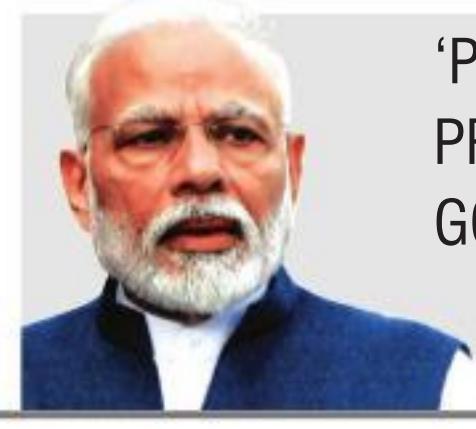




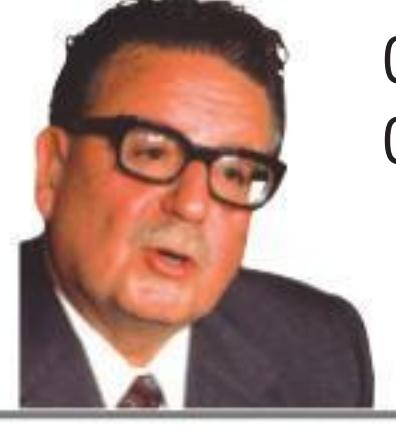
'FARMERS OF
PUNJAB ARE NOT
ANTI-NATIONALS'

P3



'PEOPLE OF BIHAR
PREFER GOOD
GOVERNANCE'

P4



CHILE AT THE
CROSSROADS

P7



TRIPLE-STRIKE
JOTA PLAYS
STELLAR ROLE

P12

WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. Moderate fog in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 30 and 11 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 95%	Min: 43%
TEMPERATURE	
Max: 28.0°C (-2)	Min: 10.6°C (-4)
SUN RISES	SUN SETS
06:37 hrs	17:33 hrs
MOON RISES	MOON SETS
21:02 hrs	11:28 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Women perform puja on the occasion of Karva Chauth, in the Capital on Wednesday. DEEPAK

CA exam: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) told the Supreme Court on Wednesday that it cannot hold the upcoming CA exam online as suggested by some of the candidates, in view of Covid-19, as it tests the analytical capabilities of the examinees. The ICAI said its 3-hour exam is of a different pattern altogether, which have descriptive answers and not tick marks. The court asked the ICAI to publish on its website the steps taken for students welfare with regard to Covid-19.

Three more Rafales: A second batch of three Rafale fighter jets arrived at Jamnagar airbase in Gujarat on Wednesday evening after flying non-stop from France, in a further boost to the strike capability of the Indian Air Force when India and China are locked in a bitter border row in eastern Ladakh. The IAF said the three aircraft got airborne from Istres airbase in France and flew for over eight hours covering over 3,700 nautical miles before landing in India.

P5

Jaishankar urges Gulf states to facilitate return of workers

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 4 NOVEMBER



India urged members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Troika to facilitate the return of Indian workers to Gulf nations through sustainable travel bubble arrangements.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar made the request at the annual political dialogue with the GCC Troika, which was held virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The minister further informed the GCC countries about the progress made by India in vaccine development and manufacturing of diagnostic and other equipment pertaining to the coronavirus.

The GCC was represented at the troika-level by Dr. Nayef Falah M Al-Hajraf, Secretary

He urged the GCC leadership to facilitate their return through sustainable travel bubble arrangements with India, the MEA added.

The GCC welcomed India's inclusion in the UNSC as a non-permanent member from January 2021. "The leaders also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual concern. They agreed that the India-GCC partnership in political, economic and other domains would be further strengthened. Both sides affirmed their commitment to reform multilateral institutions to reflect the realities of the 21st century and to work together to address contemporary challenges such as the Covid-19 pandemic, climate change, sustainable development and terrorism", the MEA said.

The External Affairs Ministry later said, "The EAM (Jaishankar) mentioned that a large number of Indian workers and professionals are now eager to return to the GCC countries to resume their work."

India's Covid tally crosses 83L cases

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 4 NOVEMBER

With 46,253 fresh coronavirus infections and 514 deaths in a period of 24 hours, India's tally on Wednesday rose to 83,13,876, said the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. India had recorded 38,310 fresh cases on Tuesday.

Maharashtra continues to be the worst-hit state with a total of 1,692,693 cases, including 44,248 deaths; followed by Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. Out of the total Covid-19 cases, 53,378 are currently active, 76,56,478 have been discharged, while 1,23,611 lost the battle against the pandemic.

While the recovery rate stands at 92.09 per cent, the fatality rate is 1.49 per cent, the data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare showed. The Indian Council

looks to make up ground in Election Day turnout. That means the early margins between the candidates could be influenced by which type of votes - early or Election Day - were being reported by the states.

Throughout the campaign, Trump cast doubt about the integrity of the election and repeatedly sug-

gested that mail-in ballots should not be counted. Both campaigns had teams of lawyers at the ready to move into battleground states if there were legal challenges.

The tight overall contest reflected a deeply polarized nation struggling to respond to the worst health crisis in more than a cen-

tury, with millions of lost jobs, and a reckoning on racial injustice.

Trump kept several states, including Texas, Iowa and Ohio, where Biden had made a strong play in the final stages of the campaign. But Biden also picked off states where Trump sought to compete, including New Hampshire and

Nine dead as godown collapses after explosion in Gujarat

AHMEDABAD, 4 NOVEMBER

At least nine labourers, three of them women, were killed when a portion of a chemical godown collapsed following a powerful explosion here on Wednesday morning, said officials.

Nine others were injured in the incident which took place on Pirana-Piplaj Road, an industrial area located on the outskirts of Ahmedabad city, they said.

Fire brigade personnel rushed to the spot on learning about the explosion and pulled out 18 persons from the rubble and shifted them to LG Hospital in '108' ambulances, said chief fire officer MF Dastur.

Out of the 18, nine were either declared brought dead or they succumbed to injuries shortly after getting admitted to the government-run hospital, he said. The deceased, all labourers, included three women, he said. The remaining nine persons, including some women, are under treatment for injuries, said the hospital in a statement.

"There was a fire but it was minor. The godown structure collapsed due to the explosion. We are using concrete breakers to dismantle the concrete slabs to pull out people. Till now, we have pulled out 18 persons, who were trapped under the debris and sent them to the hospital," said Dastur.

A fire control room official said at least 26 rescue and fire fighting vehicles were pressed into service after a call regarding a fire and explosion was received around 11 am.

While police and fire brigade officials were yet to ascertain the exact cause of the explosion, some local factory owners said the blast took place in a boiler installed at the chemical go-down-cum-processing unit. PTI

TV channel editor-in-chief arrested onabetment to suicide charge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 4 NOVEMBER



Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami was on Wednesday arrested for allegedly abetting the suicide of a 53-year-old interior designer in 2018, a police official said.

The official said a team of Alibaug police picked up Goswami from his Lower Parel house in the morning. Goswami, who was seen being pushed into the police van, claimed he was assaulted by police at his home, before being taken away.

Alibaug police arrested Goswami under sections 306 and 34(acts done by persons in furtherance of common intention)

of the Indian Penal Code. This (arrest) pertains to the 2018 case of a man and his mother committing suicide. We have evidence (against Goswami)," the police official said.

"When we gave the intimation (of arrest) to Goswami's wife, she tore up the paper," said the official who was present at Goswami's home when he was picked up by police.

Soon after the vehicle carrying Goswami reached Alibaug, just over 90 km from Mumbai, he was produced in a local court, which directed police to take him to the civil hospital there for medical check-up, after his lawyer alleged the senior journalist was assaulted by police.

Mumbai police, meanwhile, registered an FIR against Goswami, his wife, son and two others for allegedly assaulting a police official.

The architect and his mother committed suicide over alleged non-payment of dues by Republic TV, police said.

In May this year, Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh announced he has ordered a fresh probe in the

case after a complaint by Adnya Naik, daughter of the architect, Anvay Naik Deshmukh said Adnya alleged that the police had not investigated the alleged non-payment of dues from Goswami's channel, which she claimed drove her father and grandmother to suicide in May 2018.

While in the police van, Goswami was seen claiming that police assaulted him and his son and he was also not allowed to meet his in-laws.

Police said that in a suicide note, Anvay Naik, who owned Concorde Designs Pvt Ltd, had claimed that he was ending his life due to non-payment of his dues by Goswami, Feroz Shaikh of IcastX/Skimedia and Niteesh Sarda of Smart-

works. Police said that as per the note, the three firms owed Naik company Rs 83 lakh, Rs four crore and Rs 55 lakh respectively. Police said the two others named in the suicide note have also been arrested.

Responding to the claim on non-payment of dues, Republic TV had in a statement said the entire amount owed to Concorde had been paid.

Senior BJP leaders reacted strongly to the action against Goswami. Terming the arrest as a "blatant misuse of state power", Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the "attack on press must be and will be opposed". He said the Congress and its allies have "shamed democracy" and that the incident "reminds us of Emergency".

"The way Goswami was arrested shows the mentality of Congress party and Maharashtra Government. It is a big blow to the principles of democracy and journalism. I condemn it," BJP president J P Nadda said.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinivas retorted she was "actually very shocked with the selective outrage" of the BJP and of sections of the government. "Why are they silent when Prashant Kanojia is jailed for a number of months just because he exposed a scam where children were being served salt and chapati in Mirzapur?" she asked, referring to the journalist who was arrested by the UP police.



CSSE. India comes in second place in terms of number of cases.





Allahabad High Court passing an order against conversions for the sake of inter-religious marriages gives us the required strength to come out with a law against purported 'love jihad.'

R. ASHOKA

KARNATAKA REVENUE MINISTER

The Statesman

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2020

03

Pb farmers fighting for their lives, not anti-nationals: CM

Captain along with his Cong MLAs hold a sit-in at Jantar Mantar to highlight the state's power crisis amid shortage of coal & other essential supplies due to continued suspension of goods trains by railways

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 4 NOVEMBER

Rejecting outright allegations of "anti-nationalism" against Punjab's farmers, Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh today asserted here that he was not in the national capital to confront the Centre but to "fight for justice for the poor farmers, whose livelihood has been at stake due to the central farm laws".

Asserting that "we are here not to disturb peace but to preserve it", Capt Amarinder said he and other legislators from Punjab were forced to come to Delhi as President Ram Nath Kovind had declined their request for a meeting on the plea that the state amendment Bills were still lying with the Government.

Though they had earlier planned to hold a relay "dharna" (sit-in demonstration) at Rajghat — Mahatma Gandhi's memorial — they had to shift to Jantar Mantar as Delhi Police imposed Section 144 CrPC at the memorial of Father of the Nation, he said.

The Punjab CM said he knew the state Governor had still not forwarded the Bills to the Centre, even though he had no role to play in the matter.



Captain had wanted to meet the President to brief him on Punjab's concerns about national security and food security.

Capt Amarinder said it was his duty to apprise the head of the country of the situation on the national security and food security fronts.

As far as Punjab's Bills were concerned, he expressed the hope that the President will give full assent to them, following the precedent of the then President Pranab Mukherjee, who had assented to the Bills passed by BJP-led states under Article 254 (II) on suggestion made by Arun Jaitley.

Addressing the gathering of Punjab's Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who held their sit-in protest at Jantar Mantar, where he reached after paying his respects at

Rajghat along with Congress' Members of Parliament (MPs) from the state, the CM expressed the hope that the Narendra Modi-led central government will look at Punjab and its problems in the backdrop of the sacrifices made by Punjabis through Arun Jaitley.

He trashed any suggestion of Punjab's farmers resorting to anti-national activities, pointing out that their agitation against the farm laws had been completely peaceful.

"Punjabis are deployed at the borders, fighting for the country, in many tough terrains and have given their blood to ensure the nation's safety and security," Capt Amarinder said, adding that no citizen of Punjab could ever think about indulging in any anti-national activity.

He repeated his warning

that any move by a government to tinker with religion or livelihood of the people was bound to trigger public resentment and anger.

"The farmers are protesting because the new laws of the central government will destroy them and snatch every morsel of food from the mouths of their children," he said, adding that "we are ready to give our blood for the nation, as we Punjabis have always done".

The CM warned failure to resolve the issues of the farmers would lead to unrest, which both China and Pakistan would try to exploit to the detriment of national security, urging the Centre to look at the plight of the small and marginal farmers, who constitute 75 per cent of Punjab's farming community.

He said that as home minister, he was aware of the threat at the borders, with Pakistan smuggling drugs and weapons for terrorists and gangsters into Punjab through up to three drones every day. If trouble erupts in Punjab, the entire nation's security would be at stake, he added.

Highlighting the crisis faced by Punjab due to the decision of the Railways not to ply goods trains in the state, the CM said contrary to the misinformation being spread, tracks were currently blocked at only two places, which were off the main lines and connected to two private plants.

"The farmers are fighting the corporates, which is why they are not allowing supplies on these two track," he said, adding that all the other railway lines were open.

Questioning the rationale behind the Centre's refusal to allow trains to ply in Punjab, the CM said that besides the ED notice to his son Raninder, notices had been received by him and his wife Preneet Kaur from the Income Tax department.

Even his two granddaughters, one of them a law student and another preparing for her engagement, as well as a teenage grandson had not been spared and had received notices, he disclosed.

"I don't know what to say on these except that the timing of these notices is suspect, since all of them have been issued by the Central agencies after his government initiated and got farm amendment Bills passed in the Assembly," said Amarinder.

Trashing allegations of "urban naxalism" against the agitating farmers, the CM rejected charges of his government instigating the farmers to protest.

Trashing allegations of 'urban naxalism' against the agitating farmers, the CM rejected charges of his government instigating the farmers to protest.

ers to protest.

He termed their agitation a reaction to the actions of the central government, which had attacked their livelihood.

The problems were of

the Centre's making, Punjab only wanted peace in which all people, including farmers and industry could thrive, he added.

Countering Bharatiya Janata Party's claim that the Central farm laws were designed to free the farmers, the CM said, on the contrary, the farmers were being tied to the shackles of the corporates.

It was injustice not just to farmers of Punjab but to those of other states too, including Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh etc,

he said in response to a question.

Asked about Aam Aadmi Party's failure to join the dharma, the CM questioned their double standards and asked why their MLAs had accompanied him to meet the Governor to submit a copy of the Resolution and Amendment Bills which they had also voted for in the Assembly.

Trashing allegations of "urban naxalism" against the agitating farmers, the CM rejected charges of his government instigating the farmers to protest.

Nadda, Thakur appreciate Centre's bid to clear Luhri hydro project

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 4 NOVEMBER

BJP national chief J P Nadda and Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Wednesday thanked the Narendra Modi government for approving the investment of Rs 1810.56 crore for 210 MW Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project (HEP).

Nadda said the project would not only result in environment conservation but it would also be a major achievement in production of renewable energy.

Thakur said the project is located on river Satluj in Shimla and Kullu districts and it will generate 758.20 million units of electricity annually.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister has approved this investment.

"The project is being implemented by Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVN) on Build-Own-Operate-Maintain (BOOM) basis with active support from the Union government and the state government.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) of this project was signed with the state government during Rising Himachal, Global Investor Meet, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 7 November 2019," he added.

The Chief Minister said the Union government was also supporting this project by providing grants of Rs 66.19 crore for enabling infrastructure which has helped in reducing the power tariff.

"Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project will be commissioned in about five years and power generated from this project would help in providing Grid stability and will improve the power supply position.

The project would provide direct and indirect employment to around 2000 persons and would contribute to overall socio-economic development of the state.

Further, Himachal will benefit with free power worth around Rs 1140 crore from Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project during the Project Life Cycle of 40 years.

The project on completion, would reduce 6.1 lakh Tons of carbon dioxide from the environment annually. The power generated from the project will help in grid balancing and will also improve the power supply position.

SJVN stands committed to contributing to growth of the nation by providing clean & green power.

UHFVC stresses on tech to make micro food industries more competitive

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 4 NOVEMBER

YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry (UHF) Vice Chancellor Parvinder Kaushal on Wednesday urged scientists and researchers for proper dissemination of technology to enhance competitiveness of micro food industries.

Addressing a webinar on Prime Minister's Formalisation of Micro Food Enterprises (PM FME), Kaushal said the scheme will make the country self-reliant in all spheres, from manufacturing to supplying, and will help to reduce dependence on imports and boost exports.

The scheme will promote the PM's vision of "Vocal for local with Global Outreach".

Further, the PM FME scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme under Atma

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Addressing the gathering of Punjab's Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who held their sit-in protest at Jantar Mantar, where he reached after paying his respects at

Nirbhau Bharat Abhiyaan and aims to make the nation self-reliant with more focus on local manufacturers and service providers," he added.

UHFVC said Micro Food Enterprise (MFE) had been designed to address the challenges faced by the micro-enterprises and to tap the potential of groups and cooperatives in supporting the up-gradation and formalization of these enterprises.

"Food processing enterprises are mainly in the unorganized sector. There are about 25 lakh food processing enterprises that are unregistered and out of these more than 65 percent of units are located in the rural areas," he added.

Ramesh Verma, Joint Director, Industries department, Dr S K Mishra, GM, NABARD and Dr KD Sharma, Professor, UHF Food Science and Technology were also present occasion.

from Government of India for enabling infrastructure which has helped in reducing power tariff.

Chairman and Managing Director, SJVN Nand Lal Sharma informed that the Luhri Hydro Electric Project was initially envisaged as a single stage project and the MoU with Government of Himachal Pradesh was signed on 27.10.2008. In March 2015, Government of Himachal Pradesh advised SJVN to review and explore the possibility of executing LHEP as

a multi-stage project. Accordingly, the project was redesigned in three stages i.e. 210 MW Luhri Stage-I HEP, 172 MW Luhri Stage-II HEP & 382 MW Sunni Dam HEP and all three projects were reallocated to SJVN on 29.08.2017.

Subsequently, in the presence of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, MOUs were signed with the Government of Himachal Pradesh during Rising Himachal Global Investor Meet 2019 for executing these projects on Stand

HP to set up water, sanitation committees in gram panchayats

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 4 NOVEMBER

The Himachal Pradesh government will constitute rural drinking water and sanitation committees in all gram panchayats as per the guidelines of the Jal Jeevan Mission to ensure quality drinking water to all in the state.

After the review meeting of the State Water and Sanitation Mission, Chief Secretary Anil Kumar Khachi said a total of 47 laboratories have been set up to ensure the availability of clean drinking water in the state. It would also be ensured that all district level laboratories are accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Laboratories (NABL), he added.

Khachi said that by April 2020, 9,21,653 households have been provided drinking water connections and by March 2021, a total of 2,66,209 households will be provided tap water out of which 1,81,747



HP Chief Secretary Anil Kumar Khachi holding a review meeting of the State Water and Sanitation Mission in Shimla on Wednesday.

households have already been given drinking water connections. Till now all the houses in Kandaghat, Pooh, Lahaul and Spiti development blocks, 311 panchayats and 5,081 villages of the state have been provided with tap water. A grant of Rs 243.10

crore has been received from the Central Government for Jal Jeevan Mission this year. From 2 October, a hundred-day campaign is being run by the Government of India under which 16,889 schools, 18,925 Anganwadi centers and 43 Ashramshala will be provided with tap water," he added.

Secretary Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Sandeep Bhattacharya, Secretary Jal Shakti Vikas Labroo, Secretary Education Rajiv Sharma, Secretary Health Amitabh Awasthi were also present in the meeting among others.

CCEA okays investment of ₹1810 cr for 210 MW Luhri hydro project in HP

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 4 NOVEMBER

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved an investment of Rs 1810.56 crore for 210 MegaWatt (MW) Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project at Satluj in Shimla and Kullu districts of Himachal Pradesh.

This includes budgetary support of Rs 66.19 Crore

from Government of India

for enabling infrastructure

which has helped in reducing power tariff.

Chairman and Managing Director, SJVN Nand Lal Sharma informed that the Luhri Hydro Electric Project was initially envisaged as a single stage project and the MoU with Government of Himachal Pradesh was signed on 27.10.2008. In March 2015, Government of Himachal Pradesh advised SJVN to review and explore the possibility of executing LHEP as

a multi-stage project. Accordingly, the project was redesigned in three stages i.e. 210 MW Luhri Stage-I HEP, 172 MW Luhri Stage-II HEP & 382 MW Sunni Dam HEP and all three projects were reallocated to SJVN on 29.08.2017.

Subsequently, in the presence of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, MOUs were signed with the Government of Himachal Pradesh during Rising Himachal Global Investor Meet 2019 for executing these projects on Stand

alone Basis.

Sharma apprised that 210 MW Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project is being developed on river Satluj near Nirath village along NH-05 in district Shimla and Kullu, Himachal Pradesh on Build-Own-Operate-Maintain (BOOM) basis.

The 210 MW Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project is a run-of-the-river scheme with

pondage peaking for 3.40 hrs. A Concrete Gravity Dam, 80-meter-high 225-meter long and 8-meter-wide, would be constructed, which would create a reservoir of about 6 (Six) Kilometers. For enabling the construction of the Dam, the flow of the river will be diverted through a 567-meter long Horse Shoe shaped Diversion Tunnel of 10-meter diameter.

The CMD informed that the Discharge of 644 cumecs would be utilized through four intakes which after tra-

versing via four penstocks having 90-meter length would enter the turbines.

For 210 MW Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project, a Dam Toe Power House having two main units of 80 MW & two auxiliary units of 25 MW each is planned on the right bank of river Satluj. The project will generate 758 Million Units of energy annually. He assured that SJVN has always achieved its targets and is fully committed to complete this project within stipulated time frame of 62 months.

Sharma said the construction activities of the project will result in employment generation for around 2000 persons and socio-economic development of the State. Further, Himachal Pradesh will be benefited with Free Power of around Rs 1050 crore during the Project Life Cycle of 40 years.

The Project Affected Families of the project will be provided with free 100 units of electricity per month for ten (10) years. Besides 1% additional Local Area Development

Fund (about Rs. 3.08) crore per annum, the execution of the project will lead to development of roads & bridges, healthcare services and other local infrastructures.

The project on completion, would reduce 6.1 lakh Tons of carbon dioxide from the environment annually. The power generated from the project will help in grid balancing and will also improve the power supply position.

Bidhuri demands ownership rights to properties for 100 colonies' residents

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 4 NOVEMBER

Leader of the Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri on Wednesday met Union minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri and Delhi Development Authority Vice Chairman Anurag Jain separately and demanded that 100 colonies of Delhi from Jaipur to Karawal Nagar should be removed from O-Zone, to facilitate ownership rights to properties for residents staying in the areas.

Bidhuri, along with MLA Mohan Singh Bisht met the Union minister who immediately instructed the DDA Vice Chairman Jain to take necessary action in this regard as soon as possible.

Earlier also, Bidhuri met the DDA vice chairman to make available land of DDA which is located near NTPC of Badarpur Assembly constituency, Saurabh Vihar, Arpan Vihar and Jaipur Part-I for construction of park, dispensary and primary school.

DDAVC assured Bidhuri that the process to give ownership rights to properties for residents has

DDA VC assured Bidhuri that the process to give ownership rights to properties for the residents has been started and it will take some months to complete, it stated.

been started and it will take



Following Covid-appropriate behaviour is key to fighting pandemic till vaccine arrives.

UNION HEALTH MINISTER HARSH VARDHAN

EXPRESSING SATISFACTION OVER INDIA'S PROGRESS IN COMBATING THE CORONAVIRUS



LDF govt in Kerala withdraws general consent for CBI probe in state

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
4 NOVEMBER

The LDF government in Kerala has on Wednesday decided to withdraw the general consent given to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to investigate cases in the state. The state cabinet meeting on Wednesday decided to revoke the general consent given to the agency for under-

taking any investigation in the state. The state government had earlier given a general consent to the CBI allowing it to take up cases without seeking any permission from state. This consent has now been withdrawn. However, the decision will not affect court-ordered probe and ongoing CBI cases. From now on, CBI will require permission from the state government to register new cases.

TENDER

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering)	
Name of work with its location	Provision of Auto Signalling between HNZM and OKA Station of Delhi Division.
App. Cost of the work (?)	₹ 21,37,060/- only
Earnest Money Deposit (?)	₹ 42,700/- only
Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3 rd Floor, Annexe-I, DRM office, New Delhi-110055.
Date & Time for upload the tender / closing of tender	Tender uploading/closing date & time: 25.11.2020 up to 15.00 hrs.
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.	See the Northern Railway website www.irrep.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3 rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.
Tender No. 558-Sig-16-M-Tender-1353 Dated : 04.11.2020	2433/2020
Serving Customers With A Smile	

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

E-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. The Executive Engineer, Una Division HPPWD Una H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned works from the eligible and approved contractors / Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	EMD	Time Limit	Cost of tender	Eligible class of contractor
1	1. Construction of 30 Bedded C.H.C. Building (UPGRADED) at Basdehra- Tehsil & District Una (HP) (SH- C/O Building Portion, Water Supply and Sanitary Installation , Boundary wall, Rain Water Harvesting Tank, Septic Tank , Soak Pit and Solar Water etc.)	2,52,17,095/-	2,85,000/-	Eighteen Months	5,000/-	Class-A

2. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 18.11.2020.

3. Cost of Bid Form:: As per detail in column No. 6 in form of demand draft in favour of Executive Engineer, Una Division HPPWD, Una payable at Una.

4. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website <http://hptenders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register on the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: <http://hptenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

5. Key Dates:

1 Date of Online Publication	18..11.2020 (10:00 HRS)
2 Document Download Start and End Date	18.11.2020 (10:30 HRS up to 27.11.2020 (09:00 HRS)
3 Bid Submission Start and End Date	18.11.2020 (10:30 HRS up to 27.11.2020 (09:00 HRS)
4 Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document	27.11.2020 up to 10:30 HRS
5 Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid.	27.11.2020 (11:00 HRS)

6. TENDER DETAILS:

The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover:

a. Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/Eligibility Information."

b. Cover2: shall contain 'BOQ/Financial Bid', where contractor will Quote his offer for each item.

7. Submission of Original Documents: The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/ Earnest Money (EMD) duly pledged in favour of undersigned and other Technical Documents in Executive Engineer, Una Division, HPPWD, Una H.P. as specified in Key dates Sr. 4 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

8. BID OPENING DETAILS: The bids shall be opened on 27.11.2020 at 11:00 HRS in the office of Executive Engineer, Una Division, HP: PWD, Una by the authorised officer. In their interest the tenderer is advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The date for opening of financial bids will be intimated separately after evaluation of technical bids.

9. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.

10. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

Executive Engineer
Una Division, HP: PWD, Una
On behalf of Governor of H.P.

4086/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed item rate/percentage rate tender on Form No. 6&8 are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Horticulture Division, HP, PWD, U.S. Club Shimla on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh for the following works from the competent (In this regard the decision of the Executive Engineer shall be final) contractors enlisted with HP, PWD in appropriate class whose registration stood renewed as per revised instruction and also registered dealers and original manufacturers under G.S.T. Act. The application for tender form will be received upto 11.11.2020 up to 4.00 P.M. The tender form will be issued on 12.11.2020 upto 4.00 P.M. The tender form will be received on 13.11.2020, up to 10.30 A.M. and will be opened on the same day at 11.00 A.M. in the presence of the contractors or their authorized representative who may like to be present. The form can be had from this office against cash payment as shown below (Non refundable) during the working hours on 12.11.2020 The earnest money should be deposited in the shape of National Saving certificate. Time deposit/Post Office saving bank account in any of the Post Office in H.P. duly pledged in the name of the Executive Engineer, Horticulture Division, HP, P.W.D., U.S. Club Shimla and tender form will be issued only those contractors who will deposit the earnest Money at the time of sale of tender. The conditional tenders shall not be entertained. If a holiday is declared suddenly by the govt. on the above date due to some reason the tender shall be received and opened on the next working day. The intending contractors/firms will have to produce all required documents at the time of making application such as Income Tax clearance certificate for the proceeding year, registration/renewal of registration and sales tax number (Under H.P.G.S.T.) Act. Special care should be taken to write the rates both in figures and in words, failing which their tender will be rejected. No tender form shall be issued to the contractors/firms who have already two works in HPPWD. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept or reject the tender without assigning any reason.

S.No	Name of work	Estimated cost.	Earnest money	Form	Cost of form	Time
1.	Model landscaping of national highway No. 05 . Kms 67/00 to 72/00 (S.H.-Development of Dumping site i/c, excavation, cement concrete, R.R. & Interlocking paver block in km 69/200 to 69/500) (Job No-I)	4,59,094/-	9200/-	6&8	350/-	Three Months
2.	Model landscaping of national highway No. 05 . Kms 67/00 to 72/00 (S.H.-Development of Dumping site i/c, excavation, cement concrete, & Interlocking paver block in km 69/200 to 69/500) (Job No-II)	4,47,825/-	9000/-	6&8	350/-	Three Months
3.	Model landscaping of national highway No. 05 . Kms 67/00 to 72/00 (S.H.-Development of Dumping site i/c, excavation, cement concrete & Interlocking paver block in km 69/200 to 69/500) (Job No-III)	4,47,825/-	9000/-	6&8	350/-	Three Months
4.	Model landscaping of national highway No. 05 . Kms 67/00 to 72/00 (S.H.-Development of Dumping site i/c, Providing and planting of lawn grass, planting of trees & Providing & planting containerized tree in km 69/200 to 69/500) (Job No-IV)	4,83,308/-	9700/-	6&8	350/-	Three Months
5.	Model landscaping of national highway No. 05 . Kms 67/00 to 72/00 (S.H.-Development of Dumping site i/c, Providing and planting of lawn grass, planting of trees & Providing & planting containerized tree in km 69/200 to 69/500) (Job No-V)	4,83,308/-	9700/-	6&8	350/-	Three Months
6.	Model landscaping of national highway No. 05 . Kms 67/00 to 72/00 (S.H.-Development of Dumping site i/c, Providing and planting of lawn grass, planting of trees & Providing & planting containerized tree in km 69/200 to 69/500) (Job No-VI)	4,83,308/-	9700/-	6&8	350/-	Three Months
7.	Model landscaping of national highway No. 5 from km 67/00 to 72/00. (S.H:- Development of parks / sitouts and beautification of hill sides, median and valley side i.e. excavation, C.C, R.R, planting of lawn grass in Kms 67/00 to 68/00.) (Job No-VI)	4,92,990/-	10,000/-	6&8	350/-	Three Months
8.	Model landscaping of national highway No. 5 from km 67/00 to 72/00. (S.H:- Development of parks / sitouts and beautification of hill sides, median and valley side i.e. cleaning jungle, planting of shrub, planting of ground cover, providing and planting of juniper chirsies & providing and planting appropriate plants in Kms 67/00 to 68/00.) (Job No-VII)	3,89,236/-	7800/-	6&8	350/-	Three Months
9.	Model landscaping of national highway No. 5 from km 67/00 to 72/00. (S.H:- Development of parks / sitouts and beautification of hill sides, median and valley side i.e. P/F metal artefacts, P/F of fiber glass artefacts and P/F wire mesh topari in Kms 67/00 to 68/00.) (Job No-VIII)	4,80,000/-	9600/-	6&8	350/-	Three Months
10.	Model landscaping of national highway No. 5 from km 67/00 to 72/00. (S.H:- Development of parks / sitouts and beautification of hill sides, median and valley side i.e. providing and placing of NTC precast concrete rest benches in Kms 67/00 to 68/00.) (Job No-IX)	1,60,000/-	3200/-	6&8	350/-	Three Months
11.	Model landscaping of national highway No. 5 from km 67/00 to 72/00. (S.H:- Development of parks / sitouts and beautification of hill sides, median and valley side i.e. Providing containerized plants of appropriate species ground cover in Kms 67/00 to 68/00.) (Job No-X)	4,98,000/-	10,000/-	6&8	350/-	Three Months

Executive Engineer,
Horticulture Division,
HP,PWD, U.S. Club Shimla.

4120/2020-2021 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

Following Covid-appropriate behaviour is key to fighting pandemic till vaccine arrives.

UNION HEALTH MINISTER HARSH VARDHAN

EXPRESSING SATISFACTION OVER INDIA'S PROGRESS IN COMBATING THE CORONAVIRUS

People of Bihar prefer politics of good governance, says PM

'Only NDA can provide security, employment and new opportunities of self-employment to youth of state'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 4 NOVEMBER

Asserting that the people of Bihar prefer *sushashan ki rajneeti* (politics of good governance), Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said only the NDA can provide security, employment and new opportunities of self-employment to the youth of the state.

He also said the youth and women of the state have always been with the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and they see hope in the alliance.

In a series of tweets in Hindi, Modi said he had the opportunity to meet his "brothers and sisters" of Bihar and seek their blessings during his election rallies in the state over the past few days.

"From the first rally in Sasaram to the last rally in Saharsa, the public gave me a lot of love as always," Modi said.



he said.

Talking about the NDA campaign rallies for the Bihar assembly polls, he said there was a commonality in them which was increased participation by the youth and the women.

If the NDA is continuously winning, it is because of their support, he said.

"It is their blessings that give us the energy to work continuously. The youth and women of Bihar see hope in the NDA," he asserted.

Modi's comments follow 12 rallies he addressed in the run-up to the assembly polls, including two on Tuesday.

"As a public servant, the 'touching of feet' of Bihar's land makes me more committed to public service. From political consciousness to social brainstorming, from festivals to food, Bihar is amazing," Modi said.

From the Jan Dhan Yojana to Mudra loan scheme, from the Swachh Bharat Mission

to Ayushman Bharat scheme, from the Ujjwala Yojana to Jal Jeevan Mission, Bihar has covered many important milestones of development, he said.

"The people of Bihar have decided that these rapid strides on the path of progress will not stop," Modi said.

"Only the NDA can provide facilities, security, employment and new opportunities of self-employment to the youth of the state," he said.

Modi pointed out that unpreceded investment on modern infrastructure is creating new employment opportunities in Bihar.

Rupees one lakh crore is being given to Bihar under the Mudra Yojana and Stand Up India scheme, the prime minister said.

While the first two phases of voting have taken place for the ongoing Bihar assembly polls, the third and final phase will be held on 7 November, followed by counting of votes for

We would try to prioritise CAA implementation before elections in Bengal

BJP NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY KAILASH VIJAYVARGIYA
ON ENDING THE WOES OF THE STATE'S REFUGEE POPULATION

The Statesman

05

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 05 NOVEMBER 2020

THUMBNAILS



PWD installed an anti-smog gun in front of Delhi Police headquarter to reduce air pollution in the Capital on Wednesday.

DEEPAK

Complaint against Farooq: Social activist Sujoy Khajuria on Wednesday filed a complaint with the police seeking registration of a case against the sitting MP and former chief minister Farooq Abdullah for claiming in an interview that Kashmiri people would prefer to be ruled by China. In his complaint, Khajuria said that being a public figure Abdullah should not have made any such statement or uttered any words which lower the image of the country or its citizens and can lead to violence or tend to create public disorder or a reasonable apprehension of public disorder.

SNS

Five held for cheating job seekers: Five members of a gang, which allegedly duped people of their money on the pretext of providing them jobs, were arrested in Greater Noida on Wednesday, police said. The arrest was made by the Cyber Cell along with officials from Surajpur police station, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Central Noida, Ankur Aggarwal said.

PTI

Constable injured: A Delhi Police constable was injured after he was run over by a car in Sarita Vihar area here, officials said on Wednesday. The constable, Jitender, sustained fractures in both his legs. His condition is stated to be stable, they said.

PTI

HC refuses bail to Wadhawan brothers in Yes Bank case

MUMBAI, 4 NOVEMBER

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday rejected bail applications of Kapil and Dheeraj Wadhawan, promoters of Dewan Housing Finance Limited (DHFL), in the Yes Bank fraud case, holding that procedures were followed when a chargesheet was filed.

Justice SV Kotwal rejected the arguments made by the Wadhawan brothers' lawyers, senior advocates Amit Desai and AM Singhvi, that the CBI failed to follow procedure while filing a chargesheet in the case.

The Wadhawans had sought "default bail", claiming that the Central Bureau of Investigation, the prosecuting agency, had not complied with the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) while filing a chargesheet in a special CBI court here.

A default bail is given when procedural aspects, such as filing a chargesheet within the stipulated period, are not followed.

Advocate Desai had argued that under CrPC section 173, a court can take cognizance of a chargesheet only if the probe report is complete. In the present case, the CBI's probe report was not complete and yet the court had taken cognizance, he said. The probe report was not even submitted to the court, but was filed in the court registry, he contended.

Advocate Singhvi had argued that the CBI added the offence of criminal breach of trust under section 409 of the IPC later and not while registering the FIR.

This was a "subterfuge", he argued. Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh, who appeared for the CBI, opposed the bail applications saying that the CBI had followed all procedures.

PTI

Three more Rafale jets arrive in India

PTI
NEW DELHI, 4 NOVEMBER



tweet.

Officials said the new batch comprised three jets.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's office said he congratulated the IAF for successfully accomplishing a "highly complex mission" in a professional and safe manner.

The first batch of five Rafale jets arrived in India on July 29, nearly four years after India signed an inter-governmental agreement with France to procure 36 aircraft at a cost of Rs 59,000 crore.

"Second batch of IAF #Rafale aircraft arrived in India at 8:14 pm on 04 Nov 2020 after flying non-stop from France," the IAF said in a

tweet.

The Rafale jets, manufactured by French aerospace major Dassault Aviation, are

India's first major acquisition of fighter planes in 23 years after the Sukhoi jets were imported from Russia.

The newlyinducted fleet of five Rafale jets has been carrying out sorties in eastern Ladakh.

The IAF has deployed almost all its frontline fighter jets like Sukhoi 30 MKI, Jaguar and Mirage 2000 aircraft in the key frontier air bases in eastern Ladakh and elsewhere along the LAC.

Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria on October 5 said that the induction of all 36 Rafale jets will be completed by 2023.

The Rafale jets are capable of carrying a range of

potent weapons. European missile maker MBDA's Meteor beyond visual range air-to-air missile, Scalp cruise missile and MICA weapons system will be the mainstay of the weapons package of the Rafale jets.

The IAF is also procuring a new generation medium-range modular air-to-ground weapon system Hammer to integrate with the Rafale jets.

Hammer (Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range) is a precision-guided missile developed by French defence major Safran. The missile was originally designed and manufactured for the French Air Force and Navy.

Meteor is the next generation of BVR air-to-air missile (BVRAAM) designed to revolutionise air-to-air combat. The weapon has been developed by MBDA to combat common threats facing the UK, Germany, Italy, France, Spain and Sweden.

The first squadron of the Rafale jets is stationed at Ambala airbase while the second one will be based at Hasimara in West Bengal.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials probing the money trail in the Bengaluru drug trafficking case has on Wednesday raided the house of Bineesh Kodiyeri, son of CPI-M Kerala secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, in Thiruvananthapuram.

The residence, named 'Kodiyeri' at Maruthumkuzhi in Thiruvananthapuram is owned by Bineesh. The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel and Karnataka police provided security to the ED officials as they conducted the raid. According to reports, ED officials reached the city on Tuesday night to conduct the raid.

According to ED, Bineesh made some transaction under the cover of this financial institution. Car Palace is owned by Abdul Latheef, whom ED suspects to be a benami of Bineesh. Raids were also conducted in other places in Thiruvananthapuram, which are allegedly linked to Bineesh Kodiyeri.

The ED also raided the office of a real estate firm, 'Torrress Remedies' near the Government Secretariat here. Sources said the ED suspected that Bineesh had a stake in the firm. The company had recently acquired properties in Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam.

The ED suspected that Bineesh had acquired interests in quarries after the construction of the international container port in Vizhinjam generated a massive demand for granite locally.

The ED has claimed that the modus operandi of Bineesh Kodiyeri, who is now under ED custody in Bengaluru, has been to create many "benamidars" and transfer assets in their names to avoid

detection.

An ED report filed in a Bengaluru court said huge amounts of cash were deposited in his bank accounts since 2012, and there was disparity in the income tax returns (ITR) filed and cash deposited in the accounts.

In 2018-19, for instance, a total of Rs 54.89 lakh was deposited in his accounts while the declared income as per his ITR was Rs 13.20 lakh. The ED said such huge cash deposits are nothing but proceeds of crime generated through narcotics business.

The agency had arrested Bineesh in Bengaluru on August 29 on drug trafficking-related money laundering charges.

In this connection, the Congress demanded the resignation of CPI-M state secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan from his post following the raids by the ED on his son's properties, who is in the probe agency's custody.

Meanwhile, the ED has summoned chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan's Additional Private Secretary CM Raveendran.

The ED notice asked him to appear at its Kochi office on Friday.

India warns against 'skewed' arrangements in indirect reference to China's BRI

SNS & PTI
NEW DELHI, LONDON
4 NOVEMBER



he said.

The senior diplomat pointed out that in the 21st century, the interconnectedness of the Indo-Pacific was finally coming into full play, with the region emerging as a driver of international trade and well-being.

He said, "The Indo-Pacific ocean system carries an estimated 65 per cent of world trade and contributes 60 per cent of global GDP. Ninety per cent of India's international trade travels on its waters. For us, and for many others, the shift in the economic trajectory from the Atlantic to the Indo-Pacific has been hugely consequential. The rise of China and the imperative for a global rebalancing have added to the mix. A rules-based international order is achievable only with a rules-based Indo-Pacific."

"We must not forget that many countries of the Indo-Pacific have suffered a history of colonialism, some of the wrinkles of which are still with us and still need to be ironed out. While doing so, and while moving ahead purposefully, we need to be mindful not to embrace constructs that themselves create dependencies and skewed arrangements."

Speaking on "India's Vision of the Indo-Pacific" at the Policy Exchange think tank in London last night, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla reiterated India's commitment to promote and contribute to infrastructure, connectivity, economic projects and supply chains in the region by always prioritising the needs of the host community.

India has been opposed to China's BRI on the ground that its flagship project, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) runs through Indian territory under Pakistan's illegal control in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). New Delhi also believes that the BRI would bring poor African and Asian states under the debt trap.

Shringla said India's concerns were particularly relevant as the Indo-Pacific region puts mind to supply chains resilience and diversification in the post-coronavirus period. India was a party to several such conversations. For example, it was working with Japan and Australia on the supply chains resilience initiative,

UP IN THE AIR



Youths play football along Rajpath near India Gate under heavy smog conditions in New Delhi on Wednesday.

National Defence College to allocate more seats to friendly countries

NEW DELHI, 4 NOVEMBER

To cater to the continuous demand for more seats from friendly foreign countries, the government has decided to increase the capacity of the prestigious National Defence College (NDC) from 100 to 110 in 2021 and to 120 in 2022, Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar said today.

"We are going to give additional seats to Nepal, Myanmar, Bangladesh apart from new seats to Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, the Philippines, Indonesia and the Maldives," he said at a media interaction.

Armed forces personnel from Nepal, Myanmar, Bangladesh and other 18 friendly foreign countries have hitherto participated in NDC's annual strategic leadership course.

Out of the current capacity of 100 seats in the course, 25 seats are reserved for officials from 21 foreign countries, while the remaining 75 seats are for officials of the Indian armed forces and the Indian civil service.

Kumar said the NDC has planned its diamond jubilee celebrations on 5-6 November when it would be organising a two-day webinar on the topic of "India's National Security: The Decade Ahead".

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will deliver the keynote address at the two-day webinar.

To commemorate the diamond jubilee year, the President has consented to institute a "President's Chair of Excellence on National Security and Strategy" at the NDC. This would be operational from NDC 2020.

An e-book on NDC titled "NDC – Abode of Strategic Excellence" would also be released on this occasion.

SNS

SC lays down guidelines for payment of maintenance in matrimonial cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 4 NOVEMBER

The Supreme Court Wednesday laid down guidelines for interim compensation and quantum of maintenance in matrimonial cases to ensure uniformity and consistency in practice adopted by different statutes, the court would consider an adjustment or set off of the amount awarded in the previous proceeding/s while determining whether any further amount is to be awarded in the subsequent proceeding.

A bench of Justices Indu Malhotra and R Subhash Reddy said directions are required to be passed to overcome the issue of overlapping jurisdiction and avoid conflicting orders.

The apex court issued guidelines on aspects of - Issue of overlapping jurisdiction, payment of interim maintenance, criteria for determining the quantum of maintenance, date from which

maintenance is to be awarded and Enforcement/ Execution of orders of maintenance. On overlapping jurisdiction, the top court directed that where successive claims for maintenance are made by a party under different statutes, the court would consider an adjustment or set off of the amount awarded in the previous proceeding/s while determining whether any further amount is to be awarded in the subsequent proceeding.

The bench directed that to avoid conflicting orders in a subsequent maintenance proceeding, the applicant shall disclose the previous maintenance proceeding, and the orders passed therein.

On payment of interim maintenance, the apex court

ruled that an affidavit of disclosure of assets and liabilities annexed to the judgment should be filed by both parties in all maintenance proceedings, including pending proceedings before the concerned family courts, district courts or magistrate courts throughout the country.

On the aspect of criteria for determining quantum of maintenance, the bench said that the concerned court shall consider the criteria enumerated in the judgment.

The apex court made it clear that the aforesaid factors are however not exhaustive, and the concerned Court may exercise its discretion to consider any other factor/s which may be necessary or of relevance in the facts and circumstances of a case.

With regard to date from which maintenance is to be awarded, the top court said that in all cases it will be awarded from the date of filing the application.

The order or decree of maintenance may be enforced like a decree of a civil court, through the provisions which are available for enforcing a money decree, including civil detention, attachment of property and the like as provided by various provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure.

The apex court said that the aforesaid factors are however not exhaustive, and the concerned Court may exercise its discretion to consider any other factor/s which may be necessary or of relevance in the facts and circumstances of a case.

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American muddle

The reactions to the counting process in the US Presidential election have come along predictable lines and suggest that President Donald Trump is determined to play out the script he had prepared and hopes that courts of law – principally the Supreme Court which has a 6:3 conservative majority – will affirm his position. Briefly the facts are these. Due to the coronavirus epidemic and concerns about visiting polling booths, a record number of Americans opted to use mail-in ballots; more than 40 per cent of them mailed in their votes. The Democrats maintain that an election can be declared only after all votes are counted; Mr Trump argues that votes that have not reached by counting day should not be considered and says he will challenge legally any process that goes beyond this. The point of contention arises because some states especially Pennsylvania that hold the key to the election have announced they will consider all votes that were posted on or by polling day – 3 November – and that they will be guided by the postal mark in determining whether or not a vote is valid. This means it could take up to 6 November before all the votes are in and counted. While both sides see merit in their positions, it must be conceded that Mr Trump's assessment of voting behaviour has been spot on. Quite rightly, he had anticipated that those Americans who were most distressed by his handling of coronavirus would be the ones to exercise the greatest caution, and thus opt for mail-in voting which it must be emphasised is a legal option. Therefore, from early in the campaign, indeed even earlier, he has been castigating mail-in votes as a gigantic fraud and threatening not to accept them. He said this often enough and loudly enough for at least his supporters and at least some others to wonder if there wasn't any merit in the charge. The doubt having been cast, he then exhorted all his supporters to vote in person, saying he would contest mail-in votes that did not reach by 4 November.

The central problem of course is that a democracy as mature as the United States follows an electoral system for its highest office that is riddled with inconsistencies. For instance, it is not the person who secures the most votes who becomes President but the one who secures most electoral college votes. Thus, theoretically, a candidate winning a majority of the votes, and winning most of the states with small shares in the kitty with thumping majorities could still lose the election if he or she were to lose states with large shares in the electoral college by minuscule margins. To compound this, and amazingly for a federal election, different states follow different rules on counting. After the Bush v Gore battle which had to be settled by the Supreme Court, and the 2016 election where Hillary Clinton lost despite securing more votes overall, one would have expected Americans to introspect about their electoral rules. Instead, they find themselves in a mess that can only be resolved immediately if mail-in votes favour Mr Trump. For as he said immediately after the vote, he hates losing.

Another land grab?

While both China and Nepal have officially denied a charge by opposition politicians in the Himalayan country about a land-grab by Beijing, facts in the public domain suggest a chilling parallel with the sort of issues India is familiar with. Mr Jeevan Bahadur Shahi, a lawmaker of the opposition Nepali Congress alleged that China had crossed the border between the two countries and erected nine concrete structures one km inside Nepal, along its border with Tibet. The encroachment is said to cover an area of 150 hectares. The allegation was reported in the UK's Daily Telegraph which said, "In the north-western district of Humla, PLA (People's Liberation Army) troops crossed the border into the Limi valley and Hilsa, moving stone pillars which had previously demarcate the boundary further into Nepalese territory before constructing alleged military bases." It added: "Further incursions occurred in the Rasuwa, Sindhupalchok and Sankhuwasabha districts after Chinese engineers in the Tibet Autonomous Region diverted the flow of rivers acting as a natural boundary and claimed the previously submerged Nepalese territory." These are serious charges, for they suggest considerable premeditation. At the very least, they ought to have merited attention in Kathmandu especially as they had been levelled by the lawmaker of the area.

Instead, a Nepalese foreign office spokesperson limited herself to blandly asserting that the reports were not true. But she did not elaborate if this conclusion had been reached after investigating the allegation. The Chinese foreign office spokesperson was equally emphatic but refused to offer any evidence in support of Beijing's position, asking instead that the newspaper first prove its charges. While Nepal's Communist government is generally believed to lean over backwards for China, allowing interference in even domestic affairs by the Chinese envoy in Kathmandu, it has at least in recent times shown great prickliness on territorial issues with its other large neighbour, India. Earlier this year, it went to extraordinary lengths, to the extent of republishing its official map to claim territories which India says belong to it. After displaying much acrimony, most of which was ignored by the Indian side, a thaw has been reported recently and a lot is being read into the visit of the Indian Army Chief to Kathmandu this month. But clearly it is a different story with Beijing, and Nepal's government has chosen not to bestir itself to inquire into these allegations. China claims territories in India and Bhutan and is already in illegal occupation of the Aksai Chin area, which was part of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. While generous allies such as Pakistan and Nepal choose to look the other way, the world must not be so quiescent.

Towards sovereignty

Article 44 of our Constitution states that 'the State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India'. Seventy years have passed and the citizens are waiting for such a Code



The French Constitution of 1791 was written after start of the revolution and the abolition of the monarchy. "Sovereignty is one, indivisible, unalienable and imprescriptible; it belongs to the nation: no group can attribute sovereignty to itself nor can an individual arrogate it himself." The concept was first thought of by Jean Bodin of 16th century France to signal the progress from feudalism to nationalism. In the times of monarchy, the king or the queen was the sovereign and generally described as such. The US declaration of Independence in 1776 was the first document to enunciate sovereignty as an essential element of the new state. There was no monarch or sovereign in the New World.

"Half sovereign" more concerns the quality of effective governance rather than the issue of sovereign per se. Incidentally, the Pakistani Constitution states that its sovereignty belongs to Allah the Merciful. But that does not lend effectiveness of governance to the state – whether, the writ of the government runs to the last mile from the capital to the frontiers. Beyond them, the other countries should respect the state if it is to be called fully sovereign and not half.

The 2005 incident of two Naga groups – ANSAM and NSF – blockading Manipur by choking NH-39 and NH-53 in the State is reminiscent of a siege undertaken in war. Instead of calling in the Army to disperse the involved groups and restoring the normal passages to and from Manipur, the Government airlifted supplies. Home Secretary VK Duggal is reported (*The Statesman*, August 18) to have said in Manipur on August 17 that it was the State's internal matter. This was rather like the US Air Force reaching West Berlin in 1961 when the Soviet Union had blockaded the city. In this incident, three independent countries were involved – Federal Republic of Germany, the US and the USSR. In the Naga-Manipur

episode only one country – and therefore a domestic problem – was concerned.

In the same year Ms Mamata Banerjee had occasion to throw a sheaf of papers at the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha. The reason was her protest at the way delimitation of constituencies was taking place in West Bengal. In several constituencies, she had discovered Bangladeshi nationalists listed on Indian rolls. It was amazing that foreigners were being enabled to vote in our elections, was her sharp exclamation.

What was happening in West Bengal was not accidental as it had been the policy of the Congress and the Left Front to encourage infiltration, and thus expand their vote-bank. Had it not been so, how would the ruling party explain its sponsorship of the IMDT Act in Assam and being unhappy at its having been struck down as ultra vires by the Supreme Court only some years ago?

When in April, Maulana Asad Madani pleaded for more privileges for Muslims, Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi had pointed to the Congress's support for the IMDT Act. Assam was the only state where this law was in force. It was also unique in the world because nowhere did the law place the onus of proving that a suspected infiltrator was so on the complainant. The alleged foreigner has no responsibility to prove his bona fide. Earlier, the Left Front had said that it was a desirable law and should also be introduced in West Bengal. This was a classic case of India abdicating its sovereignty to an immigrant from abroad in order to enlist an electoral supporter.

The inconsistency in Jammu and Kashmir is equally amazing. Years ago, when P V Narasimha

Rao was Prime Minister, Parliament had resolved that the whole of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral and unalienable part of India. This included POK. Yet Article 370 of the Constitution continued right until 2019. The State had a separate Constitution and its own flag. A Kashmiri can freely buy property in any part of the country, but non-Kashmiri Indians could not acquire any such thing in Jammu & Kashmir. Yet the Government expected people to believe that we are a sovereign state. The problem of the Constitution begins by calling India a sovereign democratic Republic. Meanwhile, the Government experienced no embarrassment in negotiating autonomy in Jammu and Kashmir with all and sundry, including the various factions of the Hurriyat who were separatists. The Government did not mind the Hurriyat leaders

hobnobbing with Pakistani diplomats or with visiting dignitaries from Islamabad. Equally incorrigible was the Government holding talks at home as well as overseas with Naga separatists like Mr T Muivah. A sovereign state would charge every separatist with treason, try him and hang him if proved guilty.

This is clear from the fact that wakfs and Muslim personal law still remain untouched. Collectively, the wakf properties represent the biggest urban landlords in India. The demand for Taj Mahal by the UP Sunni Wakf Board and that for Bibi ka Maqbara at Aurangabad by the Maharashtra Wakf Board is on the ground that these contain qabrs or graves.

A sovereign state should nationalise all their properties as they are deemed to belong to Allah who is supreme and much above any country. Many Islamic

countries have over the years abolished their wakfs because they were uneconomic stones hanging around the economies. According to a former Vice-chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia (university) A.A. Fyzee, wakfs are a dead hand and utterly uneconomic.

Similarly, Muslim personal laws still continue to be sacred and above the purview of the Constitution. Contrary to the Supreme Court's view, the Muslim community now appears to have set up Sharia courts known as Darul Qaza in a number of States to adjudicate on matters concerning marriage, divorce, etc.

There are, therefore, two systems of law and justice functioning in the country – one Muslim and the other Indian. In the event there is a conflict between the two, the Muslim version prevails. In fact, Article 44 of our Constitution states that 'the State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India'. Seventy years have passed and the citizens are waiting for such a Code.

With the advent of the new government in 2014, the journey towards a full sovereign state appeared to have begun. A surgical strike in Myanmar followed by one on Pakistan at Balakot were signals of hope.

There was an occasion when Bangladeshi Rangers had beheaded several Indian para-military jawans and hung them on wooden poles like just killed animals being taken for roasting. There was no reaction or retaliation from New Delhi.

Gunnar Myrdal would have liked to call such a state a comprehensively 'soft' state. We have not discussed here the factor of corruption which also India had plenty of. It has reduced noticeably in the upper echelons of government and there is a great deal of scope for improvement.

But India is no longer the 'soft' state it was say five or six years ago.

A MEMBER OF THE ANN ASIAN VOICES

Let them eat bread

According to a fable, an emperor is once visited by two swindlers who promise to weave for him a set of new clothes that are invisible to stupid people. The emperor is excited about wearing a special kind of clothes and expends the state coffers to get the outfit stitched.

The emperor's minions see that the weavers are not weaving any clothes, but they keep quiet for fear of being considered stupid. When the emperor finally gets to wear the invisible clothes and comes out on the street to exhibit his miraculous costume, everyone seems to admire them.

It is only when a child spills the beans – the emperor is naked – that the people realise that they have been duped. Even then, the emperor must continue to pretend that all is well. Such is the insulation that the nexus between power and shamelessness gives an individual who believes everyone around is a fool.

Like other folktales, the emperor's tale never goes out of fashion for a reason. Each new age gets it a new emperor who is as pretentious as the original one. And each new generation gets to see a new avatar of the emperor in its own surroundings. As if the national level leaders were not playing the roles of neo-emperors well enough, Kathmandu Metropolitan City Mayor Bidya Sundar Shakya on Monday sent a diktat to individuals and organisations that have been

feeding the poor and hungry at several locations in the city to stop doing what they were doing.

The reason, the mayor said, was that those who were being fed for free were not needy, and that the city's open spaces had become filthy due to the feeding activities. And to top that, the mayor said the activities had brought a bad name to the metropolitan city.

This, coming from a mayor who recently stayed and had his lunches and dinners at a major five-star hotel when he and his family contracted the coronavirus, undoubtedly breaks all cells of shamelessness.

Clearly, the mayor hasn't heard of Malar Sada's hunger saga. A daily wage labourer from Saptari, Sada starved to death, on May 19, after he lost his job due to the nationwide lockdown imposed by the government – without any contingency plan for the poor and the marginalised – to tackle Covid-19. Thousands of Malar Sadas go to bed hungry each night, right in the capital city as leaders choose to ignore the plight of the poor.

As the mayor famously said, he doesn't read the newspapers and gets his news from the people around him. It is not difficult to understand that he gets told only what he wants to hear, just as the fable's emperor is told that he is, in fact, wearing clothes. For a corrupt leadership, there is nothing more inconvenient than truth.

Leaders from top to bottom take the poverty and helplessness of the people as an affront to them, a challenge to their unbridled power. History is full of stories of inept leaderships – from East to West, North to South – who consider the plight of the people inconsequential.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR editor@thestatesman.com

Sensitising judges on gender issues

SIR, The nation got a rude jolt, and deservedly so, when Attorney General of India K K Venugopal stood up in the Supreme Court and told a three member bench that judges in the trial

way that women's rights and gender sensitivity take precedence.

That awakening is not reflected in the judiciary is the point the AG was trying to make. We have judges

High Court was forced to defer the trial in an actor assault case after the victim complained that the trial court was biased, hostile and partisan.

The silver lining in the whole episode is that the AG's words carried sufficient weight that the bench assured him that gender sensitisation will be part of the order. It was a rare moment in our history that the AG spoke up on the need to reform the judicial mindset, and one hopes that action will follow. The political class too must feel the heat, and take early steps to reform itself, and stop talking loosely on gender issues.

Yours, etc., Shovanl Chakraborty, Kolkata, 4 November.

RESIST TERRORISM

SIR, This refers to the editorial, "In the crosshairs" (4 November). Austria has been spared the worst of the violence in Europe, but not the phenomenon of radicalisation among a small number of young men in often marginalized Muslim communities. The Islamic State

of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/ISIS) claimed responsibility for the attack a day later, calling the attacker a "soldier of the caliphate". The slain gunman is described as 20 years old, born and raised in Austria, and recently released after serving part of a 22-month jail sentence for trying to travel to Syria to fight for the Islamic State.

The young Tunisian who killed three worshippers in a church in Nice last week had arrived in Europe only a month before. Likewise, few so-called "lone wolves" act alone. Research has shown that most "leak" information about their intention.

The Vienna shooting is viewed as a "repulsive terror attack" that killed a waitress, a young passer-by and an older man and woman. The Austrian government will face questions about how an individual known to security forces had been able to buy weapons and cause havoc on the streets of the usually peaceful capital, often listed as having the world's highest quality of life.

STOP CRACKERS

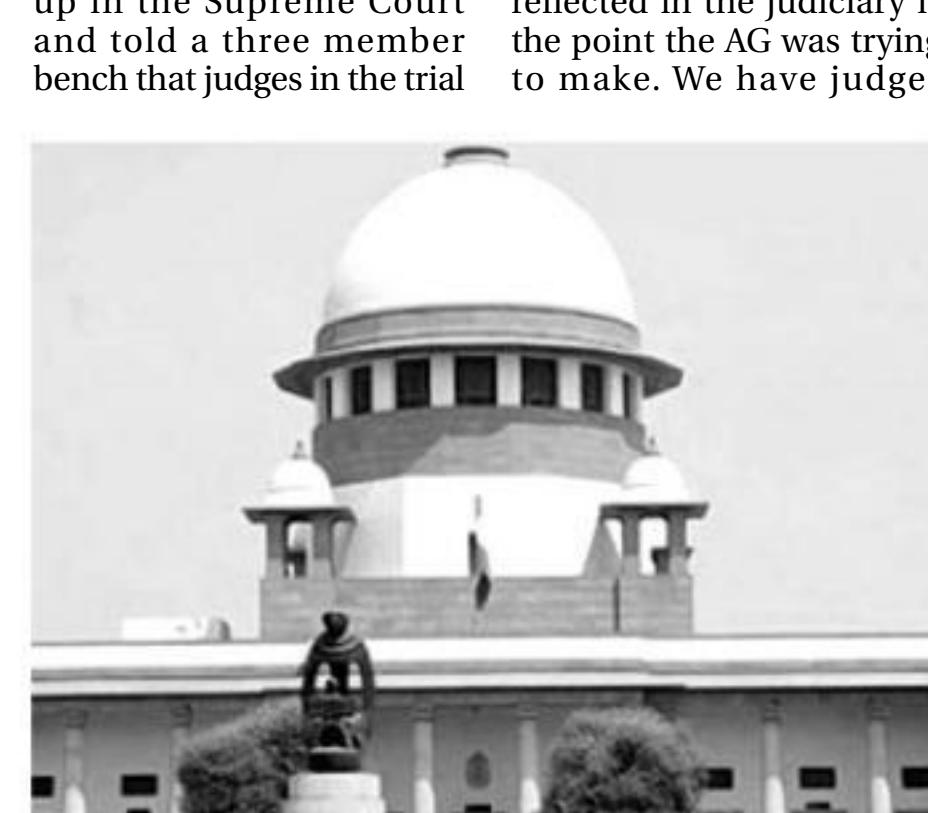
SIR, Please refer to your today's report "Govt calls for restraint on firecrackers". Keeping the approaching winter in mind, and fearing that the Covid pandemic could be aggravated, the West Bengal government on Tuesday urged citizens and Puja organisers to refrain from bursting crackers and lighting fireworks during the upcoming Kali Puja and Diwali celebrations. Earlier a section of citizens had started an aggressive social media campaign, urging everyone not to burst crackers this Kali Puja and Diwali. A group of doctors in the city also appealed to the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) to take steps to prevent bursting of fireworks.

Meanwhile it's heartening that the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued notice to the Centre to ban fireworks from November 7 to 30. Records say that particulate matter PM 2.5 count in Kolkata jumps 20 times above the safe limit on Kali Puja night every year.

With winter round the corner, lung diseases are about to spurt and sudden rise of air and noise pollution could be fatal as experts feel. As per Supreme Court directive, some low-decibel fireworks are permitted from 8 pm to 10 pm during the festivities. But doctors opine that noiseless crackers are equally dangerous. Given the context, it would be prudent if citizens celebrate the festivities without any fireworks this time.

Yours, etc., Khoikan Das, Kolkata, 4 November. The overall finding is that jihadi terrorism in Europe is becoming more discriminate in its targeting while attack types and weapons are becoming progressively more diverse. Finally, there is the question of timing. More likely, if more mundane, is a desire to strike before the Covid-19 lockdown in Austria, imposed from midnight, made it harder to both move and find vulnerable targets. The world needs to speak in one voice against terror.

Yours, etc., SS Paul, Nadia, 4 November.



courts and high courts must be sensitised on gender justice and the judgements of the apex court in this regard must be taught in judicial academies.

Every civilised society revisits the way sexual assaults are treated in such a

way that such offences are compoundable; some even direct the marriage between the perpetrator of the crime and the victim, thus sentencing the latter to lifelong trauma.

As the AG was speaking in the apex court, the Kerala

RAJA MURTHY

Difficult times teach or remind us about deeper dimensions of life. The past seven months have been strange times, during a world war against the Covid-19 pandemic. Some of the lessons experienced are:

- Resilience and ability to adapt seems ingrained in human DNA. We "adjust" to any situation - as wars, famines, calamities, pandemics have proved across 5,000 years of recorded human history. So we adjusted to lockdowns, quarantines and struggle to continue normal life amid abnormal days.

- There are no limits to power of the human mind, but no limits either to delusions and foolishness. Some still refuse to accept the lethal nature of Covid-19 - even after more than a million have died worldwide.

Such people unfortunately get hit by reality the hard way - after getting Covid-19. Ukrainian fitness trainer Dmitriy Stuzhuk denied the existence of Covid-19 to his millions of social media followers. He died on 16 October from Covid-19, aged 33, leaving behind his mourning wife and two children.

Stuzhuk posted on Instagram just before dying: "I want to share how I got sick and convincingly warn everyone: I also thought that there was no Covid... Until I got sick."

- Generosity. The worst brings out the best of humanity - which is why we survive the hard times. People have been extraordinarily generous in one way or the other.

Donating food, helping others financially or in any way possible, rendering services small or big - we saw so much generosity in the past seven months.

So much courage seen too from thousands of doctors, nurses, grocery retail workers, everyone in emergency services risking their lives to serve others. Many died from Covid-19 while serving others infected with Covid-19.

We have to live the remainder of our lives in a way worthy of the essential service providers who died in the past seven months so we could live.

- The Internet served and saved humanity during the past seven months - unimaginable difficulties without online access and information. The Internet has enabled work to continue for millions, ensured

Seven lessons from the past seven months



delivery of food, medicines, money and essential services to entire countries in lockdown. Gratitude to all the known and unknown builders of the Internet, and Internet service providers.

- Change is the only certainty. Nothing is permanent except the core laws of nature. We starkly experienced the impermanence of life the past seven months: changes in work, jobs. Money lost. But strength was gained. We become stronger facing challenges, sharing what we have, finding ways to overcome. The real strength comes from within.

- Life can end any time but not quarrelling. Put two people in a deserted island and chances are they may not be on talking terms after two weeks. A big ego feeds fire to quarrels for immaterial material gains even amid a pandemic.

- We grow in wisdom. But wisdom comes with willingness to learn,

to work hard to correct one's mistakes and to be free from the deadliest virus of all: the impurities entrenched deep in the dungeons of one's mind.

The most lethal disease of self-created suffering is there, and the universal, practical way of freedom to real happiness is also there (www.dhamma.org) - and our choice of wisdom whether to make the best use of it.

The world war against the pandemic continues, though victory is in sight. As Diwali nears with the second half of an unusual festive season, remember we are still under the Covid-19 threat - same as in March. The core threat of infection has not changed much except for lockdowns eased out of unavoidable economic necessity.

We are still dodging the Covid-19 bullet. Many of us have been lucky to do so - so far. Keep it that way. An understandable weariness of seven months of lockdown can be the biggest threat, as western countries experience now.

Europe is suffering a Covid-19 upsurge the past fortnight. Germany has restrictions now which the German people did not have in March-April.

The UK government has prohibited socializing between different households within the house - no social visits from friends, neighbours, relatives for now.

El Paso town, in the US state of Texas, imposed a second lockdown from 29 October for two weeks after local hospitals were "overwhelmed" with Covid-19 cases. The medical staff and infrastructure could not cope.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's crucial cautionary message on 20

October has to be followed during the festive season. India cannot afford another lockdown.

For that, we must maintain lockdown discipline even though lockdown has been lifted: hand sanitizing, safe distancing from one another (most people still have difficulty understanding this need), even after

seven months of suffering), do not go out unless necessary, avoid unnecessary physical visits and socializing. Online meetings are good enough for now.

Another lockdown can have devastating consequences. To avoid it, we have to continue carefully following Covid-19 precautions. Do not go out without a mask or without properly wearing the mask. Why take the risk of infecting others as an asymptomatic carrier of the Covid-19 virus?

We have to accept reality, as it is now, and live accordingly. No doing anything to put family members at risk of Covid-19 infection, particularly those above age 60.

This too will pass, soon. But until then we need to live with Covid-19 precautions to let others live - family, friends, colleagues, neighbours, relatives and strangers in the street. Have a safe, sensible and happy festive season.

The writer is a senior, Mumbai-based journalist.

Chile at the crossroads



MAHIR ALI

Nowadays, the notion of 'foreign electoral interference' conjures up images of so-called troll farms in Eastern Europe or elsewhere spewing disinformation on social media. Whether they make much of a difference remains unclear. Long before the internet, the US honed multiple methods of producing the electoral outcomes it wanted to see in far-offlands. In places where the ploy failed, plan B was frequently a military coup.

That was the pattern in Chile — a lucrative source of profits for American copper mining entities and other

US multinationals — in 1970, when the usual bribes to right-wing political forces such as the Christian Democrats did not pay off.

The previous year, a progressive alliance had emerged, combining the socialist and communist parties with smaller forces on the left. Its presidential candidate in 1970 was Salvador Allende, a founding member of the Socialist Party and widely revered doctor whose three previous tilts at the presidency had failed — most recently by a narrow margin in 1964.

Popular Unity proved to be more than a match for the divided right wing, and Allende emerged in September as the candidate with the

highest number of votes. That did not automatically win him the presidency, though: he needed parliamentary approval.

With its worst nightmare coming true, the US went into high gear. It lacked the clout to prevent that approval, but there was a viable alternative: a military coup. The US-funded incumbent Christian Democrat president, Eduardo Frei, was reluctant to play ball. Worse still, the military chief, Gen René Schneider, was a principled constitutionalist.

A plot was therefore hatched to kidnap Schneider in order to facilitate a coup that would pre-empt Allende's inevitable ascendancy. The idea was to

blame the kidnapping on the far left, and to arrest Popular Unity leaders as collaborators. In the third attempt, Schneider was mortally wounded. The CIA deemed it a success.

It was too clumsy a ploy, though, to facilitate a coup in a country that had a tradition of managed democracy. Allende was overwhelmingly approved by parliament, and sworn in as president 50 years ago this week, on Nov 3.

The previous June, US president Richard Nixon's atrocious national security adviser Henry Kissinger had declared: "I don't see why we need to stand by and watch a country go communist due to the irresponsibility of its own people."

By September, Nixon himself had instructed CIA director Richard Helms to prevent Allende's accession to office. A couple of months earlier, Nixon had already articulated his plan "to make the economy scream" — a common template for electoral interference thereafter, especially in Latin America.

So, the pawns were in place by the time Allende was sworn in. Even the new president's parliamentary opponents could not bring themselves to reject his plan to nationalise the copper mines and even the local interests of firms such as ITT, a leading participant in the plot to bring down the new order. The Allende agenda, despite the parliamentary constraints placed on him, extended to radical agrarian reform, higher wages for the poorest workers, and women's rights across the existing political and economic order.

Kissinger worried that if Allende's success wasn't aborted, the Chilean experiment could become a "contagious example" that not only might give people ideas in Latin America but

"would infect" southern European members of the Nato alliance.

The Nixon-Kissinger-Helms efforts eventually bore fruit in September 1973, and coup leader Augusto Pinochet soon became a byword for fascist autocracy in the Third World. The US-backed military dictator replaced Allende's socialistic tendencies with the polar opposite, directly imported from the US. Chile became a guinea pig for the neoliberal ideology of Milton Friedman and his Chicago Boys.

All too many of their privatisations and small-government tenets were incorporated into the constitution that Pinochet introduced in 1980. It has been tinkered with and mildly amended here and there, but much of the toxicity at its core has remained in place ever since. The protests that erupted in Chile a year ago, which were met with a brutal response, eventually persuaded the incumbent president, Sebastián Piñera, to promise a referendum on a new constitution.

Late last month, almost 80 per cent of voters approved the idea, setting the stage for a constituent assembly next year that will have equal numbers of women and men, and a public verdict in 2022 on the document they produce. It could be a fraught process, but there will at least be the opportunity to cast aside for once and for all the blighted ideology that Pinochet represented. In the best of all possible worlds, they may even endorse Allende's final broadcast message on 11 September 1973, saying that he would soon be gone, yet: "I will always be at your side, and you will remember me at least as a dignified man who was loyal to his country."

Dawn/ANN.

NO 28126

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

The attitude of the Lambeth Conference of Bishops towards Spiritualism, Christian Science, and Theosophy, as indicated by the encyclical letter which prefaces the resolutions and reports of the conferences on these subjects, may be described as almost sympathetic. The adherents of these cults are, it is true, regarded as wanderers from the true path, yet "it must not be forgotten," the Bishops go on to say, "that these movements are very largely symptoms and results of reaction against materialistic views of life." The special committee which was appointed to consider the three heresies found the inquiry elusive; there was no lack of literature, but it was not easy to find authoritative statements strictly defining the teaching and practice accepted by adherents. The Bishops, however, give five characteristics which they find in each of the three systems. In the first place, they are protests against materialism, and against a materialistic basis of human life. Secondly, they draw much of their strength from a new knowledge of the extent of psychic powers with which human nature is endowed. Thirdly, they claim to supply something which the teaching and practice of the Church fail to give. Fourthly, they contain nothing essentially new, many of the doctrines being a revival, sometimes couched in the same terms, of Gnosticism and Neo-Platonism. Finally, hardly one of them finds its centre in the central revelation of the Christian faith, the incarnation.

NEWS ITEMS

INDIAN STUDENTS IN ENGLAND

With reference to Reuter's telegram this morning regarding the difficulty of finding accommodation for Indian students in Universities in the United Kingdom, the position as far as is known to the Government of India is that during the present year there has been a large influx of Indian students in Great Britain desiring to pursue courses of instruction and training in engineering, without having acquired preliminary education in India sufficient to enable them to enter upon engineering studies in that country with profit to themselves. Apart from the fact that Engineering Colleges and Engineering Faculties in England are at present overcrowded, these students are expressed to disappointment by being unable to obtain admission on account of their previous inadequate training, no Engineering College or University in Great Britain being willing to admit an Indian student of engineering.

MUNICIPAL SWEEPERS' WAGES
A partial strike of the Corporation sweepers, which at one time threatened to be general, was successfully handled yesterday morning by Mr. Donald, Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation, aided by Mr. S.C. Mitter, engineer in charge of District III. The Corporation authorities were forewarned, and on Tuesday and yesterday a general increase of one rupee was promised to such of the intending strikers as were getting less than Rs 20 per month. They had received 50 per cent increase since May last year, the wages of the dhansars being raised from Rs 8 to Rs 12. Most of the malcontents were for accepting the increase, but yesterday morning the Shambazar men stopped work and were followed by the sweepers in some other wards in Districts I and II.

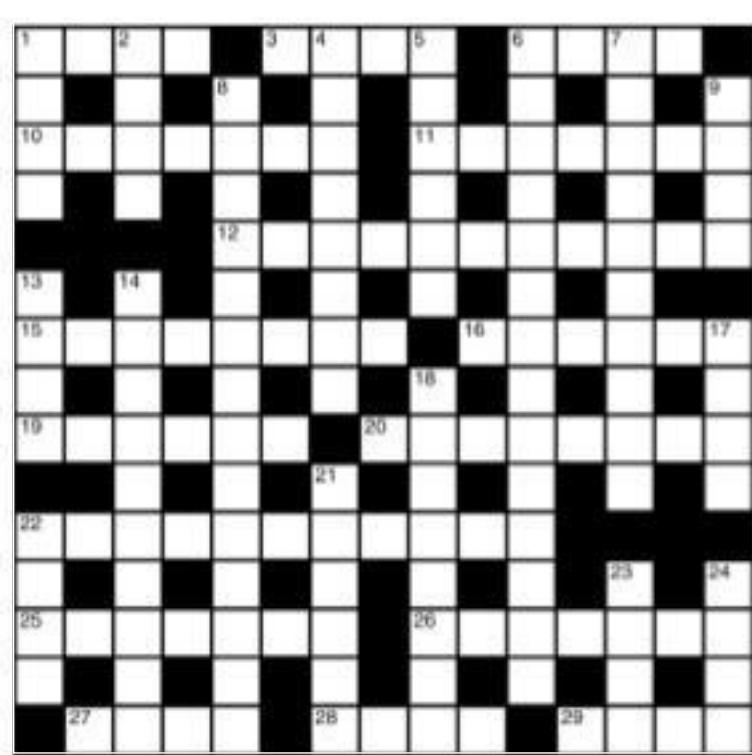
ALL- INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

At the First All-India Trade Union Congress resumed, the President read the reply of the Governor of Bombay to the invitation expressing regret at his inability to attend at the same time assuring a very willing ear to any representations. Lala Lajpat Rai, as a representative delegate and Messrs. B.P. Wadia and Chaman Lal as advisers were nominated to represent Indian labour at the International Labour Conference to be held in Geneva next year under the League of Nations. Resolutions were passed protesting against the treatment of Indian workers in Fiji and the conditions of labour in the Indian coalfields the right of labour to have special representation by election to the Legislative Council the opening of drink shops in the vicinity of factories and the attitude of employers towards the strikes in the city of Bombay.

LORD WILLINGDON AT TUTICORIN

Lord and Lady Willingdon received a cordial welcome on arrival at Tuticorin. They visited a number of institutions and received an address from the Municipalities and also received a deputation from Tuticorin Port Conservancy Board. The deputation urged that the deep water harbour scheme should be sanctioned at an early date. His Excellency said that the Government were greatly interested in the scheme, but doubted whether it would be taken up as an Imperial scheme, and suggested they should provide funds by loan in the open market. The work might be taken in hand and carried out piecemeal. His Excellency made a trip in the harbour in the port launch.

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS

- 1/3/6A Works by French author Favre British publisher (5,3,4)
- 10 Joke about women's relatives looking hard (7)
- 11 Close relationship's something suitable for retiring individual (7)
- 12 Make-up and paint intended for audience (11)
- 15 Unresolved issue got easier after taking ecstasy together (5,3)
- 16 Watched in agony after losing wife in divorce (6)
- 19 12 grow up with leader being replaced by
- 20 Flat dwellers in the main struggle (8)
- 21 Trip Advisor includes enthusiastic review of girl in temporary accommodation (6,5)
- 25 Emigré upset by new government (7)
- 26 Canal boat beginning to drift in lagoon aimlessly (7)
- 27/28 Press going after corporate image in stigmatizing article (8,4)

DOWN

- 1/13/22 Translation of Anglican term means to
- 2 Successor (6)
- 2 Flat dwellers in the main struggle (8)
- 4 Debate case for auditor meeting staff in corporation (8)
- 5 Risk associated ultimately with negative emotion (6)
- 6 Important match suspended, interrupted by foul turning and shooting wildly? (3,4,7)
- 7 Expected position of person above deck? (2,3,5)
- 8 Legal intern met illegal alien (6,5,3)
- 9/17/24 Silly woman's

underwear dons exploit wearing (7-5)

13 See 1 Down

14 Change rota in order to provide support for shift? (10)

17 See 9

18 Claim new clothes start to reduce cause of bad reaction (8)

21 Suppressed recording of The Sex Pistols? (6)

22 See 1 Down

23/2 They anticipated the welfare state's shameful acts (4,4)

24 See 9

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

The pandemic-hit economy is coming back
on rails at more speed than expectedPRAKASH JAVADEKAR
UNION MINISTER

THUMBNAILS

ED to Gland Pharma: The ED has instructed Gland Pharma to transfer its six million shares owned by companies promoted by Satyam Computers' B Ramalinga Raju and his kin to an escrow account following the city-based drug company's initial public offering (IPO), a senior executive of the Gland Pharma said on Wednesday. Ten firms owned by Raju and his family members held six lakh shares with Rs 10 of each share (later they became six million with each shares face value Re 1). Meanwhile, Gland Pharma has set a price band of Rs 1,490-1,500 for its Rs 6,500-crore IPO.

PTI

India-Africa trade: India will support its domestic industry to invest in Africa in a big way in order to further strengthen economies between the two regions, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said on Wednesday. He said bilateral trade, which has increased to about \$67 billion, reflects the deep engagement between Africa and India.

PTI

HDFC Bank offer: With a view to further drive digital payment adoption among the merchant segment, HDFC Bank has launched cashbacks/offers for small and medium-sized merchants across metro, semi urban and rural markets. The campaign, called "Tees pe Treat", will cover the entire festive season till the end of the year, according to a Press release.

SNS

FedEx Express: FedEx Express has been recognised in the top 50 best workplaces for women this year by the Great Place to Work Institute. "We are honoured to be recognised as one of India's best workplaces for women, highlighting our diverse and inclusive work environment," said Mohamad Sayegh, vice-president of operations, FedEx Express.

SNS

WOW Skin Science ropes in Bhumi Pednekar as brand ambassador: WOW Skin Science, a skincare and wellness brand, has roped in actor Bhumi Pednekar as the brand ambassador for its range of skincare products. Known for persistent advocacy for climate change, Bhumi will now be the face of WOW Skin Science's range of skincare offerings, featuring a multitude of products from cleansers to creams, said a Press release statement.

SNS

Muhurat trading: Leading stock exchanges BSE and NSE will conduct one-hour special Muhurat trading session on the occasion of Diwali on 14 November. The session trading would be held between 1815 hrs and 1915 hours, the stock exchanges said in separate circulars. All trades executed in the Diwali Muhurat trading session would result in settlement obligations.

PTI

SBI Q2 net profit jumps 55% to ₹5,246 crore

Asset quality improves with gross NPAs declining to 5.28 per cent in the quarter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 4 NOVEMBER

REPORT CARD

► SBI reported a 55 per cent increase in consolidated net profit to Rs 5,245.88 crore. On a stand-alone basis, the bank's net profit rose nearly 52 per cent to Rs 4,574.16 crore.

► Total income rose to Rs 95,373.50 crore in the



quarter under review as compared with Rs 89,347.91 crore a year ago.

► Net NPAs or bad loans declined to 1.59 per cent of the advances from 2.79 per cent a year ago.

ing to 5.28 per cent of the gross advances as on 30 September 2020 from 7.19 per cent a year ago.

Net NPAs or bad loans also declined to 1.59 per cent of the advances from 2.79 per cent a year ago.

As a result, gross NPAs in absolute terms reduced to Rs 1.25 lakh crore from Rs 1.61 lakh crore in the year-ago quarter.

Similarly, provision for bad loans declined to Rs 5,619.28 crore as compared to Rs 11,396.87 crore in the same quarter a year ago.

SBI, in a statement, said but for the Supreme Court's inter-

8,805 crore in the year-ago period.

Provision coverage ratio increased significantly to 88.19 per cent as on 30 September 2020 from 81.23 per cent at the end of second quarter of last financial year.

Net interest margin improved to 3.34 per cent from 3.22 per cent at the end of second quarter of the previous fiscal.

Adani profit: Adani Enterprises on Wednesday reported a consolidated profit of Rs 435.73 crore for the second quarter ended 30 September.

The Gautam Adani-led company had clocked a consolidated loss of Rs 10.06 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago, according to a filing to the BSE.

Its consolidated total income for the latest quarter rose to Rs 9,312.14 crore from Rs 8,626.94 crore in the year-ago period. The total expenses increased to Rs 8,788.59 crore in the September quarter compared to Rs 8,571.75 crore in the same period a year ago.

Net interest income rose by 15 per cent to Rs 28,181 crore during the quarter as against Rs 24,600 crore a year ago.

Gross slippage declined to Rs 2,756 crore during the quarter under review from Rs

Services sector registers growth after 7-mth decline

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 4 NOVEMBER

RECOVERY MODE

► At 54.1 in October, up from 49.8 in September, the seasonally adjusted India Services Business Activity Index posted above the 50.0 no-change mark for the first time since February.

► A print above 50 means expansion and a score below that denotes contraction, as per the IHS Markit India Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).



Indian service sector activity ended the seven-month sequence of decline and registered growth in October, supported by improved market conditions amid easing Covid-19 restrictions, a monthly survey said today.

At 54.1 in October, up from 49.8 in September, the seasonally adjusted India Services Business Activity Index posted above the 50.0 no-change mark for the first time since February.

A print above 50 means expansion and a score below that denotes contraction, as per the IHS Markit India Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).

"It's encouraging to see the Indian service sector joining its manufacturing counterpart and posting a recovery in economic conditions from the steep deteriorations caused by the Covid-19 pandemic earlier in the year," said Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at IHS Markit.

Lima further noted that "while a revival of the manufacturing industry began in August, only now the service

sector started to heal. Service providers signalled solid expansions in new work and business activity during October". Services companies reported an increase in new work intakes, which they attributed to successful marketing efforts and strengthening demand.

On the price front, the rate of input cost inflation picked up to an eight-month high, but there was a softer rise in prices charged for the provision of services.

The Composite PMI Output Index, which measures combined services and manufacturing output, rose from 54.6 in September to 58.0 in October, signalling the strongest increase in private sector output in close to nine years.

PM to chair global investor roundtable

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 4 NOVEMBER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is slated to engage in an "exclusive dialogue" with key global institutional investors over India's economic outlook and path to become a \$5-trillion economy at a virtual round-table on Thursday.

The Virtual Global Investor Roundtable (VGIR) meeting to be chaired by Prime Minister Modi will see leading global institutional investors, Indian business leaders and highest decision makers from the Government of India and financial market regulators brainstorm over a wide range of issues having a direct bearing on the country's economy.

Key decision makers representing twenty of the world's largest pension and sovereign wealth funds with a total

assets under management worth \$6 trillion will take part in the roundtable dialogue with Modi. Union finance minister, minister of state for finance, RBI Governor and other dignitaries will be present on the occasion.

"VGIR 2020 will focus on discussions around India's economic and investment outlook, structural reforms and the government's vision for the path to a \$5-trillion economy," a PMO Press note giving details of the scheduled meeting stated.

"The event will provide an opportunity to leading global investors and Indian business leaders to engage and deliberate with senior policymakers on how to further accelerate the growth of international investments in India," the note from Prime Minister Office further added.

HPCL okays ₹2,500-cr share buyback, Q2 profit doubles

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 4 NOVEMBER

The board of Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) today approved a Rs 2,500-crore share buyback plan as the company management feels the share price is lower than the value it deserved.

In a stock exchange filing, HPCL said it will buy back up to 10 crore shares for not more than Rs 250 apiece. The company plans to buy back 6.56 per cent of the total shares.

HPCL, a subsidiary of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), has no immediate history of a share buyback.

Post buyback, ONGC shareholding in the firm will rise to 54.70 per cent from the current 51.11 per cent. Share-

holding of public will fall to 45.30 per cent from 48.89 per cent, the firm said.

Meanwhile, HPCL today reported more than doubling of its second quarter net profit on the back of a surge in refining margins and inventory gains.

Net profit in July-September quarter of this fiscal stood at Rs 2,477 crore as compared to Rs 1,052 crore a year ago. HPCL chairman and managing director Mukesh Kumar Surana told reporters on a call.

"The significant improvement in the profitability in spite of challenges including lockdown due to Covid-19 pandemic was a result of strategic planning in refinery and marketing operation, containing the de-growth to less than the industry efficient

inventory management and effective production placement," he said.

Gross sales revenue at Rs 61,340 crore was lower than Rs 66,165 crore of Q2 of the previous financial year due to lower oil prices.

The firm earned \$5.11 on turning every barrel of crude oil into fuel in the second quarter of 2020-21 fiscal as compared to a gross refining margin of \$2.83 a barrel.

This included a \$2.33 per barrel inventory gain from buying cheaper crude oil earlier and processing in Q2. This translated into Rs 1,780 crore of gain. Besides, the firm also had a foreign gain of Rs 524 crore, he said.

HPCL shares settled at Rs 186.75 apiece on BSE, up 0.54 per cent over previous close.

nism in the letter of offer.

The issuance will be subject to several conditions, including obtaining in-principle approval of the stock exchanges for listing of units proposed to be issued. Also that none of the respective promoters or partners or directors of the sponsor or manager or trustee of the InvITs is a fugitive economic offender and should not have been barred from the securities market.

According to Sebi, application form for the issue needs to be prepared by the investment manager and the manager would have to make arrangements for distribution of the application form along with letter of offer to all unit holders as on the record date. This should be done at least five days prior to the opening of the issue.

Adani to acquire 3 city gas licences

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 4 NOVEMBER

(East). All 3 GAs have high volumes potential in terms of demand of over 6.5 million standard cubic meters per day over a period of 10 years. These GAs are under phase 1 of Bharat Mala Parivahan by NHAI which will further boost the development and volume growth," the firm said in a statement. Jay Madhok had in 2013 won the licence to retail CNG to automobiles and piped natural gas to households and industries in Jalandhar in Punjab; and two years later, it got a licence for Ludhiana in Punjab and Kutch (East) in Gujarat.

"Adani Gas (AGL) has signed a definitive agreement for acquisition of three geographical areas (gas) namely Ludhiana, Jalandhar and Kutch

pending before PNGRB and Jay Madhok had been seeking adjournments on one pre-text or the other.

In March 2019, PNGRB issued another notice to Jay Madhok over alleged irregularities in the network used to acquire the licence. PNGRB also alleged a fraud in the furnishing of a loan sanction letter from Deutsche Bank AG, Singapore.

Sources said PNGRB will now have to examine if a sale of licence is permissible under the statute and what happens to the default by the original licensor.

PNGRB can accord an approval if it reaches a conclusion that such a deal is in the best interest of the development of the licence.

With the acquisition, Adani Gas now has licence for 22 GAs. It has 19 more licences in a joint venture with state-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC). These GAs cover 74 districts.

CAIT accuses Amazon of violating FDI policy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 4 NOVEMBER

Traders' body CAIT today accused e-commerce major Amazon of violating FDI policy and Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) norms, a charge which the multinational company denied.

The traders' body in a letter to commerce minister Piyush Goyal alleged that the online retailer had not sought the government's approval for conducting multi-brand retail activities in India and demanded action and imposition of maximum penalty against the company.

"Documents available in the public domain show that Amazon has made an investment of about Rs 35,000 crore in Amazon India, a make-believe e-commerce marketplace platform, but in

reality (it is) indirectly carrying multi-brand retail business," Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) secretary-general Praveen Khandelwal told reporters.

Denying the allegations, an Amazon spokesperson said: "As a responsible investor and a long-term player in India, Amazon complies with FDI laws and seeks regulatory approvals including from the Competition Commission of India. Our investment in Future and all investments in India are in compliance with applicable regulations."

CAIT alleged that Amazon has investment "of about Rs 4,200 crore in More Retail Limited (a multi-brand retail company); on the face of it looks like it is controlled by an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) of Samara Capital, and has investment of

'Small business activity fast reaching near-normal levels'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 4 NOVEMBER

Business activity of the micro, small and medium enterprises - which are regarded as the backbone of Indian economy - is fast reaching near-normal levels, and rapidly adopting digital business tools to drive efficiency and growth, according to a report.

Out of 36, 16 states and UTs are witnessing business activity levels higher than pre-COVID times, while Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Delhi are trending at 90-95 per cent of their pre-COVID levels, as per the data gathered by the report.

Bihar, Haryana, Assam, Rajasthan, and Himachal are

Sensex rises 355 pts, rupee falls 35 paise

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 4 NOVEMBER

Rising for the third straight session, the Sensex rallied 355 points today following gains in Reliance Industries, Infosys and Kotak Bank amid a positive trend in global markets ahead of the outcome of the US presidential election.

After a volatile session, the 30-share BSE index ended 355.01 points or 0.88 per cent higher at 40,616.14 points.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 95 points or 0.80 per cent to 11,908.50 points.

dra. On the other hand, HDFC, PowerGrid, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, NTPC and L&T were among the laggards. According to traders, domestic equities followed global stocks that were upbeat ahead of the outcome of the US presidential election.

The poll is headed for a nail-biter, with Joe Biden having won 225 electoral college votes and US President Donald Trump following with 213 till last reports came in. The winner should have at least 270 electoral college votes out of the 538.

Earlier in the day, Trump claimed that a "major fraud" was being perpetrated on the American people and said he will take the matter to the Supreme Court, even

as the counting of votes was in progress in the battleground states.

► After a volatile session, the 30-share BSE index ended 355.01 points or 0.88 per cent higher at 40,616.14 points.

► Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 95 points or 0.80 per cent to 11,908.50 points.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Seoul and Tokyo ended with gains, while

Hong Kong settled in the red.

Stock exchanges in Europe were also trading on a positive note in early deals.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 2.72 per cent higher at \$40.79 per barrel.



Plans that call for Chinese industry to pursue self-reliance in technology and focus on domestic markets and suppliers will benefit the people of all countries

CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING

IN A SPEECH DELIVERED BY VIDEO LINK TO AN IMPORT FAIR IN SHANGHAI.

The Statesman

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY 05 NOVEMBER 2020

09

Unrest in Tigray region, Ethiopian PM sends army

Ethiopia declared a six-month state of emergency in Tigray on Wednesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ADDIS ABABA, 4 NOVEMBER

Fighting continued Wednesday afternoon, and the TPLF was claiming it had captured and killed Ethiopian army officers

Ethiopia's Nobel Peace Prize-winning prime minister on Wednesday ordered the military to confront the country's Tigray regional government after he accused it of carrying out a deadly attack on a military base, declaring "the last red line has been crossed" after months of alleged provocations.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's statement, and the reported attack by the well-armed Tigray People's Liberation Front, raised concerns that one of Africa's most populous and powerful countries could plunge back into war. That would send a shock wave through one of the world's most turbulent regions, the Horn of Africa. Ethiopia's neighbours include Somalia and Sudan, and the prospect of spreading instability sent a chill down the spines of observers.

Signaling the gravity of the threat, the United States in the midst of its election drama quickly issued a statement urging "an immediate de-escalation of the current

strong military force has been reinforced in recent months, but analysts said it's little match for the federal government.

Ethiopia declared a six-month state of emergency in Tigray on Wednesday, saying that "illegal and violent activities" there are "threatening the country's sovereignty."

A statement on Tigray TV accused the federal government of deploying troops to "cow the people of Tigray into submission by force," and said the regional government was acting "to avert more destructive measures."

It banned movement by Ethiopia's military in Tigray and warned of "proportional measures" for any damage to people or property.

Tigray leader Debretion Gebremichael on Monday warned a bloody conflict could erupt, accusing Ethiopian and Eritrean leaders of making "all necessary preparations to start war against Tigray." There was no immediate comment from Eritrea.

Internet and phone lines were cut in Tigray, provoking distress among people who could not reach loved ones. Tigray TV reported that

airspace had been closed over the region, and it asserted that the Ethiopian military's northern command had defected to the Tigray government. The prime minister's office told The Associated Press the defection report was "not true."

Ethiopia was already stressed by a dispute with Egypt over a massive Ethiopian dam project that has drawn rare attention by President Donald Trump to Africa, and by a multi-layer crisis with the pandemic, deadly ethnic violence and a locust outbreak.

Now the greatest test of Abiy's rule has come, as the fighting in Tigray could inspire other restive regions in Ethiopia.

Tigray officials had objected to the postponement of Ethiopia's national election, once set for August, because of the pandemic, and the extension of Abiy's time in office.

In September, people in Tigray voted in an election, defeating the federal government and increasing tensions over a region of some 5 million people that despite its small share of Ethiopia's population of 110 million has had outsize influence. .

US approves Taiwan drone purchase as arms sales escalate

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 4 NOVEMBER

The Trump administration has notified Congress that it has approved the sale of USD 600 million in armed drones to Taiwan, the latest in a series of arms transfers for the island.

The State Department said on Tuesday it had Ok'd Taiwan's purchase of four "weapons ready" remotely piloted aircraft and related equipment. The move is likely to infuriate China, which regards Taiwan as a renegade province and has reacted angrily to previous weapons sales' announcements to the island.

"This proposed sale serves US national, economic and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability," it said. "The proposed sale will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance, economic and progress in the region." It said the sale would improve Taiwan's defence by bolstering its intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities and could help deter military action against it. Just last week, the administration approved

China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory, will make a proper and necessary response according to the development of the situation, Wang said.

The State Department said Tuesday it had green-lighted Taiwan's purchase of four weapons ready remotely piloted aircraft and related equipment, the latest in a series of arms transfers for the island.

In its announcement, the department said the proposed sale serves U.S. national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability.

The US should cancel all such sales to Taiwan so as to avoid further damage to China-US relations and peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, Wang told reporters at a daily briefing.

plans for a \$ 2.37 billion sale of Harpoon missile systems to Taiwan. That came hours after Beijing had announced sanctions on US defence contractors, including Boeing, the lead contractor on the Harpoon deal, over a previous weapons deal.

China's ruling Communist Party claims Taiwan, which split with the mainland

Calm returns to Vienna as police probe gunman who killed four

VIENNA, 4 NOVEMBER

Life in Vienna returned to something like normal Wednesday as Austrian authorities investigated whether a 20-year-old man who fatally shot four people in an attack claimed by the Islamic State group had any accomplices.

Officials say the suspect, identified as 20-year-old Kujtim Fejzulai, had a previous conviction for trying to join the Islamic State group in Syria and had been released in December. He wounded more than 20 people in nine minutes before he was killed by police on Monday night.

Much of the capital remained shut down well into Tuesday, with authorities saying only in the afternoon that they hadn't yet found any evidence of a second assailant. Schools reopened on Wednesday.

Today everything seems to be back to normal, but of course the mood is a quite gloomy, as you can understand after such an incident, Vienna resident Roman Schulz, 21, said. But I think we must stick together in Vienna. We must not let our joy of life be taken away from us.

Two men and two women died from their injuries after the attacker, who was armed with a fake explosive vest, an automatic rifle, a handgun and a machete, opened fire at people sitting in crowded bars and cafes hours before the establishments were closed under new coronavirus restrictions.

Police in the Swiss city of Winterthur said Tuesday two men were arrested there. Swiss daily St. Galler Tagblatt reported that Swiss Justice Minister Karin Keller-Sutter described them as "colleagues of the attacker. In Slovakia, police responded to reports that the suspect had traveled there in July to buy ammunition. AP

Libya's rivals urge UNSC to back truce

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAIRO, 4 NOVEMBER

Libya's rivals wrapped up their military talks with a call to the U.N. Security Council to adopt a binding resolution to implement a cease-fire deal inked last month, the U.N. said.

The two-day talks in the oasis town of Ghadames, which concluded late Tuesday, were the first face-to-face negotiations inside Libya since last year's months-long attack on the capital by forces loyal to the east-based military commander Khalifa Haftar. The two sides agreed to meet again in the contested coastal city of Site sometime in November, and to form a sub-committee to oversee the return of all Libyan forces to their camps, as mentioned in the October 23 cease-fire reached in Geneva, the U.N. support mission in Libya said.

This is the beginning of a process that is going to require determination, courage, confidence and a lot of work, said the head of the U.N. support mission for Libya, Stephanie Williams, who headed the Ghadames talks.

She said they have dis-

France bans Grey Wolves

PARIS, 4 NOVEMBER

The French government on Wednesday banned a Turkish ultranationalist group, Grey Wolves that it accused of leading violent actions and inciting hatred speech in France.

The ban on the Grey Wolves, the militant wing of Turkey's far-right Nationalist Movement Party was approved during a weekly Cabinet meeting, government spokesperson Gabriel Attal said.

It did not name a particular country but apparently referred to Turkey, which has sent forces and mercenaries to train and fight alongside forces loyal to the U.N.-supported government in the west. Libya is split between a U.N.-supported government in the capital, Tripoli, and rival authorities based in the east. The two sides are backed by an array of local militias.

The two sides urged the U.N. Security Council to urgently adopt a resolution on the implementation of the cease-fire deal, which the U.N. mission has billed as historic. Thousands of foreign fighters, including Russians, Syrians, Sudanese and Chadians, have been brought to Libya by both sides, according to U.N. experts.

SAFETY FIRST



People pass a mural dedicated to healthcare workers, in Pasig City, Metro Manila, on Wednesday. ■ THE STRAIT TIMES

Hurricane Eta lashes Nicaragua with rains, deadly mudslides

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANAGUA (NICARAGUA), 4 NOVEMBER

Hurricane Eta continues to spin across northern Nicaragua after lashing the country's Caribbean coast for much of Tuesday, isolating already remote communities and setting off deadly landslides in two countries that killed at least three people.

The storm had weakened by late Tuesday, but was moving so slowly and dumping so

much rain that much of Central America was on high alert. Eta came ashore Tuesday afternoon south of the Nicaraguan city of Bilwi as a powerful Category 4 hurricane after stalled just off the coast for hours. The city of about 60,000 had been without power since Monday evening. Corrugated metal roofing and uprooted trees were scattered through its streets. Some 20,000 of the area's residents were in shelters.

Inland, about 100 miles

(160 kilometers) west of where Eta made landfall, two gold miners were killed when a mountainside unleashed tons of mud Tuesday morning. A third miner escaped the slide and sought help.

One body was recovered before rescuers had to suspend recovery efforts due to nightfall and fears that more slides could occur as the rain continued, said Lt. Cesar Malespin of the Bonanza Fire Department. He said recovery efforts would continue Wednesday.

Bonanza was getting lashed by strong winds and torrential rain, he said.

The storm has been drenching neighbouring Honduras with rain since at least Sunday and the country reported its first death attributed to Eta early Tuesday.

A 12-year-old girl died in a mudslide in San Pedro Sula, the main population center in northern Honduras, said Marvin Aparicio, director of the national system of incident commands for Honduras'

emergency management agency. In Honduras, there were at least 559 people affected by flooding who had to move to shelters or go to relatives' homes, he said. At least 25 people had been rescued, he said. His agency reported at least six rivers causing significant flooding.

Forecasters said central and northern Nicaragua and much of Honduras could get 15 to 25 inches (380 to 635 millimeters) of rain, with 35 inches (890 millimeters) in isolated areas. Heavy rains also were likely in eastern Guatemala, southern Belize and Jamaica.

The quantities of rain expected drew comparisons to 1998's Hurricane Mitch, one of the most deadly Atlantic hurricanes in history. An archival report from the U.S. National Hurricane Center said Mitch caused the deaths of more than 9,000 people.

Nicaragua's remote northeast where Eta made landfall was already isolated before the storm.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Number in a quartet (4)
- 3 Certain (4)
- 7 Travel bags (7)
- 8 Planet (5)
- 10 Large bundle (4)
- 11 Agitation (7)
- 12 Tooth-cleaning thread (6,5)
- 16 Temporary (7)
- 18 Make weary (4)
- 20 Set of rooms (5)
- 21 Large ape (7)
- 22 Remaining (4)
- 23 Catch sight of (4)

- 1 People (4)
- 2 Improved version (7)
- 3 A few (7)
- 4 Piece of music (5)
- 5 Strong wind (4)
- 6 Picture in the mind (6,5)
- 7 Flafish (4)
- 14 Excess (7)
- 15 Fail to catch (4)
- 17 Moment (5)
- 18 Sour (4)
- 19 Risqué (4)

DOWNS

16 Subterranean, 1 Warlike, 18 Agenda, 21 Bigwig, 3 Theory, 4 Instep, 5 Equitable, 6 Biro, 10 Split ends,

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

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All of a sudden everything just stopped. This is a fraud on the American public. We were getting ready to win this election. Frankly, we did win this election

DONALD TRUMP
US PRESIDENT

WEATHER

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

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

THUMBNAILS



A broken "Make America Great Again" hat model lies on the ground as people gather at Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington.

■ THE STRAIT TIMES

Georgia Republican who supports QAnon wins: Republican Marjorie Taylor Greene, who expressed racist views and support for QAnon conspiracy theories in a series of online videos, has won a US House seat representing northwest Georgia. AP

Calif vote about drivers: Uber, Lyft and other app-based ride-hailing and delivery services spent USD 200 million in a winning bet to circumvent California lawmakers and the courts to preserve their business model by keeping drivers from becoming employees eligible for benefits and job protections. AP

US formally exits Paris climate agreement

ASHINGTON, 4 NOVEMBER

The US formally exited the Paris Climate Agreement on Wednesday amid election uncertainty, three years after President Donald Trump announced his intent to remove the country from participating in the landmark global pact to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

President Trump originally announced his intention to withdraw from the agreement in 2017 and formally notified the United Nations last year.

The US exited the pact after a mandatory year-long waiting period ended on Wednesday. The historic accord seeks to limit global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius, the value that climate scientists have determined will have disastrous consequences if exceeded.

Trump has repeatedly criticised the agreement as economically detrimental and claimed it could cost the country 2.5 million jobs by 2025. He also said it gave other major emitters, like China and India, a free pass.

The US is the only country to withdraw from the global pact. It can still attend negotiations and give opinions, but is relegated to observer status.

Trump stated that he intended to renegotiate the details of the United States's membership within the Paris Agreement that can better protect US workers in industries like coal, paper, and steel.

The US is the second leading producer of all carbon dioxide emissions globally, behind China.

But whether the US exit turns out to be brief or lasting depends on the outcome of the presidential contest. The Washington Post said. A possible second Trump term would make clear that an international effort to slow the Earth's warming will not include the US government. Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden, meanwhile, has vowed to rejoin the Paris accord as soon as he is inaugurated and to make the US a global leader on climate action. While Biden's climate plan has been recognised as the most ambitious the US has ever proposed, it still may not hit the mark, according to some critics.

US appears to be on track to see over 160 mn votes cast in the election, a turnout rate of about 67%, which is higher than the country has witnessed in more than a century

Trump claims fraud in electoral process

One of the most divisive and bitter presidential elections in American history saw tight races in many key battleground states

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, 4 NOVEMBER

In an unprecedented claim in US politics, Donald Trump on Wednesday falsely asserted "fraud" in the counting of votes and said he would approach the Supreme Court to stop it, as the race between incumbent Republican president and his Democratic challenger Joe Biden was poised for a photo-finish.

One of the most divisive and bitter presidential elections in American history saw tight races in many key battleground states with Biden winning 224 electoral college votes and Trump closely behind with 213. The winner of the 2020 presidential election should have at least 270 electoral college votes out of the 538-member electoral college.

Fox News, considered to be the favourite news network of the president, gave him only 213 electoral college votes while crediting 238 votes to Biden. It also gave 50 per cent of the popular vote to the Democratic challenger and 48.4 per cent to Trump.

Trump called the election "a fraud on the American public" and said, "Frankly, we did win this election." He also said he planned to take the battle to the Supreme Court to stop the counting of votes. "All of a sudden everything just stopped. This is a fraud on the American public. This is an embarrassment to our country. We were getting ready to win this election. Frankly, we did win this election," Trump said, without citing any evidence of a fraud in the electoral process.

"We will win this, and as far as I'm concerned, we already have won it," Trump, 74, said in remarks to supporters in the White House East Room at 2 am.



The White House is seen at sunset the day of the 2020 U.S. presidential election in Washington.

White House East Room at 2 am.

"Our goal now is to ensure integrity, for the good of this nation. This is a very big moment. This is a major fraud on our nation. We want law to be used in a proper manner. So we'll be going to the US Supreme Court."

"We want all voting to stop. We don't want them to find any ballots at four o'clock in the morning and add them to the list," Trump said, amidst applause from his supporters.

Reacting sharply, Biden's campaign manager called Trump's statement as "outrageous, unprecedented, and incorrect."

"If the president makes good on his threat to go to court to try to prevent the proper tabulation of votes, we have legal teams standing by ready to deploy to resist that effort. And they will prevail," Jen O'Malley Dillon said.

"The president's statement tonight about trying to shut down the counting of duly cast ballots was outrageous, unprecedented, and incor-

rect. It was outrageous because it is a naked effort to take away the democratic rights of American citizens," Dillon said in a statement.

Trump was currently leading in other major battleground states like Pennsylvania and Michigan where projections are yet to be made by the US media outlets.

A national race in which a record number of Americans voted amidst the Covid pandemic is boiling down to just a handful of states: Arizona, Georgia, Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

Polls before the Election Day suggested possible outcomes ranging from a comfortable win for Biden, to a narrow victory for Trump where he loses the national popular vote but once again carries enough battleground states to win in the electoral college.

But Trump's decision to move the Supreme Court has brought uncertainty. The mainstream American media has criticised the president.

"No elected leader has the

right to unilaterally order votes to stop being counted, and Mr. Trump's middle-of-the-night proclamation amounted to a reckless attempt to hijack the electoral process as results in key battleground states were still not final, something without precedent in American politics." The New York Times commented, criticising the president's move. Trump's remarks added another bizarre twist to one of the most extraordinary election cycles in the nation's history, it said.

With millions of votes still being counted, the outcome of the race between Trump and Biden remained in flux, with the possibility that the winner would not be known for days, The Washington Post reported.

A short time before Trump spoke, Biden, 77, addressed supporters in his home state of Delaware. Biden projected optimism but asked voters for patience. He pointed to Pennsylvania and Michigan, among other battlegrounds, as slow-counting states that he expects

ed to win.

"As I've said all along, it's not my place or Donald Trump's place to declare who's won this election, Biden said. "That's the decision of the American people. But I'm optimistic about this outcome." "It ain't over till every vote is counted," Biden added.

Trump pointed out that he had impressive victories in Florida, Ohio and Texas. He said that he has already won in states like Georgia and North Carolina where his rivals cannot catch up in the rest of the counting of votes.

Arizona, which has been projected to be won by Biden, continues to be in play, he said, adding that he is winning big in Pennsylvania.

Alleging that his challenger (Biden) knew that they couldn't win, Trump said: So they said, let's go to court. I have been saying this from the day I heard they were going to send out tens of millions of ballots. I said exactly because either they were going to win, or if they didn't win. They'll take us to court."

According to reports, there are more than 1.4 million vote-by-mail ballots left to count in Pennsylvania, and it could take days to tabulate them all. The big cities in Michigan (Detroit) and Wisconsin (Milwaukee) are also yet to fully report, and they will heavily tilt toward the Democrats. Ohio State University election law professor Edward Foley wrote on Twitter Wednesday: "The valid votes will be counted. SCOTUS would be involved only if there were votes of questionable validity that would make a difference, which might not be the case. The rule of law will determine the official winner of the popular vote in each state. Let the rule of law work."

Hand sanitiser jams ballot scanner in US: In a freak incident, a ballot scanner in the US state of Iowa stopped working after getting moisture from voters applying hand sanitiser, leading to a disruption in polling, a media report said. The voters who applied hand sanitiser caused excess moisture to get into the machine and put it out of commission for about an hour in Iowa's Des Moines, New York Daily News quoted spokesperson for the Iowa secretary of state Kevin Hall as saying.

About 69 per cent American-Muslims vote for Biden: exit poll: Nearly 69 per cent Muslim voters cast their ballot for Democratic Presidential nominee Joe Biden while 17 percent supported President Donald Trump, according to a survey conducted by Muslim civil liberties and advocacy organisation in the US. The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organisation, released the results of its 2020 Muslim Voters Presidential Election Exit Poll on Tuesday. CAIR's poll of 844 registered Muslim voter households found a high Muslim turnout with 84 per cent reporting that they voted in the US election, with 69 per cent voting for Biden and 17 per cent for Trump.

Twitter hides Trump's tweet accusing Biden campaign of 'stealing' election: Twitter on Wednesday placed a "disputed" label on a tweet from President Donald Trump in which he accused the rival Biden campaign of trying to "steal" the tightly-contested 2020 presidential elections.

In his first reaction to the election results, Trump tweeted, "We are up BIG, but they are trying to STEAL the election. We will never let them do it. Votes cannot be cast after the polls are closed!" The tweet was placed behind a warning on the president's account that the content shared is "disputed and might be misleading about an election or other civic process." Facebook also flagged the post of president Trump.

Democrat Torres scripts history by becoming 1st openly gay Blackman elected to Congress: Democrat Party's Ritchie Torres has made history by becoming the first openly gay Blackman elected to the US Congress. Torres, 32, a New York City Council Member, won the election from New York's 15th Congressional District, defeating Republican Patrick Delices to become the next representative, New York Daily News reported. Tonight, a new era begins for the South Bronx, Torres said in a statement. "It is the honour of a lifetime to represent a borough filled with essential workers who have risked their lives so that New York City could live. The Bronx is essential, and the vibrant, loving and talented people who live here have shown time and again their power, fortune and perseverance, he said.



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Democrats losing paths to Senate control as GOP hangs on

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, 4 NOVEMBER

Hopes fading for Senate control, Democrats had a disappointing election night as Republicans swatted down an onslaught of challengers and fought to retain their fragile majority. Several races remained undecided into Wednesday and at least one headed to a runoff in January.

It was a jarring outcome for Democrats who had devised an expanded political map, eager to provide a backstop against President Donald Trump and his party's grip on the Senate. The races attracted an unprecedented outpouring of small-dollar donations from Americans apparently voting with their pocketbooks to propel long-shot campaigns. The voters' choices will force a rethinking of Democratic Party strategy, messaging and approach from the Trump era.

Voters ranked the pandemic and the economy as top concerns, according to AP VoteCast, a national survey of the electorate.

While Democrats picked up must-win seats in Colorado

and Arizona, they suffered a setback in Alabama, and Republicans held their own in one race after another — in South Carolina, Iowa, Texas, Kansas and Montana, dramatically limiting the places where Democrats hoped to make inroads.

You wasted a lot of money," said White House Sen. Lindsey Graham in Columbia, South Carolina, after defeating Jamie Harrison, despite the Democrat's stunning \$100 million haul for his upset campaign. "This is the worst return on investment in the history of American politics."

Trump loomed large over the Senate races as did Democratic rival Joe Biden. The Trump administration's handling of the Covid crisis, its economic fallout and the nation's uneasy mood all seemed to be on the ballot.

Democrats contested seats from New England to the Deep South and the Midwest to the Mountain West, reaching deep into GOP strongholds. But by early Wednesday, the tally was not too different from before Election Day.

It's time for a different approach," said Democrat John Hickenlooper, a former governor who unseated Republican Sen. Cory Gardner in Colorado, during a live video message posted on Facebook.

Yet voters, for the most part, stuck with the status quo.

Securing the Senate majority will be vital for the winner of the presidency. Senators confirm administration nominees, including the Cabinet, and can propel or stall the White House agenda. With Republicans now controlling the chamber, 53-47, three or four seats will determine party control, depending on who wins the presidency because the vice president can break a tie in the Senate.

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US legal structure causes uncertainty

American election law is riddled with uncertainties and in the absence of any interpretation by the Supreme Court of the critical Electoral Count Act, the process will remain under a cloud, argues RICHARD PILDES

As I've Zoom-travelled the country speaking about legal issues involving the election, I have found myself, as well as audiences, bewildered and frustrated by one underlying question: Why is there so much legal uncertainty about so many critical questions concerning the rules for resolving a disputed presidential election?

If ever a need existed for clear legal rules established in advance, before we know whose ox will be (Al) Gored, that situation is it.

Let me provide just one critical example. The Constitution does not create rules or an institutional structure for resolving a modern, disputed presidential election. It provides a fail-safe mechanism for only one situation, which has not happened since 1824: If no candidate gets the necessary majority of votes in the Electoral College, then the House picks the president from the top three Electoral College candidates.

But that's not the path the most disputed presidential elections have taken since 1824. Nor is it the likely path if this year brings us to that dark place.

And the way the country's legal system is structured, we can't get clear answers in advance to some critical legal questions, unless things actually get complicated enough to bring the courts into the picture.

The threat of a contested election

When the U.S. confronted the most intensely disputed presidential election in our history, the post-Civil War 1876 election, the country and Congress discovered we had no rules or institutional structure in place for addressing the form of conflict which that election raised.

Here's what happened: Four states sent two or more competing slates of electors to the Electoral College, each claiming to represent the valid vote of their states. When Congress performed its constitutionally assigned power to count these votes, that meant Congress had to determine which slate to treat as valid. The issue was which candidate had won a majority of these electoral votes, not that no candidate had failed to garner a majority.

Congress decided on the spot to create an ad hoc, 15-member commission, with five Supreme Court justices, and agreed to be bound by its judgment unless both chambers, controlled by different parties, rejected it. Four months later, a compromise resulted in the election of Republican Rutherford B. Hayes, not the winner of the popular vote, Democrat Samuel Tilden.

In the wake of this barely averted disaster, Congress realized the country needed something better than an ad hoc arrangement. Resolving a disputed election for chief executive is one of the potentially most explosive situations any democracy can face; democracies have come apart in these situations.

After a decade of deliberations, Congress bequeathed the Electoral Count Act in 1887, designed to provide the framework, which still governs today, for how Congress should deal with a state that certifies two or more slates of electors.

Unanswered questions

Yet for all that deliberation – or maybe because of it – the Electoral Count Act is still riddled with major legal uncertainties. So are other federal statutes that govern the election.

Here is just one example. Federal law, the Presidential Election Day Act, makes Election Day the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

But the law then says that if a state "has failed to make a choice," the legislature can step in and decide how the state's electors should be appointed – which includes the legislature appointing electors itself. But it's not clear what "failed" means. And the law doesn't provide any definition.

The question of when an election



has "failed" thus takes on paramount importance. A natural disaster that completely prevents a state from conducting its presidential election would be the classic example.

But what if – more relevant this year, perhaps – a state cannot quickly enough determine who has won the vote? That means reaching a final resolution, including any litigation that could affect the outcome, by the time the Electoral College must vote on December 18. Can a legislature assert the election has "failed," step in and directly appoint the electors itself? Yet the act contains no definition or examples of a "failed" election.

That is a rather large question to leave up in the air.

Send in the judges?

Now the courts enter the picture – or more accurately, this is where you might expect the courts to enter the picture. But they don't.

If the courts had given a definitive interpretation of what it means for an election to have "failed," there would be a settled meaning of this term and other unresolved ones, in this law and others, in advance of the election.

The Supreme Court has also never interpreted the Electoral Count Act. Nor will there be any ruling on what a "failed" election means before the moment when Americans actually face potentially explosive political conflicts over exactly that issue.

The reason is that our federal courts, unlike those in some states and other constitutional democracies, will not address any legal issue unless it arises in the middle of what's termed an actual "case or controversy." Though this principle rests on a thin historical foundation, it is as deeply embedded in American legal doctrine as any principle.

In legal terms, the federal courts will not issue advisory opinions. That means federal courts will refuse to answer any question in the abstract about the legal meaning of a statute, including whether the statute is even constitutional, no matter how important it might be to have clear guidance on what those laws mean.

This principle is conventionally described as a way of limiting the role of federal courts in American democracy. Courts will resolve disputes over the meaning of law only when they absolutely must enter the fray. The "case or controversy" constraint is also linked to proper respect for the separation of powers.

No shelter in the storm

But as this election and many other contexts illustrate, this doctrine can also be dangerous for the country, as well as the courts themselves. The last time Americans want to discover the proper meaning of laws like the Electoral Count or Presidential Election Day acts is precisely in the midst of an actual controversy over who will become president.

At that moment, the courts are no longer operating behind a veil of ignorance, which would mean they were blind to any knowledge of who would benefit. They will be aware of which candidate is more likely to benefit from a ruling one way or the other.

Worse than that, even if the courts decide that question in exactly the same way they would behind that veil, the half of the country whose candidate loses will almost certainly perceive the courts as having acted for the purpose of favouring that candidate. That is almost inevitable, as I said at the time of Bush v. Gore.

One major purpose of a well-constructed legal regime is to provide a clear framework in advance for resolving contentious issues. Being in conflict about the very content of those rules, at the same time we are trying to apply them to resolve those issues, is sure to make these conflicts all the more divisive.

The country does not want to be debating how long the term of office for a president ought to be at the same time it is choosing a president, which is why the Constitution specifies the four-year term.

But to settle the meaning of many rules on the books, judicial interpretation is required. Yet that is exactly what the "case or controversy" requirement precludes – until we are in the midst of that controversy.

This is why audiences I talk to are frustrated at discovering that legal experts offer conflicting views, or give "on the one hand, on the other hand" answers to questions about exactly how disputed election might arise and be resolved. In the name of limiting their own power, the federal courts leave us at sea until the boat is nearly capsizing.

The writer is Professor of Constitutional Law, New York University. This article was published on www.theconversation.com

CONFESION AND THE COLOUR OF A UNIFORM

A recent judgment of the Supreme Court holding that narcotics officers are police officers within the meaning of Section 25 of the Evidence Act will raise questions about the procedures followed in cases under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, writes ANUPAM LAL DAS.

A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court of India, by a majority of 2:1, while answering a reference in the case of Tofan Singh Vs. State of Tamil Nadu, on 29 October 2020 in Criminal Appeal No. 152 of 2013, held that officers who are invested with powers under Section 53 of "The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS)" are "police officers" within the meaning of Section 25 of the Evidence Act and, therefore, any confessional statement made before them would attract the bar of Section 25 of the Evidence Act and cannot be taken into account to convict an accused.

The judgment is pathbreaking indeed as it does not discriminate between the colour of the uniform worn by various investigative agencies under various statutes but holds what is important are the powers and functions exercised by such officers under their respective statutes.

The Constitution of India is our own Magna Carta and is uncompromising in protecting individual liberties of its citizens. The liberties in the nature of fundamental rights are enshrined in Part III of the Constitution. The most inviolable of these - the right to life and personal liberty - is set out in Article 21 and is considered to be the soul of the Constitution.



67, such officer has the power to call for information. The "enquiry" made by such officer is to enable him to gather "information" to satisfy himself that there is "reason to believe" that an offence has been committed in the first place. Further, under Section 52(3) every person arrested and articles seized under Sections 41 to 44 shall be sent to the nearest police station for them to "investigate" or to the officer under Section 53 who would then investigate to find out if an offence had been committed.

Also, Section 67(c) uses the expression "examine" and such "examination" of a person is to gather information for the purposes of satisfying himself that there is "reason to believe" that an offence has been committed.

Now, the most critical question viz. whether an officer designated under Section 53 of the NDPS Act can be said to be a police officer?

The Supreme Court examined various judgments under various statutes including its judgment in State of Punjab Vs. Barkat Ram (2:1) (1962) 3 SCR 338 which held that under the Land Customs Act, 1924 a Customs Officer was not a police officer for the purpose of attracting the bar under Section 25 of the Evidence Act. What weighed with the Court in the said case was that the Customs officer was not really concerned with detection and punishment for the crime but for prevention of smuggling of goods and safeguarding customs duties.

In Raja Ram Jaiswal Vs. State of

Bihar AIR 1964 SC 828, by a majority of 2:1, the Supreme Court inter-alia held that a confession made to an Excise Inspector under the Bihar and Orissa Excise Act of 1915, would be a confession made to a police officer for the purpose of Section 25 of the Evidence Act.

The Supreme Court in its present judgment has also referred to in the majority judgment to hold that the conferment of the powers of an officer in charge of a police station, on a government officer, for the purposes of an investigation of an offence under a special Act, would not include the power to submit a report under Section 173 of Cr.P.C.

However, with all the humility at my command, I must mention that the minority judgment has not dealt with the most important non-obstante clause in 36A of the Act which is a complete code in itself and specifically provides for filing of a complaint by the authorized officer under Section 53 before a Special Court and the Special Court thereupon taking cognizance of the same. The statement of law in the present judgment is likely to stir a debate with regard to the opaqueness in the investigative procedure especially in statutes like the Prevention of Money-Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA). It must be borne in mind that the two Acts namely the NDPS Act and the PMLA Act are joined by an umbilical cord with strikingly similar provisions, with the former giving birth to the latter.

The recording of an "Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR)" for a scheduled offence and attachment, search and seizure for formation of a reasonable belief of money laundering or existence of proceeds of crime would have to stand stricter legal scrutiny in light of the present judgment.

The writer is Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India.



Harry Maguire (*in photo, left*) has dismissed Roy Keane's suggestion that Manchester United lack leaders, insisting that the squad have players who are willing to take responsibility within their ranks. Keane questioned the character of Ole Gunnar Solskjær's side following their limp performance in a 1-0 defeat by Arsenal at Old Trafford.

For more updates

www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Mueller ill: Former Germany striker Gerd Mueller "is slowly passing to the afterlife in his sleep," his wife Uschi said before he celebrated his 75th birthday on Tuesday. Mueller who won the World Cup in 1974, suffers from dementia and lives in a specialised care home.

Talbot dead: Don Talbot, the foundation director of the Australian Institute of Sport and one of the country's greatest coaches, has died. He was 87. Talbot passed away peacefully. Swimming Australia said Talbot had died on the Gold Coast, Queensland state.

Giggs out: Ryan Giggs will not be involved in Wales's international camp after being arrested on suspicion of assaulting a woman. The 46-year-old manager was arrested and later bailed over an alleged row with "on-off girlfriend" Kate Greville at his home.

Tennis' plan: The ATP Finals, the flagship event on the men's tennis Tour outside of the four Grand Slams, will continue preparations to be held without spectators in London this month, organisers said following the announcement of a month-long lockdown in England.

Golf's request: England Golf has signed a letter sent to Prime Minister Boris Johnson from the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Golf pleading for a rethink on the imminent closure of golf courses. New lockdown measures are set to be introduced on and from Thursday.

Samuels sunset: Former West Indies batsman Marlon Samuels has retired from cricket. Samuels told the board of his exit June, having last played in December 2018. He figured in 71 Tests, 207 One-Day Internationals and 67 Twenty20 Internationals.

New job: Former wicket-keeper Luke Ronchi has been named the New Zealand team's batting coach, replacing former Test batsman Peter Fulton, who stepped down to become head coach of Canterbury. Ronchi finished his international career in 2017.

ICC ODI rankings: India skipper Virat Kohli and his deputy Rohit Sharma continued to dominate the ICC ODI rankings for batsmen by occupying the top two positions, while pacer Jasprit Bumrah remained static at the second spot in the bowler's list.

'Strokes of Genius': Discovery Plus created a buzz with its latest offering "Strokes of Genius" - a gripping 90-minute sports documentary, based on the book "Strokes of Genius: Federer, Nadal and the Greatest Match Ever Played", by L. Jon Wertheim. Keeping in line with the theme of the documentary, Indian sporting stars PV Sindhu, Saina Nehwal and Somdev Devvarman, expressed their views in a candid conversation on the modern-day legends, one of the greatest rivalries of tennis and also across sporting disciplines - Federer - Nadal, the protagonists of the documentary who have defied all odds and have inspired millions over the years.

Partnership for sports content: Play Sports, the fastest-growing sports media content creation and streaming startup in the Asia-Pacific region, has collaborated with made-in-India video content creation and sharing platform, Chingari, starting November 2020. This partnership begins with the coverage of the most widely popular professional cricket league, Indian Premier League 2020 (IPL), including highlights from play-offs and final.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI, 4 NOVEMBER

They stand on the opposite ends of IPL's success spectrum but there is little to separate between Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals in the tournament's 13th edition as they head into blockbuster first qualifier here on Thursday. The team to beat in the league stage, four-time winners Mumbai lost a bit of their momentum after a 10-wicket defeat to Sunrisers Hyderabad on Tuesday.

Chasing their maiden title, Delhi Capitals roared back to form by thrashing Royal Challengers Bangalore six-wickets to grab the

DC vs MI: Match begins at 7.30 pm IST.

to come good on the big day. The defending champions boast an explosive batting line-up coupled with an equally lethal bowling attack, but the batters had an off day against SRH. Their bowlers too were taken to the task -- a wake-up call before the crucial game. Delhi's middle-order has been sluggish and heavily dependent on one or two batters.

Mumbai top-order has been firing on all cylinders and young Ishan Kishan (428 runs) has been a revelation. Quinton De Kock (443) would be keen to continue his sublime form while opening with Rohit. And so would Suryakumar Yadav (410), who has played some scintillating

knocks. Known for their six-hitting prowess, Hardik Pandya (241), Kieron Pollard (259) and Krunal Pandya (95) have pummelled bowling attacks to submission.

Pollard's six-hitting ability was on display again when he plundered four maximums against SRH. The three could prove to be the difference.

Mumbai rested key bowlers -- Jasprit Bumrah (23 wickets) and Trent Boult (20 wickets) -- against SRH. Both have been lethal at front and at the death. Spinners Rahul Chahar (15 wickets) and Krunal

Rahane (111 runs) is back among runs after scoring a match-winning 60 against RCB. Shikhar Dhawan (525) has been in blazing form, with two hundreds and three fifties, but will need support from others in a big game.

A major cause of concern is the form of two youngsters -- opener Prithvi Shaw (228) and Rishabh Pant (282) -- who haven't lived up to their true potential. So has been the case of their key overseas players -- Shimron Hetmyer (138 runs) and Marcus Stoinis (249 runs).

Skipper Shreyas Iyer (421) will have to play the anchor's role. On the bowling front, the South African pace duo of Kagiso Rabada (25 wickets) and Anrich Nortje (19) have been exceptional.

Ravichandran Ashwin and Axar Patel have done well to suffocate the opposition teams.

Earlier in the league stage, Mumbai got the better of Delhi twice but Rohit conceded that it is history.

"You keep doing well, I

NEW DELHI
THURSDAY 05 NOVEMBER 2020

12

The Statesman Sport

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Ambitious DC face mighty MI



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Rohit being fit and available is best news for Indian cricket: Gavaskar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI, 4 NOVEMBER

But he looked confident. He fielded at the boundary ropes and also in the 30-yard circle," Gavaskar said.

The legendary opener said that if BCCI wants to put Rohit through another fitness test, there is no harm.

"He played the match to show that he is fit but if BCCI wants to test his fitness again, then there is nothing wrong in it. Because they want to check if he is fully fit or not."

Gavaskar also echoed Ganguly's sentiments that match situation is completely different from net sessions which are devoid of any pressure.

"May be, he will be monitored. Normally, when you come back from injury, you need to play a few matches as match fitness determines your fitness status.

"Irrespective of how much you look fit in the nets, you are not stressed but when you have the pressure of a match, that gives an idea of how fit you are," he explained.

He, however, didn't want to be drawn into questions on whether Rohit will get his vice-captaincy back in case he makes it to the side.

Disciplined Velocity bowlers restrict Supernova to 126/8

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHARJAH, 4 NOVEMBER

Left-arm spinner Ekta Bisht (*in photo*) scalped three batters as Velocity put up a disciplined bowling effort to restrict defending champions Supernova to a modest 126 for eight in the opening match of Women's T20 Challenge, here on Wednesday.

Apart from Bisht, New Zealand off-spinner Leigh Kasperek (2/23) and medium pacer Jahanara Alam (2/27) also contributed in stifling the holders. Jahanara dismissed key batters -- Harmanpreet Kaur (31) and Chamara Atapattu (44) -- to derail Supernova.

Sri Lankan T20 skipper Atapattu and her Indian counterpart Harmanpreet had seized control in the back end but their 47-run partnership was broken by Jahanara with Veda Krishnamurti taking calm-headed sprints in the long on. Jahanara later dismissed Harmanpreet for 31 after the Indian skipper holed out short fine leg. It triggered a collapse as the defending champions lost four wickets for 15 runs. Chamari slammed two

sixes and two boundaries in a 39-ball 44, while Harmanpreet hit two sixes and one boundary. Velocity made some early inroads with their spinner duo of Leigh Kasperek and Ekta Bisht dismissing Priya Puniya (11) and Jemimah Rodrigues (7) inside eight overs. But Supernova took control in the back end with Chamari breaking free against Manali Dakshini. The Sri Lankan T20 skipper hit Manali inside out over cover and in the next over pulled Kasperek over deep mid-wicket for her second six to lift the run-rate. But Chamari fell six runs short of a half-century as Supernova failed to shift gear afterwards. *Brief Score:* Supernova: 126 for 8 in 20 overs. (C Atapattu 44, Harmanpreet Kaur 31; EBisht 3/22, LKasperek 2/23).

Warner explains how Sunrisers pulled it off

AGENCIES
SHARJAH, 4 NOVEMBER

Sunrisers Hyderabad's "never-say-die" attitude helped the team stage an incredible turnaround and secure a spot in the Indian Premier League play-offs, skipper David Warner (*in photo*) stated. Sunrisers Hyderabad delivered under pressure in a must-win game to crush table-toppers Mumbai Indians by 10 wickets and qualify for the play-offs.

Warner (85 not out off 57) and Wriddhiman Saha (58 not out off 45) lit up the last league game of the tournament with an unbeaten 151-run opening stand to chase down a 150-run target in 17.1 overs.

"It feels good now after that dreadful loss against Kings XI Punjab. They (MI) rested a few players but to hold them to 150 on this ground was great. A lot of credit goes to the bowlers, (Shabbaz) Nadeem was superb. We were trying to be as clinical with the bat then, and it feels good," he said at the post-match presentation.

It was a third straight win for SRH who had to beat Mumbai to qualify. "We have a never-say-die attitude and that is how we approach each game. We had



a couple of injuries but they are here in spirit and we are doing it for them. If we can take this performance and momentum into the next game we'll be really happy."

"We looked at 2016, we were in the same situation where we had to win every game to win the title. A dropped chance by Rashid Khan and his reaction shows how much it means to him. If we can take this performance and momentum into the next game we'll be really happy."

On his performance, he said: "I pride myself on getting my team to a great start. That is my duty, my job. Fortunately the last few games have been great and we have been

able to go in a positive manner."

SRH finished third in the points table with 14 points and a much better run rate than Royal Challengers Bangalore, who finished fourth on the same number of points. Both teams play the eliminator in Abu Dhabi on Friday.

"RCB are a great team, very well led by Virat (Kohli). They have a lot of dangerous players in their side. We beat them in the final in 2016 and I am excited for the challenge in a do-or-die game," added Warner.

MI captain Rohit Sharma said his hamstring was fine, though he had been out for four off seven balls. Sharma was returning to lead the team after four matches, owing to the injury that became the centre of a controversy.

Sharma stayed on the field for the entire duration of the SRH innings at Sharjah Cricket Stadium. "I was happy to be back; it's been a while. I was going through some tough times, but it's good to be back," Sharma said after the match.

"I'm looking forward to playing a few more games here and then see what happens. Always nice to be on the ground doing what I love to do."

Jota in goal rush as Liverpudlians win big

THE INDEPENDENT & AGENCIES
ROME, 4 NOVEMBER



Igen Klopp has made no secret of his admiration for Atlanta's all-out attacking game. Perhaps because it's similar to the way his Liverpool squad pour forward with speed and precision, often overwhelming their opponents. In the first-ever meeting between the two teams, Klopp's side were the ones doing the overwhelming in a 5-0 rout of last season's surprise quarter-finalists in the Champions League last night. Portugal striker Diogo Jota (*in photo, right*) scored a hat trick to take his tally to seven goals in 10 matches across all competitions since joining Liverpool in September. Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mané also found the net for the 2019 champions, which strengthened their control of Group D with a full nine points.

"I don't think any system could have defended tonight. Sadio, Mo and Diogo, the way they played," Klopp said.

Elsewhere on the third match day of the group stage, 13-time champions Real Madrid beat visiting Inter Milan 3-2 in Group B for their first win in this season's competition courtesy of a late goal from Jérôme Boateng. Leroy Sané, Robert Lewandowski and Lucas Hernandez in a 6-2 win at Salzburg to preserve their perfect start in Group A.

Manchester City also stayed perfect with a 3-0 victory over Olympiakos in Group C with

the scoring with a header by Jos María Giménez but Lokomotiv equalised with a penalty kick converted by Anton Miranchuk after video review had determined there was a handball. Bayern lead Group A with nine points, Atletico have four, Lokomotiv have two and Salzburg one. Madrid captain Sergio Ramos scored his 100th goal across all competitions for the club, not bad for a centre back. The defender headed in to give Madrid a momentary 2-0 lead, his 55th goal scored by a header for his club. Inter, who remained winless, could at least celebrate the night's most beautiful goal, which featured Nicolo Barella's flicked through ball to set up Lautaro Martínez's finish in one swift motion. The home win moved Madrid out of last place in Group B. Borus-

sia Mönchengladbach lead the group with five points after their rout of Shakhtar, one more than Madrid and Shakhtar.

Inter remained with two points. Kevin De Bruyne set up two goals in City's win over Olympiakos. That gave the Belgium midfielder 14 assists in the competition since the start of the 2017-18 season, one short of Kylian Mbappé's competition-leading 15.

De Bruyne set City on their way by cushioning a pass through to Torres who took the ball on, had an extra touch, and drove a shot through the legs of the goalkeeper 12 minutes in. De Bruyne, who had also set up two goals in a 3-0 win at Marseille last week, then sent Jesus in towards the goal virtually to seal the game nine minutes from time.

City only require a draw in the return match in Greece after the international break to secure progress to the knockout stage with two group games to spare. City lead Group C with nine points, Porto are next with six, Olympiakos have three and Marseille have none. Moussa Marega, Sergio Oliveira and Luiz Diaz scored in Porto's win over Marseille.

Virus return

Dusan Tadic scored one goal and set up another to lead Ajax to their win over Midtjylland, a day after being seemingly ruled out of the game by his coach after a positive test for the coronavirus. Tadic was one of a raft of senior players -- including goalkeeper Andre Onana and midfielders Davy Klaassen and Ryan Gravenberch -- not included in a reduced 17-man group that travelled to central Denmark on Monday because of the positive tests. They did travel in a separate party that evening, though, and were allowed to play after supplying a negative test ahead of the match. Tadic set up a goal for Antony after just 50 seconds with a neat touch and pass, then scored himself off an indirect free-kick from the edge of the six-yard box in the 12th after Midtjylland goalkeeper Mikkel Andersen had picked up a back-pass. Anders Dreyer pulled one back for the Danish champions in the 18th minute. Ajax moved into second place in Group D, above Atalanta on goal difference. They are five points behind Liverpool, with Midtjylland last with zero points.

Maradona brain surgery is successful

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Diego Maradona (*in photo*) has had successful surgery for possible bleeding on his brain less than a week after his 60th birthday. It was all successful and it happened as expected, Maradona's public relations team said in a statement last night. Maradona had a subdural hematoma, which is an accumulation of blood

between a membrane and his brain, his personal doctor, Leopoldo Luque, said. Luque, a neurologist, said the problem might have been caused by an accident, but Maradona said he didn't remember the event. The Argentine soccer great will rest in his room in a private clinic outside Buenos Aires for at least 48 hours.

Maradona was accompanied to the clinic by his daughters Dalma, Giannina and Jana and other relatives, according to the local media. The surgery closed a journey that the 1986 World Cup champion started in another clinic in the city of La Plata, where he had been admitted with anaemia and dehydration.

Donato Villani, the head of the Argentine national team's medical staff, told television channel TyC Sports that such an operation normally went well, "but it is different with Diego," citing Maradona's past treatment for cardiac problems and his use of drugs and alcohol.

Maradona was admitted to the Ipsen Clinic with signs of depression on Monday.

Luque said Maradona, whose Hand-of-God goal in the 1986 World Cup quarter-final against England is among the most controversial in the tournament's history, had felt sad for about a week and refused to eat before arriving at the clinic. Maradona has lived in La Plata since the end of 2019, when he became coach of Gimnasia y Esgrima. Maradona turned 60 last Friday and showed up that night for Gimnasia's national championship match against Patronato, which his team won 3-0. He left before the end of the first half, which raised questions about his health. Before undergoing surgery yesterday, the former star of Barcelona, Napoli and Boca Juniors reported feeling better. "Diego feels much better than yesterday and feels like leaving," Luque said yesterday morning. He spent the night well and we have been joking." Maradona led Argentina to a World Cup title in 1986. He has continued to cause controversy since his heyday as a player, getting sent home from the 1