt credible process commitments at the United Nations General Assembly, United Nations Human Rights Council and a number of international and national forums. But this has not happened.

The families of those killed, disappeared and displaced were provided with some relief, but the victims of sexual violence and torture have received nothing. Property seized during the conflict has not been returned.

There is no legal recognition of reparation as a right. The collective and individual reparative needs of the victims have been ignored. The appointment of persons accused of committing human rights violations to high posts like the speaker of the federal parliament, minister, Member of Parliament and chief of the security agencies is an example of how calls for investigation and an end to impunity have been continuously ignored.

Conflict victims have been

demanding the truth, justice and reparation by adopting a credible and victim-centric process in collabora-

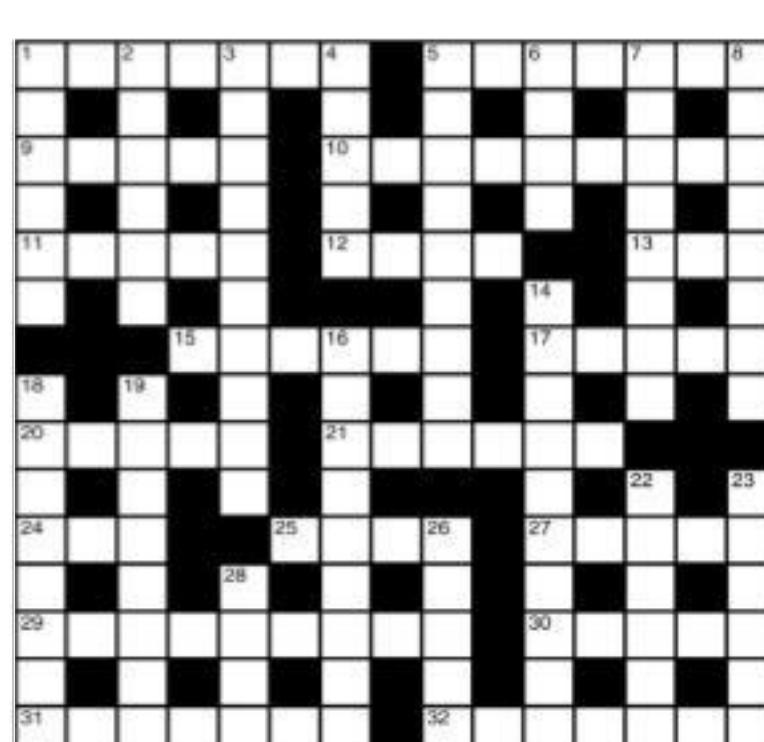
tion with the stakeholders. The government issues laws and ordinances in its own interest overnight but does not take concrete steps to amend faulty provisions in the transitional justice laws and does not criminalise serious crimes. Only a few controlled consultations have been held; these were neither meaningful nor substantive in terms of addressing the issues of the conflict-affected.

The government formed the politically controlled TRC and CIEDP in 2015 through a non-transparent process. The victims have neither confidence nor collaboration in these commissions. Valuable time, efforts and resources have been misused without any tangible result for six years. It seems the government will extend the tenure of these commissions unilaterally from 10 February 2021, without amending their faulty mandate and procedure.

The commissions have been making commitments to ensure justice. But in reality, they have only received complaints and not revealed the truth of even a single violation, nor recommended reparation and prosecution. Not a single victim has realised justice in the 14 years of the CPA and the six years of the commissions. The victims are tired of the cosmetic commitments of the government and the commissions that are never implemented. Sooner or later, the government cannot escape from its responsibility to fulfil the justice rights of the conflict victims. The government has to be sensitive and sincere to address the issues of the victims and take immediate steps to adopt a credible process to amend the laws and formulate trustworthy and independent commissions.

The Kathmandu Post/ANN

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS

- Two of Barbirolli's pieces reversed in order? It might have saved someone turning over (7)
- Meghan Markle's ranking of the French musical (7)
- Illicit sort of coffee bar (5)
- City star's beginning to decline, finally (4,2,3)
- Unnamed mate, exhausted or drunk? (5)
- Flush fully or partly (after No.1) (4)
- Unit of flow (not force) (3)
- Smooth Italian ice cream setter sent back (6)
- Confrontation from start of really loveless marriage? (3-2)
- What 4s do badly in Germany? Not a lot (5)
- Capital letters from the outset, if spelling 32 (6)
- A church service (3)

DOWN

- Philosopher that's always right (4)
- Works in shop, with no quiet period (5)
- He was thinking about 4 having left dirty clothes here? (2,3,4)
- Shaping metal's important to him primarily (5)
- Sat in the car, retweet about housing row (7)
- Confident like Bob, and frighteningly rude (7)
- Cut and polish again (6)
- Former critic of the French car rental company (6)
- Kebabs and enchilada starter surprisingly part of full English breakfast (5,5)
- Law 18? It might help to draw the line in 26, we hear (5)
- Dryer perhaps containing child's hot pants (9)
- Pen shop (4)

Allowing plastic bag in new London emporium initially (8)

Uplifting section from Springsteen ax? Oli Sykes produces one based on SFO-SI (8)

Metal mounts for steam engines (4,6)

When sick, try and eat – with a day off though, whatever may happen (2,3,4)

Manual worker given dreadful roasting (8)

Conduct work after fleecing board member (8)

One who won't admit stocking this fine unit? (6)

The German conductor's fourth piece cut by Halle, without everything getting spoilt (6)

Posts article in French Following game somewhere in Germany (5)

Star mostly not eating dairy, meat, fish or eggs (4)

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

NO 28144





What we are doing now is to explain the value of freedom to the world

HONG KONG PRO-DEMOCRACY ACTIVIST JOSHUA WONG
PLEADING GUILTY TO CHARGES OF HONG KONG PROTEST

The Statesman
NEW DELHI TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2020

09

Hong Kong's Joshua Wong to plead guilty to protest charges

Wong says he and fellow activist Ivan Lam will both plead guilty for organising, taking part, inciting protesters

ASSOCIATED PRESS
HONG KONG, 23 NOVEMBER

Prominent Hong Kong pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong said Monday that he plans to plead guilty to charges related to a demonstration outside police headquarters during anti-government protests last year.

Ahead of a court hearing Monday, Wong said that he and fellow activist Ivan Lam would both plead guilty to organising, taking part in and inciting protesters to join an unauthorised protest outside police headquarters in Wan Chai last June. Both Wong and Lam were members of the now-disbanded Demosisto political party.

"I am persuaded that neither prison bars, nor elec-



Supporters of Hong Kong activists Joshua Wong, Ivan Lam and Agnes Chow wave to a Correctional Services Department vehicle outside a court in Hong Kong.

own. I'm prepared for the thin chance of walking free," Wong added.

Those found guilty of taking part in an unlawful assembly could face as long as five years in prison depending on the severity of the offense.

Wong rose to prominence as a student leader during the 2014 Umbrella Movement pro-democracy protests and is among a growing number of activists being charged for various relatively minor offenses since Beijing in June imposed a sweeping national security law on the territory that has severely restricted political speech. Pro-democracy supporters have said the legal charges are part of a campaign to harass and intimidate them.

Lam, who also spoke ahead of the court hearing, said he

too was prepared to be jailed.

Wong wrote on his Facebook page on Sunday that he and Lam had decided to plead guilty after consulting with their lawyers. The two previously pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Another activist, Agnes Chow, has already pleaded guilty to charges of inciting others and taking part in the protest.

If I am sentenced to prison this time, it will be the first time in my life that I have been in jail, Chow wrote on her Facebook page on Sunday.

Although I am mentally prepared, I still feel a little bit scared. However, compared to many friends, I have suffered very little. When I think of this, I will try my best to face it bravely, she wrote.



Israeli PM flew to Saudi Arabia, met crown prince

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JERUSALEM, 23 NOVEMBER

Israeli media reported Monday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu flew to Saudi Arabia for a clandestine meeting with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, which would mark the first known encounter between senior Israeli and Saudi officials.

Hebrew-language media cited an unnamed Israeli official as saying that Netanyahu and Yossi Cohen, head of Israel's Mossad spy agency, flew to the Saudi city of Neom on Sunday, where they met with the crown prince. The prince was there for talks with visiting U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

FlightRadar24, which provides live worldwide flight tracking, showed a plane taking off from Tel Aviv on Monday at around 7:30 p.m. local time and vanishing from radar near Neom around an hour later. It shows the same flight appearing on radar near Neom and landing on Tel Aviv at around 1 a.m. (local time) Monday. It did not provide any details on the flight.

The Israeli prime minister's office did not respond to requests for comment.

Israel recently signed normalization agreements with two Gulf states Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates and has long maintained clandestine security ties with Saudi Arabia. The Gulf kingdom has been rumored to be among other Arab states considering establishing open diplomatic ties with Israel.

Rights experts: Japan was wrong to detain Carlos Ghosn

ASSOCIATED PRESS
GENEVA, 23 NOVEMBER

A panel of human rights experts working with the United Nations says former Renault-Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn was wrongly detained in Japan and has urged "compensation" and "other reparations" for him from the Japanese government.

In an opinion published Monday, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention found that Ghosn's arrest in Japan in late 2018 and early 2019 was "arbitrary" and called on Japan's government to "take the necessary steps to remedy the situation of Mr. Ghosn without delay."

The four-member group, which is made up of independent experts, asked Japan to ensure a "full and independent investigation" of Ghosn's detention, and called for the government "to take appropriate measures against those responsible for the violation of his rights."

"The Working Group considers that, taking into account all the circumstances of the case, the appropriate remedy would be to accord Mr. Ghosn an enforceable right to compensation and other reparations, in accordance with international law," its 17-page opinion said.

Ghosn, a 66-year-old with French, Lebanese and Brazilian citizenship, led Japanese automaker Nissan for two decades, rescuing it from near-bankruptcy.

The opinions of the working group, which was created nearly 30 years ago by a U.N.-backed human rights body, are not binding on states but aim to hold them up to their own human rights commitments. Among its past rulings involved the case of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, who was likewise deemed to have had his human rights violated.

Ghosn's lawyers filed a petition with the working group in March last year, appealing to its role to look into cases in which governments are alleged to have wrongfully detained individuals under agreed international human rights conventions.

Its members declined to speak to reporters about the opinion, the U.N. human rights office said.

NO FESTIVE MOOD



People wearing face masks walk past Christmas trees outside the Selfridges department store on Oxford Street, in London, Monday.

That could boost human understanding of the moon, its age and resources, and of the solar system more generally. The four modules of the Chang'e 5 spacecraft are expected to be sent into space Tuesday aboard a massive Long March-5 rocket from the Wenchang launch center along the coast of the southern island province of Hainan, according to a NASA description of the mission.

Chang'e 5 is China's most ambitious lunar mission yet and marks the first time in four decades that any country has sought to bring rocks and debris from the moon to Earth. The secretive Chinese National Space Administration has only said that a launch is

scheduled for late November. The mission's key task is to drill 2 meters (almost 7 feet) beneath the moon's surface and scoop up about 2 kilograms (4.4 pounds) of rocks and other debris to be brought back to Earth, according to NASA. That would be the first opportunity scientists have had to study newly obtained lunar material since the American and Russian missions of the 1960s and 1970s.

The mission is indeed challenging, but China has already landed twice on the moon with

China lashes out at US withdrawal from open skies treaty

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIJING, 23 NOVEMBER

China on Monday lashed out at Washington over its withdrawal from the Open Skies Treaty with Russia, saying the move undermined military trust and transparency and imperiled future attempts at arms control.

The treaty, to which China is not a signatory, had allowed each country overflight rights to inspect military facilities.

That leaves only one arms-control pact still in force between the former Cold War foes, the New START treaty, which limits the number of nuclear warheads each may have. That treaty will expire in February and the Trump administration had said it

wasn't interested in extending it unless China also joined, something Beijing says it will not do. This move by the US undermines military mutual trust and transparency among relevant countries, is not conducive to maintaining security and stability in relevant regions and will also have a negative impact on the international arms control and disarmament process," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said at a daily briefing Monday. Critics complain that Beijing has urged other major countries to reach arms control agreements while refusing to take part in any such arrangements, including the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, or INF, that expired last year.

Meanwhile, it has taken advantage of limitations set by Russia and the U.S. on each other to keep itself safe and engage in unrestricted development of weapons such as intermediate-range ballistic missiles, bolstering its military's capabilities in the event of a conflict over Taiwan, the Indian border, the South China Sea and other Asian hotspots, critics say.

The INF Treaty acted as a security guarantee for China: Beijing successfully made use of the mutual limitations imposed by the treaty on Russia and the United States to minimize the military threat to itself," Russian consultant Andrey Baklitskiy wrote in a commentary for the Carnegie Moscow Center last year.



The Long 5 March rocket, which will launch China's Chang'e-5 lunar probe on 24 November, being vertically transported to the launching area at the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in southern China's Hainan province.

(AGENCIES FILE PHOTO)

China in final preparations for latest lunar mission

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WENCHANG, 23 NOVEMBER

Chinese technicians were making final preparations Monday for a mission to bring back material from the moon's surface in what would be a major advance for the country's space program.

Chang'e 5 is China's most ambitious lunar mission yet and marks the first time in four decades that any country has sought to bring rocks and debris from the moon to Earth.

That could boost human understanding of the moon, its age and resources, and of the solar system more generally. The four modules of the Chang'e 5 spacecraft are expected to be sent into space Tuesday aboard a massive Long March-5 rocket from the Wenchang launch center along the coast of the southern island province of Hainan, according to a NASA description of the mission.

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As a result of this, I'm pretty optimistic that China can pull this off," he said. Such experience is growing in value

with more and more countries conducting asteroid sample returns and considering Mars sample returns, McDowell said.

After making the three-day trip from Earth, the Chang'e 5 lander's time on the moon is scheduled to be short and sweet. It can only stay one lunar daytime, or about 14 days, because it lacks the radioisotope heating units that China's current lunar rover, the Chang'e 4, possesses to withstand the moon's freezing nights.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



CROSS
1 Defect (4)
3 Fed up (5)
7 Countryside right of way (8)
8 Light shade of red (4)
9 Terminology (12)
11 Bill of fare (4)
12 Support (4)
16 Dairy product (7,5)
18 Group of countries (4)
19 Type of tea (4,4)
21 System of beliefs (5)
22 Enormous (4)

DOWN
1 Frill (7)
2 Skill (3)
3 Look at (6)
4 Of good standing (9)
5 Restaurant customer (5)
6 Animal life (5)
10 Facial hair (9)
13 Vie (7)
14 Traditional story (6)
15 Brightening (Informal)
16 Walrus, 17 Magistrate, 18 Millpond, 19 Stock, 20 Overkill, 21 Silo, 22 Test.
1 Main, 11 Geometrics, 14 Steeple, 16 Igloo, 17 Moat, 19 Oak.
9 Speechless, 10 Command-

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD
ACROSS
1 Defect (4)
3 Fed up (5)
7 Countryside right of way (8)
8 Light shade of red (4)
9 Terminology (12)
11 Bill of fare (4)
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16 Dairy product (7,5)
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9 Speechless, 10 Command-

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

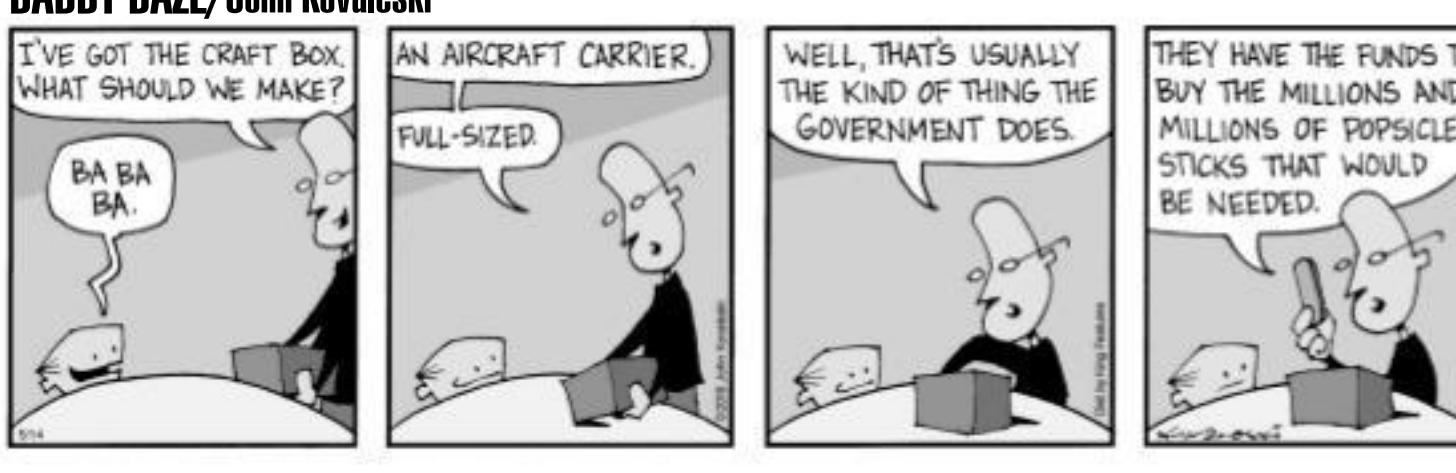
BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



NEED TO KNOW

HOSPITALS

22586262, 22585007

RAILWAY INQUIRY

General Inquiry 139

Toll Free Nos. 1800112511

SMIS Inquiry Nos. 57886, 54959, 5676747

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

ISBT (General Inquiry):

23868836, 23865181

INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Centre 09910383838,

29958747 Deen Dayal Upadhyay 23861262, 25496320, 25494403

Guru Tegh Bahadur 23717473, 23325320

AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 018001801407

25656421/25656431 Reservation

23466262 (City)

25652294 (Airport)

Kuwait Airways Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23354373

AIR CANADA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 41528181

EMIRATES Flight Inquiry and Reservation 3373377

FLIGHT INQUIRY

Air Canada Flight Inquiry and Reservation 41528181

25656421/25656431 Reservation

23466262 (City)

25652294 (Airport)

Kuwait Airways Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23354373

ROADWAYS INQUIRY

Double Word Score

RACK 1

RACK 2

RACK 3

RACK 4

RACK 5

RACK 6

RACK 7

RACK 8

RACK 9

RACK 10

RACK 11

RACK 12

RACK 13

RACK 14

RACK 15



China's antitrust rules 'necessary'

CHAIRMAN AND CEO OF E-COMMERCE GIANT ALIBABA GROUP DANIEL ZHANG

PRAISING CHINESE REGULATORS

THUMBNAILS



Protesters hold placards during an anti-lockdown rally at Washington Square Park in New York. AP

New York shooting: A young woman has died and six other people were wounded in a shooting at an apartment building in Brooklyn that followed an earlier shooting near a Sweet 16 birthday party, police said. The first shooting happened shortly after 9 p.m. on Sunday in the East New York neighbourhood and left a 17-year-old boy wounded in the leg. New York Police Department Deputy Chief Michael Kemper said.

'Covid cases in US may double before Biden takes office'

Study: Number of confirmed Covid-19 cases in US is likely to increase to 20 million by January end

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 23 NOVEMBER

With inauguration Day for US President-elect Joe Biden still two months away, the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases in the country is likely to increase to 20 million by the end of January, nearly doubling the current level of 12 million cases, predicts a new study.

The research, published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, applied a mathematical model which had accurately forecasted the rate of Covid-19 growth over the summer of 2020. "One of the key reasons for the increased accuracy of this model over other Covid-19 forecasts is that this model accounts for the fact that people live in interconnected social networks rather than interacting mostly with random groups of strangers," said study co-author Raphael

Thomadsen from the Washington University in St. Louis in the US.

"This allows the model to forecast that growth will not continue at exponential rates for long periods of time, as classic Covid-19 forecasts predict," Thomadsen said.

According to the study, the current social distancing reflects an approximate 60 per cent return to normalcy, as compared with the level of social distancing before the pandemic. If trends continue at the current level of social distancing, the model forecasts that the US is likely to see 20 million cases before the end of January 2021.

"Even small increases in social distancing can have a large effect on the number of cases we observe in the next two and a half months," Thomadsen said.

"Going back to 50 per cent return to normalcy, which was the average level of dis-

First Americans could be vaccinated next month

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, 23 NOVEMBER

The first Americans to receive a Covid-19 vaccine could be as early as the second week of December, according to the White House vaccine czar.

American pharmaceutical giant Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech submitted an application to the US Food and Drug Admin-

istration (FDA) on 20 November for emergency authorisation for its Covid-19 vaccine candidate. An FDA vaccine advisory committee is slated to meet on 10 December. Dr Moncef Slaoui, the head of the US coronavirus vaccine programme said that it means, if authorised by the FDA, the vaccine could be rolled out the next day i.e. 11 December.

tancing in early August, would likely result in 5 million fewer cases by the end of January," he added. The researchers said the US could effectively squash out the Covid-19 growth within a few weeks if the country went back to the levels of social distancing we

experienced in April.

However, they caution that this is likely a conservative estimate due to increased testing and the upcoming holidays.

"In our model, we assume that only 10 per cent of cases are ever diagnosed, meaning that we will start to hit satu-

The researchers said the US could effectively squash out the Covid-19 growth within a few weeks if the country went back to the levels of social distancing

ration," said Song Yao, another co-author of the study.

"However, more recently, testing has increased, and probably more like 25 per cent of cases are diagnosed.

In that case, total Covid cases would increase beyond 20 million in the next few months unless we, as a society, engage in more social distancing," Yao said.

The scientists believe the upcoming holiday seasons in the US will present a great deal of uncertainty to the outlook of the pandemic as people travel more at the end of the year.

Trump's aims to box in Biden abroad may not work

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 23 NOVEMBER

On its way out the door, the Trump administration is enacting new rules, regulations and orders that it hopes will box in President-elect Joe Biden's administration on numerous foreign policy matters and cement President Donald Trump's America First legacy in international affairs.

Yet, the push may not work, as many of these decisions can be withdrawn or significantly amended by the incoming president when he takes office on 20 January.

In recent weeks, the White House, state department and other agencies have been working overtime to produce new policy pronouncements on Iran, Israel, China and elsewhere that aim to lock in Trump's vision for the world.

Some have attracted significant attention while others have flown largely under the radar.

And, while Biden could reverse many of them with a stroke of the pen, some will demand the time and atten-

tion of his administration when it comes into power with a host of other priorities that perhaps need more urgent attention.

The most recent of these moves took place this past week as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made what may be his last visit to Israel as secretary of state and delivered two announcements in support of Israel's claims to territory claimed by the Palestinians.

Biden's team has remained silent about these announcements, but Biden has made clear he supports few, if any, of them and will reverse many as he intends to return to a more traditional policy toward Israel and the Palestinians.

The Trump administration's determined efforts to thwart potential Biden policy reversals actually began months earlier, half a world away from the Jewish state, with China, even before the former vice president was formally declared the Democratic Party's presidential nominee.

Trial opens in death of toddler in migrant smuggling case

BRUSSELS, 23 NOVEMBER

A trial opened Monday in the shooting death of a two-year-old toddler who was in a van during a high-speed chase between police and suspected migrant smugglers seeking to get to Britain.

At the trial in Belgium's southern city of Mons, a policeman stands accused of involuntary manslaughter and two other men for being suspected migrant smugglers.

In May 2018, police wanted to check a suspicious van making its way through Belgium and when the vehicle sought to escape, police went after it.

During the chase, police shot at the van and two-year-old Kurdish girl Mawda Shawri was hit in the head and later died.

Belgian authorities said a shot was fired to stop the car and had no intention to target the people inside. Her death has since become a symbol of injustice toward migrants fleeing their homes seeking a better life in wealthy Europe.

Outside the courthouse, a few dozen people were standing with banners reading Justice for Mawda."

The trial will center on the shot fired during the high-speed chase and to what extent it was necessary to seek to bring the car to a stop in that way. In all, 30 people were in the van, including Mawda's brother and parents.

The policeman faces up to two years in prison. The suspected smugglers face up to 30 years in prison.

Biden expected to nominate Blinken as secretary of state

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 23 NOVEMBER

President-elect Joe Biden is expected to nominate Antony Blinken as secretary of state, according to multiple people familiar with the Biden team's planning.

Blinken, 58, served as deputy secretary of state and deputy national security adviser during the Obama administration and has close ties with Biden. If nominated and confirmed, he would be a leading force in the incoming administration's bid to reframe the U.S. relationship with the rest of the world after four years in which President Donald Trump questioned longtime alliances.

In nominating Blinken, Biden would sidestep potentially thorny issues that could have affected Senate confirmation for two other candidates on his short list to be America's top diplomat: Susan Rice and Sen. Chris Coons.

Rice would have faced significant GOP opposition and likely rejection in the Senate. She has long been a target of Republicans, including for statements she made after the deadly 2012 attacks on Americans in Benghazi, Libya. Coons, member of Senate Foreign Relations Committee, lacked the experience in managing day-to-day foreign policy issues that Blinken would bring back.

Biden is likely to name his Cabinet picks in tranches, with groups of nominees focused

on a specific top area, like the economy, national security or public health, being announced at once. Advisers to the President-elect's transition have said they'll make their first Cabinet announcements on Tuesday.

If Biden focuses on national security that day, Michèle Flournoy, a veteran of Pentagon policy jobs, is top choice to lead the Defense Department. Jake Sullivan, a longtime adviser to Biden and Hillary Clinton, is also in the mix for a top job, including White House national security adviser. Blinken recently participated in a national security briefing with Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris and has weighed in publicly on notable foreign policy issues in Egypt and Ethiopia.

Biden's secretary of state would inherit a deeply demoralised and depleted career workforce at the State Department. Trump's two secretaries of state, Rex Tillerson and Mike Pompeo, offered weak resistance to the administration's attempts to gut the agency, which were thwarted only by congressional intervention.

Although the department escaped massive proposed cuts of more than 30 per cent in its budget for three consecutive years, it has seen a significant number of departures from its senior and rising mid-level ranks, from which many diplomats have opted to retire or leave the foreign service given limited prospects.

How Democrats came up short in bid to expand House majority

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MONROE (US), 23 NOVEMBER

This swath of southeast Iowa isn't supposed to be a nailbiter for Democrats.

For more than a decade, voters in the college town of Iowa City powered Democratic candidates to Congress. But that changed this month when conservatives, who dominate the more rural parts of the district, turned out in droves, eager to support President Donald Trump and other Republicans on the ballot.

"It's the Trump factor," Jasper County Republican Chairman Thad Nearmyer said on his farm outside Monroe. "People were super excited to vote for the president."

Of course, Trump lost the presidency and Democrat

the country, taking down at least 10 Democratic incumbents and dashing Speaker Nancy Pelosi's bold prediction of expanding her majority by double digits.

Instead, it appears Democrats made a serious miscalculation in assuming their antipathy toward Trump would fuel victories across the country. They failed to anticipate that Trump's supporters would show up, too, with even greater force than before in rural areas.

"It's the Trump factor," Jasper County Republican Chairman Thad Nearmyer said on his farm outside Monroe. "People were super excited to vote for the president."

Early interpretations blame a series of missteps. Chief among them was allowing Republicans to portray Democrats as radical, which overtook the party's messaging in some cases on guaranteeing health insurance

during a pandemic and rebuilding the economy.

Democrats also failed to grow their appeal among some Latinos, particularly Cuban Americans in south Florida.

Other strategic decisions are coming under scrutiny. Democrats scaled back in-person campaigning and canvassing because of the novel coronavirus, seeking to protect their candidates and staff, and to model good behaviour during a public health crisis.

But that gave Trump an opportunity to rally his supporters. The President's nearly 74 million votes are the second-highest in history and fed massive turnout that helped reshape House races, especially in rural areas.

OUT IN THE WILD



A deer peers through the woods in Marple Township, Pa. The Pennsylvania regular firearms deer hunting season starts this weekend, 28 November and runs through 12 December.

China tests millions after coronavirus flare-ups

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIJING, 23 NOVEMBER

Chinese authorities are testing millions of people, imposing lockdowns and shutting down schools after multiple locally transmitted coronavirus cases were discovered in three cities across the country last week.

As temperatures drop, large-scale measures are being enacted in the cities of Tianjin, Shanghai and Manzhouli, despite the low number of new cases compared to the United States and other countries that are seeing new waves of infections.

Many experts and government officials have warned that the chance of the virus spreading will be greater during the cold weather. Recent flareups have shown that there is still a risk of the virus returning, despite being largely controlled within China.

On Monday, the National Health Commission reported two new locally transmitted cases in Shanghai over the last 24 hours, bringing the total to seven since Friday.

China has recorded 86,442 total cases and 4,634 deaths since the virus was first detected in the central Chinese city of Wuhan late last year.

The two latest cases con-

firmed in Shanghai were close contacts of another airport worker who was diagnosed with Covid-19 earlier in November.

On Sunday night, the city's Pudong International airport decided to test its workers, collecting 17,719 samples through the early hours of Monday morning. Plans call for testing others in surrounding communities if further cases are detected. Videos on social media purportedly from workers showed what appeared to be chaotic scenes in the airport as they were given last-minute orders to get tested.

In Manzhouli, a city of more than 200,000 people, local health authorities are testing all residents after two cases were reported on Saturday. They also shut down all schools and public venues and banned public gatherings such as banquets.

China has resorted to its heavy, top-down approach each time new cases of local transmission are found shutting down schools and hospitals, locking down residential communities and entire neighborhoods, and testing millions.

Tianjin authorities shut down a kindergarten and

moved all the teachers, family and students to a centralized quarantine space. They also sealed the residential compound where the five cases were found.

China's approach to controlling the pandemic has been criticized for being draconian. It locked down the city of Wuhan, where cases were first reported, for more than two months to contain the virus, with the local government shutting down all traffic and confining residents to their homes. Domestically, however, China has called its strategy clear to zero and has boasted of its success.

In the entire world, only China has the ability to get to zero. Other countries don't have this ability," Zeng Guang, the chief epidemiologist at the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said in a webinar hosted by Chinese media in September.

"It's not just getting to zero, even for them to control the first wave of the epidemic is hard. 'Clearing to zero' is actually the most economically effective way to do epidemic prevention. If you don't do that, then this problem will get more troublesome, he said. "Use a heavier hand, and get to zero, then people will feel reassured."

Indian-American physician Ajay Lodha passes away due to Covid-19 complication

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW YORK, 23 NOVEMBER

Eminent Indian-American physician and community leader Ajay Lodha has passed away due to complications from Covid-19.

Lodha, former president of American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI), battled Covid for the last eight months at Cleveland Clinic and breathed his last on 21 November. He was 58.

He is survived by his wife Smita, son Amit and daughter Shweta. The Consulate General of India in New York tweeted: deeply saddened to learn of the demise of Dr. Ajay Lodha, a prominent member of the Indian-American community. He will be in our hearts always. His humility, kindness and contribution to the society shall continue to inspire us.

The commission wrote in its Twitter account that it condemns the excessive use of force by authorities against demonstrators" but also asked for an investigation into "the acts of vandalism against Congress, after which State agents indiscriminately suppressed the protest.

It said governments must respect peaceful demonstration, but when faced with violence, they "must identify persons protesters or third parties who risk rights or infringe State property.

The Organisation of American States sought more of a middle ground. Regarding yesterday's demonstrations, we reiterate that there is a right to protest, which must be absolutely guaranteed, but there is no right to vandalism, the OAS said in a statement.

Covid 19 epitomises the struggles of frontline health workers. Lodha along with other physicians of Indian origin who have lost their lives due to the pandemic "will continue to inspire us and AAPI forever.

Prominent members of the Indian-American community also mourned the passing of Lodha, who was honoured with the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honour in 2016 and had served as the President of AAPI in 2015-16. In 2008, Lodha was honoured with the Nargis Dutt Memorial Foundation Physician of the Year Award.

Jaipur Foot USA Chairman Prem Bhandari expressed condolences, describing Lodha as a dear friend and a great human being.

Libya's rivals meet to discuss transitional government

CAIRO, 23 NOVEMBER

Libya's rivals on Monday began a second round of talks on a mechanism to choose a transitional government that would lead the conflict-stricken country to elections in December next year, the United Nations said.

UN acting envoy for Libya Stephanie Williams headed the online meeting of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum a week after the first round of the talks in Tunisia failed to name an executive authority. The 75-member forum reached an agreement to hold presidential and parliamentary elections on Dec. 24, 2021. They also agreed to name a volunteer legal committee to work on the constitutional basis for the election. The political forum was the latest effort to end the chaos that engulfed the oil-rich nation after the 2011 overthrow and killing of dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

Need to restore normalcy

Under current circumstances, it is urgently required to create a plan for higher educational institutions to sustain the pace of academics in future



RL RATNA

Every year, there are nearly 37.4 million total enrolments happening in higher education in the country. This reflects the student density in India and also the expanding horizons of the education industry. The sector has been growing at a rapid pace, however the sudden covid shock effect of the pandemic has created a tremendous negative impact on the higher education sector in India. Universities and colleges had to be shut down and their syllabus curtailed; until the industry decided to initiate a revolution instead. Making a conscious choice to grow even in the time of crisis, the sector reinvented their approach and pedagogy and decided to digitise several fundamental processes, which were core to the functioning of the sector. The education process reforms seen in India in the Covid-19 era are a perfect example of how, in this scenario, need is truly the mother of invention or reinvention.

However, getting back to normal is a long way ahead. In the current scenario, higher education institutions in India are facing two major challenges.

Maintenance of staff, faculty and infrastructure is becoming difficult as fee payments have been pushed ahead. Expensive infrastructure and expert faculty members consist of a substantial part of the expenses for most higher education institutions. Due to the impact of late payments and the unexpected changes in schedules, universities are struggling to cover costs. Across the nation, institutions are facing issues with cash flow.

Another challenge comes from the parents and students who are unable to accept the ways and tools of online classes and find it difficult to adjust with the new ways of education. Besides, the fear and stigma around classes with social distancing norms is prevailing among everyone and does not seem to be a viable

solution.

Geography also becomes another hurdle as far as acceptance of the new normal is concerned. Numerous students reside in remote areas and do not have a proper mobile network or alternative means for having a seamless digital class experience. For example, one of our students who live with his family near the Kolkata border faces regular network problems due to which his regular classes get compromised. Similarly, there is a lack of cyber wire even in cities like Jaipur. Students from tier-II & tier-III cities have to struggle a lot due to connectivity issues and often use dongles for mobiles. Earlier, students had the option to attend five to six classes a day; this is now curtailed due to online education. Additionally, it brings a lot of other challenges into play like time management, network issues. Teachers are no longer able to research and share findings. With the lack of black boards, faculty finds it difficult to explain problems and share solutions.

Learning goes far beyond classroom education and also involves interpersonal engagement with fellow students. Extracurricular learning has been known to provide a significant impetus to overall personality development. Peer to peer learning, which is a major source of new skills and knowledge in higher institutions has become majorly compromised due to distancing norms. Apart from this, there are tremendous problems being faced by design and engineering students as they can learn simulations but are now sadly devoid of real experiences. Limiting learning to theory and skipping practical applications hinders the learning process of students. The psychological and mental challenges that will result from prolonged isolation and lack of interaction for many students is another factor that needs to be addressed, and many institutions will need to create in-house expertise for the same.

What's the solution to solve the challenges of the sector? While institutions struggle to provide an integrated

and holistic learning experience to students, they need a blueprint to bring back a certain level of normalcy in the sector. There is a need for government intervention at this point. Even though the government has announced medical solutions for the virus prevention, it will still take four to five months for the entire country to come to terms with the situation. The emotional fear will exist long after the complete wipe-out of the pandemic, which is why there is an urgent need to create a plan for students and higher institutions in order to sustain and grow the pace of higher education in the coming days. Additionally, nature of teaching should be such that it does not compromise on learning outcomes, particularly in cases such as laboratory practical, case study or group activity intensive courses - these also merit some portions of the courses to be conducted in normal ways, as opposed to online.

The writer is vice-chancellor, JK Lakshmi University, Jaipur

Students of sports management need to be prepared for a boost in e-sports, which is expected to grow exponentially amidst a slowly unfolding pandemic

VIPUL SOLANKI

One activity that has the potential to boost the morale of our youth, instill a sense of pride among people and facilitate the socio-economic development of a nation, is sports. The year 2020 with the pandemic, has not spared sporting and how the sports education industry will move here on.

The immediate and most noticeable trend that could shape this industry's transformation is the lesson that the Covid-19 pandemic wants us to master - that the fittest will survive.

Pre-Covid, the industry predicted that global sports media rights will possibly reach US\$ 54.3 billion by 2021. Due to the pandemic, this growth speculation was severely impacted as all sports activity came to a halt earlier this year. But with innovative methods of creating bio-bubbles, international sporting events have resumed.

The rapidly developing Indian sports industry, which saw a significant rise in the participation and success of sportspersons on many international platforms, over the last decade, was expected to grow at 18 per cent till 2022 and while that has definitely been hit, effective sports management is the only way forward as we reboot to a post-Covid world.

Learnings from the next Olympics in Japan and closer home, the just concluded Indian Premier League 2020 held in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) this year, will guide the changing trend in sports edu-

cation. These events played under changing circumstances, will tell us how a sport is played to win and is managed to come out a winner.

What we are seeing right now is the transition from the traditional playground to a digital space. The use of technology is the big-ticket to helping us deal with the situation at hand. This can also be seen in the English Premier League where new-age technology has been deployed to give fans the best experience ever.

A multiple-camera set-up using a cutting-edge digital platform allows fans the choice of following a particular player, the ball or a specific game view of their choice - all live. Called the immersive experience, sports

managers are looking at monetising this use of technology in the long-run as teams benefit by connecting to spectators virtually.

Sports has been stressed as a part of academics curriculum in India's New Education Policy. And there will be a pressing need to fill in the deficit in human capital for the sports sector going forward. The study on skill gap in the sports sector, by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), has indicated that by 2022, India is expected to see a dearth in human capital for the sports sector, the filling up of which by those updated on trends is essential.

This primarily includes sports managers and other leadership posi-

tions, which now have a better opportunity to be trained in factoring in a pandemic that was never planned for earlier. A trend that gets added thanks to this pandemic is that instructors must be able to become coaches in the online space.

The gradual reopening of our economy will unshackle trends that both the present and future students of sports management can expect and get prepared for. This includes a boost for e-sports, which is expected to grow exponentially in a slowly unfolding pandemic.

The other trend that will lead the way is data science and analytics. Popular as big data, it provides sports mechanics with handy information

that helps monitor players on the field and gives them a smarter way of dealing with things, ensuring player safety and performance by constant tracking with quick analysing and improvisation.

The business of running sport will now also focus on learning online marketing and content marketing keeping the changed scenario in mind. Costs going up and specific health laws having to be met and followed strictly mean that only the fittest in terms of adopting the new-world trends in sports will come out as a smart and fit survivor.

The writer is director, NASM Academy of Sports Management



PLUS POINTS

Noble initiative



This year, students of South Point High School carried out the assessment for the MP Birla Puja Utkarsh Samman 2020 virtually. Samaj Sebi Sangha was adjudged the winner of "Puja with a Heart" for 2020, based on their social activities during and after the Amphan cyclone and the Covid-19 pandemic. They celebrated their 75th foundation year by supporting 75 families affected by Amphan and by providing livelihood to the women and educational support to the children of the Kholisakhali village in Sunderbans.

They distributed food and necessities to many needy people, in the locality, afflicted by the Covid-19. Samaj Sebi Sangha will receive the MP Birla Trophy at a later date. For the "Puja with a Heart" award, puja committees filed in their nominations with supporting documents which were assessed by the student judges online and through virtual meetings using an assessment format developed for this purpose.

Skilling learners



Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology (MAKAUT), WB organised the grand final of the State Level Online Quiz Contest 2020, category I for the students of classes VII and VIII recently. The programme was dedicated to the memory of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad - an eminent freedom fighter and the first education minister of independent India on his birth anniversary.

The programmes for higher classes would be organised shortly. The vice-chancellor of the university Dr Saikat Maitra conveyed his best wishes to all the participants. The contest was conducted by the assistant registrar of the university Anup Kumar Mukherjee.

Helping professionals



International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT)- Hyderabad in collaboration with Great Learning, launched a post-graduate certificate in software engineering for data science recently. The eight-month programme is co-developed and co-delivered by top-notch faculty from IIIT Hyderabad, Great Learning and industry experts. The programme is designed for professionals looking to build a unique skill set at the intersection of software and data science, and technology leaders or managers who are looking to lead data science and AI project implementations in their companies.

It will be delivered in a blended learning format of live online classes and classroom residencies at IIIT-Hyderabad, enabling learners to upskill without quitting their jobs. It will prepare learners for the most sought-after roles like data engineer, data systems designer, big data architects, machine learning engineer, technical systems architect et al. For details visit: <https://www.iiit.ac.in/>

Talents galore



SIFF Young Artiste 2020 – a national level talent competition across various genres of music and dance announced their top 100 finalists recently. The initiative received over 12000 entries across India from students between the age group of 11-18 years to find avenues to pursue the arts. The finalists were conferred with scholarships worth Rs 25 lakhs involving a mentorship programme and cash awards at the finale. The finalists are currently joining the Young Artiste Advanced Mentorship Programme (YAMP) in which they would be mentored in their chosen area. Music and dance virtuosos such as Dr L Subramanian, Kavita Krishnamurthy and Madhavi Mudgal consented to mentor the participants.



PRESSURE-FREE SKIPPER

Bangladesh One-Day Internationals skipper Tamim Iqbal (*photo, left*) has said the "pressure of captaincy" is something that the media has made up. The left-hander denied being affected by any external pressures but admitted he had yet to play a competitive match since being chosen the national captain.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Oz open: Australian Open organisers hope to finalise tournament dates "as soon as possible" amid fears the event could be moved to February or March. Quarantine restrictions could make holding it in its planned 18-31 January slot logistically difficult.

Guneswaran beater: Praveen Guneswaran has ended runner-up at the Orlando Open, losing the summit clash of the Challenger event to American Brandon Nakashima. He did not have the required power in his strokes to test the American, losing 3-6, 4-6.

Salah's return: Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp has confirmed livewire forward Mohamed Salah, who missed Sunday's emphatic 3-0 Premier League win over Leicester City after contracting Covid-19, has now tested negative and can return to training with the team.

Lille rise: Yusuf Yazici impressed again with two goals as Lille beat struggling Lorient 4-0 to go second in the French league, two points behind Paris Saint-Germain. Turkey's attacking midfielder has caught the eye this season with back-to-back hat tricks away from home.

Milan win: Zlatan Ibrahimovic remains unstoppable and AC Milan remain unbeaten atop Serie A. The 39-year-old Ibrahimovic scored twice to raise his total to 10 goals in six games played as Milan won 3-1 at Napoli on Sunday. He exited clutching his hamstring, though.

Unlikely leaders: Real Sociedad remained in good form after the international break with a 1-0 win over Cdiz on Sunday for their sixth straight league victory and a three-point lead at the top of the standings. Sociedad seized the outright league lead after 10 matches.

Record set: At 16 years and one day, Borussia Dortmund's Youssoufa Moukoko became the youngest player in Bundesliga when he made his debut in a 5-2 romp at Hertha Berlin, breaking the record set by Nuri Sahin, who was 16 years, 335 days when he debuted.

Karting Championship: Coimbatore's Surya Varathan and Bangalore duo Ruhaan Alva and Ishaa Madesh emerged champions in the Moco-FMSCI National Karting Championship (X30 Classes) that concluded over the weekend in Bangalore. Anshul Sai took the third place in the Cadet Class.

Smith optimistic: South Africa's director of cricket, Graeme Smith, expects to see crowds returning to the ground next year and inducing excitement when Australia tour the country for a Test series for the first time since the 2018 infamous ball-tampering episode.

Honda's double: Fighting rides from both Stefan Bradl and Alex Marquez delivered a double-top ten finish for the Repsol Honda Team to wrap up a strong final weekend in Portugal with Marquez crossing the line in ninth and Bradl earning a seventh-place finish.

The Statesman Sport

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Aus experience holds key for Indian spinners

Warner says living in bio bubble is affecting his family life

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SYDNEY, 23 NOVEMBER



The current Indian Test team is a bit fortunate to tour Australia within two years of their previous tour.

Earlier, the tours were separated by a few years and that would make things difficult for players, especially spinners. By the time, they would adjust to the conditions and pitches, the tour would be over.

Past generations of spinners suffered from this. But when either Kuldeep Yadav or R Ashwin (*in picture, right and left respectively*), or both, take the field on December 17 for the first Test in Adelaide, they will have an advantage and confidence to draw from their recent successes.

Both had performed well in the last Tests they played in Australia during India's tour of 2018-19. While Yadav picked five wickets in the first innings at the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) in January 2019, Ashwin got six across two innings in Adelaide a month before that. Ashwin didn't play the next three Tests due to injury.

But this time with him being fit, Ashwin will be in competition for a spot with Yadav who, being a wrist spinner, could be the preferred choice on Australian wickets that have been harsh for spin-

ners from the sub-continent. Harbhajan Singh, the former India off-spinner who toured Australia in 2003-04 and 2007-08 and played 103 Tests, and had great success against Ricky Ponting, explains why Australia was a tough place to bowl.

"It was difficult to bowl in Australia because by the time you would adjust to the wickets, the tour would be coming to an end. You would tour every four-five years. Their spinners would get more success because they knew the conditions better and well since it was their home," Harbhajan told IANS, adding that adjusting to the lengths is the key.

Both finger spinner Ashwin and wrist spinner Yadav

had reaped rich hauls last time also because the Aussies, missing David Warner and Steve Smith in that series as they were serving a ban, had packed their side with left-handers. Four of Ashwin's six victims and three of Yadav's five were left-handers. They found it hard to adjust to deliveries going away.

However, neither Marcus Harris nor Usman Khawaja and nor Shoaib Marsh find a place in the squad for current series. There are just Travis Head and Mathew Wade apart from the returning David Warner and only one of Head and Wade will get a look-in since the top-order, dominated by right-handers, is largely settled.

Having toured Australia so recently, it should not be an issue for Ashwin and Yadav.

It could make things difficult. Prior to that Adelaide Test, Ashwin had taken 21 wickets in six Tests at an average of 54.71 in Australia. The six wickets in Adelaide helped him improve an average to over 48.

But against a settled Australian line-up, there is however still a way out -- rely on bounce and not on side-spin.

Harbhajan has an advice: "The spinners need to adjust to the lengths very quickly. Also, they shouldn't rely on sidespin, because you won't get it. If it is happening, it is an advantage, but don't rely too much on it. Indian spinners need to bowl a little slower to get the bounce."

Having toured Australia so recently, it should not be an issue for Ashwin and Yadav.

"They're things that each player has different circumstances. The next 12 months are very difficult when you look at the calendar, there's going to be definitely times where you can come home and have time with your family. We're just not going to get that time to see our family and the back end of being here 14 days inside a hotel, add three kids and a wife into here, it's going to be very difficult."

"I wouldn't ever put them

in that situation where they have to do 14 days quarantine at home," Warner said in a virtual Press conference. At 34, Warner insisted that going forward he would prefer playing more T20 matches, especially with two World T20 events lined up for the next two years. The International Cricket Council men's World T20 championship will be held in consecutive years after the world body was forced to reschedule this year's tournament in Australia to 2022. India are scheduled to host the event in 2021.

"That's something that we have identified as players and coaching staff already. I think you look at our one-day and T20 teams, what we are picking is pretty relevant to what we're going to face with the next couple of World Cups."

"For myself, I have three kids at home and a wife that I owe my time to as well. So playing all three forms, that's very difficult to do that. I don't think I will play while I am playing for Australia."

still. That's honestly speaking," said Warner, who only had two stints in the BBL. He has not played in his home tournament since 2013-4.

India should have picked Yadav, says Lara



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 23 NOVEMBER

"He's a class player. I don't just look at players that score runs, I look at their technique, capabilities under pressure, positions that they're batting in and for me, Suryakumar Yadav has done such a wonderful job for Mumbai," Lara told television.

"He comes to bat on the back of Rohit Sharma and Quinton de Kock and every time they are under pressure, he comes in at number three."

Yadav was one of the shining stars for Mumbai Indians during their successful campaign at Indian Premier League 2020, scoring 480 runs for the five-time champions. However, despite his great form, he failed to impress India's selectors and was not included in any of the three squads which would be competing with Australia.

Honda's double: Fighting rides from both Stefan Bradl and Alex Marquez delivered a double-top ten finish for the Repsol Honda Team to wrap up a strong final weekend in Portugal with Marquez crossing the line in ninth and Bradl earning a seventh-place finish.

he added.

The Australia tour is scheduled to start with the three One-Day Internationals at the Sydney Cricket Ground (November 27, 29) and Manuka Oval, Canberra (December 2).

That will be followed by a three-match T20I series at Manuka Oval, Canberra (December 4) and the SCG (December 6, 8).

After that, India will begin their defence of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy with the pink-ball Test in Adelaide from December 17.

It will be followed by Tests at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (December 26), the SCG (January 7) and the Gabba (January 15).

Racing to resume

GAUTAM BANERJEE

KOLKATA, 23 NOVEMBER

Hoofbeats will be heard again at RCTC from tomorrow.

A card of seven events will usher in the Winter Racing Season.

Coming after a gap of eight months it will take some time for before form to settle down. So it would be prudent to wait and watch.

For ensuring safety in prevailing situation only members, owners and racing professionals will be permitted to enter the racecourse.

Use of face masks and sanitizer is compulsory and social distancing norms are to be followed.

Selections:

1.00 p.m.: ASTRAL STAR 1, Abelson 2, Tomorrow Forever 3.

1.30 p.m.: RIGHT MOVE 1, Zoya 2, Star Of Hollywood 3.

2.00 p.m.: WAYTOGO 1, Script 2, Violin 3.

2.30 p.m.: SILVER BRACELET 1, Mountain Lion 2, Loublouin 3.

3.00 p.m.: FENICIA MIST 1, Philadelphia 2, Moskova 3.

3.30 p.m.: SULLIVAN 1, Castlebridge 2, The Kiss 3.

4.00 p.m.: SPRING VALLEY 1, Travius 2, Mystic Wonder 3.

Day's best: Silver Bracelet.

We have to play like champions to win derby: Kotal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BENALIM (GOA), 23 NOVEMBER

Five days before their much-anticipated first Indian Super League meeting against traditional rivals SC East Bengal, the Bengal brigade of ATK Mohun Bagan is upbeat and working on the mental aspect of the game.

The Antonio Lopez Habas-coached side has started off on a positive note beating Kerala Blasters for the first time in three seasons and is keen to sustain the winning momentum.

Pritam Kotal (*in photo*), who wore the captain's armband against Kerala, said it's advantage green and maroon brigade and they have to play like "champions".

"We will definitely be a bit ahead mentally in Friday's derby after winning the Kerala match. We were the champions last year. So we have to play like champions, that's what I am telling everyone," Kotal, who is ATKMB's most experienced derby campaigner having featured in 13 of them, said here.

For the likes of Fijian star Roy Krishna, David Williams, Edu Garcia or Tiri, it will be a first-time experience after ATK's merger with Mohun Bagan.

But the team is not short on derby experience with six of the team's seven Bengalis having experienced the high-adrenaline emotions.

"We have grown up watching these matches so an extra hormone works for us (Bengalis), Kotal said.

The defender from Uttarpara played for Mohun



went to Goa. I never got a chance to play a big match."

"So this derby must be won."

It's an emotional match. I will not deny that an extra urge to win this match comes naturally."

Bhattacharya was all praise for his team's defence.

"Our defence is the best of the competition."

I didn't get the ball in the Kerala match.

That's more to worry about. Because when a ball hits the goal, it is terrible. Always be careful."

It's a challenge to keep the focus on ninety minutes," he said.

Shubhashis Bose has played three derbies in one year at Mohun Bagan and has not lost in any of them.

Meanwhile, it is learnt that left-winger Soosai Raj, who got injured in the opener, is doubtful for the big match, team sources said.

Big clubs in T20 battle

THE INDEPENDENT

LONDON, 23 NOVEMBER

Mohun Bagan and East Bengal will clash in the local cricket season's first major match on Saturday in the Bengal T20 Challenge tournament with the players staying in a bio bubble. The Mohun Bagan-East Bengal battle will start at 4 pm, at Eden Gardens, according to the Cricket Association of Bengal. "The second match between the Maidan giants will be played on 6 December," said CAB president Avishek Dalmiya in a statement. "The players and the support staff are already in bio bubble and all necessary precautions are taken. We hope to see a competitive tournament," he added.

JANS

Medvedev takes crown in season-ending showpiece



world No 1 Novak Djokovic in a marathon match.

Meanwhile, 24-year-old Medvedev also defeated Nadal and five-time Finals champion on Djokovic, seeing off the Serb easily in the round-robin phase – in between further straight-set victories over 2018 winner Alexander Zverev and Diego Schwartzman – and fighting from behind to get past Nadal in three sets in Saturday's other semi-final.

And the Russian presented last year's runner-up Thiem with some early adversity on Sunday, forcing the Austrian to fend off two break points in his first service game of the evening – a lengthy frame that Thiem ultimately claimed.

The set then followed serve until Thiem earned his first break opportunity of the final,

responded well by putting Thiem under pressure, the US Open champion this time the one to save break point before holding for 4-4.

The pair traded further holds to set up a tiebreak, and – after Thiem started brightly to gain a 0-2 lead – Medvedev hit his nineteenth winner of the set as he impressively reeled off seven straight points to force a decider. The second set had lasted just over an hour, but neither competitor was prepared to lay down; Medvedev quickly reached deuce on Thiem's serve in the opening game of the final set, with the Austrian then offering respectable resistance as the Russian served. Medvedev, finalist at the 2019 US Open, almost went one further just moments later, earning three break points but failing to convert.

Two games later, the match was sealed, Medvedev emerging a 4-6, 7-6(2), 6-4 victory in the final edition of the season-ending tournament to take the trophy in the English capital.

EAST BENGAL CLUB
 Maidan Tent, Kolkata - 700 021

NOTICE

Pursuant to the resolution resolved in the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday the 27th September, 2020 and subsequent resolution adopted in the Executive Committee Meeting held on Saturday the 21st November, 2020, Notice is hereby given to all Members that in terms of Club rule 38(a) the Provisional Voter List for the ensuing club election has been published and pasted in the club Notice Board. Any claim or objection in respect of the Provisional Voter List so published regarding any change in address, name and photo therein shall be in writing, stating the ground on which it is based and shall reach to the General Secretary not later than 8th December, 2020.

Please also visit our official website :-
www.eastbengalclub.co.in &
www.eastbengalclub.com

Sd/-
 (Kalyan Majumdar)
 Hony. General Secretary