

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

Barbados has elected its first President, a key step in preparations to become a republic and remove Britain's Queen Elizabeth II as head of state of the Caribbean island. Sandra Mason, the current governor-general, is set to be sworn in as President on November 30, the country's 55th anniversary of independence from Britain. In September 2020, Ms. Mason, announced the break with Britain, saying "the time has come to fully leave our colonial past behind."

With the arrival of the migratory Amur falcons to Tamenglong district of Manipur for the annual stopover, State government has appealed to the people not to hunt the seasonal visitors. These falcons visit the district every year from breeding grounds in China and Russia before beginning their onward voyage to Africa for the winter — a journey of more than 30,000 km.

India is in an advanced stage of drawing up the contours of the structure and processes of the "theatre command" to bring integration and coordination of all the three services. The timeline for operationalising this is yet to be made public. Speaking at the Indian Air Force conclave here on Friday on "Synergised Objectives", organised to mark 50 years of victory in the IndiaPakistan War in 1971, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said theatre integration would be ensured following the creation of Chief of Defence Staff and Department of Military Affairs in the Defence Ministry.

India has not entirely ruled out the possibility of agreeing to a "net zero" climate target, though it will not budge on demanding that developed nations make good their commitments, such as providing an annual \$100 billion to developing countries for mitigating the impacts of climate change, facilitating technology transfer and putting in place a tangible market based mechanism to activate the moribund carbon credit markets, senior officials said. Ahead of the 26th meeting of the United Nations Conference of Parties (CoP) that begins in Glasgow on November 1, the focus on making the meet a success is to have all nations commit to "net zero", or a year by when a country's fossil fuel emissions will peak and at some point be neutralised by taking out

SECURED OVERNIGHT FINANCING RATE

1.Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC Ltd.) raised a US\$75 million 5-year Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) linked Syndicated Term Loan with Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC). The Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) is a benchmark interest rate for dollar-denominated derivatives and loans that is replacing the London interbank offered rate (LIBOR). Interest rate swaps on more than \$80 trillion in notional debt switched to the SOFR in 2020. This transition is expected to increase long-term liquidity but also result in substantial short-term trading volatility in derivatives.

2.The daily SOFR is based on transactions in the Treasury repurchase market, where investors offer banks overnight loans backed by their bond assets. SOFR is seen as preferable to LIBOR since it is based on data from observable transactions rather than on estimated borrowing rates. Benchmark rates such as the SOFR are essential in the trading of derivatives, particularly interest-rate swaps. [Corporations & other parties used interest-rate swaps to manage interest-rate risk and to speculate on changes in borrowing costs.

3.**While SOFR is becoming the benchmark rate for dollar-denominated derivatives and loans, other countries have sought their own alternative rates, such as SONIA and EONIA. REC Limited REC Limited is a Navratna NBFC** focusing on Power Sector Financing and Development across India. Established in 1969, REC Limited has completed over fifty years in the area of its operations.

4.It provides financial assistance to state electricity boards, state governments, central/state power utilities, independent power producers, rural electric cooperatives and private sector utilities. Its business activities involve financing projects in the complete power sector value chain; different type of projects includes Generation, Transmission, Distribution Projects, and Renewable Energy projects.

SBM-URBAN 2.0

1.The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) till 2025-2026. The vision of the mission is to achieve a "Garbage Free" Urban India. Over the next 5 years, the focus of SBM-U 2.0 will be on, Sustainability of Open Defecation Free (ODF) outcomes, Achieving scientific processing of Solid Waste in all cities, and Managing Wastewater in cities with less than 1 lakh population in Census 2011 [cities not covered under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)]. This Mission is implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

2.**Expected Outcomes in Sanitation:** All statutory towns to become at least ODF+ All cities with <1 lakh population to be made ODF++ Putting in place systems and processes so that all wastewater is safely treated and optimally reused and no untreated wastewater pollutes water bodies Expected Outcomes in Solid Waste Management - All cities to achieve at least 3-star Garbage Free certification.

3.The ODF+ Protocol introduced by MoHUA in 2018 focuses on the cleanliness and functionality of community and public toilets .The ODF++ Protocol introduced by MoHUA in 2018 focuses on complete faecal sludge and septage management. The Water+ Protocol introduced by MoHUA in 2019 focuses on wastewater treatment and its optimum reuse.

4.**SBM-Urban 1.0**-The SBM-Urban 1.0 Mission (2014) had the following objectives, Eradication of open defecation in all statutory towns 100% scientific management of municipal solid waste in all statutory towns Effecting behaviour change through Jan Andolan Over the last 7 years, the Mission has reached all corners of the country and has changed the lives of countless citizens with its 'people first' focus. The Mission has prioritized the needs of women, transgender communities, and persons with disabilities (Divyangs). Over 70 lakh household, community and public toilets have been built thus providing safe and dignified sanitation solutions for all.

excess carbon from the atmosphere.

The Union Government told the Supreme Court that the West Bengal government does not have any “absolute” power to keep the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) from investigating crimes inside the State. It said that “no power, not even the Union Government”, has the authority to rattle the autonomy of the premier agency to conduct investigations, especially in cases of postpoll violence transferred to it by the Calcutta High Court, in which the State police are under a cloud. The Union Government, through the Department of Personnel and Training, was responding to a suit filed by the West Bengal Government against the Union of India under Article 131 of the Constitution.

India’s military posture in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh has added an offensive punch with the Army deploying Pinaka and Smerch longrange, multibarrel rocket launch systems as well as BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles in the region. In a rare demonstration, the Army showcased its Pinaka and Smerch units deployed on the Arunachal Pradesh-Assam border to a group of visiting journalists from Delhi. “The Pinaka and Smerch rocket systems have been deployed closer to the LAC,” said a senior officer at the demonstration. The BrahMos has also been deployed in the Tawang sector.

Reiterating that the excise duty levied on petroleum products is funding free COVID19 vaccines and public welfare schemes, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Puri said on Friday that global oil prices would likely fall by the time India vaccinated its entire population, indicating no tax cuts might be expected at that time.

The United States will defend Taiwan if China attacks it, President Joe Biden said, prompting a warning from Beijing on Friday that its determination to take back the democratic island should not be underestimated. China regards self-ruled Taiwan as its own territory and has vowed to one day seize the island, by force if needed. Beijing’s sabrerattling has ramped up in recent years, exacerbating fears the island of 23 million people could become a major global flashpoint.

Fortythree countries have called on China to “ensure full respect for the rule of law” for the Muslim Uighur community in Xinjiang, in a statement read at the United Nations on Thursday that sparked outrage from Beijing. The

SWACHHATA APP AND SWACHH SARVEKSHAN

1. Recently, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched the revamped version of Swachhata App 2.0. Swachhata App is an initiative of the Swachh Bharat Mission in association with the MoHUA (2016). It is a digital citizen grievance redressal platform. Working - Once a citizen posts a complaint using the citizen app, Sanitary inspectors will look into the issue and get it resolved.

2. A photo of the resolved status is also uploaded for the citizen to check and provide feedback. Action on the complaints may vary depending on the categories. Action for most complaints will be initiated from 6 hours of registration. Categories that involve the service level agreement of 12 hours includes, uncleaned Dustbins/Garbage dumps, Garbage vehicle not arrived, Sweeping, No electricity or water in public toilets, Toilets Blockage). The category that involves the service level agreement of 48 hours is the “Dead animals” category.

3. **Swachh Survekshan**-It is the world’s largest urban cleanliness survey covering over 4,000 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) initiated under SBM-Urban in 2016. It monitors the performance of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and accelerates ground level implementation to achieve sanitation outcomes. The survey nudges the citizens to take ownership and initiative to clean urban India’s monuments and heritage spots.

SQUARING OFF AGAIN IN THE HIMALAYAN HEIGHTS:INDIA CHINA DEADLOCK

1. The Indian and Chinese soldiers will remain to be deployed against each other in the icy cold deserts of Ladakh this winter. What is the reason behind China’s aggressive focus on India? The PLA incursion into Barahoti, a demilitarised zone in Uttarakhand in August was a significant pointer to the renewed Chinese aggression against India. The incursion of Chinese patrols in Arunachal Pradesh have also increased in frequency and duration. The major reason for China’s aggressiveness is to further the institutional interest as the army of the revolution which is currently losing its pre-eminence in Taiwan and South China Sea.

2. PLA’s view that the Indian military has been exerting a greater presence on Chinese territory in the border areas in the last 10-12 years is also a reason. The Doklam stand-off of 2017, when Indian soldiers walked onto Bhutanese territory claimed by China, was a turning point in the PLA’s approach. Beijing’s unilateral action of changing the status quo resulted in the Ladakh crisis.

3. **What was New Delhi’s response to Chinese aggressions?** The Indian military has inducted more modern military platforms backed by infrastructure construction in the China border. The Indian military always maintained a defensive deterrence against the PLA. India’s advantage in dissuading a major military conflict with China is that as a lesser power, it has to only deny an outright military victory to the PLA. Also, India’s primacy of Air Force is an added advantage.

4. **What are the challenges?** Military modernisation - The sharp decline in the Indian economy after demonetisation and the coronavirus pandemic made it difficult to generate enough resources for military modernisation. The parliamentary standing committee on defence has repeatedly warned about the increasing technological asymmetry with PLA. Divisive majoritarian politics - India’s foreign policy in the neighbourhood is adversely affecting the Indian interests. The UAE brokered backchannel deal with Pakistan fell through because of New Delhi’s policies in Kashmir. The treatment of religious minorities and the issues over the influx of Myanmar refugees in Mizoram has made India-Bangladesh relation weaker. Power competition in the Indo-Pacific - Groupings like Quad (India, the United States, Australia, Japan) does not have a ‘hard power’ agenda yet unlike the trilateral security pact, AUKUS.

5. **What is the future ahead?** The Indian government’s aim is to restore the status quo on the LAC in Ladakh that existed before May 2020 has not happened so far. A new status quo has been created which curtails Indian patrolling rights while the PLA remains to be settled in the Indian territories of Depsang, Hot Springs and Demchok. India now has no choice but to be prepared for all eventualities on the Sino-India border.

XENOTRANSPLANTATION

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1. New York surgeons have successfully transplanted a kidney

declaration, signed by the United States as well as several European and Asian member states and others, accused China of a litany of human rights violations against the Uighurs, including torture, forced sterilisation and forced disappearances.

The ongoing worldwide transition to green energy poses a significant risk of triggering energy price shocks similar to the 1970s, which would accelerate inflation, said Jayanth Varma, the sole member of the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to vote against continuing with the central bank's 'accommodative' policy stance. "This means that the upside risks to long term inflation and to inflation expectations are now more aggravated," Mr. Varma said at the last MPC meeting.

from a genetically engineered pig into a brain-dead human. Xenotransplantation or heterologous transplant is the process of transplanting living cells, tissues or organs between different species. Such cells, tissues or organs are called xenografts or xenotransplants.

2. During the observation, the kidney began functioning and producing large amounts of urine within minutes of being connected to the person's blood vessels. Creatinine which is cleared from the blood by the kidney dropped from 1.9 to 0.8 demonstrating that the kidney was functioning optimally.

3. If found compatible in the long run, this process of Xenotransplantation could help provide an alternative and additional supply of organs for people facing life-threatening diseases.