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consent for CBI to take
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MI begins favourite
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NEARBY



With 6,842 cases, Delhi sees biggest spike

NEW DELHI
The Capital recorded 6,842 new COVID-19 cases – its highest single-day jump – on Wednesday, a government health bulletin stated. Also, 51 deaths and 5,797 recoveries were recorded. The total number of virus cases now stands at 4,09,938. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that the spike could be called the "third wave" of the pandemic in the Capital.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Woman shot in head in robbery attempt'

GURUGRAM
A 26-year-old woman, employed with a multinational company, was shot in the head in a suspected robbery bid on Golf Course Extension Road in Sector 65, Gurugram, on Tuesday night, the police said. The woman, Pooja Sharma, is undergoing treatment at Medanta Hospital and is said to be in a critical condition. Ms. Sharma hails from Jharkhand.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

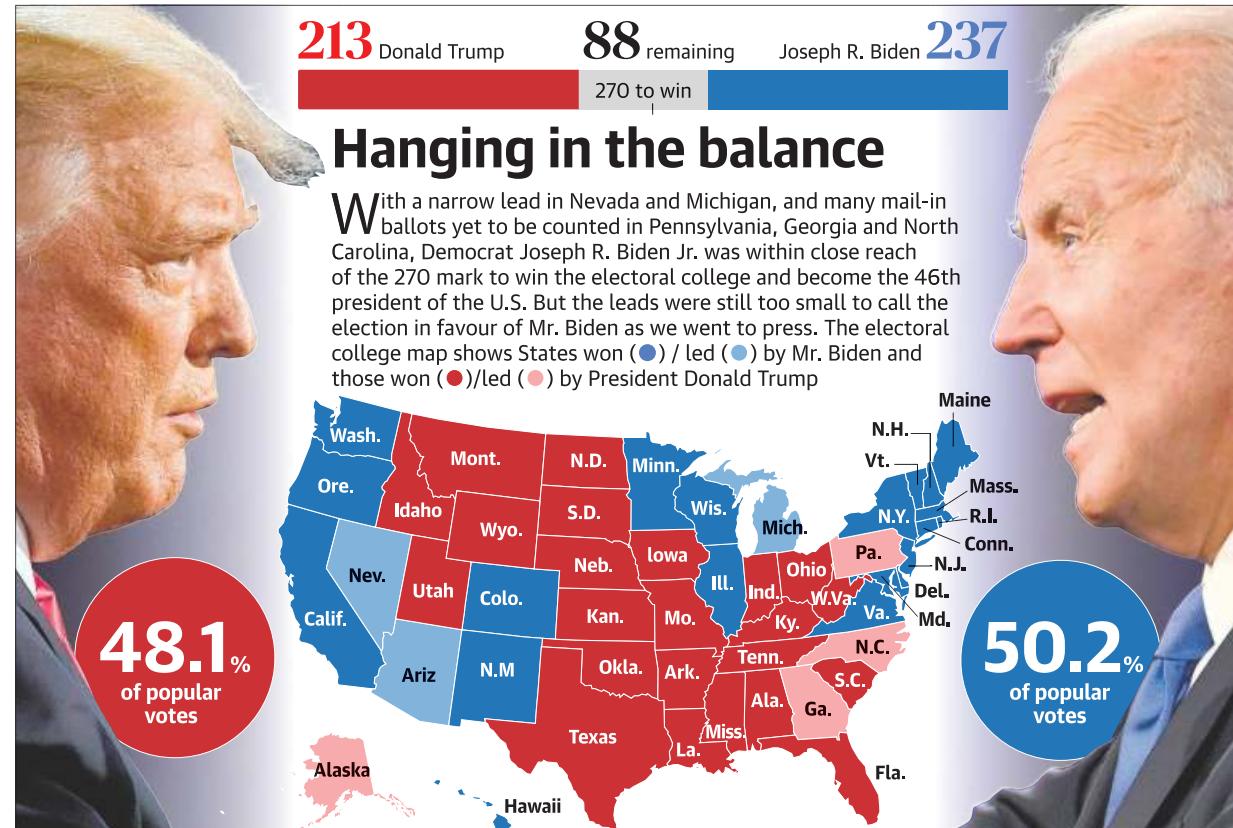
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By Karandeep Singh
8826486650, 8826496650

Biden ahead, but no clear winner yet

■ Counting of mailed-in votes continues in key States

■ Trump threatens to move Supreme Court to stop counting

■ Biden expresses optimism he will reach magic figure of 270



Record turnout
Estimated voter turnout is 66.8% – the highest in more than 120 years as per election data tracker, the U.S. Elections Project. A record-breaking 100 million plus Americans voted early, including by mail.

Despite both candidates still having a shot at the 270 of 538 Electoral College votes needed to win, Mr. Trump

prematurely and falsely declared victory at 2.30 a.m. on Wednesday.

"This is a fraud on the American public. This is an embarrassment to our country. We were getting ready to win this election," Mr. Trump said, adding he would go to the Supreme Court to stop "voting" [counting].

Mr. Biden expressed optimis-

mism that he could still win the race. "I'm here to tell you tonight, we believe we're on track to win this election," he told supporters in Wilmington, Delaware, on Tuesday night.

"As I've said all along, it's not my place or Donald Trump's place to declare who has won this election," Mr. Biden said.

"That's the decision of the

American people."

Mr. Biden's campaign manager Jen O'Malley Dillon sent out an email shortly before 4 a.m. on Wednesday, saying that the Biden camp would counter any legal challenges to counting by Mr. Trump.

The battle for the White House was very much still in progress close to noon on Wednesday, with results for

key swing States still not declared. The Associated Press declared Mr. Biden the winner of Arizona at 2.50 a.m. on Wednesday (while some other agencies continued to show Mr. Biden in the lead but did not call the State).

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 13
INDIAN-AMERICAN DEMOCRATS
RE-ELECTED ▶ PAGE 13
MORE REPORTS ON ▶ PAGE 13

RAINA ASSAINAR SONAM SAIGAL NAVI MUMBAI
Republic TV editor Arnab Goswami was on Wednesday arrested by the Local Crime Branch (LCB) of the Raigad police in a case of abetment to suicide. Two other accused, Feroz Shaikh and Nitesh Sarda, were also arrested.

Later in the evening, the Alibaug magistrate court sent Mr. Goswami and the other accused to judicial custody till November 18. The police had sought Mr. Goswami's custody for 14 days, but the court held that custodial interrogation was not required. Mr. Goswami will apply for bail on Thursday.

After allegations of police assault, he was taken for a medical examination before being produced before the court. The court confiscated his wife's phone as she was found video-recording the proceedings. While Mr. Goswami was arrested from Worli, Mr. Shaikh was arrested from Kandivali and Mr. Sarda from Jogeshwari.

They owed money'
Interior designer Anvay Naik, who was found dead on the first floor of his farmhouse at Kavir Village in Alibaug in June 2018, is said to have left a suicide note accusing Mr. Goswami, Mr.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

12 labourers killed in Ahmedabad godown fire

Several injured; State orders probe

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD
At least a dozen labourers, several of them women, were killed when a portion of a chemical warehouse here collapsed following a powerful explosion on Wednesday.

Many persons sustained injuries in the incident which occurred on the Pirana-Piplaj road, an industrial area located on the outskirts of Ahmedabad city. Many of them are said to be in a critical condition.

₹4 lakh compensation
President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the deaths. Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani ordered a investigation by Additional Chief Secretary (Labour and Employment) Vipul Mitra and Sanjiv Kumar, Chairman of the Gujarat Pollution Con-

trol Board (GPCB). The State government has also announced a compensation of ₹4 lakh to the families of each of the deceased.

The fire brigade personnel pulled out 18 persons from the rubble and shifted them to LG Hospital, Chief Fire Officer M.F. Dastur said.

Of the 18, 12 were either declared brought dead or died of injuries shortly after getting admitted to the government-run hospital.

"We are using concrete breakers to dismantle the slabs to pull out people. Till now, we have pulled out 18 persons from the debris and sent them to the hospital," Mr. Dastur told the media at the accident site.

A fire control room official said at least 26 rescue and fire fighting vehicles were pressed into service.

The cause of the explosion is yet to be ascertained.

Enveloped in smog



Long, lonely wait: A snack seller waits for customers at Rajpath amid smoggy conditions in New Delhi. A toxic haze hung over the city on Wednesday as unfavourable meteorological conditions caused the air quality to deteriorate further. ▶ AFP (REPORT ON PAGE 2)

+ It is in public interest to set up courts to try lawmakers'

SC seeks response from Madras HC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Justice N.V. Ramana, leading a three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, on Wednesday said the court has only public interest and faith in judiciary in mind while pushing for the setting up of special courts to expeditiously try sitting and former MPs and MLAs accused of various crimes.

"The purpose of this adjudication is in public interest and to maintain public faith in judiciary by making sure that long-pending cases against sitting and former MPs and MLAs are decided without delay... It is for the public we have taken up this case," Justice Ramana explained.

The Bench was considering a report filed by a committee of the Madras High Court that raised reservations over the setting up of

special courts to exclusively try legislators for various offences.

'Not offender-centric'
The committee said that special courts cannot be "offender-centric".

It reasoned, "An MP/MLA, who commits an offence under POCSO Act (or other Special Acts like Prevention of Corruption Act, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act) can only be tried by a Special Court created under the POCSO Act (PC Act, NDPS Act) and there cannot be another Special Court exclusively for trial of an MP/MLA, who commits POCSO offence."

On this, the top court gave Madras High Court counsel Anand Kannan two weeks to respond.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

SC lays down guidelines for matrimonial cases

Deserted wives, children entitled to alimony from date of application, says court

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday held that deserted wives and children are entitled to alimony/maintenance from their husbands from the date they apply for it in a court of law.

In a significant judgment by a Bench of Justices Indu Malhotra and R. Subhash Reddy, the top court said women deserted by husbands were left in dire straits, often reduced to destitution, for lack of means to sustain themselves and their children.

The 67-page judgment by Justice Malhotra laid down uniform and comprehensive guidelines for family courts, magistrates and lower courts to follow while hearing applications filed by women

date of application, the party seeking maintenance would be deprived of sustenance, owing to the time taken for disposal of the application, which often runs into several years," Justice Malhotra wrote.

The court said a violation would lead to punishment, such as civil detention and even attachment of the property of the latter.

"The plea of the husband that he does not possess any source of income ipso facto does not absolve him of his moral duty to maintain his wife, if he is able-bodied and has educational qualifications," the court declared.

Both the applicant wife and the respondent husband have to disclose their assets and liabilities in a maintenance case. Any earlier case

filed or pending under any other law should also be revealed in court.

The expenses of the children, including their education, basic needs and other vocational activities, should be factored in by courts while calculating the alimony. Other factors such as "spiralling inflation rates and high costs of living" should be considered, but the wife should receive an alimony which fit the standard of life she was used to in the matrimonial home.

The judgment was based on a matrimonial plea from Maharashtra on the question of payment of maintenance by a man to his wife and son under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The case had been dragging on for years.

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Amarinder warns Centre of farmers' ire

He, along with MLAs and MPs, stages dharna against 'step-motherly' treatment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Wednesday said "no ruler should meddle in religious and livelihood issues", and warned the Centre about the repercussions of agitations by farmers against the Centre's new farm laws in a border State like Punjab.

Capt. Singh, who launched a mission from Mahatma Gandhi's memorial at Rajghat to "save" the farmers, accused Pakistan of daily trying to create trouble and its possible collusion with China.

He, along with MLAs and MPs from the State, sat on a dharna at Jantar Mantar to protest on the Bills passed by the Assembly but to brief Mr. Kovind about the Centre's Central laws regarding agricultural produce and marketing.

"The Governor has no role to play in this, he should

have sent the Bills to the President. He is a mere post box in such matters, so why has he not forwarded the Bills?"

Capt. Singh clarified that he did not seek appointment of the President over the law passed by the Assembly but to brief Mr. Kovind about the situation in Punjab. He hoped that the President would give his assent to the Punjab Bills like former President Pranab Mukherjee, who

had assented the Bills passed by BJP-ruled States under Article 252 (II).

Talking about the security aspect, he said, "Pakistan is daily trying to create trouble by sending in one or two drones with weapons... I know what Pakistan is up to as I am the Home Minister of the State."

Capt. Singh also denied that rail tracks were blocked by agitating farmers and asked the Railways to resume train services as the supply of essentials was being affected.

Meanwhile, BJP president J.P. Nadda said in a letter to Capt. Singh that the Centre was keen on resuming rail operations in Punjab, but the State government had "not acted as expected".

LIFELINE CUT OFF ▶ PAGE 5



Chief Minister Amarinder Singh and other leaders participate in a protest at Jantar Mantar on Wednesday. ▶ SANDEEP SAXENA



The top court said a violation would lead to punishments.

seeking maintenance from their estranged husbands.

"The view that maintenance ought to be granted from the date when the application was made is based on the rationale that the primary object of maintenance laws is to protect a deserted wife and dependent children from destitution, for lack of means to sustain themselves and their children.

The 67-page judgment by Justice Malhotra laid down uniform and comprehensive guidelines for family courts, magistrates and lower courts to follow while hearing applications filed by women

AN-ND-NDE

Timings DELHI		
THURSDAY, NOV. 05		
RISE 06:36	SET 17:34	
RISE 21:03	SET 10:35	
FRIDAY, NOV. 06		
RISE 06:37	SET 17:33	
RISE 21:57	SET 11:29	
SATURDAY, NOV. 07		
RISE 06:38	SET 17:32	
RISE 22:56	SET 12:18	

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	28	11
Safdarjung	28	11
Palam	27	14

Delhi Palam Today
29°C Hazy sunshine with mainly clear sky. Variable light winds and pollution to increase over the city.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
29°C Cool morning with smog. Light north westerly winds during day. Pollution would remain severe.

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THE HINDU
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IN BRIEF

Security tightened at IGI Airport after threats
NEW DELHI
Security has been beefed up at Delhi's IGI Airport after a banned pro-Khalistan outfit, Sikhs for Justice, threatened to disrupt two Air India flights scheduled to leave for London on Thursday, the police said on Wednesday. The outfit issued a call to boycott Air India flights and urged the victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots to occupy the airport to "internationalise" the issue, they said. "We have made adequate security arrangements for passengers," DCP (IGI Airport) Rajeev Ranjan said.

With 6,842 cases, Delhi sees biggest single-day jump again

Chief Minister says govt. monitoring situation as this could be called the 'third wave'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Capital recorded 6,842 new COVID-19 cases – its highest single-day jump – on Wednesday, a government bulletin stated. Also, 51 deaths and 5,797 recoveries were recorded, the bulletin added.

The total number of virus cases now stands at 4,09,938. With 6,703 deaths and 3,65,866 recoveries, there are 37,369 active cases in the city at present.

As many as 58,910 tests were conducted with a positivity rate of 11.61%. This is the second consecutive day when the number of daily cases crossed the 6,000 mark. The previous highest



A healthcare worker collects a swab sample in New Delhi.
• FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

Capital, but told people not to panic and the government was monitoring the situation and ensuring that there are adequate beds for COVID-19 patients. He said that the shortage of ICU beds with ventilators in a few private hospitals would also be addressed in the next few days.

"The Delhi government had increased the number of ICU beds in private hospitals, but unfortunately the Delhi High Court stayed our decision. We are moving the Supreme Court to urge it to vacate the stay," Mr. Kejriwal said. In September, the Delhi High Court had stayed the AAP government's decision to reserve 80% ICU beds for virus patients in 33 private

hospitals.

A high-level meeting has been called on Thursday to review the situation.

Testing in markets

Health Minister Satyendar Jain said that the government has started conducting tests in markets and other crowded places to strengthen its surveillance mechanism. He said that aggressive testing strategy and contract-tracing were some of the reasons for the spike in cases, which was contrary to the national trend and showing a dip in cases.

Mr. Jain said that more cases are currently being recorded in upper-middle class and middle class segments.

Woman shot in head in 'robbery bid'

Police have not ruled out personal enmity angle in the case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

A 26-year-old woman, who works with a multinational company, was shot in the head in a suspected robbery bid on Golf Course Extension Road in Sector 65 here on Tuesday night, the police said on Wednesday. They said that prima facie, it appeared to be a robbery attempt, but could also be a case of personal enmity.

The woman, Pooja Sharma, is under treatment at Medanta Hospital and is said to be critical.

Ms. Sharma, who hails from Jharkhand, and her male friend Sagar Manchanda (30), a resident of Sector

40, were returning from M3M Sky City residential project after seeing a flat.

They were in their car when they saw three men on a motorcycle driving towards them. Ms. Sharma slowed down the car as the men approached them. Two men got down from the two-wheeler and came on each side of the car. Both had their faces covered. They whipped out weapons and signalled the duo to roll down the window glasses.

When Ms. Sharma and Mr. Manchanda did not heed, the man on the side of Mr. Manchanda moved back a few steps and fired at the windscreen. Mr. Manchan-

da ducked and escaped unhurt. At this, the second man fired at the woman through the window glass and the bullet hit her in the head. The three then escaped. Mr. Manchanda, in the FIR, said he could not note down the registration number of the motorcycle.

Mr. Manchanda then drove the vehicle to Medanta Hospital.

The police said that CCTV footage in the area was being scanned, but the culprits were not identified as yet.

Mr. Manchanda hails from Haridwar in Uttarakhand. The woman's family has been informed.

'No action for keeping exotic animals after voluntary disclosure'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has said that once a person voluntarily discloses keeping exotic birds or animals under the Centre's Voluntary Disclosure Scheme, he can't be investigated for their ownership, trade and breeding.

The court said that once a voluntary disclosure is made under the scheme within the stipulated time period of six months, no inquiry or action can be initiated against the person for possession, breeding or transportation of the exotic species within India, by the officers of any government agency or department.

"Action of subsequent inquiry by the government after voluntary disclosure would defeat the very purpose of the scheme," the court said.

Complaints pour in from students after discrepancies in DU OBE results

Many are worried about their postgraduate admissions

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Complaints pertaining to results of open book examinations held by DU continued to pour in on Wednesday, with several students claiming that they had been either marked absent or had failed despite appearing for the examinations.

The open book examinations were conducted by the varsity for students, who were in their final year, in August owing to the pandemic.

Students have also expressed anguish and concerns over the uncertainty of post-graduation admissions due to the error in the results declared.

A Sowgandhika, a final-year student of Lady Shri Ram College, said: "Out of the four papers that I ap-

peared for, I have been marked absent in two, failed in one and only the last one has been graded correctly. I had mailed by answer scripts to DU and have acknowledgement slips for the same. It is impossible that I have failed in one paper as I am confident that I am swered correctly."

D. Rawat, Dean of Ex-

aminations in DU, however said that less than 2% of the 27,000 results declared were affected by such errors. "In such a situation which university will grant me admission for post-graduation? No one will believe that the error actually happened on DU's end," she said.

D. Rawat, Dean of Examinations in DU, however said that less than 2% of the 27,000 results declared were affected by such errors. "This is not the first time that students have been marked absent erroneously. Additionally, this time, several students either forgot to mention their roll number or did not write the title properly. Students facing such issues have been asked to contact the nodal officers and the exam department is trying to resolve the issue within three-four days," said Mr. Rawat.

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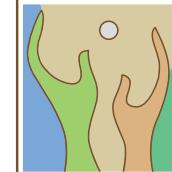
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Women, youth
behind NDA,
says PM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the people of Bihar preferred the politics of good governance and that women and the youth supported the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government in the State.

In a series of tweet in Hindi, Mr. Modi said his recent rallies in Bihar had the commonality of women and young people participating in large numbers. He said the NDA was able to win with the support of women and the youth, who saw hope in the alliance.

He said only the NDA government could provide people with security, employment and new opportunities of self-employment to the youth of the State.

Rahul takes a swipe at media, EVMs

Congress leader says the grand alliance is going to win the Bihar election

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

A day before the campaign ends for the third and final phase of the Bihar Assembly election, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying the electronic voting machine (EVM) was actually a "Modi voting machine (MVM)".

Mr. Gandhi alleged that Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar had betrayed the people of Bihar and had done nothing for them.

Mr. Kumar, BJP president J.P. Nadda and Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejaswi Yadav were among the other leaders who addressed public meetings and undertook roadshows on Wednesday in the Seemanchal (border) areas of northeast Bihar, where the election is scheduled for No-

vember 7.

"This time, Bihar's youth are angry and they have decided to oust the NDA government from power," Mr. Gandhi said at a public meeting at Araria in northeast Bihar. He also took a jibe at a section of the media, calling them "Modiji ka media".

I am not scared'

Be it EVM or MVM, the *maha-gathbandhan* [grand alliance] is going to win the election... Whether it's MVM or Modiji's media, I'm not scared of them... I'm fighting a war of ideology against this man [PM Modi], he said. "Both PM Modi and CM Nitish Kumar had promised jobs for the youth in Bihar in their previous election campaigns... Did they give you jobs?" Mr. Gandhi asked the crowd.

During the 2015 Assembly

election, Mr. Kumar had sought votes against the BJP. But he "betrayed" the mandate when he embraced the BJP once again. "First he stabbed you in the back, then in the stomach... two or three times... Nitishji didn't stab you one time, but two or three times," Mr. Gandhi said.

At Kishanganj, Mr. Nitish Kumar listed the steps his government had taken for the development of Bihar in the last 15 years of his regime. "Development with justice" had been the mantra of his government. "We did a lot of work for the development of the State and the people... If given another chance to serve you all, we'll bring water for irrigation to every farm and safe drinking tap water to every household," he said.

RJD leader and grand alliance's Chief Minister Tejaswi Yadav addressed a

series of meetings, and repeated his promise to "provide 10 lakh government jobs to the youth, if voted to power."

He condemned the act of throwing onions at Mr. Kumar at a public meeting in Harlakhi (Madhubani) on Tuesday. "There is no place for such things in democracy," he said.

"Today the basic issues plaguing Bihar is *padhai, dawa, kamaai, sinchai aur maha-hangai* (education, medicine, income, irrigation and price rise) and when our government comes, we will address these issues first," he told the crowd at Dhamdaha public meeting in Purnia district. "Has Nitish Kumar done anything at all for you?" he asked as the crowd responded with a "No."

"Tab chup-chap, Lalten chhap [then vote for Lantern silently]," he said.

Facing officers' shortage in J&K and Ladakh, says Centre

Home Ministry asks departments to spare officers for UTs

VIJAYA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has written to several government departments to seek the consent of officials willing to be posted to the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The letter sent to Ministries and departments of Railways, Defence, Commerce, Customs and Excise, Posts and Telecommunications said that "The new Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh are beset with acute shortage of officers."

The former State of J&K was bifurcated into Union Territories on August 6, 2019. According to the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019, officers belonging to the In-

dian Administrative Service (IAS), the Indian Police Service (IPS) and Indian Forest Service (IFS) in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir "shall continue to function on the existing cadres," till the Lieutenant Governor of J&K determines the final allocation of such officers between J&K and Ladakh.

A year after the reorganisation of J&K, the cadre allocation is yet to be completed. Now faced with shortage of officers, the MHA is asking various government departments to depute Group A service officers to the two UTs to overcome the shortage.

In an office memorandum sent to the Ministry of Defence on October 26, the

MHA said, "it is requested that the willingness of Central Civil Services Officers, selected through Central Civil Exams conducted by the UPSC (Union Public Service Commission), in the (I) Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS), (ii) Indian Ordnance Factories Service (IOFS), (iii) Indian Defence Estates Service (IDES), may please be obtained and provided the name(s) of suitable officer(s), eligible for deputation in terms of existing guidelines and willing to serve in the Governments of UT of J&K/UT of Ladakh, along with cadre controlling authority's consent/no objection and vigilance clearance of the officers at the earliest."

**Assam govt.
asks districts
to step up vigil**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Assam government on Wednesday asked the authorities of districts bordering Mizoram to step up vigil as the economic blockade on National Highway 306 – lifeline of Mizoram – continued for the eighth day.

Top officials of the two northeastern States said efforts were on to ease tension along the 164.6-km border after the last rites of a 48-year-old man from Lal LAPUR in Assam's Cachar district who died in Mizoram were performed.

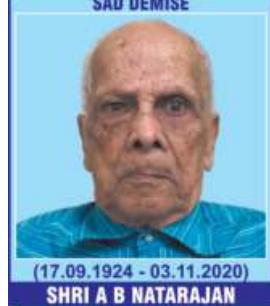
Emotions ran high after the man identified as Intiaz Ali Laskar died in a hospital at Vairengte in Mizoram's Kolasib district on November 1.

Body handed over

While the Assam government said he was abducted by miscreants, the Mizoram government claimed he was a drug dealer who succumbed to injuries sustained while trying to evade capture by members of a Mizo tribal NGO. The Mizoram police had handed Mr. Laskar's body over to their Assam counterparts on Tuesday.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



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Dy Supdt. Engg. (Retd.) NLC Ltd., Attained Sivalokapraphi on November 3, 2020 at Bengaluru leaving behind his children, grandchildren & great grandchildren.
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY, DETAILED MASTER PLANNING, URBAN DESIGNING, ENGINEERING & PREPARATION OF DETAILED PROJECT REPORT FOR THE RAILWAY LAND ACQUISITION FOR THE NEW JAMMU RAILWAY STATION, UNDER JODHPUR DIVISION OF NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Earliest Money Deposit Rs. 1.00,000/- For any queries/questions, may please contact Manager/Planning-I, M: 9991776230, E-mail: mgrplnng1@india.railnet.gov.in

Estimated Cost for the work Rs. 44,41 Lakh Last Date & Time of Submission of RFP Documents: 07.12.2020 upto 15.00 hrs.

(1) For complete details visit website [www.rlda.indianrailways.gov.in](http://rlda.indianrailways.gov.in) or [www.tendersonline.com/RFLD](http://tendersonline.com/RFLD). (2) Any communication related to this publication may only be hosted on above mentioned websites only and will not be published in newspapers. (RFP Notice No. RLDA/RFP/CT-102 of 2020 Dated 22.09.2020) DGM/Tender (Mob.: 7703919078)

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NOTICE
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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR POWER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TLMD-IV, PAMPOR KASHMIR,

NOTICE INVITING TENDER E-NIT No: 34 of 2020-21

Executive Engineer, TLMD-IV, Pampore Kashmir on behalf of the Lt Governor of Jammu & Kashmir invites e-tenders (In Two Cover System) valid for 365 days from reputed, experienced and financially sound Electrical Contractors and Executors fulfilling the eligibility criteria specified in the standard bidding documents for the work detailed below. E-Tenders need to be accompanied by earnest money deposit (EMD) in the shape of DD/CDR/BG from any Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank equivalent to 2% of the advertised cost pledged to Superintending Engineer, JKPTCL Kashmir, Srinagar J&K.

The complete bidding process is online. However, hardcopies consisting of Tender Fee & EMD (original instruments) in cover-1 and Techno-Commercial bid (as per SBD) in cover- II has to be submitted only by the Lowest Bidder in the office of Superintendent Engineer, JKPTCL Kashmir, Srinagar J&K, on the day which will be communicated to lowest bidder. Financial bids must be submitted online only as per prescribed format.

S.No. 1 Scope Of The Work:- Design, engineering, manufacture & assembly of 3-Phase, 132/33kV50MVA, Power Transformer complete with all fittings and accessories required for efficient and trouble free operations of the transformer, testing at manufacturer's works and customer's premises, supply, loading at factory, delivery at site, unloading, handling, dragging at site on the plinth of transformer, erection as per terms, conditions, technical specifications and schedules thereto of this tender document. (Refer BOQ for full details & other items.) for Grid station Zainakote.

Esti. Cost (Rs. in lacs):- 234.00Lacs
EMD (Rs. in lacs):- 4.68Lacs
Cost Of Tender Documents:- Rs.10000
Last Date of online submission of bids:- 07.11.2020

Time of Completion after issuing of LOA:- 06 Months.

The Standard Bidding Document is available at Govt. E-Procurement website <http://jkltenders.gov.in>.

Position of Funds: Demanded

CRITICAL DATES

- Issue of NIT 20-10-2020
- Downloading of bidding documents (Start) 21-10-2020
- Downloading of bidding documents (End) 07-11-2020
- e-Bid submission (start) date & time/Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF formats) 21-10-2020 from 10:00am
- e-Bid submission (end) date & time/Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF formats) 07-11-2020 upto 02:00am
- Online Techno-Commercial e-Bid opening date and time 09-11-2020 at 03.00pm
- Venue of opening of Techno-Commercial-Bids Office of the Superintendent Engineer, O&M Circle-I, JKPTCL, Kashmir Bemina Srinagar
- LOA Issuing Authority Superintendent Engineer, O&M Circle-I, JKPTCL Kashmir, Bemina, Srinagar
- Cost of e-Bid document (to be submitted in the form of e-challan or treasury challan /receipt) Rs.10000/-
- Amount of earnest Money Deposit(2% of Advt cost) Rs.4.68 Lac

• Tender without EMD shall be invalid

• Only the bidders possessing the qualifying criteria as mentioned in the SBD should participate in the bidding process.

• Clarifications can also be sought from the office of the under signed on E-mail xentlmd@gmail.com.

• Before participating in the bids, the bidder shall acquaint himself with the site of work and local conditions.

• The department reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

• The Power transformer to be supplied has to be operated in parallel with the existing transformer of capacity 3x25MVA.

No: TLMD-IV/1473-76, Dated: 20-10-2020

Sd/-

Executive Engineer,
TLMD-IV, Pampor.

"Press Notice Inviting e-Tender No: -28/EE/DWS/DIVN/UDP/2020-21, Dated 31-10-2020"

The Executive Engineer, DWS Division, Udaipur, Gomati District, Tripura invites online percentage rate e-tender in 2(two) bid system on behalf of the "Governor of Tripura" for the work "JMM scheme/ Retrofitting of JMM scheme/Different water supply scheme under Gomati District/ SH: Construction of 12(twelve) Nos. Deep Tube Wells with Contractor's high capacity direct rotary drilling rig and other machineries, equipments under various programmes including providing of ERW pipes, pea-gravels etc. in Gomati District of Tripura State during the year 2020-21 (Gr-II) with Estimated Cost of ₹.3,93,87,939.31, Deadline for online bidding, Pre-bid meet are Upto 15.00 hrs on 23-11-2020 & At 12.00 Hrs on 16-11-2020 respectively.

For details please visit [www.tripuratenders.gov.in](http://tripuratenders.gov.in) and for any query please contact: - +91 9774452561 and Email: eedwsudaipur@yahoo.com.

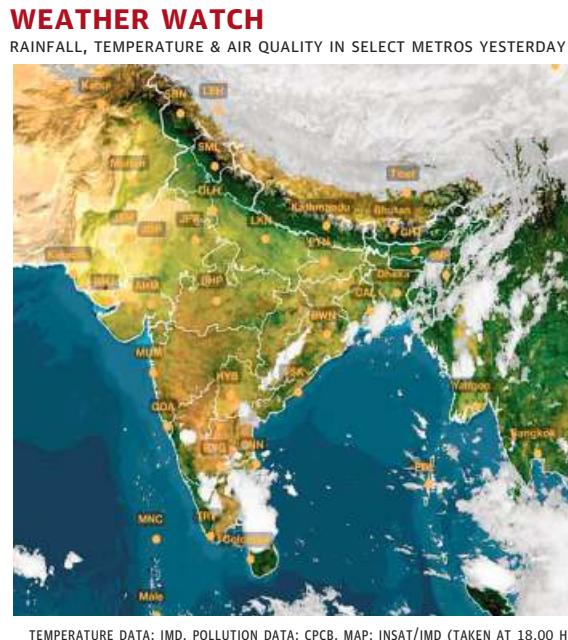
Executive Engineer
DWS Division, Udaipur
Gomati District, Tripura

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING, UTTAR PRADESH, 6th FLOOR, JAWAHAR BHAWAN, LUCKNOW.

No. ME-3/2020/2160 Lucknow: Dated 04 November 2020

--NOTICE--

Following is the time Schedule



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorms with lightning likely at isolated places over south interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.2	32.0	25.1	Kozhikode	—	34.0	25.3
Ahmedabad	—	34.2	16.6	Kurnool	—	33.9	22.6
Aizawl	6	25.7	16.6	Lucknow	—	31.0	12.0
Allahabad	—	32.8	12.5	Madurai	—	33.8	25.2
Bengaluru	—	28.8	20.5	Mangaluru	—	32.2	24.0
Bhopal	—	31.4	12.8	Mumbai	—	35.0	23.6
Bhubaneswar	—	31.8	23.1	Mysuru	9	31.2	21.6
Chandigarh	—	29.0	13.1	New Delhi	—	28.0	10.6
Chennai	0.8	31.7	27.0	Patna	—	30.6	16.4
Coimbatore	1.1	33.0	23.4	Poil Blair	—	32.1	25.3
Dehradun	—	28.8	11.5	Puducherry	2.2	33.3	25.0
Gangtok	—	19.9	13.5	Pune	—	32.1	15.1
Goa	—	34.2	24.2	Raipur	—	32.0	18.0
Guwahati	—	31.7	21.8	Ranchi	—	29.7	15.5
Hubballi	—	29.0	21.0	Shillong	—	24.1	14.9
Hyderabad	—	31.8	17.1	Shimla	—	22.0	11.0
Imphal	—	28.1	17.1	Srinagar	—	19.8	2.2
Jaipur	—	30.4	14.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.3	25.0
Kochi	—	31.8	25.6	Tiruchi	—	35.2	26.2
Kohima	—	24.2	16.6	Vijayawada	—	32.6	25.4
Kolkata	—	31.2	22.1	Visakhapatnam	—	33.4	26.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	37	113	.63	142	.128	...
Bengaluru	14	41	.47	118	.114	...
Chennai	30	.14	.50	108	—	...
Delhi	26	181	.121	407	.420	...
Hyderabad	12	.79	.35	138	.147	...
Kolkata	22	120	.46	221	.164	...
Lucknow	11	100	.31	377	.340	...
Mumbai	14	24	.38	227	.138	...
Pune	21	.28	.55	.78	.56	...
Visakhapatnam	17	.20	.27	104	.101	...

Air Quality Code: **SO₂** Poor **NO_x** Moderate **CO** Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_x: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Yes Bank fraud case: High Court rejects bail pleas of Wadhawans

Real victims were depositors and shareholders, particularly of Yes Bank, says court

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday rejected the bail pleas filed by Kapil Wadhawan and Dheeraj Wadhawan, promoters of the Dewan Housing Finance Limited, in the Yes Bank fraud case.

A single judge Bench of Justice S.V. Kotwal was hearing the bail applications filed by the brothers challenging the rejection of their default bail by a special court on July 31. The pleas were filed on the ground that Section 173 (report of police officer on completion of investigation) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.PC) was not filed within the time stipulated under Section 167 (procedure when investigation cannot be completed in 24 hours) of the Cr.PC.

After hearing the matter at length, the Bench had on October 23 reserved it for order.



Kapil Wadhawan

and shareholders, particularly of Yes Bank. Both these entities and the accused had no grievance against each other and hence no offence of Section 409 (criminal breach of trust by public servant, or by banker, merchant or agent) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) is made out," Mr. Singhvi said.

The HC, however, said, "I completely disagree with these submissions. The allegations are not pertaining to criminal breach of trust committed by either of the accused in respect of each other's property. The prosecution case is that public money which was deposited by the depositors with Yes Bank was used for committing this offence, for personal gain and for causing loss to the bank and its depositors. This offence was committed pursuant to the conspiracy among all the accused."

The Bench said, "The real victims were the depositors

and shareholders, particularly of Yes Bank. That amount was not utilised for getting profit for Yes Bank, but it was used for personal gain of the accused. Thus, clearly offence of Section 409 of the IPC is made out. The ingredients of this offence are clearly borne out in the report filed before the special CBI court."

The 63-page judgement said, "Right to default bail for non-filing of police report within the stipulated period provided under Section 167 of the Cr.PC is an indefeasible right which flows from Article 21 (Right to life and personal liberty) of the Constitution. Such indefeasible right cannot be defeated by any subterfuge. The courts cannot be too technical while entertaining application for bail for not filing the police report within the stipulated period under Section 167 of the Cr.PC."

(both the deaths) has created a hue and cry in the country," Mr. Vineet Dhanda said.

The Bench was, however, informed by the additional government pleader that the State had not been served a copy of the petition. Mr. Dhanda then claimed that he had already served a copy but would do so again.

"You (petitioner) file an affidavit of service and also give them (government) another copy," the Bench said, and posted the plea for further hearing on November 26. The petitioner, Mr. Puneet Dhanda, approached the Bombay High Court after the Supreme Court refused to hear the plea and directed him to move the High Court first.

Salian (28) died after falling off the 14th floor of a residential building in Malad. Rajput (34) was found hanging from the ceiling of his apartment in Bandra.

With goods trains off track, Punjab's lifeline cut off

Centre blames State's inaction for continued impasse

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI

Amid the continued suspension of goods trains by the Railways to Punjab, key sectors from agro-processing, engineering, hosiery, pharmaceutical, textile, power to auto components makers have taken a blow in Punjab as supply of raw material has reduced and delivery of products have come to a near halt.

While the BJP-led Central government on Wednesday blamed the Punjab government's inaction for the ongoing impasse, members of as many as 30 farmers' outfits decided to allow movement of goods trains till November 20 amid the ongoing 'rail roko' agitation against Centre's farm legislation.

Farmers also announced to shift their 'agitation' from railway platforms to nearby vicinities. The Railways, meanwhile, said its losses have crossed ₹1,200 crore in the last month as train operations remain suspended due to farmer protests currently at about 32 places on railway premises and tracks in Punjab.

"Earlier we had decided to let goods train go through the railway tracks till November 5, and now we have decided to extend the date till November 20. The ongoing



Not budging: Farmers block a railway track during a protest at Jandiala Guru in Amritsar on Wednesday. ■ PTI

for the businesses to get back to normal.

"The condition of micro, small and medium enterprises has gone from bad to worse due to suspension of railways. Over 90% MSMEs in the State are involved in manufacture of cycle. But due to shortage of raw materials the production has gone down by at least 50%," Narinder Bhamra, president, Fastener Manufacturers Association of India, told *The Hindu*.

The agro-processing industry has also taken a hit. "The basmati rice exports have come to a complete standstill. Over 2,000 rice containers are lying uncleared at inland container depot (ICD) in Ludhiana," said Ashok Sethi, director, Punjab Rice Millers and Exporters Association.

Several industry players believe that unless the stalemate between Central and State governments is resolved it would be difficult

to move the economy forward.

56% migrants who went back to M.P. unemployed: study

'90% did not receive monetary relief promised by govt.'

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

As many as 56.5 migrant workers who returned to Madhya Pradesh from Maharashtra during the COVID-19-induced lockdown were unemployed, while those engaged in work were earning much less than before, according to a survey.

Further, 67% of the 1,500 respondents who returned in May and June across Madhya Pradesh demanded urgent relief to support their families. And 90% of them had not received any monetary relief promised by the government, said a survey undertaken by two law graduates, an engineering student and Zenith Society for Socio-Legal Empowerment, Shivpuri, with the aid of 50 volunteers.

While 43% said they are engaged in some kind of work, around 22% were employed in agriculture-related



Homecoming: Migrant workers returning to Rewa in Madhya Pradesh, in a special train from Maharashtra. ■ FILE PHOTO

highlight their situation which was being conveniently forgotten, said Rakshita Agarwal, a graduate of the National Law University Odisha.

"We are identifying pressing issues being faced by the workers and approaching authorities with solutions," said Ms. Agarwal. "We don't want this to end as a report, but bring about real, tangible changes wherever we can."

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road Bengaluru – 560 001 . Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-PMC-02/7455/2020-21 Date: 04.11.2020

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB is inviting tender for providing consultancy services for Project Management Consultancy Services from Consulting Firms under two cover system for the following works (1). Consulting Services for Proof Checking of Design, Project Management Consultancy for the work of Formation of 18M wide road, 12m Wide Road, Including Asphalt, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Cross Drainage Works, RCC Storm Water Drain, Chain Link Fencing & HDPE Dual Water Supply Pipe Line for Kotur Belur Industrial Area, Dharwad Taluk, Dharwad District-Package-2. (2). Consulting Services for Proof Checking of Design, Project Management Consultancy for the work of Formation of 18M wide road, Including Asphalt, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Cross Drainage Works, RCC Storm Water Drain, HDPE Dual Water Supply Pipe Line for Kotur Belur Industrial Area, Dharwad Taluk, Dharwad District-Package-3. (3). Consulting Services for Proof Checking of Design, Project Management Consultancy for the work of Formation of 30M Wide Road, 18M wide road, Including Asphalt, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Cross Drainage Works, RCC Storm Water Drain, GLSR, Rising Main, RWH & HDPE Dual Water Supply Pipe Line At Kotur Belur Industrial Area, Dharwad Taluk, Dharwad District-Package-1. (4). Consulting Services for Proof Checking of Design, Project Management Consultancy for the work of Formation of Industrial Layout in Harohalli 4th Phase Industrial Area, Kanakpura Taluk, Ramnagara District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is :24.11.2020 upto 04:00 pm

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-31/7468/2020-21 Date: 04.11.2020

Item rate Tenders under one cover system are invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from Class-II Contractors (Civil) registered in KPWD who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following work (1). Maintenance of Road No.2 to 20 and Filling of pot holes in road no. 1 at Narasapura Industrial Area, Kolar District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is :12.11.2020 upto 04:00 pm

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal

<https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1,
KIADB Bengaluru

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India's National Newspaper



Authoritarian turn

Trump seems hopeful of getting the Supreme Court to rule in his favour

The mammoth task of vote counting is still under way in the 2020 U.S. presidential election, leaving the final outcome uncertain in the contest between incumbent Republican President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger and former Vice President Joe Biden. There have been no major shocks on the solidly "red" and "blue" States, which have a history of voting for only one party and are nearly impossible to flip. Among the swing States, whose electoral college votes are up for grabs, the performance of the two candidates has been mixed. At the latest count, a Trump victory appears certain in Florida, Ohio and Iowa and he is holding on to a lead, perhaps provisionally, in the critical States of Georgia, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania, with several mail ballots yet to be tallied. Meanwhile, Mr. Biden has consolidated his position by racing to victory in Minnesota, New Hampshire, and Virginia, while holding on to counting leads in Arizona, Nevada, Wisconsin and Michigan – States that should give him a path to 270 electoral votes if he holds on to the leads. But with his leads being narrow, his victory is not certain and Mr. Trump continues to perform well in the Rust Belt States as he did in 2016.

Stepping back from the results, the big win for American democracy as such was that no major outbreak of violence or voter suppression occurred throughout the final phases of polling. Perhaps the absence of civil unrest was a testament to the spirit of a nation seeking to move past hateful ethnic, racial and religious divisions of its recent past. It was ironic, then, that a relatively peaceful election exercise in the world's oldest democracy was overshadowed by Mr. Trump himself, who took a distinctly authoritarian turn when he claimed falsely that he had already defeated Mr. Biden, particularly that he had won the Rust Belt States, which in reality are still counting millions of votes, likely the surge in mail-in ballots. He went on to complain that the 2020 election was being stolen from him through a major fraud, reiterating his vow to take the matter expeditiously to the Supreme Court. There are three broad observations regarding this turn of events. First, it is unclear why Mr. Trump would attack the vote tallying process in the swing States, given that he is leading in some of them anyway. Second, his statement is tantamount to a demand that legally cast ballots shall not to be recorded, which, if true, implies an unprecedented attempt at mass voter suppression. Third, Mr. Trump appears intent upon escalating the matter to the Supreme Court, perhaps a strategy based on the idea of getting the conservative majority on that court, including his recent nominee Amy Coney Barrett, to rule in his favour. Such a course of action would set an ominous tone for what could be another four years of the Trump administration.

Star status

ECI's power to ensure a clean campaign should not be unduly abridged

The Supreme Court's stay on the revocation of the status of former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath as a 'star campaigner' for the Congress brings to the fore the power of the Election Commission of India and its role in ensuring a clean campaign. Chief Justice S.A. Bobde appeared convinced that the ECI has no such power, and ordered a stay on its order. Mr. Nath earned the ECI's rebuke after a distasteful personal remark about a BJP woman candidate while campaigning for a by-election to the Madhya Pradesh Assembly recently. The Commission's order dated October 30 said it was revoking his status as a leader of a political party (star campaigner). Section 77 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which relates to a candidate's election expenditure, does leave it to the political party itself to decide who its "leaders" are and allows every party to submit a list of such 'star campaigners' to the election authorities. However, it should be noted that the 'star campaigner' status comes with a clear privilege: the expenditure incurred on the campaign done by those from the list of star campaigners is not included in the expenditure of the candidate concerned. In effect, an order of the ECI revoking the star status is actually a withdrawal of the right to campaign without incurring electoral expenditure on the candidates' account.

It stands to reason that the ECI, in exercise of its general and plenary power of control and direction over elections, ought to have the power to revoke the status of a campaigner, if there is an apparent breach of campaign norms or the Model Code of Conduct. After all, the star status ensures that some leaders can charter helicopters and travel extensively to cover more territory and constituencies without breaching any individual candidate's spending limit. The ECI has cited the clause in the MCC that bars candidates from resorting to "criticism of all aspects of the private life, not connected with the public activities" of other leaders and party workers. Even though the model code is not statutory, it has been generally recognised that the election watchdog should have some means of enforcing its norms. In past orders, the ECI has cited the Supreme Court's observation that when laws are absent, the ECI can invoke its residuary power to meet an infinite variety of situations that cannot be foreseen by lawmakers. It is indeed debatable whether the ECI has been exercising its powers in an even-handed way in recent years. However, it is equally important that the ECI's power to enforce poll norms and clean campaigns is not unduly abridged.

Fixing the rules of the economy

The fundamentals of the game have to change as they currently favour wealthy investors and not workers and tiny enterprises



ARUN MAIRA

India has an incomes crisis: incomes of people in the lower half of the pyramid are too low. The solutions economists propose are: free up markets, improve productivity, and apply technology. These fundamentals of economics must be re-examined when applied to human work.

Three solutions

Economists say markets should be freed up for agricultural products so that farmers can get higher prices; and freed up for labour to attract investments. Without adequate incomes, people cannot be a good market for businesses. In fact, it is the inadequate growth of incomes that has caused a slump in investments. Ironically, the purpose of freeing up markets for labour is to reduce the burden of wage costs on investors just when wages and the size of markets must be increased.

Human rights must prevail over economic considerations. Good markets enable smooth transactions between buyers and sellers of commodities. However, humans are not commodities, like agricultural produce and minerals are. Humans must not be put up for sale to the highest bidders which was the practice in slave markets. Human rights activists fought a long, hard battle to abolish the abhorrent idea that humans can be considered as commodities in markets.

Improvement of 'productivity' is key to economic progress. Productivity is a ratio of an input in

the denominator and an output in the numerator. The larger the output that is produced with a unit of input, the higher the productivity of the system. Economists generally use labour productivity as a universal measure of the productivity of an economy. The number of people in the system (the country/economy) is the denominator, and the gross domestic product the people produce is the numerator. Companies also measure their productivity similarly, by dividing the total output of the enterprise by the numbers of workers employed.

Companies can apply two broad strategies for improving their productivity. They can take the managerially more difficult route of increasing the total output of the factory while maintaining the number of workers. This may require adding more machines and technology to supplement the capacity of workers to increase total output. This is a good strategy for capital-rich enterprises and countries.

Alternatively, employers can enhance their workers' skills and create a culture of continuous improvement in the factory, whereby workers and managers cooperate to improve the capability of their system, and squeeze more output from limited capital resources. This is the strategy of 'total quality management', with which Japanese companies reduced their costs and improved the quality of their products in the 1960s and 1970s, becoming the most competitive enterprises in the world. The Japanese companies had lifetime employment contracts with their workers. They invested in their workers; and the workers – the companies' 'appreciating assets' – grew their capabilities as well as contributed to the improvement of the total productivity of their



REUTERS

enterprises.

Humans are the only 'appreciating assets' an enterprise has. They can improve their own abilities. The values of machines and buildings depreciate over time, as any accountant knows. Whereas human beings develop when they are treated with respect, and are provided with environments to learn.

The lazy management strategy for improving productivity is to reduce the denominator, i.e. the number of workers. Hire them when times are good, and fire them when the company cannot compete any more. Governments of countries cannot apply the 'hire and fire' strategy to improve a nation's productivity that companies can. A company can fire people if it is not able to use productively any more. They are off the company's accounts. The company's owners hope someone else will take care of them. Such 'used and discarded workers' are no longer their responsibility.

However, if a country is not productive, in terms of GDP per unit of population, its government does not have the luxury of firing citizens. Where will they go? Who will take care of them? In desperation, they may try to migrate to other countries, which are reluctant to have them because they will have to provide them with productive jobs when there are not enough jobs for their own citizens.

For capital-scarce and human

resource-abundant countries, such as many developing countries, the correct ratio of productivity is output per unit of capital. This must be the driver of business as well as national strategies. This was the strategy of 'Japan Inc.' to make Japan an industrial powerhouse. This was E.F. Schumacher's insight also.

Schumacher, best known for his seminal idea 'small is beautiful' (and his book with the same title), was an economist ahead of his time. He understood where capitalism powered with technology would be heading. In his essay, 'Industrialisation through Intermediate Technology', published by the journal *Resurgence* in 1966, he wrote: "If we define the level of technology in terms of equipment cost per work-place", we can call the indigenous technology of a typical developing country (symbolically speaking) a £1-technology, while that of the modern West could be called a £1,000-technology.

The current attempt of the 'developing' countries, supported by foreign aid, to infiltrate the £1,000-technology into their economies inevitably kills off the £1-technology at an alarming rate, destroying traditional workplaces at a much faster rate than modern workplaces can be created and producing the 'dual economy' with its attendant evils of mass unemployment and mass migration". Schumacher had warned there was a malaise brewing beneath the drive to 'Westernise' and 'technologise' economies. The harsh lockdown of the economy in India to prevent the spread of COVID-19 caused the malaise to spill out for everyone to see.

The social contract

A good job implies a contract between workers and society. Workers provide the economy with the

products and services it needs. In return, society and the economy must create conditions whereby workers are treated with dignity and can earn adequate incomes. Good jobs require good contracts between workers and their employers. Therefore, the government, to discharge its responsibility to create a good society for all citizens, and not only for investors, must regulate contracts between those who engage people to do work for their enterprises, even in the gig economy.

The economist Dani Rodrik, an authority on industrial policy and international trade, advocates reforms that will induce firms to employ more numbers of less skilled workers. He says, to increase productivity of firms, "too often they [governments] subsidise labour-replacing, capital-intensive technologies, rather than pushing innovation in socially more beneficial directions to augment rather than replace less skilled workers."

A turbo-charged, financial globalisation has made life very easy for migrant capital, while making the lives of migrant workers more precarious. The power to fix the rules of the game has become concentrated with wealthy investors and large multinational corporations. The rules do not favour workers and tiny enterprises because they have too little power. Large enterprises employ fewer people within their own organisations; therefore, labour unions have lost their traditional support bases. The power balance must shift. Small enterprises and workers must combine into larger associations, in new forms, using technology, to tilt reforms towards their needs and their rights.

Arun Maira is author of *'The Learning Factory: How the Leaders of Tata Became Nation Builders'*

The financial capacity of States is being weakened

Through various means the Union government has substantially reduced the fiscal resource capacity of the States



KRISHNA BYRE GOWDA

State governments drive a majority of the country's development programmes. Greater numbers of people depend on these programmes for their livelihood, development, welfare and security. Varied economic growth and income levels across States confirm the primacy of State governments in the economic sphere as well. States need resources to deliver these responsibilities and aspirations. Unfortunately, the financial capacity of the States is structurally being weakened.

The ability of the States to expand revenue has been constrained since the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime was adopted. The Centre's resource mobilisation space vis-a-vis that of the States is now far greater. While both face a very challenging fiscal environment, the Centre, instead of finding mutually beneficial solutions, has repeatedly opted to undermine the current and future fiscal capacities of the States. It has systematically cut the share of States in taxes raised by the Union government (devolutions), it has reduced the pool of funds to be shared with the States by shifting from taxes to cesses and surcharges.

es, and it is needlessly thrusting mealy options to overcome the GST shortfall.

Declining devolution

Finance Commissions recommend the share of States in the taxes raised by the Union government. Their recommendations are normally adhered to. But the current Union government has discarded this constitutional obligation. Prior to 2014, devolution of funds to the States were consistently and cumulatively more than 13th Finance Commission's projections. The year 2014-15 commenced with a shock: actual devolution was 14% less than the Finance Commission's projection. Subsequent devolutions have been consistently less every year, ending the period 2019-20 with a whopping -37%. Between 2014-15 and 2019-20, the States got ₹7,97,549 crore less than what was projected by the Finance Commission. This is an undeniable and substantial reduction of the fiscal resource capacity of the States.

Shrinking the divisible pool
Various cesses and surcharges levied by the Union government are retained fully by it. They do not go into the divisible pool. This allows the Centre to raise revenues, yet not share them with the States.

Hence, the Union government imposes or increases cesses and surcharges instead of taxes wherever possible and, in some cases, even replaces taxes with cesses and sur-



PTI

cesses have justification independent of compensation needs. These are, and will be, levied irrespective of compensation needs. GST compensation will end with 2021-22. But cesses will continue.

During 2019-20, the cess collected was ₹95,444 crore. With the abnormal exception of this year, the years ahead will generate similar or more cess revenue. This assured cess revenue, within the GST, can meet any contingency needs, even of an "act of God", without burdening the Centre or the State governments. Hence, many States have been insisting outside and inside the GST Council that the Union government should borrow this year's GST shortfall in full and release it to the States. The Union government will not have to pay a rupee of this debt or interest. The entire loan can be repaid out of the assured cess revenue that will continue to accrue beyond 2022. Of the nearly ₹3 lakh crore GST shortfall to the States, the Centre will only compensate ₹1.8 lakh crore. The States will not get the remaining ₹1.2 lakh crore this year. This cut is being imposed for no reason. In fact, it flies against the need of the hour to revive the economy. Governments ought to spend money this year to stimulate demand.

Apart from the streams discussed above, Central grants are also likely to drop significantly this year. For instance, ₹31,570 crore was allocated as annual grants to Karnataka. Actual grants may be

down to ₹17,372 crore. Due to the combined effect of cutbacks in devolution, the shrinking divisible pool, failure to pay full GST compensation this year and fall in Central grants, the States may experience a fall of 20%-25% in their revenues this year. To overcome such extreme blows to their finances and discharge their welfare and development responsibilities, the States are now forced to resort to colossal borrowings. Repayment burden will overwhelm State budgets for several years. As we peer into the years ahead, after paying loans and interest, salaries and pensions, and establishment expenses, what will really be available for development and welfare? The fall in funds for development and welfare programmes will adversely impact the livelihoods of crores of Indians. The economic growth potential cannot be fully realised. Adverse consequences will be felt in per capita income, human resource development and poverty. This is a negative sum game.

States are at the forefront of development and generation of opportunities and growth. Strong States lead to a stronger India. The systematic weakening of States serves neither federalism nor national interest.

Krishna Byre Gowda is former Agriculture, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister, Government of Karnataka. He was the Karnataka representative in the GST Council

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

U.S. election
I have three takeaways from the U.S. election so far. One, President Donald Trump's description of the election as "a major fraud" on the U.S., without basis; his accusation that Joe Biden is trying to "steal the election"; and his statement that the Supreme Court should "stop all counting" strikes at the very basis of democracy. Perhaps he has no respect for democracy. Two, the counting shows that there was no massive "blue wave" as many predicted. Mr. Trump has proved pundits and pollsters wrong on that count. And three, the fact that this is such a

close contest shows that millions of Americans approve and endorse Mr. Trump's unique brand of leadership.

G. DAVID MILTON,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

With Mr. Trump saying that he will go to the Supreme Court, the next few days look chaotic. Some commentators had anticipated this scenario based on Mr. Trump's statements in the run-up to the election. It is hard to fathom that the presidential election in the world's oldest democracy could lead to such chaos.

THOMAS PALOCAREN,
Vellore

More members in RS
The Opposition's presence in the Upper House is gradually eroding ("BJP reaches 92 mark in Rajya Sabha", Nov. 4). Even before this happened, there was chaos in the House.

Contentious Bills were passed despite anger from the Opposition. Now, the ruling party might be even more forceful in this regard. The reason for all this is that there is no cooperation amongst the Opposition parties while taking on the BJP. Without a strong Opposition, the BJP may act according to its own will and put democracy at peril.

D. SETHURAMAN,
Chennai

Arrest of an editor
The arrest of Arnab Goswami has no connection with his journalistic role; it is in connection with an abetment to suicide case ("Republic TV editor Arnab Goswami, two others arrested in abetment to suicide case", Nov. 4, online). It is unclear, then, why several senior Union Ministers and BJP leaders have supported him and are talking of the 'freedom of the press' as this does not arise in this case. It is for the courts to decide whether Mr. Goswami is guilty of the charge or not.

V. PADMANABHAN,
Bengaluru

and Vienna are worrying and show that Islamist terrorism is rearing its head in Europe again ("A fragile French Republic", Nov. 4). Meanwhile, in India, the National Investigation Agency has been unearthing terror modules in Kerala and West Bengal. Against the backdrop of new terror attacks across the world, the Indian security establishment should be doubly vigilant and prepared to thwart any possible terror attacks.

R. SAMPATH,
Chennai

Being vigilant
Recent attacks in France

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Is linguistic nationalism on the wane?

There is a need to look beyond just symbolic, customary offerings to effectively revive Kannada



JANAKI NAIR



High spirits: Rajyotsava celebrations in Belgaum in 2011. ■ D.B. PATIL

At this time each year, there are raucous street celebrations of Rajyotsava in Karnataka, a commemoration of the day when the reorganised State came into being in 1956 (though it was known as Mysore until 1973). The red and yellow Karnataka flags fly high, street corners blast off iconic Kannada songs ('naaniruvude nimagali! naadiruvudu namagali...', among others) and people have the day off to participate in programmes around the city. Celebrations continue for the whole month, in which both the State and society are involved. This year, Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa declared that neither the token day nor month is good enough, and a whole year instead will be dedicated to the promotion of Kannada. But he does no more than echo the laments of the last three decades, which the Kannada Development Authority, set up in 1994, has done little to redress.

This year, the spirit of Rajyotsava is definitely muted. The health terror that stalks our streets accounts only for a part of this lacklustre celebration, which is barely visible and audible. Apart from the Kannada press, English newspapers appear to have given the day a miss. A few red and yellow flags adorned the square in which Reverend Kittel's statue stands in the heart of the city, an inconspicuous reminder of the missionary role in systematising Kannada grammar and producing a dictionary. A small posse of autorickshaws with flags attempts to infuse some spirit into the event, a 360-foot 'Kannada bavata' is lifted high, but gigantism does not make up for the customary gaiety of the street corner – dominated by men of course – that is definitely missing.

Instead, there is the annual hand-wringing about the urgency of building a robust contemporary language out of an undoubtedly well-established and hoary literary one, to keep up with science, and now the digital world. Clearly, the fight to declare Kannada as a classical language

in 2008 did little to achieve this connect. Even the Kannada University, established in 1991, draws its formidable strength and influence from literary, folklore and cultural studies, rather than human and natural sciences.

Several distractions

Are we then witnessing the exhaustion of regional and linguistic nationalism as political capital? There is a good reason to think so. Distractions abound, not the least of which are the worries posed by a severely damaged economy and two by-elections that are possibly going to change the fate of the current government.

Events in the past year briefly raised spirits and the fervent hope that Karnataka will not become the Uttar Pradesh of the south. The calls for a Claims Commissioner in riots cases, for a law against 'love jihad', and for a branch of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in Bengaluru since it has become a 'terrorism hub', are withering that hope.

The prolonged and creative anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act protests, in different locations, built new and unusual publics; the more recent farmers' agitation against both the State's new land reform Act, and the Central Acts transforming the marketing of agricultural produce, which allied with Dalit and other civil society groups, were another silver lining. Now all that has taken second place against the gathering force of the demand for reservations within reservations. Not a day passes when one or the other caste or sub-caste –

led by one or another *mathadeesha* (head of matha) – raises the demand for (and in some rare cases, against) proportional representation in reservations.

Gone too is the electrifying and unifying presence of a Rajkumar, whose formidable star power rallied the Kannada people – and not just in his famous *Mayura* (1975) song. He changed the fate of the Gokak Chalavali, a movement that sought first language status for Kannada in schools, in 1982. Even Rajkumar's kidnapping by the brigand Veerapan in 2000 mobilised mass empathy and support for the actor, if not the language.

Today, Gandhinagar's 'sandalwood', as the centre of the Kannada film industry is ironically called, is in disarray, buffeted by the challenges of the box office and emerging OTT platforms, weak and hackneyed storylines (contrast contemporary Kannada cinema with its old-style villains and heroes, and the vibrant experiments being undertaken in Malayalam and Tamil cinema), and now a full-fledged drug scandal, in which many actors and associates are being clapped in irons.

Class divide

Kannada remains a beleaguered language in the State capital, Bengaluru, to which people from the entire country have flocked for jobs, education and opportunity. But it is not just the recent migrant over whom the language is unable to exert its hegemony. Its inferiorised status in everyday life stems from the long-held

belief that the 'cosmopolitanism' of the city has freed middle-class migrants of any obligation of learning the local language (the working-class migrant can afford no such luxury). Thus, Bengaluru must be the only city in the country where people thrive as academics, business people, journalists, teachers, and salespersons, without acquiring even a smattering of Kannada. "How come you read Kannada?" is the oddly rhetorical question that many, including friends for decades, ask when they spot a book or newspaper in the language in my house, asserting its fugitive presence in the middle-class home. No government action or programme can compensate for this profound diffidence.

Bengaluru also must be the only city in the country where the local (again largely working-class) takes pride in speaking several languages, including those of most of its immigrants. It is the only Indian city – and I have lived in many – where even those who know the language feel offended if you spoke to them in Kannada, doing their best to reply in English.

Grievously damaged by the widespread desire for, and market in, English, and the inability to counter that tsunami with just a few ritual offerings per year, hopes of Kannada gaining self-confidence, even dominance, will be realised only when it sheds some of its addictions to symbolism alone.

The Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (and other Kannada organisations and even Opposition leaders) have taken umbrage at the significant absence of the Karnataka flag at the official functions on November 1 – to them, this is a sign of federal courtesies being violated.

But this, or the long-lasting damage that the GST fiasco has foisted on States, the more alarming sign of federal protocols being undermined? Is it better jobs for all, refurbished and reliable health care, and improved primary education, that States should take pride in, or symbolic bike rallies, that will rebuild some of the developmental achievements for which Karnataka was once justly known?

Janaki Nair retired as professor at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Shifting gears in Bihar

The JD(U)-BJP front is up against a young and more attuned Opposition that has a lot to offer



ATUL K. THAKUR

While the COVID-19 pandemic has still not subsided in India, it is shocking to witness large crowds thronging election rallies in Bihar, defying logic and safety concerns. In overlooking the gravity of the situation, the Election Commission of India has set a wrong precedent, and looking to gain out of it, the ruling parties have supported it. An indifferent Nitish Kumar, who was once seen to be the last frontier of 'hope' in the old socialist bloc of Bihar, now signifies a rigid dichotomy between ideology and a survivalist political arrangement.

Directly or indirectly, Mr. Kumar has ruled Bihar for the last 15 years. With Centrally-aided infrastructure projects and going the extra mile in strengthening the electricity system, he gave an impetus to growth in the State. However, one has to assess him with a fresh benchmark. His biggest failure has been to not pursue the case of Bihar's industrial makeover in his long, heady rule; it was wrong for him or his Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Sushil Modi to blame the earth for not giving the 'ocean' a passage through Bihar, when Mr. Kumar said large employment generation is not possible in Bihar since it is a landlocked State. Once believed to be Prime-Minister material, Mr. Kumar did major injustice to himself and the State by insulting the public mandate in the 2015 election. His sudden break-up with the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), and revival of old ties with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) dissociated himself from Bihar's political DNA.

His handling of the Srijan scam, encephalitis cases, the Muzaffarpur shelter home case, falling law and order conditions, floods and droughts, COVID-19 and reverse migration, also affected 'Brand Nitish'.

Key adversaries

With Lalu Prasad Yadav in jail and the untimely demise of Ram Vilas Paswan, Mr. Kumar's key adversaries in the upcoming election are young Tejashwi Yadav and Chirag Paswan. Mr. Chirag's sudden decision to fight against 143 NDA candidates, mostly from the JD(U), is believed to be a careful plan approved by the top order of the BJP. The BJP seems to have unofficially formed an alternative alliance with Mr. Chirag's Lok Jan Shakti Party (LJP). In a bid to re-arrange the political equation, with the reduced size of

Nitish Kumar and Sushil Modi, the LJP was probably given a certain space to rebel against the ruling NDA. The experiment, however, is expected to be counter-beneficial. With multi-polarisations and changed fundamentals, the JD (U)-BJP front is expected to lose a chunk of closely-contested seats, where the winning margin may be of less than 5,000 votes. Also, two political parties that quit the *Mahagathbandhan*, the Hindustani Awam Morcha and the Vikashil Insaan Party, were later inducted by the JD(U)-BJP camp. Both parties, with weak turfs, are seen as loss-making entities. The BJP has also preferred other candidates over its old cadres, who served the organisation for over three decades.

Tall promises

In contrast, in a welcome departure from its old position, the RJD's manifesto has turned its focus to the job crisis, and 'resolved' to fill the existing 4.5 lakh government vacancies. It has also promised to create 5.5 lakh more jobs in the government. And under pressure from such progressive commitments, the BJP, too, came out with a promise of '19 lakh Rojgar' (19 lakh jobs). However, it was not received well, with the definition of 'Rojgar' not akin to formal employment.

The RJD, the Congress, the LJP and the Left Front have been quite forthcoming in pledging to end the culture of 'contract hiring' and giving equal wages for equal work. The *Mahagathbandhan*'s manifesto also proposed to end the contentious farm Bills, and revoke the liquor prohibition that has long caused illegal trading and high rates of crimes. Meanwhile, the JD (U)-BJP camp has nothing new to offer after its three terms, and the ploy to present themselves as the only 'viable option' is also not going down well with people, many of whom have either noticed or lived through acute suffering during the pandemic, coupled with the government's extremely poor response. Public sentiment is likely to favour big-bang changes. But even so, the JD (U)-BJP groups have their social bases firmly intact, and considering the State's conventional voting patterns, some surprises may be in store.

Beyond these fundamentals, Mr. Kumar is at odds with the State's original brand of politics and his own past self. People have not forgotten that it was Mr. Kumar who was against Narendra Modi campaigning for the 2009 Lok Sabha and the 2010 State Legislative polls. Despite being in the coalition, he made the difficult choice. History will be kinder to him if he introspects and returns to where he belongs.

Atul K. Thakur is a policy professional and columnist

Labour's anti-Semitism woes

Recent accusations have tainted the party's image and it must now tread cautiously

AMIR ALI

The issue of anti-Semitism has returned to haunt the British Labour Party. The Equality and Human Rights Commission's recent report on the party's handling of the issue is damning in terms of its addressing complaints of anti-Semitism and of a wider culture that creates a hostile environment for Jewish members and supporters. The issue, very swiftly, swivelled towards former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn. Mr. Corbyn issued a statement on Facebook, in which he acknowledged the problem of anti-Semitism, but also suggested that instances had been exaggerated by his detractors. He was swiftly suspended from the Labour Party.

Once again, the Labour Party has been torn apart, as it has been a number of times on Brexit. This is bad news, as the party, under the leadership of Keir Starmer, has been very effective in putting the Boris Johnson government on the mat over its sheer ineptitude. *The Guardian's* parliamentary sketch writer, John Crace, almost incredulously noted, "Boris Johnson must be unable to believe his luck".

Accusations of Islamophobia over statements that Mr. Johnson himself made and Islamophobic attitudes within his Conservative Party have not been half as damaging as they have been for Labour over anti-Semitism.

Brexit has let loose the genie of racism from the multi-cultural bottle that had hitherto contained it. The bottle had a label affixed to it, 'Cool Britannia', put there by another Labour leader and long-serving Prime Minister, Tony Blair, in what can only be called another one of his deceptive branding exercises. The escape of the racism genie in all its forms, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and the deep-seated prejudice against Blacks in Britain, reveals how the multi-cultural bottling never countered, but merely contained racism.

Mr. Starmer's response towards suspending Jeremy Corbyn is worrying and has been characterised as his decisive 'clause four' moment as he seeks to marginalise the Left-leaning group within his party. Already, there

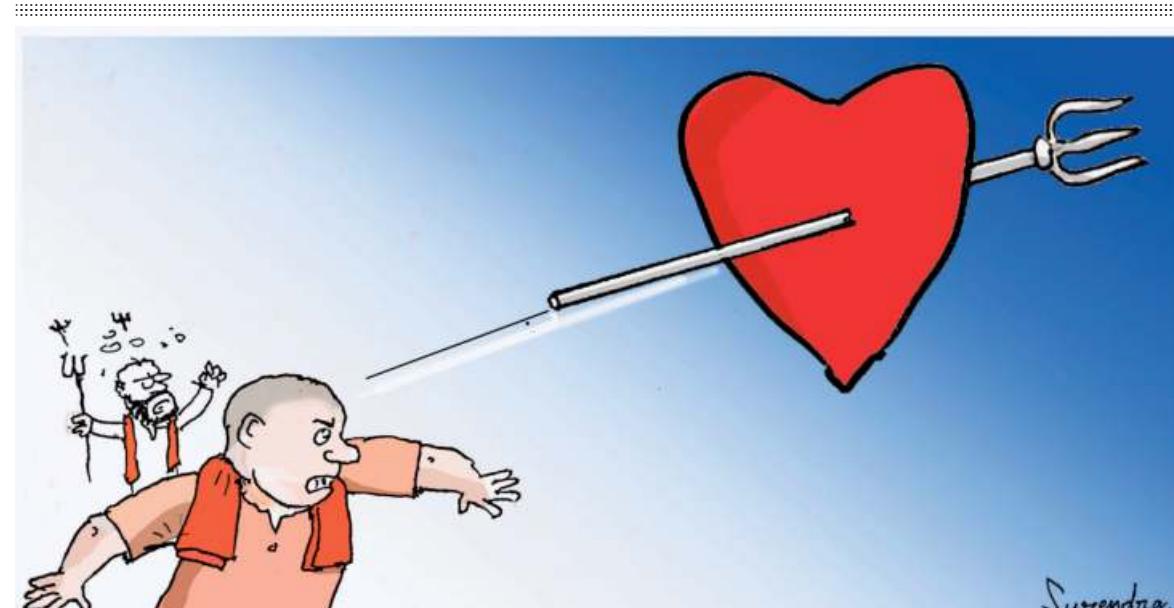
have been adverse reactions to this from trade unions such as Unite, that were firmly behind Mr. Corbyn's leadership. Mr. Starmer has perhaps not learnt any lessons from his predecessor, Tony Blair, who deleted clause four of the Labour Party's constitution to sever its organic link with trade unions.

Hard lessons

A study by the V-Dem Institute at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden has found that right-wing parties across the world, such as the Republican Party in the U.S., the Conservative Party in the U.K., and the Bharatiya Janata Party in India, have become increasingly more authoritarian. Remarkably, as the Right behaves in the most unhinged fashion and can even then expect to win, the Left has to tread ever so nervously, never straying too far to the left. This explains Mr. Corbyn's massive electoral defeat in parliamentary elections last year. Lessons were quickly learnt across the 'pond', as the Atlantic is so fondly referred to on both sides, when Bernie Sanders lost the Democratic party's nomination and the left-wing consolidated itself behind Joe Biden.

Comparisons are often made between politics in the U.K. and the U.S. Boris Johnson is the Trump clone on the other side of the Atlantic, as Joe Biden and Keir Starmer play political roles that almost mirror each other in terms of the caution they exercise from the left-wing of their respective political parties. That leaves us with Bernie Sanders as the American equivalent of Jeremy Corbyn. Mr. Corbyn has been very critical of the Israeli state and his sympathisers tend to believe that he is being hauled over the coals on the issue owing to his consistently critical stand against Israel. Notably, Mr. Sanders did not attend the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) conference earlier this year, referring to it as a platform for 'bigotry'. Accusations of anti-Semitism are just likely to make the road back to power for Labour that much longer.

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DATA POINT

Exit equations

HOW TO READ THE TABLES | Each table shows the % of voters who preferred Trump or Biden across various sections of the U.S. society. The number in the bracket indicates the change (in % points) in voter preference compared to the 2016 election. The survey captures responses from 15,590 voters

Are you male or female?	Trump	Biden	Are you gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender?	What kind of place do you live in?
Male (47% of voters)	49 (↓4)	48 (↑7)	Yes (7% of voters)	28 (↑14) 61 (↓17)
Female (53%)	43 (↑1)	56 (↑2)	No (93%)	48 50 (↑3)
What is your racial or ethnic heritage?			White evangelical or white born-again Christian?	
White (65% of voters)	57 (↓1)	42 (↑5)	White evangelical or white born-again Christian (27% of voters)	76 (↓5) 23 (↑7)
Black (12%)	12 (↑5)	87 (↑1)	All others (73%)	37 (↑2) 60 (↓1)
Hispanic/Latino (13%)	32 (↑3)	66 (↑1)		
Asian (3%)	31 (↑2)	63 (↓2)		
Other (6%)	40 (↑3)	58 (↑2)		
How old are you?			What was your total family income in 2019?	
18-29 (17% of voters)	35 (↓2)	62 (↑7)	Under \$50,000 (35% of voters)	41 57
30-44 (24%)	45 (↑3)	52 (↑2)	\$50,000-\$99,999 (38%)	43 56
45-64 (38%)	49 (↓4)	50 (↑6)	\$100,000 or more (28%)	54 43
65 or over (22%)	51 (↓2)	48 (↑3)		
What is your level of education?			Do you work full-time for pay?	
College graduate (44% of voters)	42	55	Yes (59% of voters)	50 48
No college degree (56%)	49	49	No (41%)	41 58
Which is more important?			Containing COVID-19 now, even if it hurts the economy (51% of voters)	
			Rebuilding the economy now, even if it hurts efforts to contain the pandemic (42%)	18 80 76 22

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 5, 1970

Democrats retain control of Congress in U.S. elections

Despite one of the most intensive election campaigns conducted by it in recent memory, the Republican Party of President Nixon to-day failed to get the kind of mandate it had sought from the American electorate. After to-day's [November 4, WASHINGTON] outcome, the Nixon Administration will have to continue to live with a Congress dominated by the Democrats for another two years - and many of these Democrats are of an ideological persuasion different from that of Mr. Nixon. Most of the liberals who had been a thorn in Mr. Nixon's side are back in the Senate. Though the Republicans were able to unseat some of them the Democrats in their turn have been able to dislodge some of the Nixon Republicans with a few new liberals. The new liberal-moderate coalition, in the Senate which is certain to oppose Mr. Nixon on key national and international issues will continue to be led by such stalwarts as Hubert Humphrey, Edward Kennedy and Edmund Muskie who have all won re-election. In the House of Representatives the only consolation the Republicans have is that they have not lost as many seats as a ruling party normally does in a mid-term election. But the Democrats have increased their already impressive majority in the House by another eight seats.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 5, 1920
Non-Co-operation In Bengal

About 3,000 people assembled last evening at Bolajor to hear Messrs. Pal, Chatterjee and Sen on the present situation. Singing processions from Chandrabar, Bamral, Joysarkat, Naichera, Nahilara and Lakhnati came to join the meeting. Mr. Pal appealed for the revival of Swadeshi and boycott and establishment of direct trade relation through Indian agencies with friendly foreign countries and urged boycott of the Councils. Mr. Sen referred to Lord Sinha's appointment as due to his approximating to the ruling race, suggested his adopting national dress like Sir Ashutosh in official functions and the Bengalee mode of life in Government House to test his English friends. Mr. Chatterjee emphasised the need of village and district organisations. The inspiring songs of Babu Harendra Kumar Ghosh evoked tremendous enthusiasm. Far into the night the villages all around resounded again within "Bande Mataram" as of old.

FROM PAGE ONE

Arnab Goswami held in 2018 suicide case

"After reopening the case, it was transferred to the LCB. We then investigated and found more evidence. Mr. Goswami had attempted to transfer money into Naik's account after his death, but the bank rejected it as the account holder was not alive. This showed that he actually owed the money," inspector Jamil Shaikh of the LCB said.

When asked if Mr. Goswami was issued any summons, Mr. Shaikh confirmed that he was booked under Section 306 of the IPC, which was a serious offence and did not need summons.

The LCB followed the protocol for the arrest and gave a letter to Mr. Goswami's wife informing her of the arrest, which she had to sign. She instead tore it. "We immediately conveyed this to our superiors," Mr. Shaikh said.

Alleged assault

Advocate Gaurav Parkar, for Mr. Goswami, alleged that the journalist was assaulted at the time of his arrest, causing abrasions on his back as he was pulled by his belt, and on his hand as well.

Mr. Parkar alleged that Mr. Goswami's wife was never informed about the arrest. "The previous case was closed and he has been arrested after reinvestigation of the case. We are yet to get all the papers," he said.

The police said there was

'Courts for trying lawmakers in public interest'

The committee report, dated October 13, drew special attention from the Bench as it comes in the face of a 2017 Supreme Court order authorising the Centre to set up 12 special courts to exclusively try criminal politicians.

It also comes at a time when a three-judge Bench, led by Justice Ramana, is looking at ways to expedite these trials pending for years, in some cases, for decades.

More than 4,400 criminal trials are pending against legislators. Of these, more than 2,500 trials involve sitting legislators.

But the Madras High Court's Criminal Rules Committee on Special Courts for Trial of Criminal Cases against MPs/MLAs, com-

no assault, but Mr. Goswami resisted arrest and they had to use force.

At the time of taking him to the Alibaug court, he was heard shouting, "Uddhav Thackeray can do nothing to me. The Maharashtra police can do nothing to me."

Police custody

The advocate for the complainant, Vilas Naik, said, "Police assault claims rejected by court. The court said that the abrasion found on his body was due to force used to arrest him while he resisted. The court has said that there is nothing to be recovered from him and hence police custody is not needed."

The victim left a suicide note and the name of the accused was clearly mentioned in it. The victim's wife had submitted a police complaint, but the accused was not arrested. Fortunately, in the last few days, the Raigad police and the Maharashtra police made progress in the investigation. Based on the evidence, he has been arrested," Mr. Naik said.

He said whether Mr. Goswami abetted the suicide was part of the police investigation. "He will be produced in the court within 24 hours of his arrest. We will give all the required support to the prosecution and the police investigation from the side of the victim's wife," he added.

Policy to decongest Hyderabad gets nod

Real estate development beyond ORR

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

posed of Justices P.N. Prakash, G. Jayachandran and N. Sathish Kumar, said special courts cannot be set up on the basis of judicial or executive orders.

Special courts

The committee also raised strong reservations against setting up special courts in Tamil Nadu.

"The existing court structure in the State of Tamil Nadu, which is robust, is more than enough to deal with the cases involving MPs and MLAs," it said.

Countering a submission that the High Court had stayed 92 cases filed against politicians in Tamil Nadu, Mr. Kannan said 85% of these cases dealt with defamation allegations.

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More than 4,400 criminal trials are pending against legislators. Of these, more than 2,500 trials involve sitting legislators.

But the Madras High Court's Criminal Rules Committee on Special Courts for Trial of Criminal Cases against MPs/MLAs, com-

'No favouritism in Vista project'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
The government informed the Supreme Court on Wed-

nesday that there was no favouritism in selecting a consultant for the Central Vista project.

The Minister said following the Cabinet approval he

had signed the policy on Tuesday and its salient features would be announced shortly.

He mentioned about the policy while listing other measures such as the strategic road development programme under which new roads and flyovers had been developed and how Hyderabad was prospective in terms of investment on infrastructure as evident from the setting up of Metro Rail network and the proposed elevated bus corridor from Kukatpally to western Hyderabad.

Metro expansion

Stating that the Metro Rail network would be expanded, he said the key challenge in most cities of India was the crumbling infrastructure under the onslaught of rapid urbanisation.

"In large cities we need to have good public transportation and in suburbs self-contained townships, which is exactly what the government of Telangana is offering in the form of Integrated Township Policy," the Minister said.

Salient features

Mr. Rao, who was inauguring real estate consultancy firm Knight Frank India's new office here, said such an approach would pave the way for 'Live, Work, Learn and Play' kind of self-contained townships that would ensure that people did not necessarily had to travel to the city.

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IN BRIEF



Economy is getting back on track, says Javadekar

NEW DELHI
The Union Cabinet on Wednesday discussed the latest indicators that showed that the economy was getting back on track sooner than expected, Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said. He said GST collections in October had been higher than that for the month in 2019; power demand had increased by 12%; and rail freight had also registered growth, all of which indicated that the economy was recovering.

NDC to increase intake from other countries

NEW DELHI
India is planning to increase the intake from the neighbouring and Central Asian countries for the strategic leadership course in the National Defence College (NDC). The Defence Ministry had decided to increase it from 100 to 110 in 2021 and to 120 in 2022, Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar said on Wednesday. "Countries which will get additional seats are Nepal, Myanmar, Bangladesh apart from new seats to Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Philippines, Indonesia and Maldives," Dr. Kumar said.

Teacher eligibility test postponed to Jan. 31

NEW DELHI
The Central Teacher Eligibility Test, originally scheduled to be held on July 5 and postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, will now be held on January 31, 2021. About 30 lakh aspiring teachers are expected to write the examination, according to the Central Board of Secondary Education which conducts the test. The number of examination centres has been increased from 112 to 135 cities.

Centre launches initiative to improve quality of life

NEW DELHI
The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry on Wednesday launched a challenge for cities to develop and implement initiatives to improve the quality of life of young children, caregivers and families. Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched the 'Nurturing Neighborhoods Challenge', which will be open for the 100 Smart Cities, cities with population of more than 5 lakh and State/Union Territory capitals, a Ministry statement said.

Delhi clocks over 6,000 cases

Along with Kerala, the national capital is leading in new COVID-19 cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Ten States and Union Territories have contributed 76% of the new confirmed COVID-19 cases, with Kerala and Delhi leading with over 6,000 cases each.

Maharashtra follows them with more than 4,000, showed data released by the Union Health Ministry on Wednesday.

As many as 514 case fatalities were reported in the past 24 hours, and nearly 80% of them were concentrated in 10 States and Union Territories, with Maharashtra reporting the highest number of single-day deaths of 120, it said.

The active case load stood at 53,378, with the active cases comprising 6.42% of the total positive cases in the country.

Sixteen States and Union Territories have cases per million lower than the national average.

A total of 53,357 patients had recovered and been discharged in the past 24 hours,



Patient wait: A health worker collecting samples for testing in Delhi on Wednesday. ■ PTI

with new confirmed cases at 46,253.

Kerala was leading with more than 8,000 single-day recoveries, followed by Karnataka with more than 7,000.

The country's testing capacities have seen a rapid expansion. The cumulative tests were nearly 11.3 crore

(11,29,98,959) today.

A total of 12,09,609 tests were conducted in the past 24 hours.

Twenty-five States and Union Territories have better tests per million than the national average. Eighty per cent of the new recovered cases were concentrated in 10 States and Union Territories

ries, the Ministry said.

With a high number of patients recovering every day and a sustained fall in the mortality rate, India's steady trend of a dip in active cases continued.

The active case load was sustained below the six lakh mark for the sixth successive day on Wednesday, it added.

Arnab, others threatened victim, say kin

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Two years after interior designer Anvay Naik was found dead in Alibaug and left a note alleging that Republic TV chief Arnab Goswami, his wife Sayamrata Ray, and their son, for deterring the police from discharging their duty when they came to arrest Mr. Goswami on Wednesday morning. An FIR was filed at the Njm Joshi Police Station against the Goswamis and two others.



BJP workers protesting against the arrest in Mumbai on Wednesday. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

sure that justice is delivered to the Naik family.

"The Naik family has been demanding justice for two years. Mr. Goswami's statement was taken at Mumbai, instead of Alibaug. Why was he given special treatment? Instead of providing security to the Naik family, they were threatened and stalked. It was said that powerful people back Arnab. Today, the Union Home Minister backed Arnab. Was he the powerful man who was protecting him?" asked Maharashtra Congress general secretary Sachin Sawant.

the Uddhav Thackeray government was going back to the Emergency days.

"The Thackeray and Gandhi families do not like to be countered with questions. Today's actions show that whoever asks them a question will face police action," said BJP MLA Ashish Shelar. He claimed that the BJP, too, wanted justice delivered to the Naik (deceased interior designer) family, but "this case has been reopened to extract revenge".

The Congress congratulated the government for the action, saying it would end

Earlier, the BJP said that

sure that justice is delivered to the Naik family.

"The Naik family has been demanding justice for two years. Mr. Goswami's statement was taken at Mumbai, instead of Alibaug. Why was he given special treatment?

Instead of providing security to the Naik family, they were threatened and stalked. It was said that powerful people back Arnab. Today, the Union Home Minister backed Arnab. Was he the powerful man who was protecting him?" asked Maharashtra Congress general secretary Sachin Sawant.

At a press conference, Naik's daughter, Adnya, along with her mother, thanked the authorities and the Maharashtra government for registering a case against the three accused. "Arnab used to tell my father that he will not pay the money and that he will ruin our careers... He used to threaten my father, but no investigation took place against him. Why is he given such a privilege as an accused?" Ms. Naik asked.

"We were getting threat calls and we had submitted an NC [non-cognizable] complaint in the Murbad and Dadar police stations," she added.

Law will take its own course: Congress

No innocent person will be punished, party says on Arnab's arrest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday reacted to the arrest of Republic TV editor Arnab Goswami, saying the law would take its own course and no innocent person would be punished.

"I am absolutely certain that wherever the Congress is in power or in alliance, people will not

be punished if they are absolutely innocent. I also believe that the law will take its own course in this case. We don't interfere with institutions," party spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said at a press conference when asked to comment on the arrest.

Countering the BJP's attack on the Congress over press freedom, she

said, "I am shocked at the selective outrage of the BJP. Where were they when independent and fearless journalists were arrested? Where were they when Prashant Kanojia was arrested, where were they when sedition charges were imposed against journalist Supriya Sharma for showing the pathetic state of affairs in Varanasi?... The BJP

should be the last to talk about press freedom because of the way they try to control the media through advertisement, through intimidation and fear."

The Congress spokesperson also attacked Mr. Goswami's style of journalism. "What he does in the garb of journalism is the work of a BJP front," Ms. Shrinate said.

Plan to raise retirement age in military

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Department of Military Affairs (DMA), headed by Chief of the Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, has initiated proposals to increase the retirement age of officers and also cut down the pension of officers opting for premature retirement.

The DMA has proposed increasing the retirement age of Colonels from 54 to 57, Brigadiers from 56 to 58 and Major Generals from 58 to 59. The same is applicable to equivalent ranks in other services. The process is expected to take five to six months.

**GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
IRRIGATION DIVISION
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

No.2642/PW/EE/ID/EE(P)-33/2020-2021 Puducherry, the 04.11.2020

PRESS NOTICE FOR e-Tender

On behalf of the President of India e-Tenders are invited from the eligible contractors/firms by the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division, Public Works Department, Puducherry for the following works.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Name of Work	Approximate Estimated Cost (Rs.)
1	Tender No.28/PW/IRR/2020-2021	Main Work: Improvements of Primary storm water Drainage system in ABD area and Upper Catchment Area in Puducherry Region under Smart City Project in Union Territory of Puducherry. (Phase-I). Sub Work : Package -3: Construction of RCC precast box culvert for Mettuvolkal at Anna Nagar (Opposite to Housing Board) in Ellaiapillaichavady road junction, Puducherry-II Call.	Rs.1,76,58,370/-
(i)		Availability of NIT in the website from 11.00 A.M. on 05.11.2020 to 4.00 P.M. on 23.11.2020.	
(ii)		Closing time for submission of Tender : 23.11.2020 4.00 P.M.	
(iii)		Date & Time of Opening of Tender : 24.11.2020 11.00 A.M.	

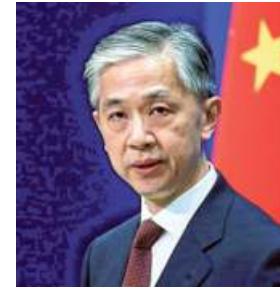
For further details please refer to the website <https://pududeters.gov.in>

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
No.264/DIP/AD(Press)/2020-21

China remains quiet on Pak's Gilgit-Baltistan move

Response is in contrast to its position on J&K reorganisation

ANANTH KRISHNAN



Wang Wenbin

ing actions that will unilaterally change the status quo and escalate tensions. We call on both India and Pakistan to peacefully resolve the relevant disputes through dialogue and consultation, and safeguard peace and stability in the region."

'Opposed to move'

China had also opposed the decision to convert Ladakh into a Union Territory. While Delhi had conveyed to Beijing that the move neither changed external boundaries nor territorial claims, China, referring to Aksai Chin, said it was "always opposed to India's inclusion of the Chinese territory in the western sector of the China-India boundary into its administrative jurisdiction". The move, Beijing said, "undermined China's territorial sovereignty by unilaterally changing domestic law".

Asked on Wednesday if the difference in response suggested China did not follow "its professed neutral approach", Mr. Wang said, "I don't think that's a valid statement. As I said just now, China's position on the Kashmir issue is consistent and clear".

No statement

His comments came in response to questions from the Indian media at a regular press briefing. Unlike its statement on India in 2019, China did not issue a statement on Pakistan's move to

Govt. forms panel to review TRP norms

Move comes after Mumbai police probe

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday approved funding to the tune of ₹1,810.56 crore for the 210 megawatt (MW) Luhri hydropower project on the Satluj river in Himachal Pradesh.

CCEA nod for hydropower project in H.P.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday approved funding to the tune of ₹1,810.56 crore for the 210 megawatt (MW) Luhri hydropower project on the Satluj river in Himachal Pradesh.

The CCEA, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the investment for the project that is located in Shimla and Kullu districts, a government statement said. The project will take 62 months to be completed and will generate 758.20 million units of electricity a year, the statement added. The project will be implemented by the Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited and will be supported by the Central and State governments, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said at a press conference.

Sundram Fasteners Limited

CIN: L35999TN1962PLC004943

Registered & Corporate Office : 98-A, VII Floor, Dr. Radhakrishnan Salai, Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004

Tel: +91 - 44 - 28478500 | Fax: 91 - 44 - 28478510

Email: investorhelpdesk@sfl.co.in | Website: www.sundram.com

STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE & CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF-YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

(₹ in Crores)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Standalone		Consolidated	
		Quarter ended	Half-Year ended	Quarter ended	Half-Year ended
		30.09.2020	30.09.2019	30.09.2020	30.09.2019
		(Unaudited)			
1	Total Revenue from Operations	766.85	1,043.58	766.82	889.33
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	130.65	99.25	97.50	138.79
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax after exceptional items)	130.65	99.25	97.50	138.79
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax)	97.36	73.88	71.07	103.64
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))				
		102.24	79.21	55.80	106.10
6	Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Re 1 each fully paid up)	21.01	21.01	21.01	21.01
7	Earnings Per Share (EPS) (for continuing and discontinued operations) (Face value of Re 1/- each) (not annualised) (in Rs.)				
		4.64	3.52	3.38	4.87
		4.64	3.52		

Down to the wire and a blue shift

Winners in States with 88 electoral college votes are yet to be decided in the U.S. Presidential elections. A large proportion of the mandate was registered in the form of mailed-in votes, in which Democrats held a significant edge, leading to a late "blue shift" in Joe Biden's favour. By The Hindu Data Team



State of the matter

The tilemap depicts the results for States where a winner was called. States won by Trump are marked in red while those won by Biden are in blue. States for whom results were still hanging in the balance are coloured in lighter tones (blue for Biden in the lead and red for those where Trump was ahead)

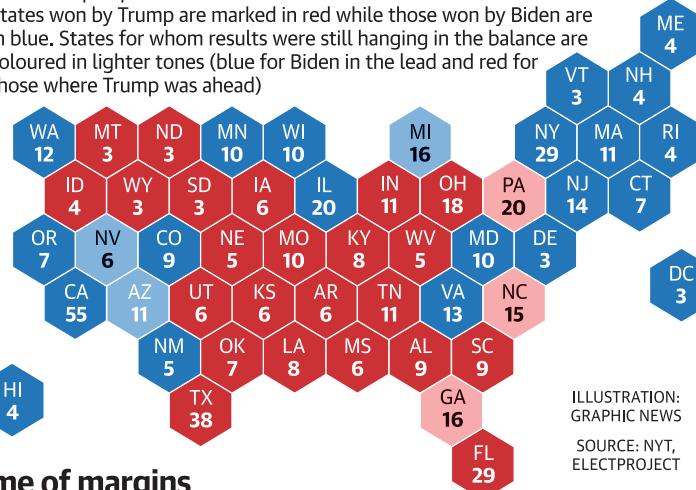
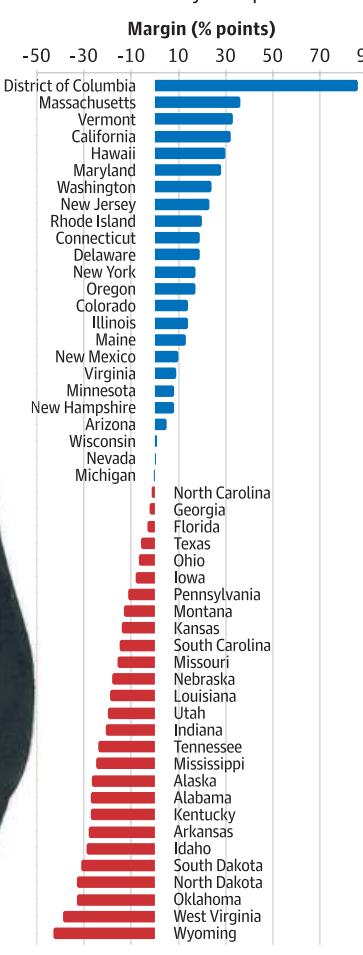


ILLUSTRATION: GRAPHIC NEWS
SOURCE: NYT, ELECTPROJECT

A game of margins

The chart depicts the State-wise vote share difference (in percentage points) between Trump and Biden. Biden held the lead in States coloured blue, and those coloured red were led by Trump

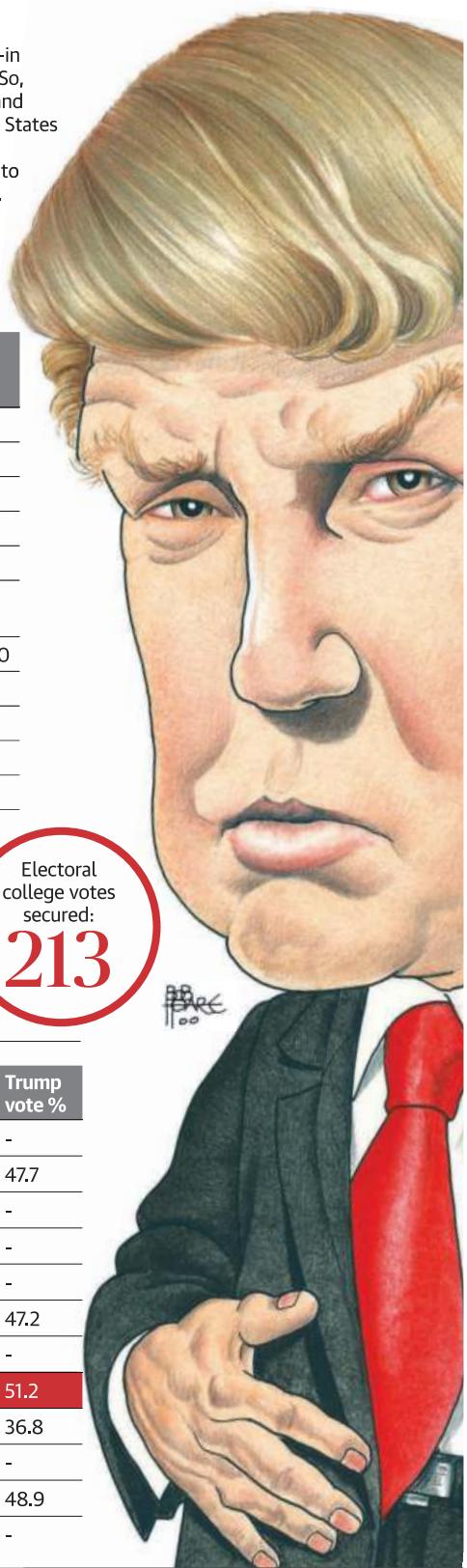


Also in Pennsylvania, Biden had secured 78.4% of the tallied mail votes while only 20.7% of them favoured Trump. Thus, a winner could not be announced quickly as mailed-in ballots were skewed in favour of Biden while in-person voters leaned Trump's way. Many of the mail-in votes were yet to be counted

Why is there a delay in the results for some States?

A record number of votes were sent in through mail this year. In most States mailed-in ballots are counted after early in-person votes and Election Day votes are counted. So, States such as Pennsylvania and Michigan, where the election was too close to call and also had a lot of uncounted mail votes had become key States to look out for. These States also contribute a significant number of electoral college votes and thus the delay in counting in these States meant a winner could not be chosen. Also, voters affiliated to the Democrats preferred to vote by mail more than those registered as Republicans. Which is why the leads initially pointed to a Trump win in these States but leads changed or narrowed once the mailed-in ballots were accounted for. For instance, in Pennsylvania, Trump was leading by 10% points over Biden in the overall votes at the time of going to press. However only 78% of the votes were counted with about 1.7 million outstanding (and mostly mailed-in votes)

State	% votes reported	Trump vote %	Biden vote %	Winner	Lead	Votes yet to be counted
Arizona	86	47.6	51	Not decided	Biden +3	4,50,000
Georgia	93	50.3	48.5	Not decided	Trump +1.8	3,60,000
Iowa	92	52.7	45.4	Trump	Trump +7	
Michigan	94	48.7	49.6	Not decided	Biden +0.9	3,40,000
Nevada	86	48.7	49.3	Not decided	Biden +0.6	
North Carolina	95	50.1	48.7	Not decided	Trump +1.4	2,90,000
Pennsylvania	80	53.4	45.3	Not decided	Trump +8	14,00,000
Texas	96	52.3	46.3	Trump	Trump +6	
Virginia	93	44.7	53.7	Biden	Biden +9	
Wisconsin	98	48.8	49.4	Biden	Biden +0.6	33,000
Florida	97	51.2	47.8	Trump	Trump +3	
Ohio	90	53.3	45.2	Trump	Trump +8	



Democrats garner the bulk of the mail-in votes

Mail-in votes played a significant part in the outcome of this election. Section 1 of the Table shows the number of mail-in votes polled in key States, and what % of them were affiliated to parties (this data is provided only for States which make this distinction). Section 2 shows the number of mail votes counted and the vote share % secured by candidates among them. Some States do not give the vote % secured among mail votes, but the split is given for all early votes (mail votes + early-in-person votes), which are provided in Section 3. Democrats swept mail-in ballots

State	Mailed votes polled	SECTION 1		SECTION 2		SECTION 3		
		Affiliated to Democrats	Affiliated to Republicans	Mailed votes counted	Biden vote %	Trump vote %	Total early votes counted*	Biden vote %
Arizona	24,71,577	37.4	37.0	24,03,736	53.9	44.9	-	-
Georgia	12,62,919	-	-	-	-	-	37,74,366	51.3
Iowa	9,96,981	45.1	33.3	9,82,804	57.6	40.9	-	-
Michigan	28,41,696	-	-	14,23,211	68.3	30.4	-	-
Nevada	5,79,553	48.3	25.9	937	9.8	88.4	-	-
North Carolina	9,59,984	44.3	19.9	-	-	-	45,70,664	51.7
Pennsylvania	25,06,557	65.5	23.4	8,15,387	78.3	20.7	-	-
Texas	9,73,143	-	-	-	-	-	97,11,461	47.5
Virginia	9,62,877	-	-	-	-	-	22,43,494	62.1
Wisconsin	12,75,019	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Florida	47,37,540	-	-	-	-	-	70,03,836	50.2
Ohio	30,00,827	-	-	20,05,571	57.0	41.7	-	-

Democratic hopes to flip Senate dim

Republican incumbents hold off Democratic challengers to retain their thin majority

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

Democrats picked up seats in Colorado and Arizona, and Republicans picked one up in Alabama in the battle for control of the U.S. Senate in Tuesday's elections. In Georgia, a Republican-held seat was now headed to a January run-off.

Elsewhere, Republicans held off Democratic challengers in five of the 14 most competitive races, bolstering their chances that they would retain a majority in the 100-seat chamber.

The final outcome may not be clear for some time.

Republicans currently hold 53 seats. Democrats need to win four seats to take a majority, or three if Joe Biden wins the White House, which would give Vice-President Kamala Harris the tie-breaking vote.

A Democratic victory could lead to a new era in U.S. politics, if the party also captures the White House and holds onto the U.S. House of Representatives.

Here are the results so far, based on projections by television networks and Edison Research:

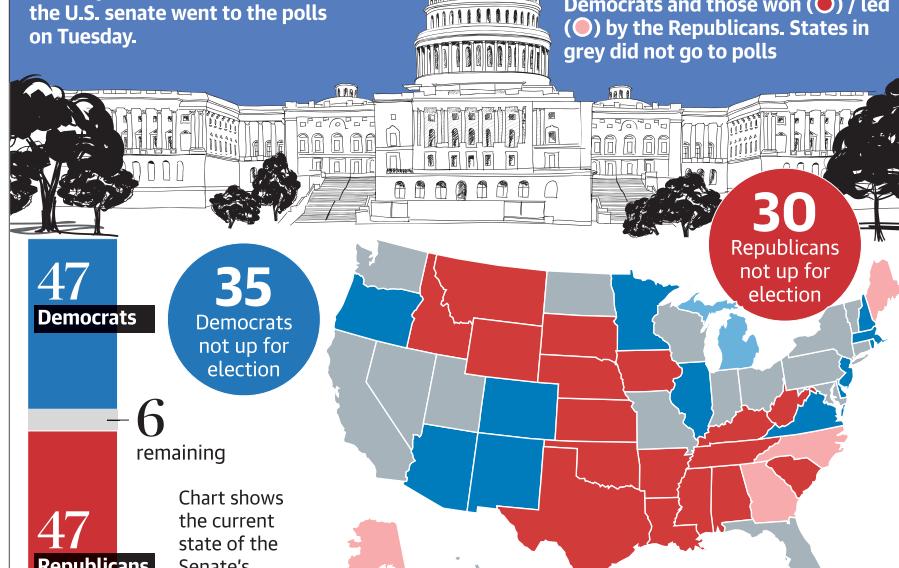
In Arizona, Democratic former astronaut Mark Kelly topped Republican Senator Martha McSally after holding a wide fundraising lead.

Ms. McSally, a former U.S. representative and U.S. Air Force combat pilot, was appointed to the seat once held by the late Republican Senator John McCain after losing her 2018 Senate bid to Democrat Kyrsten Sinema.

In Montana, Republican Senator Steve Daines held off a challenge from two-term Governor Steve Bullock, a former presidential candidate, who branded himself as an independent-minded Democrat. Mr. Daines, a former congressman and software executive, is known

Battle for THE UPPER HOUSE

As many as 35 of the 100 seats in the U.S. senate went to the polls on Tuesday.



as a reliable conservative and has touted his ties to Mr. Trump.

In Iowa, Republican Senator Joni Ernst defeated Democratic challenger Theresa Greenfield.

Ms. Ernst used her role in U.S. Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett's confirmation to appeal to conservative-leaning voters.

Ms. Greenfield, an urban planner and real estate developer, accused Ernst of being a rubber stamp for President Donald Trump and not taking the COVID-19 pandemic seriously enough.

Georgia tie

In Georgia, Republican Senator Kelly Loeffler and Democrat Raphael Warnock were headed to a January 5 runoff election after neither secured a majority in a multi-party, multi-candidate "jungle primary" special election.

The unusual race was prompted by the retirement

of Republican Senator Johnny Isakson. Ms. Loeffler was appointed last year to fill his seat. The contest featured 21 candidates in all, including another prominent Republican, Representative Doug Collins.

In Kansas, Republican Representative Roger Marshall defeated Democratic State Senator Barbara Bollier in a surprisingly competitive race.

Mr. Gardner, a former U.S. representative who entered the Senate in 2015, was among the most vulnerable Senate Republicans partly because of his allegiance to Mr. Trump in a state that has gone Democratic in the last three presidential elections.

In South Carolina, Senator Lindsey Graham, one of Trump's closest allies in Congress, held off a surprisingly strong challenge from Democrat Jaime Harrison, who raised staggering amounts of money.

In Texas, Veteran Republican Senator John Cornyn

race for the seat of Republican Senator Pat Roberts, who is retiring.

In Alabama, Republican Tommy Tuberville, a former football coach, defeated incumbent Democratic Senator Doug Jones.

In Colorado, Democratic challenger John Hickenlooper defeated incumbent Republican Senator Cory Gardner.

In South Carolina, Senator Lindsey Graham, one of Trump's closest allies in Congress, held off a surprisingly strong challenge from Democrat Jaime Harrison, who raised staggering amounts of money.

In Texas, Veteran Republican Senator John Cornyn

held off a challenge from Democrat M.J. Hegar. Texas, once a Republican stronghold, has grown increasingly competitive in recent years as the population has grown more diverse and Trump's polarizing presidency has alienated suburban women.

Republican-held seats

In Alaska, Freshman Republican Senator Dan Sullivan is favoured to hold onto his seat in a closely contested election battle against Al Gross, an independent who is running as the Democratic Party nominee.

In Georgia, First-term Republican Senator David Perdue, a wealthy businessman who promotes himself as a Trump ally, faces Democratic challenger Jon Ossoff, an investigative journalist and media executive.

The seat is one of two in Georgia that could be settled by a January runoff if no candidate receives more than 50% of the vote.

In Maine, four-term Republican Senator Susan Collins, a New England moderate long known for her independence, faces Maine House of Representatives Speaker Sara Gideon.

In North Carolina, Senator Debbie Murkess-Powell and Donna Shalala, Health Secretary under President Bill Clinton, in adjacent South Florida districts, where Mr. Trump seemed to consolidate support among Cuban voters. Others defeated were Democratic freshmen Joe Cunningham of South Carolina,

He was defeated by Republican Michelle Fischbach, the former Lieutenant Governor.

In Iowa, GOP State Representative Ashley Hinson defeated freshman Democratic incumbent Abby Finkenauer to win the State's northeast congressional seat.

After decades of trying, Republicans defeated 15-term Representative Collin Peterson from a rural Minnesota district that backed President Donald Trump in 2016 by 31 percentage points. Mr. Trump's biggest margin in any Democratic-held district. Mr. Peterson, who chairs the House Agriculture Committee, opposed Mr. Trump's impeachment and is one of the House's most conservative Democra-

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In Iowa, GOP State Representative Ashley Hinson defeated freshman Democratic incumbent Abby Finkenauer to win the State's northeast congressional seat.

Before votes were counted, both parties' operatives said the GOP would be fortunate to limit Democratic gains to a modest single digit.

Democrats control the House 232-197, with five open seats and one independent.

The fight for Ms. Torres' seat cost around \$35 million, making it one of the country's most expensive races.

She was defeated by Yvette Herrell, a former state legislator.

Before votes were counted, both parties' operatives said the GOP would be fortunate to limit Democratic gains to a modest single digit. Democrats control the House 232-197, with five open seats and one independent.

Before votes were counted, both parties' operatives said the GOP would be fortunate to limit Democratic gains to a modest single digit. Democrats control the House 232-197, with five open seats and one independent.

Democrats keep House, but lose incumbents to GOP

Republicans beat 15-term Rep. Collin Peterson in Minnesota

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

Democrats drove Wednesday toward extending their control of the House for two more years but with a potentially shrunken majority as they lost at least six incumbents and failed to oust any Republican lawmakers in initial returns.

By midmorning on Wednesday, Democrats' only gains were two North Carolina seats vacated by GOP incumbents after a court-ordered remapping made the districts more Democratic.

Though they seemed likely to retain House control, their performance was an unexpected disappointment for the party, which hoped for modest gains of perhaps 15 seats.

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Twitter flags Trump tweet accusing Democrats of 'stealing' election

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Restaurants reopen after lockdown with reimagined layouts, incorporating open spaces, terraces, tents and gardens for diners who feel safer outdoors



The great GAZEBO

PRYADARSHINI PAITANDY

The verandas are alive with the sound of cutlery. Alfresco dining might not be a sparkly new trend but it certainly has found an ally in the pandemic.

After many months of scarfing down takeaway on their couches, people are reviving their social lives as restaurants reopen. However, with COVID-19 still a threat, outdoor spaces are in demand.

Bass & Soda, which launched in February this year, did brisk business before pulling its shutters down mid-March. The two-storeyed space spread across 6,500 square feet reopened this month after converting its outdoor smoking zone into a dining area.

"We took an additional month to comply with the norms and work on our seating," says S Naveen Chandra, founder of the resto-bar in Kottivakkam. The indoor area earlier seated 120 people, but this number is now evenly split across two levels. "We have made sure that each table has a five metre distance between chairs," says Chandra.

Once the pandemic is under control, he plans to go back to the original seating arrangement. "People who call to book first enquire if we have made changes to the seating plan. When we tell them we can seat them outside they are pleased," he adds. As Deepavali approaches, he plans to add another 60-



seater roof top dining space to this unit, offering sweeping views of OMR.

Under starry skies

Restaurants that have access to previously ignored open spaces are reworking them now. Furniture has been moved around, plants added to the decor and fans placed at regular intervals to battle humidity.

Given the challenges of operating in these now fluid spaces, menus have also shrunk by 50%. Naveen Howie, brand and hospitality consultant, says this is a

trend across many restaurants. "Right now, most places have 30% to 40% occupancy. They are cutting down pricing overall on offers and dishes," he says.

Howie's new venture Koramingle, in Bengaluru, was redesigned in April to make more room for al fresco dining. "It now has an outdoor garden, a fr house setting and another separate terrace which was initially the smoking zone," says Howie, adding that the multi-level, 12,500 square feet space, which earlier accommodated 300 people, now – adhering to

the new rules – seats around 140. He notes that around 85% of Koramingle's patrons choose to sit outside.

"Every city has its own development rules," says Anurag Katriar, president, NRAI (National Restaurant Association of India) and executive director and CEO of deGustibus Hospitality, which owns restaurants like Indigo, Indigo Deli, D:OH and Neel among others in Mumbai and Delhi. The NRAI is pushing for more open spaces.

"If you look at markets like

Delhi, the task of using outdoor

spaces was actively being discussed when the lockdown was on," he says, explaining how the NRAI sent applications to the governments of Maharashtra, Delhi and West Bengal to allow open-air seating. "In Delhi, the SDMC (South Delhi Municipal Corporation) has permitted it," he adds.

While work is underway to incorporate an open air section at Katriar's Indigo Deli in Palladium Mall, Lower Parel, he says very few have the liberty of big, open spaces in Mumbai. Here, a restaurant has to take separate permission and pay an extra fee for an outdoor area. "In Mumbai, you have more high rises than flat spaces. That is why there are restrictions. Plus, there is the concern that people might misuse the area," he says, adding "Laws governing the subject were made at a time before COVID-19."

The new normal

Though cities like Mumbai and Chennai have never really been big on outdoor dining thanks to the heat and humidity, Katriar feels, given the safety aspect, it will pick up. Fortunately, at this time of the year, the weather is more conducive to sitting outdoors, with some help from pedestal fans.

While the restaurant does save on air-conditioning bills, there are extra steps involved

like those of handling mosquitoes, protecting the furniture placed outside and redoing the outdoor setting everyday.

Luxury hotels are also re-purposing their spaces to provide clients with the option of dining under the sky. The ITC Grand Chola has a bespoke dining experience featuring gazebos by the poolside. This started in early October, following queries from guests seeking a well-ventilated place with a serene environment to dine in. These gazebos can accommodate anywhere between two to 10 guests who can choose from Indian, Italian and Asian cuisine.

"As of now, guests dining here are small groups of four to six, including couples, and a combination of hotel residents and city guests," says Zubin Songadwala – area manager, ITC Hotels South and general manager, ITC Grand Chola, Chennai. "While the age group of these guests is primarily between 25-50, we are also seeing an increase in the number of older guests too," he adds.

In September, The Verandah at Taj Connemara in Chennai, started serving meals by their poolside and could accommodate 25 guests. This was done to create additional dining spaces while keeping up with the social distancing norms, says Saleem Yousuff, senior vice president,

Fork in my garden (Clockwise from left) Dining under a gazebo at ITC Grand Chola; taking the indoors out at Bengaluru's Koramingle; and raising a toast at Savoy in Udhagamandalam ■ RAVINDRAN AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



CHANGING SPACES

World over, restaurants, bars and cafés are coming up with innovative ways to revive the charm and theatre of dining out despite mandatory masks, hand sanitisers and temperature checks. Think glass igloos, dining bubbles, and marquees among others.

In May, Ransäter, in Sweden, reportedly set up a one-person restaurant (a single table and chair) in the middle of a meadow. It's called Bord för en, which literally means table for one.

Around the same time, Mediamic ETEN in Amsterdam, launched Serres Séparées, an outdoor dining area which has glass pods for two lined along a river.

With winter setting in, restaurants have a new challenge, that of keeping their diners warm. Heaters and heat lamps are being relied upon.

Meanwhile, yurts are popping up in Colorado's town of Breckenridge. The Envoy Hotel in Boston has igloos sprouting over its rooftop so guests can stay cosy.

operations, South, IHCL.

Among its other properties, The Front Lawns at Savoy-IHCL SeleQtions, Udhagamandalam, has recently introduced Dining Under The Stars. The menu includes piping hot Anglo-Indian and local Badaga cuisines, and a crackling bonfire keeps the diners warm as the mercury dips.

"Alfresco dining has a charm of its own – open skies and views. All this, together with enjoyable food for company, is just the right way to relax with friends and family," adds Yousuff.

DEEPA ALEXANDER

'Stop him', she said hoarsely. I have seen those shoes before'

The lines end the chilling *Home Alone*, a story in Rachna Bisht Rawat's latest book *Insomnia*. It places the revered bond of an Army officer, his family and his buddy (referred to as batman, sahayak or Man Friday over the years) under a different spotlight, one that is often hidden behind the hedgerows that line the prim and proper world of cantonments.

With tales such as these, Rawat steps away from her four previous books on the Indian Army that celebrate the soldier's derring-do in the nation's many wars. She instead turns the focus on human emotions – love, compassion, camaraderie, horror and trauma – that pepper the life of men and women in uniform and lifts the veil on their little-known personal lives.

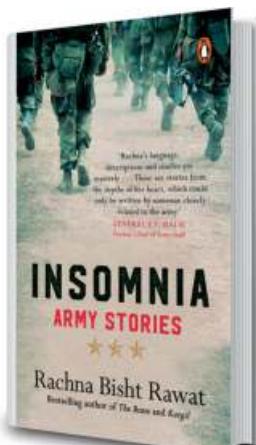
Rawat, an award-winning former journalist, wrote many of these stories when she was a young Army wife living in the sleepy border town of Ferozepur a decade ago. "These stories came much before my published books," says Rawat over phone from Delhi. "This year during lockdown, with only Hukum, my golden retriever, for company, I wrote a few more. They helped me get over the sadness I encountered when interviewing families for my previous book, *Kargil*."

Rawat comes from sturdy Army stock. Daughter, sister and wife of Army officers, she has had "men in olive-green around for a lifetime, walking all over my carpet and my heart, with their dirty DMS boots, driving me insane with their unpredictable lives, and melting me completely with a salute and a smile."

The real picture

But in the 17 stories in *Insomnia* (published by Penguin), Rawat portrays an emotive picture of the lives of soldiers, their families and their brotherhood – stories which only could be written by someone closely related to the Army," says former Chief of Army Staff General VP Malik in the book.

Rawat, however, says that in writing about what war poet Wilfred Owen calls "the pity of war", she



An army of stories

Rachna Bisht Rawat's *Insomnia* is an engaging collection of tales set in an Olive Green world



has actually laid bare hidden facets of Army life.

"Life in cantonments remains unchanged. Time stops here, the ethos is the same; so my stories written then will resonate even now. Although fictionalised, some of the stories are loosely based on real events. In writing about PTSD, murder, human rights violations and the

Rooted in realism Rachna Bisht Rawat with Hukum ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

horrors of war, I have not won brownie points with some in the Army fraternity. For my previous books, I had to get requisite permissions. This book, I wrote with my hands untied."

The stories are vintage Rawat. Sprinkled with equal measures of hope and horror, her lucid prose tells it as it is. But to get to this reality, a different register is used. There are heroes in ferocious combat assaults fighting the enemy while also fighting for the version of the truth that will be in the official records; a retired general who is haunted by voices of dead men; the emotional connection of enemy soldiers in freezing Siachen; the dark secret of a Major operating incognito in Kashmir; the surprise heading towards the all-male bastion of 13 Para; the spirits a child at Lansdowne Military Hospital converses with while she awaits brain surgery; and a speeding bullet on an ordinary day that changes the course of an extraordinary life.

There are also a couple based on her own experiences; *Munni Mausi* that won a commendation for the 2008 Commonwealth Short Story Competition is a bittersweet tale of love, longing and loss.

There are the landscapes that Rawat conjures – the mind-numbing freeze of the Greater Himalayas, the nimbus grey of Northeast India's skies, dinner nights in teak-panelled messes, the officer as an unwilling tourist in Bangkok – and has down pat.

And there is the mythic heft. In a country where, often, it is the heroism of these men that is highlighted, Rawat sidesteps undue triumphalism and shows them as boys next door, warts and all, trying to stay sane and human in difficult circumstances. This anthology should be read by anyone keen to know what lies beneath the Olive Green.



WeMove Theatre's newly devised game is paying them dividends during the pandemic

The game's afoot Members of WeMove Theatre; (below) a session in progress ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Now solve a murder mystery over a Zoom call

PRAVEEN SUDEVAN

The first two months of the lockdown were difficult for the Bengaluru-based WeMove Theatre group. With theatres shut and shows cancelled, they were uncertain of how to manage finances.

Theatre groups across the country shared a similar plight – many independent rural artists even had to take up another profession. But as the pandemic continued, groups began using the online medium to restart work. They resorted to play readings on YouTube, performances over Facebook live and other things.

WeMove, meanwhile, has devised a game using elements of theatre.

"It's a game for a group of four to 25 people. We give them a scenario, usually involving a murder. The objective is to find the murderer. We split participants into groups and one by one, they interact with the suspects, an investigating officer, and other officials, all played by our actors," explains Abhishek Iyengar, WeMove's co-founder. The game, comprising several rounds, lasts 80-90 minutes.

"It's been a great success for us," says Abhishek. So far, the group has hosted 10 public sessions and 30 corporate sessions. "They have taken care of our financial needs." The ticket for a public session is usually priced at ₹200 to ₹250.



Abhishek says his teammates, Sindhu Hegde and Aditya Naik, came up with the idea in June. "During the lockdown, a friend wanted us to perform for a get-together. We knew staging a normal play wouldn't work. It had to be interactive. That's when Sindhu and Aditya came up with this idea of involving the audience in the plot. It was a big hit. And, we thought we could refine it as a better product."

Abhishek's teammate, Pavan Sharma, already had a bunch of murder mystery play scripts. "We tweaked them for the game. We have 15 different plots," says Abhishek.

This version sees the actors improvise a lot more than they do in a play. For, the participants' questions cannot be scripted. "The basic things in the plot don't change. But, yeah, it's a lot more dynamic than a play. And, there's a lot of fun and laughter. So, no one is complaining," says Abhishek. "The public sessions are more interesting because you play with strangers. I know two people who became friends through our session and went on a bicycle tour the next day."

Abhishek wants to experiment with this format in theatres. "Maybe we can have a green room at the theatre," he says. "The game can be played online and offline. That would be interesting."

For more information, visit facebook.com/wemovetheatre

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Rooted in realism Rachna Bisht Rawat with Hukum ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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When rare visitors flutter by

Butterfly season has begun, and there is excitement among naturalists this year, as a wave of rare sightings surface along peninsular India

K JESHI

Recently, the Branded Royal, rarely seen in India, made news when it fluttered through the Nilgiris after a gap of over 130 years.

"It was last recorded in 1888 by British entomologist GF Hampson," says Vinod Sriramulu. A trustee of the Wynter-Blyth Association (WBA) that comprises conservationists who document butterfly species in the Nilgiris, Vinod photographed the Branded Royal during a butterfly walk along the Kotagiri slopes. The four-year-old WBA has over 800 members.

Butterfly season usually begins with the onset of the South-West monsoon; and the buzz tends to continue post-monsoon, well into February. "Now is the best time to watch them as they flit about in good numbers looking for nectar from tender greenery that springs up after the rains," says P Mohan Prasath, founder of Act for Butter-

flies, the butterfly conservation NGO.

This year, especially, many rare species have been sighted across the country. The Blue Mormon, a black-coloured velvet-winged butterfly, a species endemic to the Western Ghats, showed up in Patna. Another rare species, the Spotted Angle butterfly, has been sighted in the reserve forests of Chhattisgarh. The Lilac Silverline, a protected species whose only known breeding population is in Bengaluru, was sighted for the first time in the Aravalli range of Rajasthan.

Mohan remarks, "Common Onyx showed up in the Western Ghats. It hides itself under canopies of mango trees, its host plant, and is rarely seen on the ground. All these sightings point towards a range extension of the habitat, or may be more people are observing unexplored habitats, home gardens and backyards especially during the COVID-19 lockdown."

Adding that species like Common Birdwing, Common Jester, Painted Jezebel and Vagrant have made an appearance at Telangana in the Eastern Ghats, much to the excitement of naturalists, he says, "Of the 1,339 species of butterflies in India, over 900 are seen in Arunachal Pradesh. Maybe, they are trickling down and this is in-



A special appearance (Clockwise from top) Painted Jezebel, Spotted Pierrot and a butterfly enthusiast photographing Striated Five-ring

• MOHAN PRASATH P, SHARAN VENKATESH AND THEIVAPRAKASHAM H

dicate of climate change."

A recent study done by researchers Appanna Saragada, E Ramakrishna and Ramaiah Bhushal in the Eastern Ghats in Visakhapatnam district, documents a number of species recorded in the region for the first time. These include the African Marbled Skipper, the Tree Flitter and the Double-branded Crow. "We hope that the findings will help mobilise conservation research, action and attention for the Eastern Ghats forest habitats," says Rahul Pandey, Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife), Andhra Pradesh.

Forest Section Officer (Visakhapatnam Division) Ramana Bhushal, who manages the Butterfly Park at Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, says that

Butterflies for beginners

Act for Butterflies, in association with Tropical Butterfly Conservatory at Srirangam, conducts one-day online courses on how to identify butterflies. Call 9843511233 or visit aeonct.org/one-day-butterfly-course

some of these sightings were particularly special, like the Orange-tailed Awl. "I spotted it at Kambalakonda forests during my regular visits. When I checked the records, I found it was a rare sighting, since it was never recorded before from this region," says Ramana.

Another special sighting was the Large Guava Blue. Saying there have been just three sightings in Tamil Nadu over the last six years, Sharan Venkatesh, a keen watcher adds, "It feeds on wild fruits such as figs, or common fruits like pomegranate and guava."

Isaac Kehimkar, the butterfly man of India, calls the winged creatures "fussy". "They are sensitive to weather and habitat. They won't settle for anything less. When the habitat is polluted, they abandon it. Once the habitat shrinks, the populations come out," says Isaac.

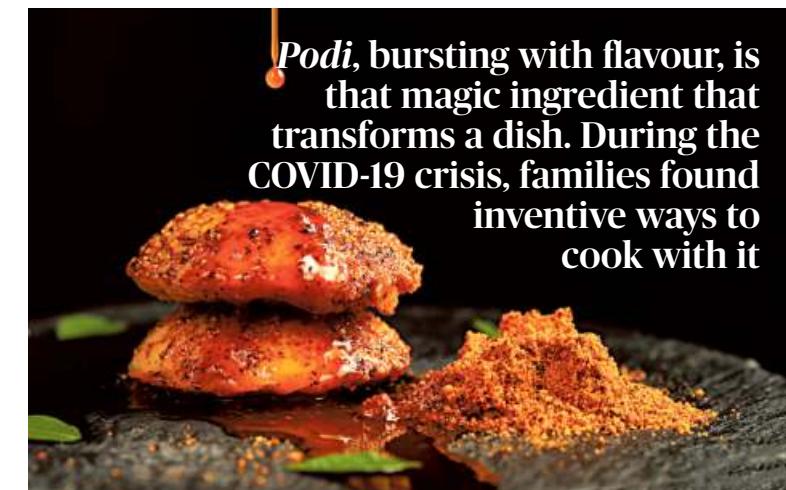
He considers catching a glimpse of the Northern Jungle Queen in Sikkim and the endangered Bhutan Glory in Arunachal Pradesh as a real treat. "The Bhutan Glory is endangered and protected under Wildlife Protection Act like tigers and elephants."

Butterflies are habitat specific and rarely wander off, he adds. For example, the Southern Birdwing, which can only be seen in South India.

It comes up to the southern tip of Maharashtra, but never stops by in Mumbai. Says Isaac, "We have the Sanjay Gandhi National Park but perhaps that is not good enough. Habitats restrict butterflies. That is why they are called bio-indicators."

With inputs from Nivedita Ganguly

Lentils, spice, and everything nice



Podi, bursting with flavour, is that magic ingredient that transforms a dish. During the COVID-19 crisis, families found inventive ways to cook with it

Packing a punch People are now looking at healthier options, such as powder mixes made of greens such as moringa

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

CHITRADEEP ANANTHARAM

Podis have been a constant in South Indian kitchens. Be it the *idli podi*, *sambar/rasam podi* or the *paruppu podi*, aromatic powdered blends of spices and lentils, elevate a meal and make cooking easier. A surge in demand for *podis* through the lockdown has resulted in some intriguing new recipes.

"Everyone wants to eat nutritious meals, which is why curry leaf and moringa leaf powders are popular and were constantly on demand during lockdown," says Parul Bhatt, who markets her homemade range of spice powders via social media. She makes curry leaves and moringa leaves *podis*, tea masala and *methia* masala in small batches.

"Tea masala is a herbal preparation, which can be added to tea or milk, beneficial during the winter months," says Parul, who started making these powders for family and friends, and launched Parul's Magic range of *podis* and pickles.

The lockdown rendered Murali Rajagopal, a wedding caterer, jobless for many months. He ventured into *podis* making, realising demand for the product was high and launched Aarohana Foods in June 2020, with a focus on *keerai-based* powders.

"Our *podis* range is made of *araikerei*, *ponnankanni*

keerai and *agathi keerai*," says Murali, who prepares 13 types of ready-to-use *podis*. He procures the greens from three different farms that practise natural farming, cleans and dries them in the shade, combines them with roasted lentils and spices and grinds them. "About 85% of the nutrients of the greens will be intact even after processing. We use more of pepper and less of red chilli, in the traditional style. We make the powders only after we get orders so that they remain fresh and last longer," says Murali.

Octogenarian Radha Parthasarathy, founder of Sri Annapoorani Food Products says that the pandemic halted the demand for *sathu maa-vu* which her company prepared to be supplied to schools. "We were making two to three tonnes of *sathu maa-vu* (sprouted multigrain powder) every month, which were distributed to 3,300 school children in Chennai through various CSR initiatives by corporates," says Radha, who founded Annapoorani Public Charitable Trust and brought together the women of Thandalam near Arakkonam and trained them in making *podis*.

"We source raw materials directly from farmers in consultation with the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University," says Radha, adding that profits from the sale are divided equally among the women.

RARER THAN HALLEY'S COMET

The Striated Five-ring was sighted at Neyyattinkara, Kerala in 2015-16 after 100 years. The Nilgiri Plain Ace was rediscovered by butterfly enthusiasts after 130 years.

The Marbled Map butterfly recorded for the first time in Visakhapatnam is protected under Schedule II of the Wildlife Protection Act. This 'rare' species is confined to the hilly forests of Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bhutan and Myanmar.

Malabar Banded Peacock is endemic to South India. So is Tree nymph, a large white butterfly with black spots resembling white paper wafting through the air.

flies, the butterfly con-

ervation NGO.

This year, especially, many rare species have been sighted across the country. The Blue Mormon, a black-coloured velvet-winged butterfly, a species endemic to the Western Ghats, showed up in Patna. Another rare species, the Spotted Angle butterfly, has been sighted in the reserve forests of Chhattisgarh. The Lilac Silverline, a protected species whose only known breeding population is in Bengaluru, was sighted for the first time in the Aravalli range of Rajasthan.

Mohan remarks, "Common Onyx showed up in the Western Ghats. It hides itself under canopies of mango trees, its host plant, and is rarely seen on the ground. All these sightings point towards a range extension of the habitat, or may be more people are observing unexplored habitats, home gardens and backyards especially during the COVID-19 lockdown."

Adding that species like Common Birdwing, Common Jester, Painted Jezebel and Vagrant have made an appearance at Telangana in the Eastern Ghats, much to the excitement of naturalists, he says, "Of the 1,339 species of butterflies in India, over 900 are seen in Arunachal Pradesh. Maybe, they are trickling down and this is in-

icate of climate change."

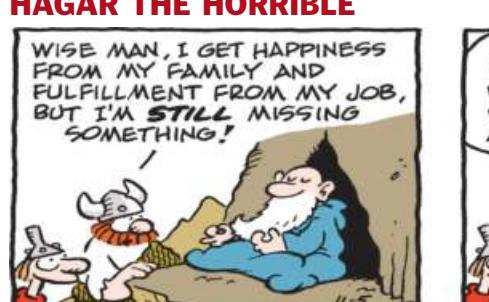
A recent study done by researchers Appanna Saragada, E Ramakrishna and Ramaiah Bhushal in the Eastern Ghats in Visakhapatnam district, documents a number of species recorded in the region for the first time. These include the African Marbled Skipper, the Tree Flitter and the Double-branded Crow. "We hope that the findings will help mobilise conservation research, action and attention for the Eastern Ghats forest habitats," says Rahul Pandey, Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife), Andhra Pradesh.

Forest Section Officer (Visakhapatnam Division) Ramana Bhushal, who manages the Butterfly Park at Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, says that

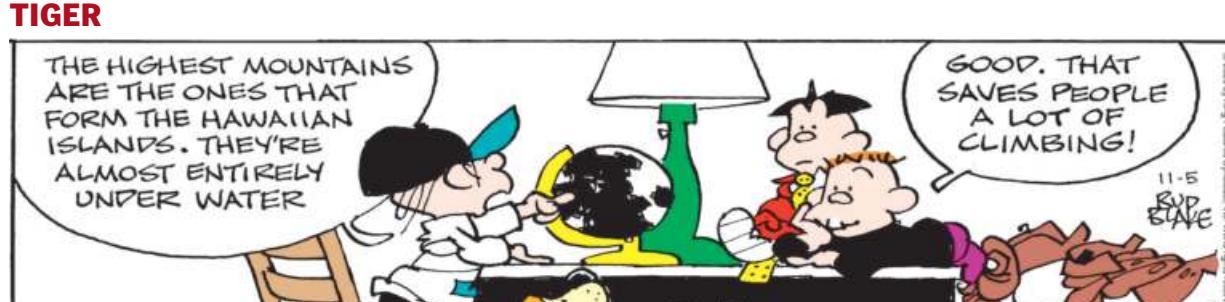
POOCH CAFE



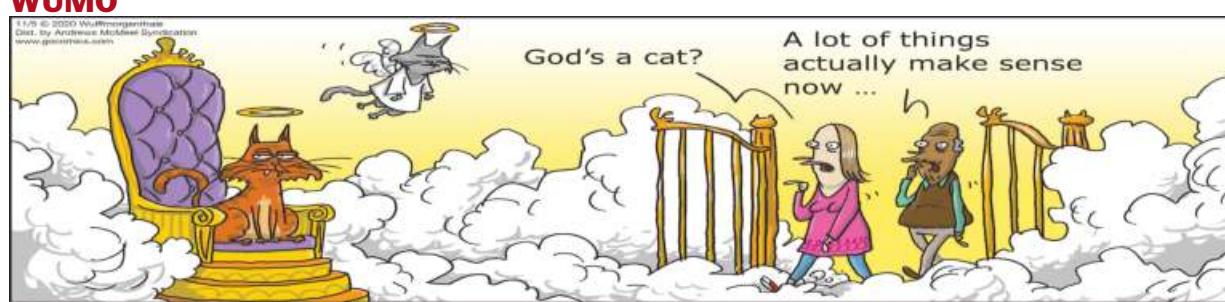
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



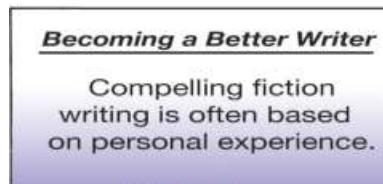
TIGER



WUMO



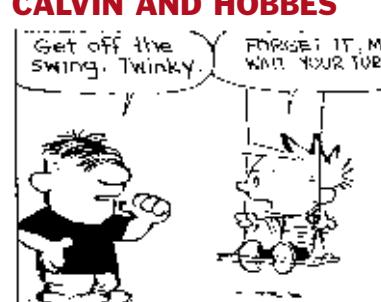
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



PUNCH!

"IT'S HARD TO BE RELICIOUS WHEN CERTAIN PLUMS ARE NEVER INFLAMMED BY BOLTS OF LIGHTNING."

"WHERE CAN THEY GO WITHOUT THE FOOT?!"

"WHAT GOOD DOES IT DO FOR THE TOES TO STAY AWAKE?"

"MY FOOT IS ASLEEP, BUT MY TOES ARE AWAKE!"

"THIS IS RIDICULOUS..."

"FIGHT IT OUT, MATE! IT'S YOUR TURN."

"GET OFF THE SWING, TWINKY."

"CALVIN, GET OFF THE SWING, TWINKY."

<p

Rik Mehta loses contest in New Jersey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW YORK

Indian-American Republican candidate Rik Mehta lost his New Jersey Senate election bid to Democratic incumbent Senator Cory Booker.

Mr. Mehta garnered 37.9% of the votes at 1,071,726, while Mr. Booker got 60.6% with 1,714,375 votes in the November 3 election.

In July, Mr. Mehta had become the first Indian-American to win the Republican primary for the Senate seat from New Jersey. Mr. Mehta, a former Food and Drug Administration official, had defeated his nearest rival Hirsh Singh, also an Indian-American, by a margin of 13,743 votes in the Republican primaries held in July.

This was for the first time that a New Jersey senatorial race had candidates of colour nominees from both the parties. Booker, an African-American, had won the Democratic primary with 89% of the votes.

Indian-American Democrats re-elected

The so-called Samosa caucus comprises five lawmakers — four Representatives and Sen. Kamala Harris

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON

All the four Indian-American Democratic lawmakers — Ami Bera, Pramila Jayapal, Ro Khanna and Raja Krishnamoorthi — have been re-elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Indian-American community has emerged as a force to reckon with for the first time in the history of the U.S. presidential election. Both the Democrat and the Republican campaigns had initiated several measures to woo the approximately 1.8 million members of the community who have emerged as a critical voting bloc in the battleground states of Florida, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Texas.

Samosa caucus

The so-called 'Samosa caucus', a term coined by Mr. Krishnamoorthi for informal grouping of Indian-American lawmakers, might expand with at least one more as physician Dr. Hiral Tipirneni was leading against Republican incumbent David



Ami Bera



Pramila Jayapal



Raja Krishnamoorthi



Ro Khanna

Schweikert from the sixth Congressional district of Arizona when last reports came in.

If elected, Dr. Tipirneni, 52, would be the second ever Indian-American woman to be elected to the House of Representatives. Ms. Jayapal, 55, was the first Indian-American woman to be elected to the House in 2016.

The 'Samosa caucus' currently comprises five Indian-American lawmakers, including the four members of the House of Representatives and Senator and Democratic vice presidential nominee

Kamala Harris, 56.

Raja Krishnamoorthi, 47, easily defeated Preston Nelson, 30, of the Libertarian Party. When last reports came in, he had accounted for nearly 71% of the total votes counted.

Third win
Ro Khanna, 44, easily defeated fellow Indian-American Ritesh Tandon, 48, of the Republican Party with a margin of more than 50 percentage points.

This was his third consecutive win from the 17th Congressional district of

California.

Ami Bera, 55, the senior most member of the 'Samosa Caucus', won the seventh Congressional District of California for the fifth consecutive term. When the last report came in, he had established an inaccessible lead by more than 25 percentage points against his Republican rival 65-year-old Buzz Patterson.

Sri Preston Kulkarni, 42, was giving a tough fight to the GOP's Troy Nehls, 52, from the 22nd Congressional District of Texas. He was trailing by five percentage

points when reports last came in.

Republican Manga Anantmata lost to Democratic incumbent Gerry Connolly in the 11th Congressional District of Virginia. Republican Nisha Sharma from the Republican Party also lost her maiden Congressional attempt. She was defeated by incumbent Mark DeSaulnier from the Democratic Party by more than 50 percentage points.

The House of Representatives is the lower house of the U.S. Congress, with the Senate being the upper house

India enjoys bipartisan support, says Shringla

'Ties have withstood the test of time'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

India's ties with the U.S. is based on bipartisan support and the two countries have forged a relationship that has withstood the test of time, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla has said, as he exuded confidence that the outcome of the U.S. presidential elections will not affect the bilateral ties.

Mr. Shringla, who is on a seven-day trip to Europe to review bilateral ties and discuss matters of mutual interest with European nations, also said that India-US relationship is "very comprehensive and multifaceted."

Multifaceted ties

"Our relations with the U.S. are based on bipartisan support. You see it at the public levels. We do believe that we have forged a relationship that today has withstood the test of time, is very comprehensive and multifaceted," he told DW News in an interview.



Harsh Vardhan Shringla

"We not only share the same values and principles, but we also have the same strategic vision in what could be bilateral, regional or multilateral relationships."

Responding to a question on close ties between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump, Mr. Shringla said that their relationship has been special. "PM Modi's relationship with President Trump has been special. But you have to remember that Prime Minister Modi's relationship with President Barack Obama was also very special," he said.

Congress gets its first openly gay Black member

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON

Democrat Party's Ritchie Torres has made history by becoming the first openly gay Black man elected to the U.S. Congress.

Mr. 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. The Bronx is the heartbeat of New York City", he said.

World waits nervously, impatiently for U.S. vote count

There is unease over divisive election and anxieties fuelled by Trump's threat to take the election to the Supreme Court

ASSOCIATED PRESS

From Ford Model T cars that popped off the assembly line in just 90 minutes to 60-second service for burgers, the United States has had a major hand in making the world a frenetic and impatient place, primed and hungry for instant gratification.

So waking up to the news on Wednesday that the winner of the U.S. election might not be known for hours, days or longer — pundits filled glo-

bal airwaves with their best bets — was jarring for a planet weaned on that most American of exports: speed.

In the absence of an immediate winner between President Donald Trump and challenger Joe Biden, the guessing game of trying to figure out which of them would end up in the White House, and how, quickly turned global. Government leaders scrambled to digest the delay and ordinary peo-

ple swapped views, hopes and fears on feeds and phones.

"I'm hearing it may take some time before things are sorted out," said the finance minister of Japan, Taro Aso. "I have no idea how it may affect us."

In Paris, a Spanish resident, Javier Saenz, was stunned to wake up without a declared winner.

"I thought there was going to be something clear. And I

have read different articles, no one really knows who is going to win," he said. "I am very shocked by that."

Concern in Europe

But the lack of result was not that surprising to experts. In a year turned upside down by the coronavirus pandemic, many States made it easier to vote by mail. That meant a slowdown in compiling results because postal ballots mail often take longer

to process than those cast at polling places.

Still, the unease of not knowing was mixing with sharpening concerns about how America might heal after the divisive election and anxieties fuelled by Trump's own extraordinary and premature claims of victory and his threat to take the election to the Supreme Court to stop counting.

From Europe, in particular, came appeals for pa-

tience and a complete tally of votes. In Slovenia, the birthplace of first lady Melania Trump, the right-wing Prime Minister, Janez Jansa, claimed it was "pretty clear that American people have elected Donald Trump."

The German Vice-Chancellor, Olaf Scholz, insisted on a complete tally, saying: "It is important for us that everything be counted and in the end we have a clear result."

+ Anchors, pundits criticise Trump's claims of fraud

President said the election was being taken from him

MICHAEL M. GRYNAU
JOHN KOBLEN

Television news networks spent a meticulous election night reporting State-by-State results with prudence and context.

Then President Donald Trump got involved.

In a wee-hours appearance from the East Room of the White House early Wednesday, Mr. Trump claimed without evidence that the election was being taken from him by "a very sad group of people". His baseless statements — including an unfounded claim that the election was "a major fraud on our nation" — stirred up anchors at major networks, some of which cut away from his remarks before he was finished.

"This is an extremely flammable situation, and the President just threw a match on it," anchor Chris Wallace told viewers on Fox News. Referring to Mr. Trump's false claims that he had "clearly won" Georgia and North Carolina, neither of which have finished counting votes, Mr. Wallace said:



Rachel Maddow. ■ TWITTER

"He hasn't won these States. Nobody is saying he's won the States. The States haven't said that he's won."

Every major network carried Mr. Trump's remarks live around 2:30 a.m. Most offered a quick fact-check afterward, although NBC and MSNBC did not wait for him to conclude before breaking in. "We've got to dip in here because there have been several statements that are just frankly not true," NBC anchor Savannah Guthrie told viewers.

Brian Williams, helming MSNBC coverage, said: "We are reluctant to step in, but duty-bound to point out that when he says, 'We did win this election, we've already

U.K. says ties with U.S. on strong footing

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Britain on Wednesday insisted its close partnership with the U.S. was in safe hands whoever comes out on top of the tumultuous presidential election, while noting disagreement over the Paris climate pact.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson, a populist ally of President Donald Trump, refused to be drawn in Parliament when grilled about the Republican's premature claim of victory and his intention to ask the Supreme Court to halt the vote counting.

Republican pundits on the networks also expressed disapproval about the President's comments. Rick Santorum, a CNN commentator and former Pennsylvania Senator, said: "I was very distressed by what I just heard the president say."

Chris Christie, the former New Jersey Governor, who worked with Mr. Trump on his debate prep this year, said on ABC: "It's a bad strategic decision. It's a bad political decision."

Blunter reactions came from CNN's Jake Tapper — who called Mr. Trump's remarks "undemocratic, and false, and premature" — and the liberal co-hosts on MSNBC. Rachel Maddow called it a "Hee Haw" laugh-track move".

FROM PAGE ONE

Biden ahead, but no clear winner yet



Ready for a fight: Donald Trump reacting to early results from the presidential election in the White House. ■ REUTERS

Mr. Trump held on to Florida — a State the winner has taken in the last six Presidential elections. Democrats invested much in campaigning in Florida and had hoped to win its 29 Electoral College votes. With its loss, the journey to 270 became harder for Mr. Biden.

In addition to doing well with White voters in the State, Mr. Trump was backed by Latinos — including Cuban Americans and Puerto Ricans as per exit polls.

While Mr. Biden won Miami-Dade county — where there is a concentration of Latinos — Mr. Trump ate into his vote share there.

Mr. Trump also retained Ohio and Iowa. He finished strongly in Texas — which

Democrats had hoped to win

banking on the fact that some 60% of the red State's electorate cast early ballots;

Democrats tend to vote early relative to Republicans, who

tend to vote on Election Day.

The State, however, had not significantly expanded mail-in voting.

Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin — "Blue Wall"

States that flipped from Democ-

rats in 2016 and carried Mr. Trump to the White

House — were still in play mid-morning (Washington time) on Wednesday. By the early afternoon, with a lead of about 20,000, Mr. Biden looked like he was on track to win Wisconsin, with its 10 electoral votes. The Trump campaign announced that they would seek a recount in the State.

Both candidates intensely courted voters in Pennsylvania in the last week of the campaign, with an eye on the State's 20 Electoral College votes. The State is a mix of rural areas that support Mr. Trump and urban and suburban areas where Democrats are strong. The Pre-

sident had a wafer thin majority over Hillary Clinton in 2016, flipping a State that had voted Democrat since 1998.

On Wednesday, Mr. Trump led Mr. Biden in Pennsylvania by almost 10 percentage points at the time of this writing. However, hundreds of thousands of votes were still being counted — the State has until the end of Friday to complete their count.

In Michigan — with 94% of the counting done and mailed-in ballots still being tallied, Mr. Biden had squeaked ahead of Mr. Trump, winning 49.6% of

the vote versus Mr. Trump's 48.7% at the time of this writing. The President had flipped this long-time blue State in 2016 but Mr. Biden had the lead in the State in opinion polls going into Tuesday. "Most likely, Biden won, we just need to finish counting all the legally cast ballots," Michael McDonald, a University of Florida Political Science Professor who runs the United States Elections Project, told *The Hindu* via email on Wednesday morning. *The Hindu* had asked Mr. McDonald what it would take for either Mr. Biden or Mr. Trump to win.

All 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, currently controlled by the Democrats, were up for re-election. Democrats were expected to keep control of the House, which they took from Republicans in the 2018 midterm elections. As of this writing, Republicans had flipped seven seats, a net gain of five, with Democrats flipping two seats. In the 100-member U.S. Senate, where the GOP has a 53-47 majority, 35 seats were up for re-election. The Republicans are expected to keep control of the Senate.

U.S. formally exits Paris pact on curbing climate change

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BERLIN

The United States on Wednesday formally left the Paris Agreement, a global pact forged five years ago to avert the threat of catastrophic climate change.

The move, long threatened by U.S. President Donald Trump and triggered by his administration a year ago, further isolates the U.S. in the world.

Some 189 countries remain committed to the 2015 Paris accord, which aims to

keep the increase in average temperatures worldwide "well below" 2 degrees Celsius, ideally no more than 1.5°C, compared to pre-industrial levels.

Scientists say that any rise beyond 2 degrees Celsius could have a devastating impact on large parts of the world, raising sea levels, stoking tropical storms and worsening droughts and floods.

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has said he favours signing the U.S. back to the Paris accord.

He did not offer any evidence for his charges; there were no reports of any irregularities

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump alleged on Wednesday that there had been "surprise ballot dumps" in States where he had been leading Democrat Joe Biden in the race for the White House.

"Last night I was leading, often solidly, in many key States, in almost all instances. Democrat run & controlled," Mr.

MARKET WATCH

	04-11-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	40,616	-0.88
US Dollar	74.76	-0.47
Gold	50,743	0.02
Brent oil	40.06	-0.28

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	361.10	7.45
Asian Paints	2169.45	14.80
Axist Auto.	525.15	-9.00
Bajaj Auto	2926.10	11.25
Bajaj Finserv	5811.85	68.25
Bajaj Finance	3561.45	70.65
Bharti Airtel	453.05	-1.55
BPCL	348.85	-2.00
Britannia Ind	3470.70	67.05
Cipla	781.15	21.85
Coal India	114.80	-1.70
Divis Lab	3196.20	106.30
Dr Reddys Lab	4935.60	58.25
Eicher Motors	2097.40	2.40
GAIL (India)	83.35	-0.60
Grasim Ind	783.10	-8.05
HCL Tech	815.15	1.10
HDFC	2088.20	-42.75
HDFC Bank	1257.40	9.45
HDFC Life	594.25	-4.80
Hero MotoCorp	2968.00	30.60
Hindalco	176.50	-3.25
Hind Unilever	2060.05	4.35
ICICI Bank	437.05	-6.80
IndusInd Bank	678.05	31.45
Infosys	1093.95	31.40
Indian Oil Corp	77.95	-0.05
ITC	169.80	-0.30
JSW Steel	317.85	3.10
Kotak Bank	1630.70	37.10
L&T	939.85	-7.90
M&M	596.80	1.00
Maruti Suzuki	6954.05	40.70
Nestle India Ltd.	16997.10	104.60
NTPC	85.10	-0.85
ONGC	66.45	0.15
PowerGrid Corp	177.10	-2.85
Reliance Ind	1913.20	62.80
SBI Life	791.00	2.10
State Bank	207.00	2.25
Shree Cement	21910.35	34.25
Sun Pharma	504.65	19.05
Tata Motors	135.90	1.80
Tata Steel	403.90	-3.00
TCS	2635.15	19.55
Tech Mahindra	826.85	18.75
Titan	1215.65	15.70
UltraTech Cement	4531.60	-17.95
UPL	401.35	-15.70
Wipro	342.95	7.30

EXCHANGE RATES

	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.53	74.85
Euro	86.98	87.36
British Pound	96.45	96.87
Japanese Yen (100)	71.00	71.31
Chinese Yuan	11.09	11.14
Swiss Franc	81.41	81.76
Singapore Dollar	54.54	54.79
Canadian Dollar	56.27	56.52
Malaysian Ringgit	17.88	17.98
Australian Dollar	52.77	53.01

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



TVS Motors introduces Apache bike at ₹1.31 lakh

CHENNAI
TVS Motor Co. Ltd. on Wednesday rolled out TVS Apache RTR 200 4V with 'first-in-segment' features. The motorcycle is engineered with three ride modes viz. sport, urban and rain. This will enable riders to shift between ride modes on the fly, said Meghashyam Dighole, head, marketing, premium motorcycles. The bike is priced at ₹1.31 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi).

JLR starts bookings for EV Jaguar I-PACE

MUMBAI
Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) India has opened bookings for its all-electric SUV, the Jaguar I-PACE. The vehicle is fitted with 90 kWh lithium-ion battery that delivers 400 PS from its two electric motors. Deliveries are expected from March 2021. "While focusing on the vision of creating a sustainable future, we are committed to the introduction of EVs across the JLR portfolio," said MD Rohit Suri.

Apollo Tyres Q2 profit doubles to ₹216 crore

CHENNAI
Apollo Tyres Ltd's standalone net profit for the quarter ended September rose 117% to ₹216 crore on better sales volume. Total income rose by almost 6% to ₹2,941 crore. "In India, we have reported our best-ever volumes in truck-bus and passenger car tyres in the replacement market and expanded our distribution footprint," said CMD Onkar S. Kanwar.

Bourses to hold Diwali muhurat trading session

NEW DELHI
BSE and NSE will conduct a one-hour muhurat trading session on the occasion of Diwali on November 14. The session would be held between 6.15 p.m. and 7.15 p.m., the stock exchanges said. All trades executed in the session would result in settlement obligations. The exchanges will remain closed on November 16 on the occasion of Diwali Balipratipada.

SBI Q2 profit surges 52% to ₹4,574 crore

Lender reports increase in net interest income, decline in bad loans; slippages rise in agri, SME loans

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

State Bank of India (SBI) on Wednesday reported second-quarter net profit jumped 52% to ₹4,574 crore as net interest income rose and the lender cut its provision for bad loans.

Operating profit (excluding exceptional items) rose 12% to ₹16,460 crore, from ₹14,714 crore a year earlier, as the economy showed signs of revival. Net interest income grew by 14.6% and domestic net interest margin improved by 12 basis points (bps) to 3.34%, the country's largest bank said in a regulatory filing.

Loan loss provisions stood at ₹5,619 crore, 49.1% lower than the ₹11,041 crore in the year-earlier quarter.

Total deposits grew 14.4%. Credit growth in the quarter stood at 6.02% as gross ad-



Standing tall: Total deposits grew 14.4% and credit expanded 6.02% in the quarter. ■ SOMASHEKAR GRN

vances increased to ₹23,83,624 crore at the end of the second quarter, from ₹22,48,313 crore a year earlier. The growth was mainly driven by retail (personal) advances (14.6%), agricultur- al loans (4.19%) and corpo-

rate credit (2.82%). The loan book grew by 7.97%.

Home loans increase

Home loans, which constitute 23% of the bank's domestic advances, grew by 10.3%. Net NPA ratio at 1.59%

eased 120 bps from a year earlier, while the gross NPA ratio slid 191 bps to 5.28%.

SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara said slippages rose in agriculture and SME loans, while in the case of corporate, there was a marked decline. Corporate slippages dropped to ₹1,232 crore during the quarter, from ₹8,593 crore in the same period last year. Slippages in agriculture loans increased to ₹9,513 crore, from ₹7,370 crore.

Mr. Khara said while 35,000 MSMEs had applied for loan restructuring, only 42 corporates (none of them large) had together applied for loan restructuring worth ₹4,000 crore.

Provision coverage ratio improved 696 bps to 88.19%. Slippages ratio declined to 0.46%, from 1.57% as of September 2019.

COVID-19 related provisioning during the quarter was ₹4,083 crore, SBI said.

Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) improved by 113 bps to 14.72%, the bank said.

Credit growth rebounds

"Credit growth in retail is coming back to pre-COVID-19 levels. Sanctions and disbursements during Q2FY21 are significantly higher year-on-year across most retail products," Mr. Khara said. "Asset quality outcomes are better than prior expectations. Collection efficiency in domestic loan book [excluding agri segment] as at the end of Q2FY21 stands at 97%," he added.

"There is sufficient liquidity [credit deposit ratio at a low of 61.3%] to fund credit growth which is on the mend," the chairman said.

Sundram Fasteners diversifies into aerospace, defence

Bid to insulate from cyclical auto unit: MD

N. ANAND

CHENNAI

Sundram Fasteners Ltd. has forayed into the aerospace and defence sectors to pare SFL's dependence on its auto business given the cyclical nature of the industry, said Managing Director Arathi Krishna.

"We have commenced operations in defence and aerospace to de-risk our business model and shelter it against the cyclical nature of the auto industry" Ms. Krishna said in an interview on Wednesday.



curred ₹63 crore till September and the balance would be spent on expanding facilities in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

Earlier, SFL reported a 37% jump in second-quarter standalone net profit at ₹97.4 crore. Revenue from operations was almost flat at ₹767 crore. The board declared an interim dividend of ₹1.30 per share.

Domestic sales rose to ₹484 crore (₹450 crore), showing clear signs of improvement in demand. However, export sales dipped to ₹260 crore (₹291 crore).

Following improved financial performance, SFL, which had cut salaries, restored them except for presidents and top management, she said.

Stating that sales volumes had been picking up since the second quarter, compared with the year-earlier period, Ms. Krishna said she expected the coming quarters to auger well for SFL.

On the impact of recent lockdowns in Europe, she said that SFL's exposure was minimal and hence would not affect export revenue.

Asked about SFL's China subsidiary, she said, "It is a profitable venture and we will continue to operate it."

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

India's GDP in 2020-21 is expected to be higher than currently projected by various agencies, with the economy poised to recover fast and reach pre-COVID-19 levels by the end of the year, the Finance Ministry said on Wednesday.

Barring the risk of a second wave of COVID-19 infections in the country, the improvement in GDP performance would widen the fiscal headroom available for the government to pursue other priorities in spending, the ministry said in its monthly economic report for October.

Given that there are indications of India's GDP growth

reaching pre-COVID-19 levels by the end of the year – barring the incidence of a second wave that may be triggered by the fatigue with social distancing," the ministry said.

"The continuous improvement in forward-looking RBI indices of consumption and business sentiment for the next year augurs hope of a strong economic rebound," it added.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has estimated that India's GDP will contract by 9.5% this year, while the International Monetary Fund and World Bank have forecast a contraction of 10.3% and 9.6%, respectively.

The rise in Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections to more than ₹1 lakh crore in October for the first time since February is evidence that the fiscal space would improve, it added.

The constriction of fiscal space is neither unique to India, nor does it make the country's public finances any more vulnerable than other nations

year being higher than currently projected by various agencies, fiscal space is set to widen to accommodate other priorities of the government," the ministry said.

Rise in GST collections

The rise in Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections to more than ₹1 lakh crore in October for the first time since February is evidence that the fiscal space would improve, it added.

The auction sale in October included a new auction outlet called special spot for coal importers, under which 1.6 MT was booked. "This opened an additional avenue for our coal companies to step up their sales," a senior executive of the company said.

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Oct. services sector PMI signals first expansion since February

Survey cites improved market conditions, easing of curbs



service sector started to heal. Service providers signalled solid expansions in new work and business activity during October.

New work intakes

Services companies reported an increase in new work intakes, which they attributed to successful marketing efforts and strengthening demand. On the job front, there was another monthly decline in employment. The pace of job shedding was solid and matched that recorded in September.

Survey participants indicated that workers on leave had not returned and that a widespread fear of COVID-19 contamination continued to restrict staff supply," Ms. Lima said.

Gland Pharma's ₹6,500-cr. IPO to open on Nov. 9

Price band set at ₹1,490

Frightening all-round strength, playoff pedigree give MI the edge

DC's power-hitting will have to come good if it wants to compete on level terms with the four-time champion and have a shot at entering its maiden IPL final



Let's do it! Rohit's Mumbai Indians will look to take the shorter route to the summit clash when it meets Shreyas' Delhi Capitals in Qualifier 1 on Thursday. ■ BCCI/IPL



IPL 2020
SPORTS BUREAU
Defending champion Mumbai Indians may have been thrashed by 10 wickets by Sunrisers Hyderabad, but going into Thursday's first qualifier against Delhi Capitals at the Dubai International Stadium, it is the firm favourite.

For MI, Tuesday's game was a dead-rubber, having al-

ready sealed top spot. It used the opportunity to rest three of its best players in Jasprit Bumrah (23 wickets), Trent Boult (20 wickets) and Hardik Pandya, a luxury most teams cannot afford. That's how much of a well-oiled machine MI is.

If anything, the match against SRH can be considered a positive, for skipper Rohit Sharma emerged unscathed after his return from a hamstring injury.

In Quinton de Kock, Suryakumar Yadav and Ishan Kishan, MI has a powerful top-order, but in its batting totem pole, Rohit has consistently occupied the highest position.

To have the 33-year-old seemingly injury-free – even if the BCCI does not appear to agree – ahead of the most important part of the season is a big boost. Spinners Rahul Chahar and Krunal Pandya have been excellent too,

picking up 20 wickets between them, while bowling at a healthy economy-rate of under eight.

Troubles remain

For a majority of the season, DC looked just as settled and convincing before things started unravelling. That it snapped its near-disastrous four-match losing streak to qualify second can give the side confidence, but teething troubles remain.

Skipper Shreyas Iyer has crossed 25 just once in the last six matches, while Prithvi Shaw has totalled a meagre 30 runs from his six most recent outings.

Ajinkya Rahane, batting at one-drop, shored up the brittle top-order with a match-winning half-century against RCB. Shikhar Dhawan's return to form helped too. But to match MI's might, DC's power-hitting will have to come good.

On the slow UAE pitches, DC has sorely missed leg-spinner Amit Mishra, but the performance of R. Ashwin and Axar Patel against RCB was encouraging.

After going slightly off the boil, the express pace duo of Kagiso Rabada (25 wickets) and Anrich Nortje (19) was back on track, accounting for five of the seven batsmen dismissed. Following the win over RCB, Shreyas called his teammates "a fearless and

The form sheets | A look at how Mumbai and Delhi have fared in the 'winner makes final' game



Supergiant by 20 runs
Qualifier 2: MI bt KKR by six wickets

Final: MI bt Rising Pune Supergiant by one run

2019 Qualifier 1: MI bt CSK by six wickets

Final: MI bt CSK by one run

DELHI CAPITALS

2012 Qualifier 1: Delhi Daredevils lost to KKR by 18 runs

Qualifier 2: Delhi Daredevils lost to CSK by 86 runs

* The Qualifier-Eliminator format was introduced in 2011. In the first three editions (2008, '09 and '10), the semifinal format was followed

COMPILED BY R. NARAYANAN AND G. PRASAD

TODAY'S MATCH



DUBAI, 7.30 P.M. IST

STAR SPORTS 1 AND SELECT 1

- Mumbai Indians has lost two out of its three matches in Dubai, but both were after Super Overs
- The one victory came against Delhi Capitals by nine wickets
- Delhi Capitals has won four out of seven in Dubai, but the three losses have come in its last three matches here

We can beat any team: Dhawan

The southpaw confident of tackling Boult-Bumrah combo

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

"We've got a quality team and we know we can beat any team. We just have to play good cricket and be very clear with our plans. I believe if we manage to do that, we can certainly win."

These words of Shikhar Dhawan reflected the mood in the Delhi Capitals camp ahead of Thursday's first qualifier against Mumbai Indians.

Addressing a virtual media conference on Wednesday, Dhawan did not consider Mumbai Indians was the favourite in spite of the defending champion beating Delhi Capitals twice in the league phase.

Maintain form

"I have scored over 500 runs for the past four years, but this season, I scored two centuries and had two ducks, like never before. But

the key for me is to maintain my form and help my team," said Dhawan.

When reminded of Mumbai restricting Delhi to 110 for nine in the last match, with Trent Boult and Jasprit Bumrah taking three wickets each, Dhawan responded, "I've seen them plenty of times – have watched the videos and I already know their plans, so I am prepared, and will just go out there and perform."

Maintain form
"I have scored over 500 runs for the past four years, but this season, I scored two centuries and had two ducks, like never before. But

take that years of success with us at the back-end of this tournament and hopefully we can play the same things and have the same result," Bond said on Wednesday.

With the top spot assured, MI rested three of its players, including the top two wicket-takers, for Tuesday's last league game. In their absence, the defending champion suffered a 10-wicket loss to SRH. But Bond said the loss won't have any bearing on the final week.

"Knowing that we have got at least two games coming up, and possibly three, you will hopefully get the benefits of giving those guys rest a week down the track, so that's what we were hoping for and both boys enjoyed the rest," Bond said.

"You have to give credit to SRH. They were obviously up for the game and it was a

must-win [game] for them and they played beautifully. But you always have to take a long-term view in this tournament," Bond said, adding that resting Jasprit Bumrah and Trent Boult was critical given the hectic week ahead.

After Sushma fell in the penultimate over, nine were still required from the last over, but Luus took her team past the finish line.

T20 CHALLENGE

SPORTS BUREAU

Velociti nearly made heavy weather of chasing a small target, but two fine knocks under great pressure helped the team turn the tables on defending champion Supernovas. Needing 127 in the opening match of the Women's T20 Challenge, Velocity got home with five wickets and a ball to spare at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Wednesday night.

Wicketkeeper Sushma Verma (34, 33b, 2x6) and all-rounder Sune Luus (37 not out, 21b, 4x4, 1x6) batted with admirable composure as they added 51 for the fifth wicket.

After Sushma fell in the penultimate over, nine were still required from the last over, but Luus took her team past the finish line.

Superb catch

This was after Velocity's chase got off to a poor start, losing the wicket of Danielle Wyatt off the fifth ball, with wicketkeeper Taniya Bhatia taking an excellent catch, standing up to seamer Ayabonga Khaka.

In her next over, the South African sent back the dangerous Shafali Verma, who hit



The architects: Ekta Bisht and Sune Luus stepped up for Velocity in the opener against Supernovas. ■ BCCI/IPL

SCOREBOARD

SUPERNOVAS

Priya Punia c Veda b Kasperek 11 (15b, 2x4), Chamari Atapattu c Veda b Jahanara 44 (39b, 2x4, 2x6), Jemimah Rodrigues b Ekta 7 (8b, 1x2), Harmanpreet Kaur c Shikha b Jahanara 31 (27b, 1x4, 2x6), Shashikala Siriwadene run out 18 (21b, 1x4), Pooja Vasstrakar c Veda b Kasperek 0 (2b), Radha Yadav c Shafali b Ekta 2 (3b), Shakera Selman b Ekta 5 (5b), Taniya Bhatia (not out) 0 (0b); Extras (lb-2, w-6): 8; Total (for eight wkts. in 19.5 overs): 129.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Wyatt, 0.5), 2-17 (Shafali, 2.6), 3-38 (Mithali, 8.3), 4-65 (Veda, 12.6), 5-116 (Sushma, 18.5).

SUPERNOVAS BOWLING

Ayabonga 4-1-27-2, Shaker 4-0-19-0, Radha 4-0-25-1, Poonam 4-0-27-1, Shashikala 3.5-0-30-1.

Toss:

Velocity: Player-of-the-match: Sune Luus.

Velocity won by five wickets with one ball to spare.

THURSDAY'S MATCH



MITHALI SMRITI

VELOCITY VS. TRAILBLAZERS

SHARJAH, 3.30 P.M. IST

STAR SPORTS 1, 2 AND 3

Bond reveals mantra for success

Says planning and continuity in selection are key

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

Less than a week after decimating Delhi Capitals by nine wickets, Mumbai Indians faces the same opposition at the same venue – the Dubai International Cricket Stadium – on Thursday to book a place in the IPL final.

Ahead of the first qualifier, bowling coach Shane Bond stressed on sticking to the same combination as being the key for Mumbai Indians' robust success in the IPL.

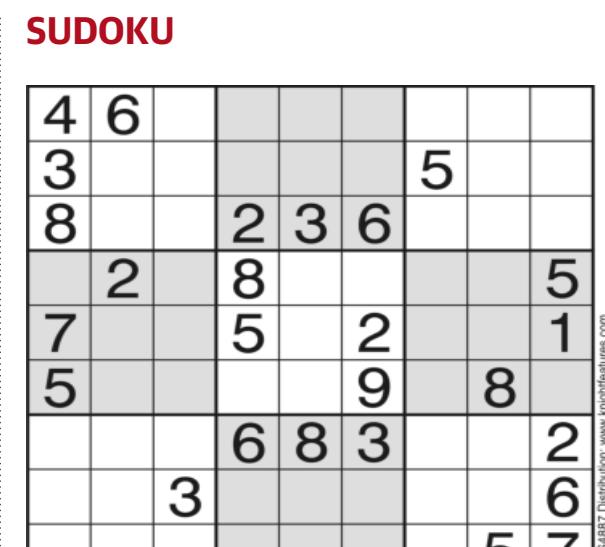
"...that continuity of selection, planning of what we do is huge part of why we have been successful and we

take that years of success with us at the back-end of this tournament and hopefully we can play the same things and have the same result," Bond said on Wednesday.

With the top spot assured, MI rested three of its players, including the top two wicket-takers, for Tuesday's last league game. In their absence, the defending champion suffered a 10-wicket loss to SRH. But Bond said the loss won't have any bearing on the final week.

"You have to give credit to SRH. They were obviously up for the game and it was a

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13084

P	A	N	D	E	M	I	C	S	O	B	E	I	T
A	I	X	N	V	N	R							
D	O	G	F	I	G	H	T	B	E	A	N	I	E
O	G	F	I	G	H	T	B	E	A	N	I	E	
G	F	I	G	H	T	B	E	A	N	I	E		
F	R	E	T	A	L	T	E	R	U	T	E		
R	E	T	A	L	T	E	R	U	T	E			
E	T	A	L	T	E	R	U	T	E				
T	E	A	L	T	E	R	U	T	E				
E	A	L	T	E	R	U	T	E					
A	L	T	E	R	U	T	E						
L	T	E	R	U	T	E							
T	E	R	U	T	E								
E	R	U	T	E									

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	8	3	9	5	7	4	1	6
1	5	7	6	4	2	8	3	9
6	4	9	8	1	3	5	7	2
4	9	6	2	8	1	7	5	3
3	1	8	7	6	5	2	9	4
7	2	5	3	9	4	6	8	1
5	7							

TV PICKS

Europa League: Sony Ten 1, 2 & 3 (SD & HD), 11.25 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Friday)
Paris Masters: Sony Six (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Maradona brain surgery successful: doctor

OLIVOS (ARGENTINA) Argentine football great Diego Maradona underwent successful brain surgery on a blood clot on Tuesday night, his doctor said. "We managed to successfully remove the clot. Diego coped well with the surgery," Leopoldo Luque (in pic) said in the capital Buenos Aires. "It's under control, there's a little drainage (of blood). He'll remain under observation." AFP



Guardiola welcomes Jesus return for key clash

MANCHESTER Pep Guardiola welcomed the option of having a striker fit for Sunday's blockbuster Premier League clash with Liverpool after Gabriel Jesus marked his return from injury with a goal in the Champions League win over Olympiakos. "Finally, an incredible goal from Gabriel. In general, it is good news that he is back." AFP

Europa League tie on despite Greece lockdown

THESSALONIKI (GREECE) The Greek government on Tuesday gave the go-ahead for the Europa League match between PAOK and Dutch side PSV Eindhoven to be played in Thessaloniki despite a strict coronavirus lockdown in the northern city. PAOK assured government health officials that Thursday's Group E contest will be conducted "with all strict health protocols". AFP



Famed swimming coach Don Talbot passes away

SYDNEY Long-time former Australia swimming coach Don Talbot — who oversaw his country's golden era — passed away aged 87. Talbot passed away peacefully on November 3, Sport Australia Hall of Fame said in a tribute. He was Australia's head swimming coach during its peak in the 1990s and 2000s — including at the 2000 Sydney Olympics when Australia produced its best result in almost 30 years by winning 18 medals. AFP



Ryan Sessegnon racially abused online

SINSHEIM (GERMANY) Ryan Sessegnon, on loan at German club Hoffenheim from Tottenham, has revealed that he's been subjected to online racial abuse. The 20-year-old left-back published a screenshot of the abuse late on Monday, showing a series of messages sent on Instagram including racist insults. AP

Former hockey umpire Susanta Dey passes away

KOLKATA Former international hockey umpire Susanta Kumar Dey passed away here on Wednesday, according to Hockey Bengal sources. He was 78 and is survived by a son, Dey, who played for Bengal and Eastern Railway in National level tournaments, was the second international umpire from Bengal after Olympian Gurbux Singh. He also coached several domestic sides, including Bengal, East Bengal Club, CESC Sports Club and FCI (East Zone).

Liverpool and Bayern run riot

Jota sparkles with a hat-trick; Plea too slams in three for Gladbach

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE PARIS

Diogo Jota scored a stunning hat-trick in Liverpool's 5-0 demolition of Atalanta in the Champions League on Tuesday, as holder Bayern Munich scored six and Real Madrid struck late to beat Inter Milan in a thriller.

On a prolific night across Europe which also saw a rampant Borussia Moenchengladbach hit six in Ukraine, the star individual performances came from Jota and Alassane Plea.

Jota was brought into the starting line-up in place of Roberto Firmino and required just 16 minutes to open the scoring.

Another emphatic finish double the lead before the break, and Mohamed Salah then broke away to get the third just after the restart.

Salah set up Sadio Mane for Liverpool's fourth before Jota got his hat-trick goal.

With three wins from three, Liverpool is well on course to top Group D, with Ajax and Atalanta both five points back.

French forward Plea had earlier scored a hat-trick as Gladbach claimed a stunning 6-0 victory over Shakhtar Donetsk in Kiev.

The unfortunate Valeriy Bondar scored an own goal, with Ramy Bensebaini and



Cool customer: Liverpool's Diogo Jota dinks the ball over Atalanta goalkeeper Marco Sportiello for the opener. ■ AFP

Lars Stindl also scoring as Gladbach went top of Group B, a point clear of Shakhtar and Real Madrid.

Dramatic encounter

Real ran out 3-2 winner in a dramatic encounter with Inter behind closed doors at the Alfredo di Stefano Stadium, as Vinicius Junior set up

his fellow Brazilian substitute Rodrygo to lash in the decisive goal 10 minutes from time.

Reigning champion Bayern has now won a record-extending 14 consecutive Champions League games after a 6-2 victory against Salzburg in Austria.

Manchester City is firmly in control of Group C after Pep Guardiola's side eased past Olympiakos 3-0, with Ferran Torres, Gabriel Jesus

and Joao Cancelo netting.

The results:

Group A: Lokomotiv Moscow 1 (Anton Miranchuk 25-pen) drew with Atletico Madrid 1 (Gimenez 18); Salzburg 2 (Berisha 4, Okugawa 66) lost to Bayern Munich 6 (Lewandowski 21-pen, 88, Kristensen-og 40, Boateng 79, Sane 83, Lucas 90+).

Group B: Shahktar Donetsk 0 lost to Borussia M'Gladbach 6 (Plewa 8, 26, 78, Bondar 17-og,

Bensebaini 44, Stindl 65); Real Madrid 3 (Benzema 25, Ramos 33, Rodrygo 80) bt Inter Milan 2 (Martinez 35, Perisic 68).

Group C: Manchester City 3 (Torres 12, Jesus 81, Cancelo 90) bt Olympiakos 0; Porto 3 (Marega 4, Oliveira 28-pen, Dias 69) bt Marseille 0.

Group D: Midtjylland 1 (Dreyer 18) lost to Ajax 2 (Antony 1, Tadic 13); Atalanta 0 lost to Liverpool 5 (Jota 16, 33, 54, Salah 47, Mane 49).

Samuels calls it quits

West Indian all-rounder retires from all forms of cricket



Distinction: Marlon Samuels is the only one to be named player-of-the-match in two ICC tournament finals.

■ FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KINGSTON

West Indian batsman Marlon Samuels, who topscored in both of the team's T20 World Cup final wins in 2012 and 2016.

In 2012, he smashed 78 off 56 balls and lifted his team from 32 for two after 10 overs to victory in the title clash against host Sri Lanka in Colombo.

Four years later, Samuels became the only cricketer to be named player-of-the-match in two ICC tournament finals, having struck 85 off 66 balls for a four-wicket victory over England in Kolkatta.

Samuels, who began his international career way back in 2000, represented several T20 franchises around the world over two decades.

He had stints in Pune Warriors, Delhi Daredevils, Melbourne Renegades and Peshawar Zalmi.

Man for big occasions While his overall batting average is not overwhelming, Samuels was known as the man for big occasions, even

dences of which were his exploits in the team's T20 World Cup title triumphs in 2012 and 2016.

In 2012, he smashed 78 off 56 balls and lifted his team from 32 for two after 10 overs to victory in the title clash against host Sri Lanka in Colombo.

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Samuels, who began his international career way back in 2000, represented several T20 franchises around the world over two decades.

He had stints in Pune Warriors, Delhi Daredevils, Melbourne Renegades and Peshawar Zalmi.

"I'm just disappointed with the way I played," said the World No. 6, who lost to World No. 1 Novak Djokovic in an epic French Open semi-

Wood still 'chases the dream' of playing Test cricket

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE LONDON

England fast bowler Mark Wood has insisted he still wants to "chase that dream" of playing Test cricket despite being overlooked for a red-ball central contract.

The 30-year-old Wood has played just 16 Tests since his debut five years ago, with his subsequent career blighted by as many as three ankle operations.

"Growing up I always wanted to play for England across all formats and I'm still trying to chase that dream and hopefully I can get a few games this year and

In with a chance: Mark Wood could be in contention for England's tours of Sri Lanka and India. ■ FILE PHOTO

prove my worth in all three formats."

Now Wood hopes to team up with Archer and take on the South African duo of Ka-

giso Rabada and Anrich Nortje after being selected for England's Twenty20 and one-day series in South Africa later this month.

■ FILE PHOTO

mark Wood has insisted he still wants to "chase that dream" of playing Test cricket despite being overlooked for a red-ball central contract.

But that's not an excuse, for sure. I still fought and gave my best out there, despite this thing that I had on court."

The 22-year-old Humbert will face former US Open champion Marin Cilic for a place in the quarterfinals.

Tsitsipas will next defend his ATP Tour Finals title in London at the season-ending tournament which gets underway on November 15.

The results: Second round: 9-

final last month.

"During the second set, my Roland Garros injury came back, and it wasn't as bad as at the French Open, but it kind of had me on the edge of things, and I wasn't sure if that's good for me to be out there.

"But that's not an excuse, for sure. I still fought and gave my best out there, despite this thing that I had on court."

The 22-year-old Humbert will face former US Open champion Marin Cilic for a place in the quarterfinals.

Tsitsipas will next defend his ATP Tour Finals title in London at the season-ending tournament which gets underway on November 15.

The results: Second round: 9-

Pablo Carreno Busta bt Jan-Lennard Struff 7-6(3), 6-2; Norbert Gombos bt 8-David Goffin 6-4, 7-6(6); Marcos Giron bt 7-Matteo Berrettini 7-6(3), 6-7(O), 7-5; Marin Cilic w/o Corentin Moutet; Ugo Humbert bt 2-Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-6(4), 6-7(6), 7-6(3).

First round: Miomir Kecmanovic bt John Millman 6-4, 6-2; Yoshihito Nishioka bt Pablo Andujar 5-7, 6-4, 6-2; Adrian Mannarino bt Dusan Lajovic 7-6(5), 6-3, 12-Stan Wawrinka bt Dan Evans 6-3, 7-6(3); Tommy Paul bt Gilles Simon 3-6, 6-3, 6-3; Richard Gasquet bt Taylor Fritz 6-0, 3-6, 6-3; Lorenzo Sonego bt Alexander Bublik 6-1, 6-4; Kevin Anderson bt Laslo Djere 5-2 (retired); Pierre-Hugues Herbert bt Tennys Sandgren 2-6, 6-4, 7-6(4); 10-Milos Raonic bt Aljaz Bedene 6-3, 6-2.

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Miomir Kecmanovic bt John Millman 6-4, 6-2; Yoshihito Nishioka bt Pablo Andujar 5-7, 6-4, 6-2; Adrian Mannarino bt Dusan Lajovic 7-6(5), 6-3, 12-Stan Wawrinka bt Dan Evans 6-3, 7-6(3); Tommy Paul bt Gilles Simon 3-6, 6-3, 6-3; Richard Gasquet bt Taylor Fritz 6-0, 3-6, 6-3; Lorenzo Sonego bt Alexander Bublik 6-1, 6-4; Kevin Anderson bt Laslo Djere 5-2 (retired); Pierre-Hugues Herbert bt Tennys Sandgren 2-6, 6-4, 7-6(4); 10-Milos Raonic bt Aljaz Bedene 6-3, 6-2.

Third round: 9-

Pablo Carreno Busta bt Jan-Lennard Struff 7-6(3), 6-2; Norbert Gombos bt 8-David Goffin 6-4, 7-6(6); Marcos Giron bt 7-Matteo Berrettini 7-6(3), 6-7(O), 7-5; Marin Cilic w/o Corentin Moutet; Ugo Humbert bt 2-Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-6(4), 6-7(6), 7-6(3).

Fourth round: 9-

Pablo Carreno Busta bt Jan-Lennard Struff 7-6(3), 6-2; Norbert Gombos bt 8-David Goffin 6-4, 7-6(6); Marcos Giron bt 7-Matteo Berrettini 7-6(3), 6-7(O), 7-5; Marin Cilic w/o Corentin Moutet; Ugo Humbert bt 2-Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-6(4), 6-7(6), 7-6(3).

Final: 9-

Pablo Carreno Busta bt Jan-Lennard Struff 7-6(3), 6-2; Norbert Gombos bt 8-David Goffin 6-4, 7-6(6); Marcos Giron bt 7-Matteo Berrettini 7-6(3), 6-7(O), 7-5; Marin Cilic w/o Corentin Moutet; Ugo Humbert bt 2-Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-6(4), 6-7(6), 7-6(3).

Big scalp: Ugo Humbert's prize for dumping Tsitsipas is an encounter with former US Open champ Marin Cilic. ■ AFP

Anjum enjoying her training and painting

Markswoman has raised funds to help those in need during the lockdown



was no proper range. Otherwise, it was good to be training for the 10-metre. I enjoyed the fitness sessions," recalled Anjum.

The first Indian shooter to get a quota place for the Tokyo Olympics, with the World Championship silver medal in 2018, Anjum was happy to have utilised the time well during the last six months.

"I did painting, did online courses, fitness and various other stuff with family."

Anjum had sold some of her paintings to raise funds to aid the temporary support staff at the Tughlakabad in a bio-bubble atmosphere.

"I did train in Chandigarh, but the 50-metre training was not going well, as there

she is now painting face masks with apt messages for fellow shooters. One of her masks reads 'Yell and break things'.

It beautifully captures the essence of shotgun shooting in which the shooter calls for the bird in a voice activated system and fires at the clay targets.

With good training and guidance, Anjum believes that there would be competitions soon to put the shooters in the right mould in preparation for Tokyo.

There will be a break for Deepavali before the shooters assemble again for a second stint.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Igor Zelenay (Svk) & Divij Sharan bt Jamie Cerretani (US) & Zdenek Kolar (Cze) 5-7, 6-3, [14-12]; Purav Raja & Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Evgeny Donskoy (Rus) & Ilya Ivashka (Blr) 5-7, 6-4, [11-9].

\$15,000 ITF, Sharjah El Sheikh, Egypt: Men, Singles (first round): Sidharth Rawat bt Guy Den Ouden (Ned) 7-5, 7-6(7).

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Vladislav Manakov (Ukr) & Arjun Kadhe bt Belal Abdo Taleb & Faris Zakaria (Egy) 6-