

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS–NOVEMBER 5, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami – has laid the foundation stone for a Rs.162.4 crore drinking water supply project in Theni district through video conferencing from the secretariat in Chennai on November 4.**
- ✓ The project will benefit 250 rural localities in Andipatti, Kadamalaikundu – Mayiladumparai and Theni panchayat unions.
- ✓ The water supply project in Theni was announced by the CM at the district collectors' and police officers conference on March 7, 2018.
- ✓ The new combined water supply project will cover leftover villages in the three panchayat unions that are on the downstream side of the Vaigai dam.
- ✓ The work will be executed by the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board (TWAD).



- ✓ On the same day, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami flagged off mobile Amma canteens for Chennai city
- ✓ These mobile canteens will visit parts of Greater Chennai Corporation and provide food to daily wage workers and those working at construction sites and other places

- **Noted orthopaedic surgeon, S Rajasekaran– has been named in the list of world’s top scientists that was compiled by the Stanford University, USA.**
- ✓ Rajasekaran is the chairman of the department of orthopaedic and spine surgery at Ganga Hospital in Coimbatore
- ✓ He has been listed among the top 2% of the world’s scientists in the database covering one lakh scientists, in total.
- ✓ The ranking has listed the scientists whose work has had maximum impact in their respective fields, and covers 21 different fields.

STATES

- **On November 4, Kerala – has announced the withdrawal of “general consent” for the CBI to conduct any new investigation within their respective jurisdictions.**
- ✓ Maharashtra was the last state to issue a similar order in October, after West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan
- ✓ As per the latest announcement, the agency cannot start a probe without the state’s approval.
- ✓ However, the restriction isn’t applicable to either existing cases under CBI investigation or those sanctioned by a court of law.

NO IMPACT ON ONGOING PROBES

➤ Hereafter, CBI can only investigate cases in Kerala after consulting and getting due consent of state government

➤ The state’s decision cannot prevent the agency from taking up court-sanctioned cases

➤ The government will issue an executive order withdrawing the general consent; however, this will also not affect ongoing investigations

➤ Immediate provocation was CBI probe into Life Mission project, a flagship programme of CPM-led government

- ✓ The state has decided to withdraw the notification of general consent, based on the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act of 1946
- ✓ The Act gave the central agency ‘power’ to conduct investigation in the state and take up cases suomotu.
- ✓ The state government will issue an executive order in this regard on November 5.
- ✓ CM Pinarayi Vijayan recently accused the CBI of “crossing boundaries” by interfering in policy decisions of the state government.

NATIONAL

- **The defence ministry – has proposed to increase the retirement age of officers and reduce pensions of those seeking premature retirement**
- ✓ As per the October 29 letter issued by the department of military affairs, headed by Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, the retirement age for ranks up to

Colonels in the Army and equivalents in Navy and IAF will be raised to 57 years from the present 54.

- ✓ Similarly, it will be 58 years for Brigadiers (from 56) and 59 for Major-Generals (from 58).
- ✓ Lt-Generals will continue to serve till the age of 60, with military chiefs serving till 62 as before.
- ✓ The retirement age for jawans and JCOs (junior commissioned officers) in noncombat arms like logistics, technical and medical branches will also be raised to 57 years.
- ✓ As for retirement benefits, officers will get only 50% of their entitled pension if they take premature retirement (PMR) after 20-25 years of service, 60% after 26-30 years and 75% after 31-35 years.
- ✓ The process of change is expected to take five to six months.
- ✓ At present, military officers as well as their civilian counterparts become eligible for pension (half of the last salary drawn) after completing 20 years of service.
- ✓ After the implementation of most of the provisions of the 'one rank, one pension' (OROP) scheme for ex-servicemen in 2015, the defence pension bill has hugely expanded to a staggering Rs.1.33 lakh crore.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On November 4, Saudi Arabia – announced that it is abolishing the “kafala” sponsorship system, branded as a modern form of slavery that binds workers to their Saudi employers.**
- ✓ As per the announcement by the Saudi human resources and social development ministry, expatriates will no longer need their employers' authorisation to change jobs, travel or leave Saudi Arabia
- ✓ The newly announced reforms to the kingdom's age-old labour policy will benefit around 10 million foreigners employed in the kingdom
- ✓ The reforms, if fully implemented, could have a big impact on the Saudi labour market and will ease key restrictions on millions of foreign workers
- ✓ However, the new regulations will not apply to the country's 3.7 million domestic workers, a highly vulnerable category of employees who are governed by separate regulations

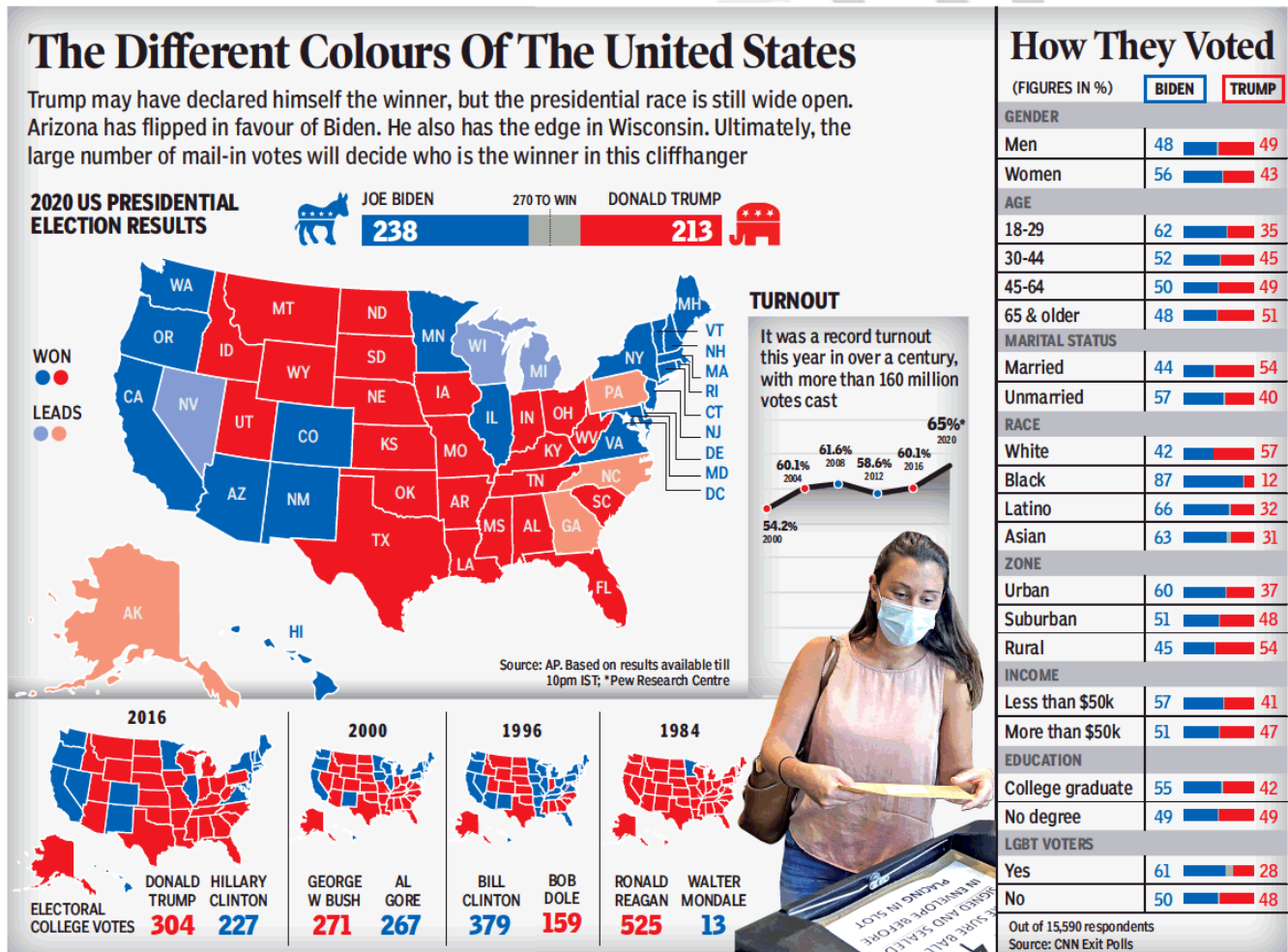
DEFENCE

- **On November 4, the second batch of three Rafale fighters - arrived in India from France**
- ✓ With this, they join the first five jets that had arrived at the Ambala airbase on July 29.
- ✓ The three jets arrived at the Jamnagar airbase in Gujarat after flying non-stop from Istres airbase in France, with mid-air refueling on the way.

- ✓ As per the delivery schedule, three to four jets will reach India every two to three months till all the 36 are delivered
- ✓ The first five Rafales were formally inducted into service at the Ambala airbase on September 10
- ✓ The 4.5-generation Rafales have a combat range of 780-km to 1,650-km, without mid-air refueling, depending on the nature of their mission.
- ✓ The fighter jets are armed with long stand-off weapons like the over 300-km range 'Scalp' air-to-ground cruise missiles.
- ✓ Earlier, the government had signed a ₹59,000 crore deal with France in September 2016 for procuring 36 Rafale fighter jets

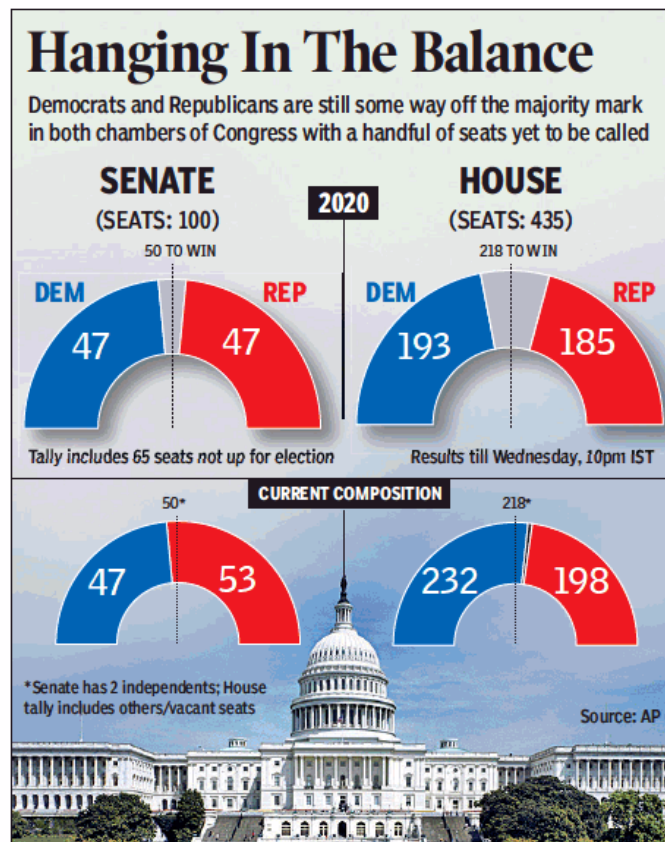
REPORT

- The incumbent US President Donald Trump and his Democrat rival Joe Biden – are being locked in a tight contest in the 59th US Presidential Election, held on November 3.



- ✓ This year's election is witnessing a massive voter turnout of 66.8%, to create a sort of record in more than 120 years

- ✓ As of now, 100 million votes have already been cast through mail ballots and more than 60 million in-person advanced voting.
- ✓ The result is expected to be decided by 4 main battleground states- Wisconsin, Georgia, Michigan and Pennsylvania.
- ✓ Currently, Joe Biden is leading with 238 electoral votes, while Trump is at 213.
- ✓ Both the candidates need 270 (50% of the electoral college vote) to win the Elections.
- ✓ If elected, 78-year-old Joe Biden would be the oldest president in US history at his inauguration.
- ✓ Trump, who is currently 74, would also be the oldest president ever if he wins a second term
- ✓ Under the US electoral college system, winning the most votes do not always help the candidate win the elections, but it is from which state they win the votes from is key for the final victory.



- ✓ In the 2016 US Presidential Elections, Hillary Clinton led the polls and won almost three million more votes than Donald Trump, but she still lost the elections because of electoral college system.
- ✓ Under the US electoral college system, each state is given a number of votes based on the total members it sends to Congress House and Senate.