



Elaborate arrangements in Bihar for counting of votes tomorrow
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Arnab Goswami shifted to Taloja jail for security reasons
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Myanmar's Suu Kyi favoured to win as election gets under way
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Stoinis, Dhawan and Rabada put DC in maiden IPL final
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NEARBY



Haryana CM revokes ban on firecrackers

GURUGRAM
In a U-turn over ban on firecrackers in the State, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Sunday announced that a two-hour window would be allowed to sell and burst crackers on Deepavali. Mr. Lal said the decision was taken in adherence to the National Green Tribunal's orders in view of spike in air pollution.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2



Businessman's kin want bounty on IPS officer

LUCKNOW
The family of Mahoba businessman Indrakant Tripathi, who was found shot in his car days after he had accused an IPS officer of threatening to kill him, on Sunday demanded that a bounty be announced against the absconding officer.

NORTH & EAST ▶ PAGE 6

EDUCATIONPLUS ▶ PAGE 4

Joe Biden pledges to unite America

He calls for end to 'era of demonisation' even as Trump refuses to concede

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON

Pledging to be the President of all Americans, President-elect Joe Biden has sought an immediate end to the "grim era of demonisation" in the deeply-polarised nation, as he and Vice-President-elect Kamala Harris celebrated their historic triumph over Republican President Donald Trump in a bitter and closely-fought election.

"I am humbled by the trust and confidence you've placed in me," said Mr. Biden, amid applause and cheers.

Mr. Biden criticised Mr. Trump without naming him in his nearly 15 minute address.

dience in his hometown of Wilmington in Delaware on Saturday night.

Wide support

Mr. Biden, who has succeeded in his third bid for presidency, thanked his supporters, saying he had earned votes from the "broadest and most diverse coalition in American history".

"Let this grim era of demonisation in America begin to end, here and now. The refusal of Democrats and Republicans to cooperate with one another is not due to some mysterious force beyond our control," he said.



Great delight: People celebrating the victory of Joe Biden in the 2020 presidential election in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. ▪ AP

Mr. Biden also reached out to Trump voters, saying he would act as their President as much as he would for those who voted for him.

Mr. Trump has so far refused to concede the election.

Immigration reform likely

Joe Biden is likely to work towards providing a road map to American citizenship for nearly 11 million undocumented immigrants, including over 5,00,000 from India. He also plans to increase the number of high-skilled visas, including the H-1B. ▶ PAGE 11

He has announced the filing of multiple lawsuits against the election results in key battleground States such as Pennsylvania.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10
MORE REPORTS ON ▶ PAGES 11 & 13

Army officer killed in bid to stop infiltrators

3 militants dead in Kupwara gunfight

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Four security forces personnel, including an Army officer, and three militants were killed near the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Sunday, in a major operation to push back a large group of infiltrators.

According to the Army, contact with a batch of infiltrators, attempting to sneak in from Kupwara's Machil Sector, was established around 1 a.m. on Sunday.

"A Border Security Forces (BSF) patrol noticed suspicious movement near the anti-infiltration obstacle system (AIOS) near a fence, about 3.5 km away from the LoC. A firefight ensued in which one terrorist was killed. A BSF jawan was also killed in action," Srinagar-based Army spokesman Colonel Rajesh Kalia said.

The gunfight stopped at 4 a.m., as more troops of the Army from two flanks of the mountain range were rushed to the area for sanitisation. The movement of other terrorists was tracked by surveillance devices.

"A second contact was established at 10.20 a.m., when heavy fire was drawn by our own search parties approximately 1.5 km from the LoC. In the ensuing fire-fight, two more terrorists were killed. Our own troops

suffered three casualties and two more were injured. The injured were evacuated to a hospital," Col. Kalia said.

The Army said it had recovered one AK-47 assault rifle and two bags from one of the slain militants. The search operation continued till late on Sunday evening.

Ceasefire violations

A BSF spokesman said the remaining militants may have managed to hide in the undulating terrain. "At the same time, Pakistan posts started ceasefire violations in support of the infiltrating militants," the spokesman said.

Sources in the security agencies said Sunday's incident was a major infiltration bid. "There are apprehensions that many may be still hiding in the area and many might have returned (to Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)," official sources said.

The Sunday's infiltration is the second biggest bid since March 31 this year, when a group of five militants killed five soldiers in the Keran Sector of Kupwara.

It comes just days ahead of the forecast of a snowfall in upper passes in north and south Kashmir.

The BSF identified the deceased jawan as constable Sudip Kumar.

A-G stands firm in plea against Jagan Reddy

It is open to the SC to initiate suo motu contempt proceedings, he tells petitioner



K.K. Venugopal

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI
Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal has said it is "open" to the Supreme Court to initiate *suo motu* contempt proceedings against Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy for his October 6 letter to the Chief Justice of India containing allegations against sittings Supreme Court judge N.V. Ramana.

Mr. Venugopal was responding to Supreme Court advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay's request to re-consider

Mr. Venugopal stood firm on his decision to refuse consent. He reiterated that the Chief Justice of India was already "seized of the matter".

"The very crux of the alleged contempt lies in the contents of the letter written by Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to the Chief Justice of India, and thus it is open to the Supreme Court to take up the matter of contempt *suo motu* as provided by the Contempt of Courts Act, and the rules made thereunder," Mr. Venugopal wrote to Mr. Upadhyay

on November 7.

However, Mr. Venugopal said his refusal did not stop Mr. Upadhyay from exercising his "right" to take the matter directly to the judges for *suo motu* action.

"You may exercise this right by way of information placed on the administrative side or by bringing it to the attention of the court during the hearing of the case where you are already a petitioner in-person," he wrote.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Daily cases in Delhi reach a new high

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Capital on Sunday recorded the highest jump in COVID-19 cases since the pandemic began with 7,745 new infections reported in the past 24 hours. The tally now stands at 4,38,529.

The city also recorded 77 new fatalities, taking the death toll to 6,989.

There are now 41,857 active cases in Delhi.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

No relief for Delhi from 'severe' air quality

Situation unlikely to improve unless there was drastic dip in farm fires: SAFAR

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Air quality in the Capital remained in the 'severe' category for the fourth consecutive day on Sunday as farm fires continued to burn in neighbouring States, contributing to 29% of the total air pollution in the National Capital Region.

The average 24-hour Air Quality Index (AQI) on Sunday was 416 in Delhi, 434 in Gurugram, 456 in Ghaziabad, 440 in Greater Noida, 428 in Noida and 426 in Faridabad, according to data by the Central Pollution Control Board.

System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR) said the situation was unlikely to improve unless there was a drastic reduction in stubble fire counts.

"Surface winds have become calm, which were moderate so far, and are forecast to stay low in magni-

tude for the next two days. This is the major factor due to which no quick recovery is expected," said SAFAR.

The total stubble fire count in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and neighbouring areas

stood at 3,780 on Saturday; it was 4,528 on November 6. SAFAR further stated that boundary layer wind direction is favourable for fire-related intrusion in Delhi-NCR.

"Stubble burning share in PM2.5 in Delhi's air is estimated at 29% for Sunday," it added.

The AQI in Delhi is likely to be in the upper end of 'very poor' category on November 13 and 14 (Deepavali), and 'severe' on November 15 and 16.

'Corps Commander talks were candid, constructive'

Indian and Chinese armies agree to hold another round soon

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

At the eighth round of Corps Commander-level talks between India and China on Friday, the two sides had a "candid, in-depth and constructive exchange of views" on disengagement along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and agreed to continue the talks, a joint statement issued on Sunday said.

"Both sides agreed to earnestly implement the important consensus reached by the leaders, ensure their front-line troops exercise restraint and avoid misinterpretation and miscalculation," the statement said.

The talks began around



India Gate is barely visible from Rajpath due to smog in Delhi on Sunday. ▪ R.V. MOORTHY

Festive fever



No social distancing: Shoppers at Bhadra Temple Market in Ahmedabad ahead of Deepavali, on Sunday. ▪ VIJAY SONEJI

R. RAJARAM
TIRUCHI
Deepavali came a week early for the nondescript Thulasendrapuram in Tiruvvarur district as residents of the village celebrated the victory of Kamala Harris as the next Vice-President of the United States.

As the news of the Democratic victory in the closely-fought U.S. elections was officially declared late on Saturday, many thousands of miles away, the ancestral village of Ms. Harris erupted in joy; residents burst crackers and distributed sweets. As Sunday dawned, residents cheered and displayed victory symbols



Home support: Villagers celebrating the victory of Kamala Harris at Thulasendrapuram. ▪ PTI

at public places, carrying portraits of Ms. Harris, unable to hide their excitement and happiness.

The traditional *kolams* drawn in front of houses were larger and more colourful with captions hailing the victory. "Congratulations Kamala Harris - The Pride of Our

Village" read a message accompanying a *kolam*.

"The residents went euphoric over the victory of Ms. Kamala and the celebrations at the village were spontaneous," said S.V. Ramanan, the *dharma-kartha* (head) of the Sri Dharma Sastha Temple at Thulasendrapuram.

It was at this shrine that the villagers of Thulasendrapuram and Painganadu lined up on November 3 – Election Day in the U.S. – to pray for the victory of Ms. Harris.

And on Sunday, special pujas were performed at the temple to celebrate her victory and to thank the deity. The joy of the villagers cannot be explained in words as they burst crackers and distributed sweets, said J. Sudhakar, a resident of Painganadu and also the president of Green City Rotary Club, Mannargudi.

"From the time the name of Kamala Harris was announced as the V-P candidate, celebrations

began at Thulasendrapuram which sported her posters at vantage spots. The celebrations reached the peak on Saturday night and Sunday morning after news flashed that Ms. Kamala was elected," Mr. Sudhakar said.

"There is happiness in every household at Thulasendrapuram on her victory as every family feels that that one among them has come to occupy the topmost post in the United States," he said, adding that the celebrations went on for the whole day.

Her victory is not only a great moment for Thulasendrapuram but also for Tamil Nadu and the entire country, he added.

Indian and Chinese armies agree to hold another round soon

Gen. P.G.K. Menon, the 14 Corps Commander.



No breakthrough: A Chinook helicopter flying over Leh amid the prolonged India-China stand-off along the LAC. ▪ PTI

9.30 a.m. on the Indian side at Chushul and went on for close to 10 hours. The Indian delegation was led by Lt.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

IN BRIEF

PM to unveil statue of Vivekananda at JNU

NEW DELHI
JNU on Sunday announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would unveil a statue of Swami Vivekananda on the campus via videoconferencing on Nov. 12. VC M. Jagadesh Kumar said that the statue has been installed with the support of JNU alumni.

Seven arrested, 600 kg crackers seized

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested seven people and recovered around 600 kilograms of firecrackers during raids across the city, said a police officer on Sunday.

The arrests came days after Delhi government had

announced a ban on firecrackers, including green crackers, in the Capital till November 30.

According to the police, seven cases were registered for allegedly selling crackers till Sunday.

"Police recovered 593.224 kg of crackers and arrested

seven people. Also, eight cases were registered for bursting crackers and one person was arrested and one kilogram of fireworks recovered from him," Additional PRO of Delhi Police, Anil Mittal said.

According to a senior police officer, information was

received on Saturday regarding sale of firecrackers in Jaitpur. "Police conducted a raid during which one Santosh was found selling fireworks without any licence," DCP (South East) R.P. Meena said. Similarly, six others were arrested for sale of crackers, the police said.

Haryana CM does U-turn on cracker ban in the State

Lal announces two-hour window to sell, burst firecrackers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

In a U-turn over ban on firecrackers in the State, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Sunday announced that a two-hour window would be allowed to sell and burst crackers on Deepavali.



only on the day of the festival," said Mr. Kumar.

Expresses shock

Neelam Ahluwalia, Aravalli Bachao Campaigner, said: "We were hoping to see tough decisions being taken by the government to control air pollution by sending notices to all RWAs and market associations on firecracker ban. Instead, we are shocked to see the Chief Minister make a U-turn on his earlier decision to ban sale of crackers. How can the Chief Minister and the Haryana administration ensure that people will burst crackers only for two hours on Deepavali?"

North India is a gas chamber right now. Delhi, Gurugram, and NCR's air quality is in 'severe category'. With AQI of above 450, my eyes are burning sitting inside the house. Why do we want to add more toxicity to the already poisonous air by burning firecrackers?" asked Anu Prasad Hargan, a concerned Gurugram citizen.

In a tweet from his personal Twitter handle in the evening, Mr. Lal said that two-hour relaxation would be allowed on Deepavali to sell and burst crackers. He

said the decision was taken in adherence to the National Green Tribunal's directions in view of increase in air pollution.

Earlier, Mr. Lal, on November 6, had said that there would be complete ban on sale and use of firecrackers in the State.

Mixed response

Though the traders welcomed the decision, environmentalists and citizens expressed shock over the about-turn saying that they were left "disappointed".

Ashok Kumar, a firecrack-

51-year-old held for cheating businessmen

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 51-year-old man was arrested for allegedly cheating businessmen in Delhi and other States, police said on Sunday.

The accused has been identified as Manoj Kumar, a resident of Palam Colony, they said. He used to work as an AGM with a leading developer in Noida.

According to the police, Kumar and his associates used to give 25% advance payment to the traders and take away the goods. The accused, however, never paid the remaining amount.

On the basis of a complaint from one Parag Pahwa, a case was registered at Moti Nagar police station. The complainant alleged that on January 12, 2018, the firm Sri Balaji Overseas ordered 500 pieces of LED television and the same was delivered, police said.

A portion of the payment was made by the company and post-dated cheques (PDs) of ₹34.50 lakh were issued, a senior police officer said, adding that there was no balance in the account of the accused at the time of issuing the cheques. It was found that the accused had cheated several other traders with the same modus operandi, the officer said.

During investigation, it was revealed that Kumar was arrested by Noida Police and was in Kasna Jail. He was arrested from Noida jail and was taken on two days police custody remand, said Joint Commissioner of Police (EOW) O.P. Mishra.

Driver arrested in hit-and-run case

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A day after a Home Guard was killed in a hit-and-run case, police on Sunday arrested an SUV driver allegedly involved in the incident, said a senior police officer on Sunday.

Naresh Kumar, 42, was killed after a speeding car rammed into barricades in east Delhi's Shaikarpur on Saturday.

According to the police, the complainant, Head Constable Nirjan, reported that he was doing picket duty at Vikas Marg on Saturday, along with Kumar and civil defense personnel. "He saw a speeding car came from ITO side around 2.30 a.m. and hit the barricades. One of the barricades, then hit Kumar. Thereafter, the driver sped away," said DCP (East) Jasmeet Singh said.

Nirjan took the injured to Hedgewar Hospital, where Kumar was declared brought dead.

The vehicle was traced and confiscated. Later, the accused, Ajay Goyal, a resident of Ghaziabad, was arrested, Mr. Singh said.

Kapil Mishra, 22 others detained for staging stir

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police on Sunday detained BJP workers Kapil Mishra, Tajinder Bagga and 21 others after they tried to hold a protest at Rajghat in support of Republic TV's editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami.

Mr. Goswami was arrested by Maharashtra Police in connection with the 2018 abetment of suicide case of an interior designer.

A police officer said that Kapil Mishra and Tajinder Bagga, along with several other workers, reached near Rajghat at 10.30 a.m. and tried to stage protest. But the policemen on duty refused permission citing prohibitory orders.

DCP (Central) Sanjay Bhatia, said the protesters were detained and taken to Rajender Nagar police station. Later, they were released.

THE ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY HYDERABAD - 500007, (A Central University)
ADDENDUM
With reference to the Employment Notification No. II/2020, dated 01.11.2020 inviting applications for the posts of REGISTRAR, FINANCE OFFICER and LIBRARIAN, the University has amended the method of recruitment only for post of REGISTRAR:

Previous method of recruitment	Amended method of recruitment
by Deputation on tenure basis	by Deputation on tenure basis/ Direct Recruitment

Further, the University invites applications for the post of Controller of Examinations (COE) by Deputation on tenure basis. Application form along with eligibility criteria etc., can be downloaded from the University website www.efluniversity.ac.in. Filed in applications should reach the University on or before 09 December 2020 by 5.00 PM.
Sd/- REGISTRAR I/c

Chhattisgarh Gramin Aajeevika Samvardhan Samiti (CGSRLM-Bihani)
(Under the Rural Development Department, Govt. of Chhattisgarh)
Block-IV, 1st Floor, Indrawati Bhawan, Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar (CG)
Email - mdcsrlm@gmail.com, dldugky.cg@gmail.com
Website - www.bihan.gov.in

No.- CGSRLM/DDUGKY/EOI-02/2020 Dated: 31-Oct, 2020
Notice for Cancellation of Expression of Interest (EOI)
This is for information of all concerned that the notice issued by CHHATTISGARH GRAMIN AAJEEVIKA SAMVARDHAN SAMITI (CGSRLM-Bihani) under the Rural Development Department, Govt. of Chhattisgarh and published in the State Rural Livelihood Mission portal www.bihan.gov.in and daily Newspapers 'Dainik Bhaskar, Hariboomi, Times of India (Delhi Edition) and The Hindu (Delhi Edition) in inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) vide No. CGSRLM/DDUGKY/EOI-01/2019 dated 05-11-2019 and subsequent Corrigendum No. CGSRLM/DDUGKY/EOI-01/2019/Addn-01 dated 07-12-2019 for selection of Consulting Services/Agency for Conducting Skill Gap Analysis for DDUGKY stands Cancelled. Inconvenience caused to this effect is highly regretted.

Mission Director, CGSRLM
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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

IT IS notified for the information that my Original Qualifying Examination Certificate of Main, Senior Secondary Examination year 2014 Roll no. 9163985 issued by CBSE has been actually lost.Candidate Arunima, B-46, Patel Garden New Delhi-59/ 9717717376

LEGAL NOTICE

SUIT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE PRINCIPAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE, NARASARAOPET OS No.339/2018

Between
M/s Bala Vamsi Constructions, Narasaraopet, Rep. by its Prop. Nagothu Joosiah, Plaintiff
1. M/s IB INABENSA (JV) Rep. by Managing Director Rajesh Kumar Jha, New Delhi and another - Defendants

To
D2, Mr. Rajesh Kumar Jha, Managing Director, M/s IB INABENSA (JV) at 305-306 Eros corporate tower, Nehru Place, New Delhi-9. Present the address of the head office 301, 3rd Floor, Rectangle One, D-24, Saket Center, New Delhi - 110017.

The Plaintiff filed the above suit for recovery of suit amount and costs. The Honourable Court issued suit summons to them that you are avoiding to receive suit summons, as such, the Honourable Court issued Suit Notice to you by way of paper publication.

So, If you are having any objection in the suit claim you have to appear before the court on 10th November 2020 in person or through you are council. Failing which the matter will be decided by due process of law.

(By order of the Court)
DVD Nageswara Rao,
Advocate for Plaintiff, Nara-
Narasaraopet, Date : 06-11-2020

21st

Uttarakhand State Foundation Day

Heartfelt greetings to the citizens of Uttarakhand

9th November

Visionary policies are becoming the basis for development

Evolving Uttarakhand

Focus on ground work

Trivendra Singh Rawat
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

Historical Decisions

- Bharaisain (Gairsain) declared as the summer capital of Uttarakhand.
- Formation of "Chardham Devasthanam Board" with a view to develop the facilities for Char Dham and visiting devotees.

Double Engine Government: Various projects worth more than one lakh crore rupees approved for the state with the help of Central Government

- Work on Rishikesh-Karnprayag Rail Project, Chardham All-weather Road Project, Bharatmata Project, Kedarnath Dham Reconstruction, Namami Gange and Dehradun Smart City Project is in progress.
- Rs. 424 crore approved for Badrinath Development Project.
- Jamrani Multipurpose Dam Project and Tehri Lake Project approved.
- Rs. 910 crore sanctioned for NIT, Srinagar.
- Rs. 1370 crore approved for Namami Gange, 62 works worth Rs. 873 crore completed.

Reverse Migration, Self-Employment

- Provision of financial assistance for over 150 works under Mukhyamantri Swarojgar Yojana for more than 6 lakh returning migrants and youth of the state.
- 4963 projects sanctioned at district level out of received 8302 applications under Mukhyamantri Swarojgar Yojana. 1529 projects to be financed by the banks.
- Post Investors Summit, grounding of investment of over Rs. 25000 crores. Job creation for 57000 people.
- 10000 youth will get employment in solar energy sector.
- Employment of 10000 forest fire guards.
- 104 Growth Centres established, 30000 will get employment.
- Establishment of 14450 industrial units, and employment to more than 1 lakh during the tenure of the present government.

Covid-19

Jab tak dawai nahi Tab tak dhilai nahi

Keep washing your hands

Maintain Social Distancing

Always use face mask

Visit nearest hospital in case of symptoms

Issued in public interest by Directorate of Information & Public Relations, Uttarakhand | www.uttarainformation.gov.in | [UttarakhandDIPR](#) | [DIPR_UK](#) | Trivendra Singh Rawat | [Disaster Call Center No. 1070](#)

Record single-day spike in city with 7,745 cases

Jain says Delhi hit peak of 'third wave', expects numbers to go down; buses get DDMA nod to run at full capacity

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Capital recorded 7,745 fresh COVID-19 cases on Sunday, which is the highest jump in the number of cases in a 24-hour period since the pandemic began.

According to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government, the city also recorded 77 deaths and 6,069 recoveries in the same period.

Positivity rate

It added that 50,754 tests were conducted with a positivity rate of 15.26%, which is a spike from the average positivity rate of 8.60%.



A healthworker at work in a government school in New Delhi.
• FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

The cumulative figures for the city now stand at 4,38,529 positive cases, 6,989 deaths and 3,89,682 recoveries. A total of 50,99,774 tests

have been conducted. There are currently 41,857 active cases in the city with 24,723 people under home isolation and 3,878 containment zones, the bulletin added.

Virus spread

Total number of COVID-19 cases	Total deaths
4,38,529	6,989
New cases in the past 24 hours	New deaths in the past 24 hours
7,745	77

SOURCE: DELHI GOVERNMENT HEALTH BULLETIN

79 deaths on Saturday – the highest number of fatalities in over four months. The Minister continued to advocate the use of masks to protect against the virus until a vaccine is developed.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) on Sunday allowed the running of DTC buses in the city with full seating capacity till November 30.

The DDMA had earlier allowed the running of DTC and cluster buses with full capacity on a trial basis till November 8. The DTC and cluster buses had resumed plying with full seating capacity from November 1.

Health Minister Satyendar Jain said the Capital has hit the peak of the "third wave", which has been the worst since the pandemic began. He added that the number of cases would start to go down now. The city also reported

No deaths due to dengue this year: CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday said the citizens of Delhi have successfully managed to bring dengue cases to 489 this year with no deaths from 15,867 cases and 60 dengue-related deaths in 2015.

Marking the last week of the 10-week anti-dengue campaign, he applauded

the people of Delhi for defeating the disease for the second year in a row.

CM congratulates citizens

"Congratulations Delhi. Your participation and support in the 10-week campaign against dengue have set an example by defeating the disease for the second year in a row. Not a single dengue-related death has

been reported this time. Salute to the commitment of the Delhiites [sic]," Mr. Kejriwal tweeted.

The government had launched the campaign last year asking people to check their homes, offices and surroundings for clean, stagnant water every Sunday and replace it.

In 2019, 2,036 cases and two deaths were reported.

Students protest against delay in scholarships

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Students across universities and from various organisations on Sunday took to social media to raise an issue with the delay in the release of scholarships.

They also highlighted the digital divide in the country and the problems they face while switching to the online mode.

The students demanded justice for a second-year student of Delhi University's Lady Shri Ram College, who allegedly killed herself at her home in Telangana on November 3 due to financial difficulties. General Secretary of LSR Students' Union, Unnimaya, said the Mathematics student was excellent in studies and a recipient of the INSPIRE Scholarship from the Ministry of Science and Technolo-

gy. "Her scholarship was delayed by the Ministry since March. It put both her and her family under extreme financial pressure," alleged Ms. Unnimaya.

The Students' Federation of India demanded the immediate disbursal of all national fellowships and to unfailingly continue the disbursal every month. The SFI said they would organise several demonstrations across the country to demand the timely disbursement of scholarships.

JNUSU head Aishwarya Ghosh said, "Her death exposes the systematic failure in our education system to include the ones from the marginalised sections..."

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, Telephone: 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.

Timings
DELHI

MONDAY, NOV. 09	RISE 06:39 SET 17:31
RISE 00:00 SET 13:47	
TUESDAY, NOV. 10	RISE 06:40 SET 17:31
RISE 01:00 SET 14:26	
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11	RISE 06:41 SET 17:30
RISE 02:04 SET 15:04	

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 30 11
Safdarjang 30 11
Palam 27 14

Delhi Palam Today 29°C Cool morning with smog with hazy day. Light easterly winds would affect.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 29°C Smog at many areas in morning and pollution may deteriorate, severe pollution likely over the city.

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HC plea alleges illegal operation of path labs

Petitioner seeks closure of such centres

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A petition before the Delhi High Court has sought urgent implementation of the government's Health Bill, 2019, or the Delhi Clinical Establishment Act, 2010, alleging that unauthorised pathological laboratories are running here without any checks and balances.

Consumer rights activist Bejon Kumar Misra has contended that operations of illegal and unauthorised labs would endanger the lives of people.

Mr. Misra, in his plea filed through advocate Shashank Deo Sudhi, has alleged that the government "has not made any effort towards the regulation of illegal pathological laboratories/diagnostic centres, which do not meet the norms and without having qualified pathologists".

It stated that the High Court in 2018, had directed the government to take appropriate steps in accordance with the guidelines is-

sued by the Supreme Court to contain illegal and unauthorised labs, but no steps have been taken by the authorities. According to the National Accreditation Board for Laboratories and Calibration (NABL), there are 1,000 diagnostic laboratories, out of which only 10% are NABL accredited, the plea said.

Therefore, an immediate and urgent regulation is required to regulate the illegal pathological laboratories/diagnostic centres, which do not meet the norms and without having qualified pathologists".

The application has been filed in a petition moved by Mr. Misra in 2018 seeking closure of the unauthorised pathological labs and diagnostic centres in Delhi.

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■ G. SRINIVAS AND SALIL S.

With COVID-19 having pushed colleges and universities to new delivery modes since March, many of us have realised how humane and important it is to have direct face-to-face teaching and learning. While there is a debate over when we can re-open the institutions, another question is whether our educational structures and delivery formats can be more agile, compared to the pre-pandemic period?

New scenarios

Inevitably, the priority of coming days will be the health and safety of students, professors and staff. We cannot completely digitise the educational, social, and psychological support available on-campus. Many experts also do not see a complete return to full-capacity campus soon. So, apart from mere reopening with a protocol, each institution needs a strategic plan.

In their recent work, education futurists Maloney and Kim propose that university leaders will need to bring a framework of density, not location, in their planning for coming academic terms. Campus density refers to how many individuals can occupy the campus safely at a time for work, study and living. Between the continuum of back-to-normal (full density) and fully remote (no density), they suggest different scenarios. One way is to alter institutional timings by shifting semesters or providing a gap year. Another is to revisit the curriculum and schedule. In India, this includes opting for block plan, or modularising curriculum or devising a split curriculum.

Under the block plan method, students stay in the campus for four or five weeks to learn a single course, which is considered as a block. The institution can plan how many blocks it can afford to offer and can add blocks in a phased manner. This plan can be adapted to emergencies.



The real question is not when colleges can reopen, but whether our educational structures and delivery formats can be more agile compared to the pre-pandemic period

Modular courses are short, topical, and experiential and are largely online. Because of flexibility in length, topics, links across concepts, access and sequencing, students find modular courses more constructive. This method requires re-designing individual components of the course and sequence to suit the local context and may also require training of faculty.

Under the split approach, cours-

es are delivered both in-person and online at the same time by the same faculty. The students can choose whether to attend the physical class or join online. However, this may need more investment in classroom technology.

A broad alternative for residential campuses is low residency courses that have already been adopted by many IITs, IISc and national institutions in their programmes for working executives.

Its compressed and focused nature makes it more effective than the traditional pattern at times.

Institutions can weigh the risk factors and resources for different scenarios and opt for the best strategy by combining them in myriad ways.

We need more hybrid and highly flexible modes of working. Agile academic structures and administration are the determinants in the game.

Digital equity

Despite the best efforts from governments, the last eight months have seen different levels of digital inequity at play. The disparity in income levels reinforces physical access to digital technologies. It further permeates to skill difference or the ability to use the technology.

The emergency remote teaching that we have been doing was unplanned. Therefore, many inefficiencies and gaps can be ex-

cused. However, while reopening institutions, we need to use strategic tools that are adaptable. To aid this, we suggest a template for a digitally-equitable institution based on 20 parameters grouped into five broad dimensions for each student:

Device: Availability, Quality,

Usage, Power

Connectivity: Infrastructure, Reliability, Power

GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

We will soon find ourselves implementing many changes in academic logistics such as dynamic timetables, alternate shifts, modular low-residency courses, hybrid and hyflex programmes...

Affordability: Price, Choice, Payment terms, Financial assistance

Relevance: Content form, Content level, Context, Language, Universal design

Support: Educator support, Technical support, Maintenance load, Digital leadership

The learner data on these parameters will act as a baseline to develop strategies for digital equity in each institution. This can also guide the revamp of IT policies, develop course protocols, and ensure sustained digital leadership in the institution.

Future disruptions

We need to develop differentiated plans for probable uncertainties, plan and build for varying scenarios, and accommodate meaningful flexibility in institutional practices.

We will soon find ourselves implementing many changes in academic logistics such as dynamic timetables, alternate shifts, modular low-residency courses, hybrid and hyflex programmes along with the efforts to be more digitally equitable. Such efforts free us from the current black-and-white thinking of online versus offline.

Amid the changes, designing a core curriculum around student experience will remain the key to emerge stronger.

Disclaimer: The views expressed here are personal.

G. Srinivas is the Additional Secretary and Salil S. is the Education Officer with University Grants Commission.

UPSKILL

Think beyond books



A balance of cognitive and non-cognitive skills will give students an edge in their personal and professional lives

■ SWOYAN SATYENDU

Our world is full of opportunities and complex patterns, and only students who are capable of seamlessly tapping into their cognitive and non-cognitive skills can get ahead in the race. But, what are these cognitive and non-cognitive skills?

Cognitive skills are brain-based and enable the child to carry out any task from the simplest to the most complex. They have more to do with the mechanism of how he/she learns, remembers, pays attention, or his/her approach to problem solving, rather than with bookish knowledge.

Strategic balance

For example, opening the door when the bell rings involves perception (hearing the bell), decision-making (deciding to open the door or not), language skill (asking who is at the door), motor skills (unlocking the door), and social skill (interpreting the tone and interacting with the person).

Non-cognitive skills include memory, language, interpersonal skills, verbal and non-verbal communication, emotional maturity, persistence, empathy, and others. So, why is the integration of cognitive and non-cognitive skills required?

The two help create a strategic balance in the mind, enabling a person to complete any task effectively and efficiently.

With only one kind of skill set, chances of success reduce. Work environments have become dynamic and involve interaction with people from different disciplines, and tackling various situations.

Also, it is quite difficult to inculcate non-cognitive skills in an individual after a certain age. Apart from that, the integration of cognitive and non-cognitive skills also helps students in their personal lives and professional lives.

Challenges of non-integration

Unemployability: Many individuals are hired even though they do not possess non-cognitive skills. But this lack makes it difficult for him/her to interact with colleagues in a work environment, as they cannot create connections with others.

Inability to adapt: The lack of non-cognitive skills may also mean that a person is unable to match the expectations of the superiors or teachers. Also since they are not adaptable by nature, their growth tends to stagnate.

Mental health issues: The lack of a balance between the two skill sets may also lead to anxiety.

and depression as the individuals may find many situations unmanageable and perplexing.

How to integrate

Address the first challenge: The current curriculum is non-dynamic and does not allow participation in activities that help develop both skills. There is an immediate need to redesign it to integrate activities and practices that will help integrate the skill sets.

Evaluation and assessment: With the redesigned curriculum, schools can incorporate assessment practices to evaluate the students' growth and development, as they grasp the knowledge and power of non-cognitive skills.

Teaching and learning methodologies: Help students develop non-cognitive skills, and provide sufficient training from the beginning, as students can be moulded easily at a young age.

Train the trainers: Teachers need to be educated in order to educate the students. Thus, schools must have sessions for teachers to learn how to teach both cognitive and non-cognitive skills.

The writer is COO, ODM Educational Group.

ON THE SHELF

The U.K. calling

Geetha Swamy's *A Guide to UK Universities for the Foreign Student* is a comprehensive guide to colleges and universities in that country

■ R. KRITHIKA

Would anyone consider studying abroad during the time of a pandemic? Surveys by ed-tech companies and others have shown that, despite the disruptions caused by the coronavirus, students are considering options for higher education in foreign countries. Of course, what they look for has changed. "No longer can students just look at rankings and reputations of universities, while making their choices," writes Geetha Swamy in her book, *A Guide to UK Universities for the Foreign Student*. The quality of learning, adaptation to online education, upgradation of infrastructure and training of faculty to cope with new demands are the points she suggests that students must consider.

A college counsellor with over 20 years of experience, Swamy offers a comprehensive overview of college education in the U.K. She begins with how the student should register at the Universities and Colleges Admission Services (UCAS) website and goes on to offer tips on writing the Personal Statement to the point of

breaking it down into key points for each para. Then come the various tests a student will have to take, depending on the subject of choice. Here again, apart from detailing what each test is about, Swamy offers information on the registration fee, when to apply, deadlines, and possible acceptable scores. Medical schools get a separate entry.

Oxbridge colleges get a whole section, with details about how to choose the university and the interview process. A tabular list tells one which colleges come under Cambridge University and which under Oxford University. The salient features of each college are mentioned, including location, facilities offered and the number of students at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

After this, Swamy plunges into a list of 27 colleges across the U.K. In each case, a brief introduction details its ranking and important scholars (if any). Then there is an overview of what the college offers and key points like the official website, location, selection criteria, total strength, strongest programmes, monetary costs, internship and scholarship opportunities...

Apart from mentioning the faculty:student ratio, she also rates their selection criteria into selective, most selective and highly selective. Student support systems including healthcare, visa and money issues and facilities available are all detailed.

The book is laid out in an easy-to-read format with the information being both lucid and concise. As a reference point for students who are looking towards the U.K. for higher education, this is a valuable guide.

A Guide to UK universities for the International Student; Geetha Swamy. Priced at ₹693. To buy a copy, call +919845063592 or email geetha.swamy@minervae.com

**SCHOLARSHIPS****BYPL SASHAKT Scholarship**

BSES Yamuna Power Limited seeks to support meritorious students from underprivileged sections of society.

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PRIZES AND REWARDS: Up to ₹40,000

DEADLINE: November 14

APPLICATION: Online b4s.in/edge/PSD1

Fullerton India Scholarship Programme

Fullerton India's scholarship programme is meant for underprivileged students from Madhya Pradesh (Vidisha and Khandwa), Rajasthan (Hanumangarh and Shi Gangaragar) and West Bengal (Jalpaiguri and Haldia).

ELIGIBILITY: Students who are studying in Class IX to XII and have scored a minimum of 60% marks in their previous qualifying examinations. Annual family income must be less than ₹4 lakhs.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: ₹10,000

DEADLINE: December 31

APPLICATION: Online b4s.in/edge/FUS2

marks and must be enrolled in an ITI/ Polytechnic/ Diploma course at a recognised institution. Annual family income must be less than or equal to ₹3 lakhs.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: 80% of total fee or maximum up to ₹20,000 per year

DEADLINE: November 15

APPLICATION: Online b4s.in/edge/PSD1

Piaggio "Shiksha Se Samriddhi" Scholarship

Piaggio Vehicles Pvt. Ltd. supports students pursuing ITI/ Polytechnic/Diploma courses.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to children/ wards of drivers/owners from the three-wheeler community. Applicants must have passed Class 10/12 with at least 55%

Courtesy: buddy4study.com

SAVE THE DATE**Summer in entrepreneurship****MSc Logistics and Supply Chain Management**

Hull University Business School, the U.K., invites applications for the one-year full-time programme, which will commence from January 11, 2021.

ELIGIBILITY: A Bachelor's degree (minimum three years) awarded by a nationally recognised Indian university comparable to a U.K. Bachelor's Honours degree with an overall grade of 50%. An IELTS 6.0 score (with minimum 5.5 in each skill) or equivalent. Class 12 English marks (between 70% and 75%) from several National and State Boards also accepted.

FEES: £16,200

DEADLINE: November 30

<https://bit.ly/34YAG6l>

Techion, Israel Institute of Technology's 'Summer in Entrepreneurship' offers professional internships along with academic courses and projects to help students develop a business plan or build a start-up. The programme includes off-campus activities and industry site visits.

ELIGIBILITY: Indian students must have finished their second year of undergraduate studies. Students require a GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, or 80 on a 100-point scale and meet basic English proficiency requirements.

DURATION: One-month, between June 30 to July 29, 2021

REGISTRATION: December 1, 2020 - March 25, 2021

REGISTRATION FOR INTERNSHIP: November 1, 2020 - January 15, 2021

<https://regint.technion.ac.il>

UTTARAKHAND**LEADING THE WAY**

Kedarnath

PM MODI'S DREAM PROJECT ALL SET FOR THE WORLD TO SEE

The Kedarnath and Badrinath Dhams are spiritual centres for the world, but for the state of Uttarakhand, they are also the economic backbone of the state. The state government is constantly working towards modernisation and improving the 'dhams' for a better and comfortable spiritual experience.

When PM Modi visited Kedarnath in May last year, he had a vision of making the 'dham' far more comfortable and

50 metres. As part of the rebuilding, work is underway for the lodging and food of 7000 pilgrims overnight.

New Ghats have been constructed over Mandakini and Saraswati rivers. The facility of changing room and sitting area is now available at these ghats too.

Along with the construction of the Char Dham All Weather Road, 210 new buildings are being built for the priests for their stay. The reconstruction work of



accessible for the pilgrims. His dream project has now taken shape at Kedarnath with the government dedicatedly working day in and out. There is a visible difference in the way leading to Kedarnath as well as the main monument.

Now, almost 3000 pilgrims can stand in the temple premises, two times the earlier numbers. The confluence of rivers Saraswati and Mandakini, that was earlier inaccessible has now been opened and pilgrims can view Kedar Puri from here as well. The 270-metres long path leading to the main temple has also been broadened to

Shankaracharya's Samadhi will be completed by the end of 2020. The government is also planning to open a museum in Kedarnath premises soon.

PM Modi after meditating in the 'Meditation Cave' for 17 hours had given the message of 'Safe Uttarakhand- Safe Travel' and today the cave is one of the most sought after places in Kedarpuri. Considering the growing popularity of the meditating caves, the district administration is working on making three more caves in the nearby hills of the Kedarnath shrine.

Badrinath

TO GET A FACELIFT AS WELL

In order to develop the world famous Badrinath shrine on the line of Kedarnath, PM Modi recently asked top Uttarakhand state officials, including those from tourism department to prepare the roadmap for the purpose. In a virtual meeting with state officials, the PM asked to start

work on a fool-proof work model for Badrinath based on the Kedarnath remodelling plan on priority basis.

Badrinath will be rebuilt in a big way equipped with all kinds of facilities for visiting pilgrims all through the years. Some of the tasks that would be undertaken are beautification of



Badrinath will be equipped with all kinds of facilities for visiting pilgrims. Some of the tasks that would be undertaken are beautification of the shrines and surrounding places, along with building cottages and guest houses.

While the CM's office has started to keep a track of the spiritual and religious activities taking place at Badrinath, state tourism minister, Satpal Maharaj is also taking the necessary steps to start work in full swing in order to make Badrinath biggest spiritual centre in the coming years.

A VISIONARY GOVERNMENT FOR A FUTURISTIC STATE



In keeping with PM Modi's Vision, CM Trivendra Singh Rawat's Government Shows Impact

Under the guidance of PM Narendra Modi and the able leadership of CM Trivendra Singh Rawat, the state in the past three-and-a-half years of governance has achieved milestones that were earlier a distant dream. The Centre has approved projects worth over ₹1 lakh crore.

The Centre and state are working on the ambitious All Weather Road project. In this project, the government is upgrading and developing the road which connects all four 'Dhams' i.e. Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath. ₹12,000-crore dream project will turn 1100 km of damaged highways of Uttarakhand into all-seasons road. The project is divided into seven packages which connect Tanakpur

highway to the state.

Many of these projects are already in progress like the Rishikesh-Karnprayag Road Project, Namami Gange, Dehradun Smart City, Rishikesh-Karnprayag rail project, the All Weather Road, Jamrahi multipurpose project, Bharatmala project, Kedarnath Shrine reconstruction and so on.

Other projects include the development of 27 helipads across the state for better air connectivity. Uttarakhand is also the first state in India where helicopter services are being started under the UDAN scheme of the Centre at the Dehradun-New Tehri-Srinagar-Gauchar route. Today, Dehradun is well-connected with over a dozen states.

The Centre has also helped in establishing

advanced-level institutes like India's first Drone Application Centre in Dehradun, Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology at Doiwala, Coast Guard

Recruitment Centre, a National Law University, COE of Natural Fibre in Almora. These have certainly helped Uttarakhand and its cities gain a prominent position on the Indian map.

The Centre and state are working on the ambitious All Weather Road project. In this project, the govt is upgrading and developing the road which connects all four 'Dhams'



TSR Government gets praises and aid for the Namami Gange Project

Uttarakhand is known as the home to the holy river Ganges, the Modi government has sanctioned an amount of ₹1370 crore to the Trivendra Singh Rawat government for its 74 different Ganga clean-up projects

As many as 62 different Namami Gange related projects worth ₹73 crores have already been completed in the state while remaining projects worth ₹521 crores were unveiled by PM Modi in a recent video conference.

PM Modi also appreciated TSR for providing drinking water, tap connection for a charge of just ₹1 per connection in the state. PM Modi praised CM Trivendra Singh and said that he is the first CM in the country to give tap connections for almost free.

All-round Infrastructure development through Railway Projects, Bharatmala and All Weather Road

The dreams of millions of people will become

a reality after the 125 kilometre long Rishikesh Karnprayag

railway track is completed in 2025. The Rishikesh-

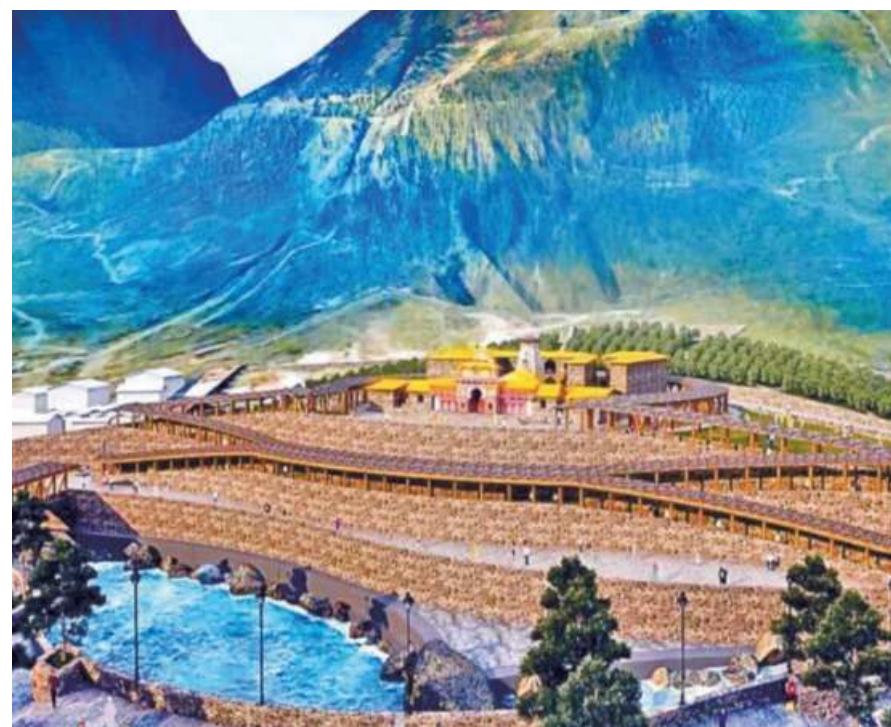
Karnprayag broad gauge Rail line will have 12 new railway

stations, 17 tunnels as well as 16 bridges. An amount of ₹16,216

crore rail line in Uttarakhand will be completed by December 2024.

The route will have 17 tunnels as well as 16 bridges. 14.5 km long tunnel will pass through Devprayag to Janas in Pauri District. An amount of ₹16,216 crore is likely to be spent on this railway line.

Under centre sponsored Bharatmala project, the centre has approved ₹2000 crores to build Askote-Vasool-Tawans-Malpa road, ₹1200 crore for Lipu Lake road in Pithoragarh, ₹4500 crore for Baijnath-Bagwshwar-Kapott-Ratapani-Munsiyari-Dharkhera-Seraghat and Jauljeevi road network. Overall a stretch of 571 km of road is being built under Bharatmala.



crore is likely to be spent on this railway line. According to the Railway Ministry, the upcoming broad



"Much development has taken place in Uttarakhand in the last 20 years but there is much more that remains to be done. The present BJP government is committed to the state's all-round development and I can proudly say that Uttarakhand will always be among the fastest-growing states in the country."

Char Dham All Weather Roads and Rishikesh Karnprayag Rail projects to link hills with plains are the two major under-construction projects that may prove to be the milestones on Uttarakhand's development front during the three-and-a-half years tenure of the current government. Move to rebuilt Kedarpuri to make it a major spiritual centre. This will help the Himalayan state's overall development, help prevent migration from hills and even promote reverse-migration. Our people-first policies, make sure that Uttarakhand becomes a self-reliant state very soon. Meanwhile, the government is also working on conserving the environment by promoting green energy and ways. The immense support from the centre and the guidance of PM Modi, two are bound to achieve success and place Uttarakhand on the world map."

-CM Trivendra Singh Rawat



HC declines to interfere with tribunal order

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has declined to interfere with an order of the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) here allowing the Indian Air Force (IAF) to go ahead with the disciplinary proceedings against two of its officers for their alleged role in the 'friendly fire' incident of an IAF Mi-17 helicopter at Budgam after the Balakot strikes last year.

Appeal by officers

The court's decision came on appeals made by Wing Commander Shyam Naithani, who was senior air traffic controller, and Group Captain Suman Roy Chowdhury, who was chief operations officer, at the Srinagar Air Force Station when the incident took place on February 27, 2019.

Punjab CM seeks intervention of Shah to restore rail services

'There are no law and order concerns to prevent resumption of train services'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH



Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Sunday said he had spoken to Union Home Minister Amit Shah for his intervention to ensure restoration of rail services to the State.

The Chief Minister said he discussed the situation with Mr. Shah on November 7 and assured him that there were no law and order concerns to prevent resumption of the services for facilitating supply of essential commodities in Punjab and neighbouring Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir, all of which were suffering colossal losses due to the continued suspension.

Capt. Amarinder said he

on the ground was peaceful and conducive to safe transportation of goods. The Chief Minister pointed out that the agitating farmers had not disturbed peace in any part of Punjab over the past few weeks of their protests.

Support for RPF

Capt. Amarinder said he told Mr. Shah that he had directed the Punjab police to extend all support to the Railway Protection Force (RPF) in providing security on the tracks and the platforms to enable smooth movement of freight trains, and the kisan unions had already eased their blockade.

He stressed that it was the joint responsibility of the Central and the State go-

vernments to ensure that train services are resumed at the earliest.

The State government, said the Chief Minister, was closely engaged with the farmers' organisations to persuade them to lift their blockade completely to allow passenger trains also to commute so that Punjabis, including the 1.5 lakh soldiers stationed in various places, could come home for Deepavali. Several of his Ministers were in discussions with the farmer unions.

On its part, the Central government should take immediate steps to restore normalcy by directing the Railways to commence movement of goods trains, he said.

Haryana Speaker flays Hooda for remark on House session

Ex-Chief Minister said the voice of Opposition was ignored

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Haryana Assembly Speaker Gian Chand Gupta on Sunday hit out at Leader of the Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda for his remark "voice of democracy strangled" during the recently concluded Assem-

by session. He said Mr. Gupta.

Mr. Gupta said the Congress leaders had first acted contrary to the House decorum and then made pessimistic and inappropriate statements in the media. "A serious discussion was expected from senior leaders on such an important subject. However, the reasons for their non-participation in the discussion are still unknown," he said.

Unruly scenes were witnessed in the Assembly on November 6 as soon as Chief Minister Manohar Lal proposed a resolution thanking the Centre for introducing reforms in the agriculture sector. Congress MLAs insisted on voting on the resolution before a discussion and stormed the well of the House.

"The Congress should have done within a certain time period. Besides, the tenor of the language of their resolution was not in sync with the parliamentary conduct. Thus, the legal representative consent could not be obtained as it failed to meet the legislative criteria,"

Businessman's kin want bounty on IPS officer

'Police complicating investigation'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

The family of Mahoba businessman Indrakant Tripathi – who died in September after being found shot in his car days after he had accused an IPS officer of threatening to kill him – on Sunday demanded that a bounty be announced against the absconding officer Manilal Patidar who continues to evade arrest.

While an FIR under murder and conspiracy charges was lodged against Mr. Patidar and others initially on the complaint of the family of Tripathi, the charges were downgraded to abetment to suicide following a probe by

a Special Investigation Team. The pressure mounted on Mr. Patidar ever since the Allahabad High Court on November 2 dismissed his plea seeking protection from arrest and quashing of the FIR against him.

Ravikant Tripathi, brother of Indrakant, alleged that the police were 'complicating' the investigation by not arresting the officer and 'protecting' him. He demanded that Mr. Patidar be declared a fugitive, his property be seized and he be arrested for "safeguarding of evidence and our safety".

Mr. Ravikant asked how was he able to file pleas in the HC.

AMU pensioners write to President

Teaching, non-teaching members have received only half the pension: AMUTA

ANUJ KUMAR
GHAZIABAD

them."

The AMUTA requested the President for help in releasing the deducted amount.

The issue came to light after Aftab Alam, professor of Political Science and a member of the Executive Council of the University, wrote an open letter to his colleagues raising the issue and saying it had only compounded the woes of the retired employees during the pandemic. "Many of them have not even been paid their full retirement benefits, such as encashment of leave, gratuity for last few years," said Prof. Alam, adding those in the non-teaching staff receiving family pension were not faced any such issue yet.

Distinguished professor Hamid Ali, who retired in November 2019, said he was yet to receive retirement benefits. "I sent my daughter to study in Italy, but now I am finding it very hard." The two-time former AMUTA president said it was hard to understand the university's priori-

ties as, ironically, gates were being constructed.

Mohd. Shahzad, who retired as assistant controller in 2019, said the decision was "harsh and unimaginable" at a time when the elderly are struggling to cope with the pandemic.

Describing the situation as frustrating and unfortunate, Prof. Alam said, "Every time I raise the issue, I have been told that the problem lies at the UGC level."

Shafeeyat Kidwai, university spokesperson, admitted the concerns were genuine. "This month there has been a cut of ₹17 crore in the salary bill. The Finance Officer and the Registrar have raised the issue with the UGC. We hope it will be resolved soon."

Haryana hooch toll 21

Former CM demands jobs, financial help for the kin

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Former Haryana Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Sunday demanded financial assistance and a government job to the next of kin of those who died after consuming spurious liquor in the State. Mr. Hooda, visiting the affected families at Dhansauli village in Panipat, said many of them had no source of income and it was the moral duty of the government to help them.

Meanwhile, the death toll in the hooch tragedy across Sonipat and Panipat dis-

tricts stood at 21, with no death reported on Sunday. Twenty-two people have been arrested so far and 15 FIRs registered.

Sonipat Deputy Commissioner Shyam Lal Poonia told *The Hindu* that 13 people had died in the district so far, but those in hospitals were doing well. He claimed the entire network involved in the manufacturing and supply of spurious liquor was busted with 20 arrests. The four-member committee, headed by district's Additional Deputy Commissioner, is expected to submit its report on Monday.

Deputy Superintendent of Police, Headquarters (Panipat), Satish Kumar said eight people had died in the district so far and two arrested in connection with five FIRs.

Be it an anniversary, a birthday, an academic accomplishment or even a promotion. Now you can surprise your loved ones by wishing them on

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WEATHER WATCH
RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 19.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Thunderstorms with lightning very likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	... 32.6...	19.2	19.2	Kozhikode	... 34.8...	26.0	26.0
Ahmedabad	... 34.6...	17.4	17.4	Kurnool	... 33.1...	23.0	23.0
Aizawl	... 24.6...	16.9	16.9	Lucknow	... 30.2...	12.6	12.6
Allahabad	... 30.9...	13.0	13.0	Madurai	... 32.0...	24.3	24.3
Bengaluru	... 27.8...	20.8	20.8	Mangaluru	... 36.4...	24.6	24.6
Bhopal	... 29.9...	13.4	13.4	Mumbai	... 34.2...	25.4	25.4
Bhubaneswar	... 30.5...	18.0	18.0	Mysuru	... 30.0...	21.4	21.4
Chandigarh	... 28.9...	11.1	11.1	New Delhi	... 28.1...	13.4	13.4
Chennai	... 32.6...	23.5	23.5	Patna	... 30.6...	16.4	16.4
Coimbatore	... 29.8...	23.2	23.2	Port Blair	... 3.3...	26.6	26.6
Dehradun	... 26.8...	11.3	11.3	Puducherry	... 17.6...	23.4	23.4
Gangtok	... 18.8...	10.1	10.1	Pune	... 30.3...	17.4	17.4
Goa	... 34.5...	24.7	24.7	Raipur	... 30.2...	12.0	12.0
Guwahati	... 30.2...	16.9	16.9	Ranchi	... 27.4...	12.2	12.2
Hubballi	... 29.0...	21.0	21.0	Shillong	... 22.1...	11.2	11.2
Hyderabad	... 31.2...	17.8	17.8	Shimla	... 22.0...	11.4	11.4
Imphal	... 27.5...	11.3	11.3	Srinagar	... 20.2...	0.3	0.3
Jaipur	... 31.5...	15.0	15.0	Thiruvananthapuram	... 32.8...	25.5	25.5
Kochi	... 32.4...	25.8	25.8	Tiruchi	... 32.8...	24.8	24.8
Kohima	... 22.5...	15.2	15.2	Vijayawada	... 31.9...	24.9	24.9
Kolkata	... 31.1...	18.3	18.3	Vizagapatnam	... 32.3...	24.2	24.2

(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	33	119	49	201	—	■■■■■
Bengaluru	—	24	64	—	119	■■■■■
Chennai	27	14	73	143	—	■■■■■
Delhi	12	76	77	479	466	■■■■■
Hyderabad	.5	96	9	155	143	■■■■■
Kolkata	16	25	12	266	173	■■■■■
Lucknow	10	115	66	434	415	■■■■■
Mumbai	.7	22	28	115	163	■■■■■
Pune	21	29	49	—	57	■■■■■
Vizagapatnam	15	34	36	109	124	■■■■■

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Agro Uttra Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 458 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 19

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ 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

M.P. government razes ashram of 'Computer Baba', Cong. cries foul

He had reportedly encroached upon 46 acres in Indore

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOJPAL

The BJP government in Madhya Pradesh on Sunday tore down an ashram of 'Computer Baba' in Indore district claiming it was built illegally, days after he campaigned for the Congress in the by-election.

The police took him and six others into preventive custody.

Namdeo Das Tyagi ('Computer Baba') had reportedly encroached upon 46 acre allotted to the Jambudi Hapsi panchayat in 2000 for the development of a cow shelter. Illegal structures were built on two acres, valued at ₹80 crore, said the Indore district administration.

"Despite receiving notice from our side, they didn't remove the encroachment



The ashram was razed on Sunday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

which led to the action," said Hatod Sub-Divisional Magistrate Shashwat Sharma.

The district administration said a cow shelter would be built and a religious site would be developed there.

Meanwhile, Rajya Sabha member Digvijaya Singh alleged the ashram and a temple were being razed without any notice with a "feeling of revenge". "This is

the height of political vengeance. I condemn this," he wrote in Hindi on Twitter. The Baba had canvassed for him during the 2019 Lok Sabha election, which Mr. Singh lost to BJP's Pragya Thakur.

Ahead of the by-election to 28 seats on November 3, the Baba undertook the 'Save Democracy' yatra calling upon voters to decide against the BJP's 25 candidates who had switched over from the Congress since March.

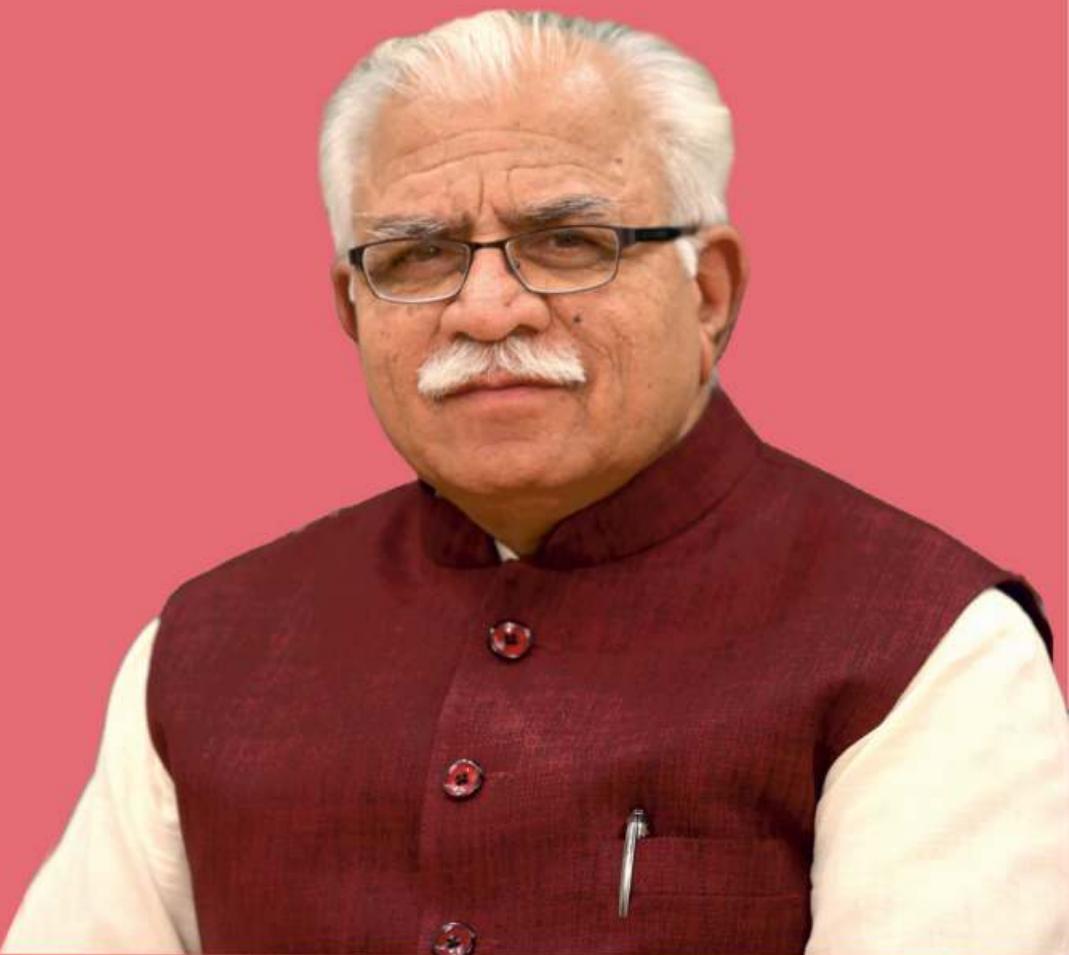
In 2018, the Baba was accorded the status of the Minister of State by the BJP government then to oversee planting and cleanliness along the Narmada river. When the Congress came to power, it gave a similar responsibility to him.

Guwahati zoo new home to rescued exotic animals

Macaws, capuchin monkeys, even a kangaroo, were smuggled in from Myanmar

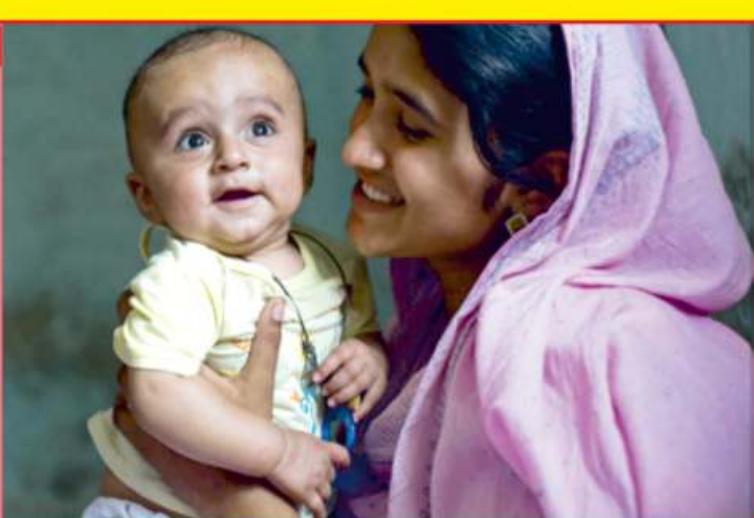


Govt. of Haryana



Haryane Ka Badhiya Haal
Chokha Bitya Pehla Saal

Sh. Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana



Women's Empowerment & Security is Our Top Priority

Historic Decision, Women to get
50% participation in
Panchayti Raj Institutions

150 Pink Buses equipped with CCTV and
GPS tracking system started for the safe
journey of Women and Daughters

Under '**Chhatra Surakshit Parivahan Yojana'**
211 special buses of Haryana Roadways
started only for Girl students

15 New Government Colleges for Women opened
in the last one year, 67 new Govt. Colleges opened in
the last 6 years in which 42 Colleges are for Girls

Under '**Mukhyamantri Doodh Upchar Yojana'**
above 9 lakh Children and 3 lakh pregnant and
lactating Mothers are benefited

The number of Women in Police Force
increased from 3 % to 10% with a target
to increase it further to 15%



Information, Public Relations and Languages Department, Haryana
www.prharyana.gov.in | [@Cmohry](https://twitter.com/Cmohry) [@DiprHaryana](https://twitter.com/DiprHaryana)

Let's Fight Together Against Coronavirus



India and Biden

U.S. policy may see more consistency without dependence on personalised summits

While U.S. Democratic Party contender and former Vice-President Joseph Biden still needs to tie up some loose ends for an official seal to his victory, it is clear that New Delhi is now preparing to work with a new U.S. administration. The win is a mixed bag for the government. On the one hand, Mr. Narendra Modi invested considerably in the Trump administration, which included the Houston and Ahmedabad rallies with Mr. Trump, that indicated a virtual endorsement for his re-election. The External Affairs Minister's snub to the Democrat-led House Foreign Affairs Committee and the invitation to senior Trump officials, for "2+2" talks just before the U.S. elections, also played into the impression of New Delhi expecting a Trump win. On the other hand, Mr. Biden, a long-time supporter of the U.S.-India relationship, brings to his presidency both the comfort of his understanding of foreign policy and the promise of future strategic ties. Foreign policy itself may not be his immediate priority, given the U.S.'s battle with the coronavirus pandemic, and the President-elect's goal, which he articulated on Sunday, to "heal" rifts in its polity and "restore the soul of America". However, it is clear that he will make moves to reverse some of the Trump-era policies.

For India, these could include the U.S.'s return to the Paris climate accord, which would help with its energy transformation, and a return to Iran nuclear negotiations, which will facilitate its regional connectivity ambitions. He is unlikely to reverse the Afghan pullout and instead might make it a more measured exit. On China, he is likely to adopt a less confrontational attitude while maintaining a pushback. Where he will no doubt press a hard nerve is on the issues of human rights, Jammu and Kashmir, and the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, given a policy paper his campaign released in June 2020 that quoted him as being "disappointed". But these are more likely to be areas of engagement, and New Delhi should be prepared to hold its own in tough conversations on these sensitive issues. Mr. Biden's presidency promises a change in leadership style, with broader powers to advisers and process-driven decisions. His belief in building up U.S. traditional trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific alliances might be at odds with America's more transactional trends. No sudden moves such as Mr. Trump's withdrawal of India's GSP export status may be expected, and policy consistency is likely to be preferred to a more personalised summit style. Above all, as New Delhi prepares to adjust its responses to the new dispensation, it would welcome Mr. Biden's stated intention to re-energise the multilateral global order, and to restore the U.S.'s position in "leading not by the example of [its] power, but by the power of example".

Walk the talk

India must ensure regulatory certainty while seeking to woo global investors

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent address at a virtual global investor round table was delivered, as is his wont, with inimitable energy and trademark alliterative phrases. Pitching India as the ideal destination, he stressed that the country offered a gamut of benefits spanning "returns with reliability, demand with democracy, stability with sustainability and growth with a green approach". He also underscored the country's planned \$1.5 trillion National Infrastructure Pipeline and other public works projects as an immense opportunity for trust fund managers looking to reap the 'best' and 'safest' returns over a longer term for their principals. Seen in the context of the pressing need to revive investment, his exhortations tick all the right boxes. As the RBI noted in its latest monetary policy report last month, investment, already in contraction mode since the July-September quarter in 2019, suffered a further massive pandemic shock. Fixed investment, which almost halved in the first quarter of the current fiscal, continues to face an uncertain outlook given the weak consumption demand and excess capacity in most industries, especially when coupled with stretched balance sheets that cramp businesses' ability to borrow and invest, according to the RBI. And the government's ability to apportion more funds for growth-spurring capital projects is hamstrung by a widening fiscal deficit amid a protracted border stand-off, the health crisis and a debilitating revenue shortfall.

Asserting that all sectors of the economy were looking up in the wake of the government's resolute tackling of the pandemic, Mr. Modi cited a 13% increase in FDI flows in the first five months of the financial year as reflective of the global investor community's confidence. However, what he likely overlooked was that with almost three-fourths of the \$27 billion of FDI equity inflows in that period being accounted for by stake acquisitions in a single large telecom company, a bulk of this investment is unlikely to manifest as new job-creating factories or businesses. As a former Chief Minister of Gujarat, who aggressively solicited and won industrial investments, Mr. Modi is surely only too well aware that what investors crave most is regulatory certainty. The Prime Minister needs to ensure that his assurance of stability is buttressed by actions that dispel investors' concerns over policy flip-flops. Even as the Centre is yet to clarify whether it will accept or challenge the tossing of its tax claim against Vodafone by an international arbitral tribunal, it separately last week enacted an ordinance to retrospectively amend the arbitration law, ostensibly to deal with contracts that may be underpinned by 'fraud or corruption'. The rule changes in wholesale and online trade are another example of shifting goal posts. Mr. Modi has his task cut out: make sure that investors see him walk the talk.

The U.S. vote is about building back better

There is one governance lesson for Team Biden-Harris — to not underestimate the sea of disgruntled middle America



NARAYAN LAKSHMAN

The 2020 U.S. presidential election has been one of many firsts. It witnessed the highest ever voter turnout numbers for the winner, Democrat and former Vice-President Joe Biden, whose tally has soared past 74 million, compared to 71 million for his rival, Republican and incumbent President Donald Trump. The victory of Mr. Biden and California Senator Kamala Harris, whose pick by Mr. Biden as running mate likely galvanised a phalanx of minority voters to their side, marked the first time in U.S. history that a woman and a woman of colour has been elected Vice-President. After he turns 78 years of age later this month, Mr. Biden will also be the oldest person sworn in as President.

On the Republican side, Mr. Trump will be the first U.S. President since 1992, the third elected President since World War II, and only the 11th President in U.S. history to lose a re-election bid. He is also only the second U.S. President in history, and the first since Benjamin Harrison in 1889, to lose the popular vote yet successfully nominate at least three Supreme Court justices.

The fact that the 2020 election enters the history books for all of these reasons says something profound about the democratic exercise itself: it was one of the most fiercely fought presidential contests in recent memory, mirrored in intensity perhaps only by the 2008 election that saw the U.S. elect its first ever African-American President, Barack Obama. While the 2020 election came after nearly four turbulent years under one of the most unconventional, controversial and divisive

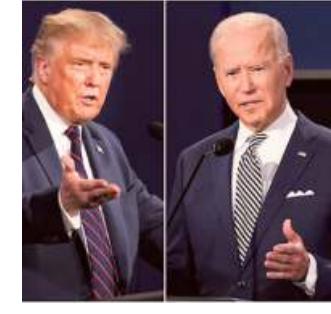
Presidents that the country has ever seen, in many ways it was unexpectedly close, both in terms of the margins in the swing States and the popular vote.

The Trump years

This begs the question: if indeed Mr. Trump was seen as the President who shredded not only every norm and tradition of the Oval Office, but also the very fabric of the Republican Party itself, why did north of 71 million voters put their faith in him, many possibly for the second time? To answer that question, it is first worth recalling the highlights of the Trump presidency, particularly the events that were seen as breaking with history in terms of the conduct of the Commander-in-Chief.

Mr. Trump set the tenor for his time in office early on, flagging even before he became a formal nominee in the 2016 presidential race the ideas that would resonate through his term and shape his policy paradigm. At the heart of his ethos, if it could be described as such, was an apparent compulsion to veer toward unhinged nativism. He was an early proponent of the 'birther' movement and his shrill calls for Mr. Obama to produce his birth certificate and prove he was not a Muslim from Kenya revealed the colour of his political reasoning.

The lines that Mr. Trump sought to draw to define his core constituency came into clearer focus during the campaign months, when he vowed to ban Muslims from certain countries entering the U.S., build a wall along the southern border that Mexico would pay for, reshape the judiciary, repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA), cut corporate taxes, repudiate the Paris climate accord, take on China for currency manipulation, reject trade deals that were not in U.S. national interest, bomb the Islamic State, raise military spending and bring the troops home, reshape the judiciary and deport all il-



legal immigrants.

In parallel, his campaign against Democrat and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was scathingly acerbic, and his views on minorities of different kinds and women could only be described as bigoted and misogynist. Yet, and this is where troubling questions arise that impinge upon the very character of America's democratic soul, there was no full-throated admonishment of this maverick candidate and no collapse in his overall performance in opinion polls; quite the opposite.

Indeed, each of the agenda items that he voiced during that campaign signalled something about those whom he claimed to fight for – whether it was blue collar workers feeling disenfranchised by their jobs being shipped offshore, the upper classes vying for tax breaks, or just your garden-variety white supremacist who nurtured a deep hatred of minorities. While many or all of those policies might have appeared objectionable to some voters, it would be hard to deny that sufficient numbers of Americans were persuaded by specific aspects of his worldview that Mr. Trump was able to win the presidency via the electoral college in November 2016.

He went on to deliver on some of his goals, a few with a high degree of success, notably nominating three justices to the Supreme Court who were confirmed mostly along partisan lines. The devastating consequences for liberals of that court being overwhelmingly packed with conservative justices

remained.

Ultimately, his administration's failure to respond effectively to the

pandemic was his undoing. With the U.S. performing worse than any nation, having nearly 10 million cases and 234,000 fatalities, Mr. Trump paid the ultimate price for this at the hustings.

For the new team

Looking back at this aggressively nativist-driven agenda, and the fact that more than 71 million Americans voted to put him back in office and carry it forward for another term, there is only one governance lesson for Mr. Biden and Ms. Harris to consider: to not underestimate or ignore the other side. The 'other side' in this case goes well beyond the likes of Mitch McConnell and obstructionism of his Senate colleagues, who will no doubt seek to whittle away the Democrats' hopes of undoing the damage done by Mr. Trump to the economy and American society.

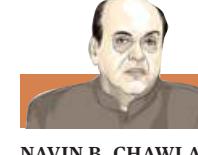
Given the diversity of the personal and collective ethos of diverse subcultures across the U.S., there will always be fringe elements and those fundamentally opposed to the liberal, pluralistic vision that Team Biden-Harris have so eloquently persuaded voters on. They can be safely ignored. Yet between them and committed progressives is a vast sea of disgruntled middle America, mostly white, and seething with anger and helplessness at the socioeconomic changes happening across their country.

Just as Mr. Biden gradually shifted to a harder line on China as a sense of American outrage took over the campaign through the summer months of the pandemic, he may find that the views that he held fast to as a committed mainstream Democrat for 48 years in politics may have to be transmogrified into something else, something new and more accommodative of the millions of Americans that chose a darkly antagonistic demagogue over business as usual.

narayan@thehindu.co.in

Turning the spotlight on America's election custodian

In its functioning, the U.S. Federal Election Commission has a much narrower mandate than its Indian equivalent



NAVIN B. CHAWLA

The presidential election in the United States has seen millions the world over glued to their TV screens as they watch the peregrinations of this important and dramatic election unfold. There have been cliffhanger moments when State results were declared, interspersed with premature announcements claiming victory, as well as increasingly legal meanderings that have occasionally rendered some moments in the election process of arguably the most powerful nation on earth as the theatre of the absurd.

Yet, no commentator, anchor or the clutch of experts that gather around them, or editorial or eruditely commentator seems even to have noticed that the normal umpire that conducts elections in most democracies, the Election Commission, is singularly missing. And, in a country all too often described as the oldest democracy in the world.

I for one have keenly observed that there has not been even a single order or intervention passed by the American counterpart of the Election Commission of India (ECI), the Federal Election Commission of the United States of America. Having been the Chief

Election Commissioner (when I presided over the 2009 general election) this has struck me as a strange vacuum.

In India, our constitutional fathers had debated in the Constituent Assembly itself the necessity of imbuing the ECI with enormous power, of course to be exercised during the course of elections, and strictly on other election-related matters. By virtue of being the custodian of the electoral roll, all matters related to keeping the roll updated, fall under the ECI's domain. Indeed, so vast are the powers accorded to the ECI during the election process that even the higher judiciary does not interfere during the course of the election process.

Thus, the question arises. Why is the Federal Election Commission of the United States almost invisible?

A comparison

For a start, the Federal Election Commission has a much narrower mandate than its Indian equivalent. Moreover, the Federal Election Commission (<https://www.fec.gov/>) was established comparatively recently – it 'opened its doors' in 1975, with the special mandate to regulate campaign finance issues. As a watchdog, it is meant to disclose campaign finance information, to enforce the law regarding campaign contributions, and oversee public funding of the presidential election.

But, so far, I have not seen any report on such oversight either.



The reason is astonishing. The Federal Election Commission is led by six Commissioners. The six posts of Commissioner are supposed to be equally shared by Democrats and Republicans, and too have to be confirmed by the Senate. But at the time of this most critical presidential election, there are vacancies. In fact the Commission has hardly been able to function in the last year because of resignations, with the result that barring a brief two months, from May to July this year, the Commission has effectively passed no orders at all since August 2019, because it has lacked a quorum – for which at least four members are needed.

As a result, several hundred matters lie pending before the Federal Election Commission for want of members. I do recollect that when I was Election Commissioner, I paid an official visit to the Federal Election Commission in Washington DC. At that juncture there were just two Commissioners in the saddle, one each from the two parties. I sensed an undercurrent of tension and that even then, decision making was often divided on partisan lines.

I do recollect that when I was Election Commissioner, I paid an official visit to the Federal Election Commission in Washington DC. At that juncture there were just two Commissioners in the saddle, one each from the two parties. I sensed an undercurrent of tension and that even then, decision making was often divided on partisan lines.

We will need to add more foolproof systems. For example, postal ballots to the Indian Army have at present to be sent to a central post box or two, i.e., 56 APO, but before they can reach the destination where our jawans or officers are stationed, or return to be counted, the small window of the actual polling period gets over.

Accepting change

Let me conclude by saying that I have been an official observer in many countries. Wherever the final verdict has angered a section of voters, I have seen Opposition parties protest for weeks and months by sitting on *dharna*, often blocking whole avenues. Elsewhere I have heard the beating of utensils by those who are disgruntled during the election process, is precisely what we are seeing now in the U.S..

Widening postal ballots base

However, India would do well to take a leaf out of the U.S. system's book when it comes to postal balloting. In the 2016 U.S. election, almost a quarter of the votes counted arose from postal and early balloting. In India we have confined postal ballots to only a few categories, of largely government staff (for example those on election duty) as well as the police or armed forces. In these difficult times of the novel coronavirus pandemic, we need to widen this base to include all senior citizens and anyone else who may find it convenient to cast their vote early.

Navin B. Chawla is a former Chief Election Commissioner of India, the biographer of Mother Teresa, and the author of 'Every Vote Counts'

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.

The American result
Citizens of the United States as well as the rest of the world can heave a huge sigh of relief, with there being no doubts about who the 46th President of the United States will be (Page 1, November 8). These elections, with all the essential ingredients of a Hollywood suspense-thriller taking innumerable twists and turns before the end, will be remembered best as one of the most bitterly contested ever in America's history. The polls have also been historic with the ascent of the first woman/minority Vice-President of the nation.

The election results can be summarised as the direct fallout of resentment against skewed policies. For the United States whose economy as well as the health of its citizens was towards the end battered and bruised by the pandemic, the mandate has been a fitting response by the people against mismanagement by the Trump administration. It is obvious that the President-elect's campaign line, to restore the soul of America, resonated well. His pledge to be a President who seeks not to divide but to unify is sure to win the confidence of much of the U.S.

especially the marginalised. On his part, the soon to be former President should accept the election results with dignity and grace.
B. SURESH KUMAR,
Coimbatore

■ It is now for Mr. Biden to find a way to deal with the hurt and pain in his country. With almost 50 years in public life, he should be able to sort the valuable from the worthless and deal accordingly with India.
GOVARDHANA MYNEEDU,
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

■ It is noteworthy that the President-elect has promised to unite Americans, drawing

a sharp contrast to the nearly four polarising years of Donald Trump. Mr. Biden's acknowledgement too of the disappointment of Mr. Trump supporters, has been graceful. The President-elect deserves wholesome praise and the time is right for well-thought-out policies.
M.N. QASMI,
Kolkata

■ There are many lessons from the bitterly fought election – about the depths to which anyone can go to when it comes to matters of power and position. Never would have anyone imagined that the so-called 'developed' nation could end up being so

divided and that its President could be disruptive and even a source of disinformation. The President-elect needs all the skill and some luck too to

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

In the report headlined "SC relief for Arnab in privilege case" (November 7, 2020) it was wrongly stated that the contempt notice had been issued to the *Secretary, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly*. Though the SC order, says the letter, contents of which have been held to be contemptuous, originates from the office of the *Secretary, Vilas Athawale*, who is the author of the letter. The excerpt from the court order said: "We, therefore, issue notice returnable on 23.11.2020 to Mr. Vilas Athawale, Assistant Secretary, Maharashtra Vidhan Mandal Sachivalaya, to show cause why he should not be proceeded against for contempt of this Court in exercise of its powers under Article 129 of the Constitution of India."

The pointer in the Open Page (Sunday Magazine, November 8, 2020) to the online article "Language and equity" has gone with a wrong byline. It should have been *Pranava Manjari N.* and not *Swati Bishi*.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

To read more letters online, scan the QR code

turn things around.

YOGANAND T.,
Salem, Tamil Nadu



FROM PAGE ONE

Joe Biden pledges to unite America

In her address, Ms. Harris, who scripted history as she broke the glass ceiling in the world's oldest democracy to be elected as America's first Black and Indian-origin woman Vice-President, said, "You chose hope, and unity, decency, science and yes, truth".

"You chose Joe Biden as the next President of the United States," she said to applause from supporters.

"Joe's a healer," Ms Harris said. "A person whose own experience of loss gives him a sense of purpose that will help us as a nation reclaim our own sense of purpose."

Combating COVID-19
"We are not enemies. We are Americans," Mr. Biden said.

The mandate of this election, he said, is that Americans have called on them to marshal the forces of decency and the forces of fairness. "To marshal the forces of science and the forces of hope in the great battles of this time. The battle to control the virus.... The battle to build prosperity. The battle to secure your family's health care. The battle to achieve racial justice and

root out systemic racism in this country. The battle to save the climate. The battle to restore decency, defend democracy, and give everybody in this country a fair shot," he said.

"Our nation is shaped by the constant battle between our better angels and our darkest impulses. It is time for our better angels to prevail," he said.

Mr. Biden assured Americans that his first task as President-elect is to get the pandemic under control with a definite plan.

The pandemic has killed more than 2,37,000 Americans and infected over 9 million others and Mr Biden has repeatedly attacked Mr. Trump's response to the pandemic.

Team on Monday
"On Monday, I will name a group of leading scientists and experts as transition advisers to help take the Biden-Harris Covid plan and convert it into an action blueprint that will start on January 20, 2021," Mr. Biden said.

"That plan will be built on bedrock science," he added.

'Open to SC to initiate case against Jagan'

Mr. Upadhyay is the petitioner-in-person in a case seeking quick disposal of criminal cases against legislators across the country.

He has alleged that Justice Ramana's order on September 16 to try these cases expeditiously may have prompted Mr. Reddy to write the letter on October 6 and release it to the media a few days later.

Timing of the letter
Mr. Venugopal, too, in his earlier reply on November 2, had concurred that the timing of the letter was "suspect." In this context, the Attorney-General referred to

Mr. Upadhyay's statement that Mr. Reddy had 31 criminal cases against him.

In this second communication to Mr. Upadhyay on Saturday, Mr. Venugopal however said the letter could not be described as a "privately missive".

"Nowhere is the letter marked confidential," the Attorney-General wrote.

Mr. Venugopal said he had watched the video of the October 10 press conference.

Nothing "extra" was added during the event than what was said in the letter addressed to the Chief Justice.

'Corps Commander talks were candid'

Both sides agreed to maintain dialogue and communication through military and diplomatic channels, and, taking forward the discussions at this meeting, push for the settlement of other outstanding issues, to jointly maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas, the statement said.

They also agreed to have another round of meeting soon, it added.

Since the Indian Army occupied several dominating features which were lying vacant on the south bank of Pangong Tso in August, China has been pressing for discussing the south bank first and other friction areas later.

There was no change in the Indian stand that the entire eastern Ladakh had to be discussed together, a Defence official said.

Finally, great banyan tree breathes afresh

Telangana's 'modern-organic' treatment brings green shoots in centuries-old tree

ABHINAY DESHPANDE
HYDERABAD

Pillamarri, the great banyan tree of Telangana, has got a new lease of life and is now back in healthy germination thanks to the tireless efforts of the Mahabubnagar district administration, whose 'modern-organic' treatment boosted the immunity of the centuries-old giant.

By turning a new leaf in conservation, the officials demonstrated how the dramatically decaying process of the termite-infested tree could be reversed and put back on the growth path.

As a result, it has now started sprouting new leaves.

It is a phoenix-like moment for this banyan tree, District Collector S. Venkat Rao told *The Hindu*.

"Micromanagement conservation efforts of the massive banyan tree by the



New leaf: Spread over three-and-a-half acres, the 700-year-old ficus tree is one of the oldest and largest on the planet.

Forest officials had yielded great results and it is now put back on the growth trajectory," he said.

Spread over three-and-a-half acres, the 700-year-old ficus tree, one of the oldest and largest on the planet, is situated around 4 km from Mahabubnagar town. With truck-sized prop roots growing all over the

compound, the officials couldn't identify the mother root yet.

In December 2017, one of the termite-infested branches of the tree, which was neglected by officials and vandalised by tourists for decades, came crashing down. A month later, the then District Collector Ronald Rose decided to give

a new lease of life to the tree and chalked out action plans in coordination with the officials of the Forest Department.

"To contain the termite attack, we sprayed chlorpyrifos on the tree. Starting few months, we sprayed on the branches, and later realised the practise was not effective, as the solution was seeping inside the trunk, so we drilled holes into the branches and stem and injected the chlorpyrifos," District Forest Officer Chukka Ganga Reddy said.

Later, the officials started injecting chlorpyrifos through 'saline drip' and the bottles were spread all over. "As the branches were falling, green shoots were a rarity. But now we can see new leaves, which have a reddish tinge, sprouting at many places. The tree is sending a message of revival," Mr. Reddy said.

Accused in corruption case dead

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Close to a month after Keesara Tahsildar E.B. Nagaraju ended his life inside the Chanchalguda jail in Hyderabad following his arrest by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in a corruption case, another accused connected to the case, Dharma Reddy, was found dead at Kushaguda here on Sunday, triggering harassment charges by his family members.

The body of the septuagenarian was found in Vasisi Shivanager of Kushaguda. No suicide note was found. Dharma Reddy was out on bail, having spent 33 days in prison. "He appeared dejected since his return," Dharma Reddy's wife Venkamma said.

In case of any emotional breakdowns, call Roshni, a Hyderabad-based suicide intervention centre, at +914066202000

Kerala govt. issues advisory on crowding at Sabarimala

Health Department emphasises need to restrict numbers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Considering the COVID-19 pandemic situation in Kerala, the State Health Department has issued an advisory emphasising the importance of restricting the number of pilgrims and preventing crowding during the coming Sabarimala pilgrimage season, so as to prevent a potential spread.

The advisory pointed out that religious congregations and church choirs have led to major superspreading events of COVID-19 in the West and that it was imperative that people do not congregate even temporarily at Nilakkal or Pampa.

According to the government directives, the number of pilgrims will be strictly limited. Pilgrims and others accompanying them, such as drivers or cooks, are ex-



According to the directives, the number of pilgrims will be strictly limited.

pected to maintain all COVID-19 safety protocols. Maintaining physical distancing as far as possible, avoiding crowded and closed spaces, and frequent handwashing/sanitising are a must.

Pulmonary fitness
The government has also advised people who have had a

recent exposure to COVID-19 to avoid the pilgrimage. People who have recovered from COVID-19 will have to undergo a graded exercise programme and pulmonary rehabilitation, spread over weeks, to ensure physical fitness before attempting to go on the trek to Sabarimala.

As it is possible that there could be pilgrims who have had an asymptomatic infection earlier, pulmonary and cardiac fitness is desirable for all pilgrims, it has been pointed out.

All pilgrims will have to produce a COVID-19 negative certification taken 24 hours prior to reaching Sabarimala.

As the rapid antigen test is not foolproof, a negative antigen test should not be seen as an excuse not to wear masks or maintain physical distancing.

IN BRIEF



BJP alleges authority overreach by Assembly

PATHANMTHITTA
BJP Kerala unit president K. Surendran has accused the Assembly of overreaching its authority to summon Enforcement Directorate officials and questioning the probe. Mr. Surendran accused Speaker P. Sreeramakrishnan of misusing the Assembly to protect the smugglers. "The Speaker used to have a close relationship with Swapna Suresh, the key accused in the gold smuggling case... His attempt to misuse the Assembly for vested interests will help weaken democracy."

Siddaramaiah predicts leadership change in BJP

HASSAN
Leader of the Opposition and former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has reiterated that there will be a change in leadership in the State government. However, this time the change would be effected after the Bihar election results, he told presspersons during his visit to Shivamogga on Sunday.

Divya case: police to reconstruct scene

VIJAYAWADA
The Disha Mahila police, probing the death of V. Divya Tejaswini, 22, are planning to visit Bhimavaram in Andhra Pradesh's West Godavari, where she was pursuing an engineering course. The victim was found dead at her residence in Vijayawada on October 15. A youth, B. Nagendra Babu, was also found in the room with injuries. The police, who arrested Babu on November 6, are planning to visit the victim's house along with the suspect and reconstruct the scene.



Serious affair: IJML leaders after a committee meeting in Kozhikode on Sunday. ■ K. RAGESH

The Kerala unit of the Indian Union Muslim League (IJML) has defended its beleaguered MLA M.C. Kamaruddin, who was arrested in connection with the Fashion Gold Jewellery investment scam on Saturday, saying the government's move to implicate him in the case was "politically motivated".

IJML general secretary P.K. Kunhalikutty, MP, told presspersons after the party's high-powered committee meeting on Sunday that there was no reason in the demand for the resignation of the legislator from Manjeswaram in Kasaragod district.

All that Mr. Kamaruddin did was to engage in a business activity, which failed to take off. It was unfair to arrest him, Mr. Kunhalikutty pointed out.

The State government was trying to dodge the corruption allegations against it by targeting Mr. Kamaruddin. The IJML was not aware of his involvement when the party made him its candidate during the Assembly by-polls in the Manjeswaram constituency last year. The investors had been assured of repayment of their money and the party had nothing to do with it, he said.

The meeting noted that the arrest of the MLA was unfair as the probe into the complaint had not been completed as yet. Some of the provisions charged against him would not stand legal scrutiny. There were political games behind the action of the special investigation team of the Crime Branch. The MLA was asked to appear for questioning in

All-party meet



Selling promises: A shopkeeper selling caps and shawls with the symbols of different political parties in Kerala's Palakkad district on Sunday. Local body elections in the State will be held in three phases on December 8, 10 and 14. ■ K.K. MUSTAFAH

three each, Thiruvananthapuram two, while Wayanad, Ernakulam and Kollam reported one death each.

Ernakulam reported 644 cases, Thrissur 641, Kozhikode 575, Malappuram 540, Kollam 488, Alappuzha 479, Thiruvananthapuram 421, Kottayam 406, Kannur 344, Palakkad 306, Idukki 179, Kasaragod 159, Pathanamthitta 153 and Wayanad 105 cases.

Andhra Pradesh reported 2,237 new infections on Sunday. During the review period, 12 deaths were reported. The overall positivity rate of 86.56 lakh samples tested so far came down to 9.74% and that of 76,663 samples tested in a day was 2.92%.

The positivity rate of the three each, Thiruvananthapuram two, while Wayanad, Ernakulam and Kollam reported one death each.

Krishna district witnessed three deaths, and Chittoor and Visakhapatnam two deaths each. East Godavari, Guntur, Nellore, Srikrishna

and West Godavari reported one death each.

Covid-19 cases in Telangana crossed 2.5 lakh on Saturday with 1,440 more people testing positive. Health Department officials cau-

tioned that a Dasara surge was possible.

At a meeting of Health, Panchayat Raj and Women and Child Welfare Departments on October 27, officials called for more testing.

Of 42,673 people tested on Saturday, 1,440 were found to be positive, including 278 from Greater Hyderabad.

With 2,334 new cases across Tamil Nadu, the number of persons currently under treatment for COVID-19 was 18,894 on Sunday. So far, 7,43,822 persons have tested positive for the infection. As many as 2,386 persons recovered, taking the number to 7,13,584.

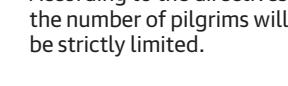
(With inputs from Vijayawada, Hyderabad and Chennai bureaus)

recent exposure to COVID-19 to avoid the pilgrimage. People who have recovered from COVID-19 will have to undergo a graded exercise programme and pulmonary rehabilitation, spread over weeks, to ensure physical fitness before attempting to go on the trek to Sabarimala.

As it is possible that there could be pilgrims who have had an asymptomatic infection earlier, pulmonary and cardiac fitness is desirable for all pilgrims, it has been pointed out.

All pilgrims will have to produce a COVID-19 negative certification taken 24 hours prior to reaching Sabarimala.

As the rapid antigen test is not foolproof, a negative antigen test should not be seen as an excuse not to wear masks or maintain physical distancing.



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Indo-U.S. ties will progress, says BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Congratulating U.S. President-elect Joe Biden on his poll victory, BJP leaders on Sunday said Indo-U.S. relations are based on principles of democracy and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mr. Biden will take the ties to the next level.

BJP leader Ram Madhav said, "The U.S. and India stand on a strong bipartisan bilateral relationship based on principles of democracy, mutual benefits and global peace. I am sure under the new leadership of Biden-Harris, U.S.-India ties will continue to progress as strongly as they have been."

Mr. Madhav said the election of Kamala Harris to the post of U.S. Vice-President is an indication of the vibrancy of the American democracy.

BJP spokesperson Ravinder Chandrasekhar said the partnership between the two countries is the future of democracy in the global political order.

Biden may relax curbs on H-1B, job-based visas

Over 5 lakh Indians likely to get citizenship, says document

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON

U.S. President-elect Joe Biden will work towards providing a road map to American citizenship for nearly 11 million undocumented immigrants, including over 5,00,000 from India, and will also establish a minimum admission number of 95,000 refugees annually.

He also plans to increase the number of high-skilled visas, including the H-1B, and eliminate the limit on employment-based visas by country.

Mr. Biden is expected to reverse the move of the outgoing Trump administration to revoke work permits to the spouses of H-1B visas, which had adversely impacted a large number of Indian families in the U.S.

As a largely immigrant community, but in some cases with American roots reaching back generations, Indian-Americans know first-hand the strength and



Joe Biden

resilience that immigrants bring to the U.S., said a policy document issued by the Biden campaign.

"He [Biden] will immediately begin working with Congress to pass legislative immigration reform that modernises our system, with a priority on keeping families together by providing a roadmap to citizenship for nearly 11 million undocumented immigrants – including more than 500,000 from India," it said.

The Biden administration will support family-based

immigration and preserve family unification as a core principle of the U.S. immigration system, which includes reducing the family visa backlog, it said. Mr. Biden will also restore and defend the naturalisation process for green card holders, the document added.

"He [Biden] will increase the number of visas offered for permanent, work-based immigration based on macroeconomic conditions and exempt from any cap recent graduates of Ph.D. programmes in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields," it said.

"He will support first reforming the temporary visa system for high-skill, specialty jobs to protect wages and workers, then expanding the number of visas offered and eliminating the limits on employment-based green cards by country, which have kept so many Indian families in waiting for too long," the document stated.

Victory for Indian-Americans: Sonia

Biden, Kamala win will help heal the division among people, says Congress chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Sunday congratulated United States President-elect Joe Biden and Vice-President-elect Kamala Harris.

In separate letters to them, Ms. Gandhi said their election would work to heal the division among the people, and hoped for a close partnership between the U.S. and India.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi took to Twitter to congratulate Mr. Biden and Ms. Harris, and expressed confidence that Mr. Biden "will unite America and provide it with a strong sense of direction".

In another tweet, Mr. Gandhi said, "Congratulations, Vice-President-elect @KamalaHarris! It makes us proud that the first woman to serve as Vice-President of the U.S. traces her roots to India".

Hailing Ms. Harris's election as a victory for the African-American and Indian-American communities as well as the values enshrined

It is a triumph for Black-Americans and Indian-Americans, and for the humanity, compassion and inclusiveness that you [Kamala Harris] have stood for throughout your public and political life
**SONIA GANDHI,
CONGRESS CHIEF**



in the American Constitution, Ms. Gandhi said India was waiting to warmly welcome the Vice-President-elect as "a beloved daughter of India".

In her letter to Mr. Biden, the Congress president said Indians, like millions around world, had followed with great interest the course of the U.S. presidential election during the last 12 months.

"We were greatly reassured by your measured speeches, stress on healing divisions among the people, and promotion of gender and racial equality, global cooperation and sustainable development of all countries. The Indian people share these concerns and we

are confident that India and the United States will continue to work together, as in the past decades, for the welfare of the people of both countries," she said.

'Strong bonds'
The Congress leader said India and U.S. shared strong bonds in the areas of trade and business, education, technology and defence cooperation.

"Under your wise and mature leadership we look forward to a close partnership that will be beneficial to peace and development in our region and around the world," she said.

She told Ms. Harris: "Your victory is a victory for the

noble values enshrined in the American Constitution – democracy, social justice, and racial and gender equality".

"It is a triumph for Black-Americans and Indian-Americans, and for the humanity, compassion and inclusiveness that you have stood for throughout your public and political life. I admire the unwavering courage with which you have fought for your convictions – the beliefs and values you imbued from your remarkable mother!" Ms. Gandhi said.

Hoping that Ms. Harris would work towards uniting a bitterly divided nation, strengthen the ties of friendship with India and support democratic values and human rights, the Congress chief said the party was looking forward to welcoming her soon.

"We hope we will have the opportunity soon to welcome you to India, where you will be warmly hailed not just as a much-admired leader of a great democracy, but also as a beloved daughter," she said.

Kamala Harris is made for great things, says aunt

U.S. V-P-elect inspired by her mother, says Sarala Gopalan

STAFF REPORTER
CHENNAI

"We were glued to television, and the whole family was ecstatic when the news broke," said Sarala Gopalan, when asked how the family reacted when her niece was announced as the U.S. Vice-President-elect on Saturday.

In her nomination acceptance speech earlier this year, Kamala Harris had mentioned her *chithis*, or aunts, in particular.

Dr. Gopalan is the younger sister of Ms. Harris's mother, Shyamala Gopalan, and lives in Chennai, where the Senator from California had visited her grandfather P.V. Gopalan and others of the family quite a few times. "She last came with her sister Maya soon after their mother passed away [in 2009]. It was my sister's wish that her ashes be immersed in Chennai, and they made a trip for that," Dr. Gopalan said.

"We are overjoyed that she has scripted history," she said, referring to the fact



Kamala Harris (right) with her mother Shyamala Gopalan (left) and aunt Sarala Gopalan in 2005. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

that Ms. Harris is the first woman and Indian American Vice-President-elect.

Stating that Ms. Harris had always been capable in whatever she set out to do, Dr. Gopalan said the whole family had always been confident about her going on to achieve great things.

"Kamala has largely been inspired by her mother. My sister always had it in her, that she should go on to achieve big things, and this is what I feel Kamala too has taken after," she said.

Ms. Harris has spoken often about the bond she shared with her grandfather.

Dr. Gopalan headed the Department of Gynaecology at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education (Chandigarh) and worked with the Voluntary Health Services hospital in Chennai.

"If we're a family of strong women, the credit goes to my father. In the

1950s, when my sister Shyamala secured a scholarship to study in the U.S., he immediately encouraged her and asked her to go. Other families would have been hesitant in those times to send an 18-year-old girl alone to study abroad," Dr. Gopalan recalled.

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Kamala will speak out on rights, says uncle

He says U.S. Vice-President-elect could express her view on the present situation in Kashmir as well

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Kamala Harris will speak out on issues that are important to her, says the maternal uncle of the U.S. Vice-President-elect.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, G. Balachandran, policy commentator and technology expert, said here on Sunday that Ms. Harris was raised by her mother, Shyamala Gopalan Harris, who participated in the civil rights movement in the U.S. in the 1960s, and she may choose to speak out on human rights-related issues in India.

"She will speak out if she is moved by something. You may not want her to say that but she will say, 'I am sorry but I will have to say this,'" Mr. Balachandran said.

He said Ms. Harris would not keep quiet if she disagreed with something happening in India. Ms. Harris,



Proud moment: Kamala Harris's uncle G. Balachandran, left, celebrating her win with sweets in New Delhi on Sunday. ■ AP

he said, drew from the rich legacy of civil rights championed by her mother, a biomedical scientist, who left a strong impression on her.

"Shyamala contributed immensely to the legacy of human rights in the U.S. Her maintenance on that front is

much greater than that of Kamala's," said Mr. Balachandran, who worked as a consultant at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses. He maintained that the election result had sent a message of hope to the world.

The Biden-Harris campaign had maintained that India should restore civil and political rights in Kashmir, and Ms. Harris had indicated her disapproval after the August 5 decision last year on ending the special status of Jammu and Kashmir. When asked about the issue, Ms. Harris had said, "We are all watching."

Mr. Balachandran felt his niece could speak on the present situation in Kashmir as well.

"Do not think that just because India has done something ... she will keep quiet on that. She has spoken on issues like Kashmir earlier," he said.

'Global issues'
Speaking out on issues of global relevance will be the hallmark of the Biden-Harris administration as the election mandate is for bringing

the U.S. into the global mainstream, as opposed to the policy of President Donald Trump, who had withdrawn the country from many of the international and multilateral obligations.

"The result is inspiring a lot of people all over the world because it indicates that the U.S. will return to the global mainstream, which is a good thing," said Mr. Balachandran, who said the entire Indian part of Ms. Harris's family is planning to attend the swearing-in on January 20.

"I attended the swearing-in ceremony when she became a Senator and I will be in Washington DC this time as well. All of us will be there when she takes the oath of office," Mr. Balachandran said.

He is the brother of the Chennai-born Shyamala, who passed away in 2009.

Five Bidens living in Mumbai?

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

When U.S. President-elect Joe Biden was in Mumbai in 2013, he told an audience that his distant relatives live in the city.

Mr. Biden reiterated his claim two years later at an event in Washington, saying there are five Bidens living in Mumbai.

Decades after he received a letter from someone with the last name of 'Biden' from Mumbai, soon after becoming a Senator, he learned that his "great, great, great, great, great grandfather" was a captain in the East India Trading company and after retirement, decided to settle in India and married an Indian woman.

"There are five Bidens in Mumbai, India," Mr. Biden, then Vice-President, had told a Washington audience in 2015 at an event organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry and Carnegie Endowment for International Peace on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of India-U.S. civil nuclear deal. He said he was yet to contact his Mumbai kin. However, so far, nobody in Mumbai has turned up to claim that he is Mr. Biden's relative.

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J&K police rectify tenant verification form

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

The J&K police on Sunday decided to "rectify format of tenant verification" in Jammu after local Muslims raised an alarm over details of the Global Positioning System location, pictures of houses and details and the mobile numbers of every family member of the house owners sought.

"The format of the verification of tenants has been taken note of. It is asking more than what is required. The Senior SP has been asked to rectify it. It is meant only for verification," IGP Mukesh Singh said.

The verification forms were distributed in the past two days in Muslim-majority areas of Gujjar Nagar, Sunjan and Bathinda.

"The forms have induced anxiety among the locals. The form is seeking details which are unheard of. It seeks pictures of the owner of a house, family members and age. It also seeks information on how old the construction is and the place of migration," prominent advocate Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed said.

He said the form seeks even details of vehicles owned and their numbers.

Bihar counting in 55 centres

Strong rooms under three-tier security system guarded by CAPF and police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA

The Election Commission has made elaborate arrangements for Tuesday's counting of votes of the Bihar Assembly election.

The commission said it had set up 55 counting centres with 414 halls spread across all 38 districts that voted in three phases on October 28, November 3 and November 7.

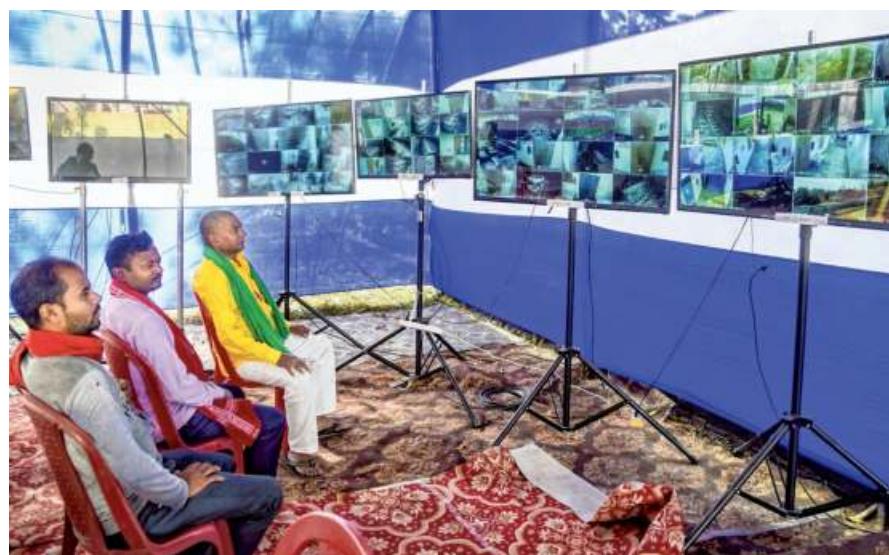
East Champaran (12 Assembly constituencies), Gaya (10), Siwan (eight) and Begusarai (seven) districts have three counting centres each. The rest of the districts have either one or two.

With the novel coronavirus is raging in the State, steps have been taken to ensure that COVID-19 guidelines are strictly followed during the counting. Masks will be mandatory for entering the counting centres, which will stock hand sanitiser in adequate quantity.

In the State capital Patna, votes cast in all the 14 constituencies will be counted in just one centre at A.N. College.

State Chief Electoral Officer H.R. Srinivasa said the Election Commission had established a three-tier security system for strong rooms (housing the electronic voting machines) and the counting centres.

The CEO said the commission would strictly deal with



Live tracking: Workers of the Grand Alliance parties monitoring the live video feed of the strong room, where the EVMs are kept, at A.N. College in Patna on Sunday. ■ PTI

guarded by the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), then there is the Bihar Military Police (BMP) and then the district police, he told presspersons.

19 CAPF companies

"We have deployed 19 companies of the CAPF just for the security of the strong rooms and counting centres.

Besides, we have 59 CAPF companies to ensure law and order during and after the counting process," he said. One CAPF company comprises around 100 personnel.

The CEO said the commission would strictly deal with

"anti-social" elements who indulged in "hooliganism".

Additional Director-General of Police (Headquarters) Jitendra Kumar said CCTV cameras had been installed in the control rooms.

After the counting starts at 8 a.m., the postal ballots will be opened first followed by EVM votes.

In Bhagalpur district, which has two counting centres, preparations are being made for the results for seven Assembly seats. Display screens are being set up and two tents being erected at each counting centre for presspersons and security personnel. Arrangements

are being made to put seven tables in all 14 halls.

In Bhojpur district, the votes for all the seven constituencies will be counted at one centre set up at Bazar Samiti Godown, Arrah.

Prohibitory orders

Prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) have been imposed in and around the counting centres to prevent gathering of people.

A majority exit polls suggest that the Tejaswi Yadav-led Grand Alliance have an edge over the National Democratic Alliance in the election.

Not taking chances, Congress deputes two leaders to Patna

RJD tells party workers to accept results with restraint

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

A day after exit polls predicted the Rashtriya Janata Dal-led Grand Alliance to be ahead of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the Bihar Assembly election, the Congress on Sunday sent two senior leaders to Patna to "prevent any attempt at poaching".

Party president Sonia Gandhi stationed general secretary Randeep Surjewala and senior leader Avinash Pande in Patna to oversee the counting-day developments on Tuesday and coordinate with the candidates.

Sources said the move was to avoid a repeat of Manipur and Goa Assembly elections in 2017 in which Congress MLAs switched sides soon after results and "helped" the BJP form governments in these States despite the Congress emerging as the single largest party in the elections.

The Congress move is indicative of the Opposition's expectation of a close contest. A source said the Congress's plan was to summon the winning candidates from their respective constituencies soon after the results and put them in a Patna hotel.



Randeep Surjewala

Twitter handle.

"Irrespective of the outcome, your politics should be defined by public welfare and their uplift," another tweet from the party said.

Chidambaram tweets

The exit polls also prompted former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram to tweet that people of Bihar will send a clear message to Prime Minister Narendra Modi that issues like jobs, inflation, healthcare are important electoral issues.

"I believe the people of Bihar will send a clear message that they are more concerned with jobs, food, healthcare, inflation, fair prices for farmers, infrastructure and industrial development. Will the PM hear their voices," Mr. Chidambaram asked.

"Mr. Modi believes that he can win every election on Hindutva, Ram temple, Pulwama, repeal of Article 370, CAA, and branding every Opposition party and Opposition leader as anti-national," he added.

Comparing India's political discourse with that of the U.S., he said every Indian Prime Minister should speak the way U.S. President-elect Joe Biden spoke in his victory acceptance speech.

Experts want more U.S. action on climate

Biden promised return to Paris Treaty

JACOB KOSHY

NEW DELHI
United States President-elect, Joseph Biden has committed to getting his country back into the 2015 Paris Climate Change Treaty, which commits countries to prevent a 2 degrees Celsius rise in global temperature by the end of the century.

However, experts in India say the U.S. ought to be doing more. The U.S. formally left the Treaty on November 2 after a four-year withdrawal period.

Emissions targets

Several developed countries and regions including the United Kingdom, Japan, and the EU have committed to achieve 'net zero emissions' by 2050. China, too, has committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2060 with a greenhouse gas levels peaking by 2030.

The U.S. – the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases – is exceptional in not committing to a deadline.

"It's clear that Biden won in part because of climate voters. He got significant donations from the climate community and young people turned out in unprecedented numbers to vote for him. He has a strong mandate to govern on this issue, and given how much the

Note ban curbed black money: PM

Rahul blames it for 'destroying' economy, allowing Bangladesh to 'surpass' India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

On the fourth anniversary of demonetisation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the move helped in reducing black money, increase tax compliance and formalisation of the economy. Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi blamed it for "destroying" India's economy that allowed even Bangladesh to "surpass" India.

"Demonetisation has helped reduce black money, increase tax compliance and formalisation and given a boost to transparency. These outcomes have been greatly beneficial towards national progress," Mr. Modi tweeted with the hashtag #DeMolishingCorruption.

On his Twitter handle, the Prime Minister also shared graphics on how demonetisation has ensured better tax compliance, improved tax and GDP ratio, made India a lesser cash-based economy and gave a boost to national security by tackling counterfeit notes and cutting the source of terror financing.

On November 8, 2016, Mr. Modi had announced his government's decision to ban all currency notes of ₹500 and ₹1,000 from midnight.

But the Congress observed the day as *Vishwagatha Diwas* (Betrayal Day) and launched the party's online campaign "SpeakUpA-



In protest: NSUI activists at a protest march against demonetisation, in New Delhi on Sunday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

against DeMoDisaster".

In a video, released as part of this campaign, Mr. Gandhi held demonetisation responsible for Bangladesh doing better than India in terms of economic growth and alleged that the move "destroyed" India's economy and only helped Mr. Modi's "crony capitalist friends".

Talking on Bangladesh "surpassing" India, Mr. Gandhi said, "The government says the reason is COVID but if that is the reason, there is COVID in Bangladesh and elsewhere in the world also. The reason is not COVID, the reason is Notebandi [demonetisation] and GST."

"Pradhan Mantri ji said it was a fight against black money. This was a lie. The attack was on you, Narendra Modi wanted to snatch your money and give it to his two

or three crony capitalist friends. You stood in lines, not his crony capitalist friends. You put your money in banks and PM Modi gave that money to his friends and gave them a loan waiver of ₹3,50,000 crore," he alleged.

Assault on economy

"Four years ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi began an assault on the Indian economy. He hurt farmers, labourers and small shopkeepers. Manmohan Singhji said the economy will lose 2% and that is what we saw," the former Congress chief said.

The Congress leader claimed that the Modi government's "faulty" goods and services tax destroyed small, middle-sized businesses and "cleared the way for his three or four crony capitalist friends", and now the government was target-

ing to "finish off" the farmers with the new farms bills.

"Narendra Modi destroyed the pride of India – our economy. Now, we have to get together to rebuild it," the Congress leader said.

At a separate press conference, Congress general secretary Ajay Maken accused the government of changing its narrative to explain the rationale of demonetisation – from countering black money and corruption, to stemming "counterfeit," to making India a "digital or cashless" economy, to bringing back idle savings into banks. Asserting that 99.3% of the demonetised currency came back to the system, Mr. Maken alleged, "As far as corruption is concerned, we have seen a surge in the use of immense money power in poaching MLAs and destabilising non-BJP led State governments."

Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, as part of the campaign, said, "The first lesson every ruler and every government must learn is that – even if you do not do good to the people, do not do harm. The BJP-led NDA government did great harm to India's economy on November 8th, 2016."

Senior Congress leaders including Mallikarjun Kharge, Shashi Tharoor and Salman Khurshid also targeted the government as part of the party's online campaign.

Stones thrown at Assam Cong. team near border

BSF to replace Mizoram police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Miscreants from across the Assam-Mizoram border allegedly used slingshots to attack an Assam Congress team with stones and marbles when it visited a flashpoint on Sunday.

The governments and people of the two north-eastern States have been caught in a border row for a month with a brief lull in hostilities in between. The two States share a 146.6 km border.

The Congress delegation said the Mizoram police had erected barricades near a bridge about 3 km inside Assam and used aggressive locals to prevent the members from advancing further.

"We had intimated the Assam government in writing about our visit but the Mizoram police prevented us from reaching the trouble spots. They pelted stones at us with slingshots and shouted slogans," he said, adding that Mizoram occupied large swathes of Assam's land while the Bharatiya Janata Party-led State government turned a blind eye.

In Mizoram's capital, Aizawl, Chief Secretary Lalnunmawia Chuaungo said three companies of the Border Security Force would soon replace the Mizoram police at three flashpoints and trucks stranded in the State would be released as soon as Assam calls off the economic blockade.



Mahila Congress president Sushmita Dev, who visited the spot. ■ FILE PHOTO

holding talks with leaders of both States.

Assam's Opposition leader Debabrata Saikia, who accompanied Ms. Dev, said the "aggression" by people of Mizoram was within Assam. "Mizo villagers joined their State police in preventing us from advancing. They pelted stones at us with slingshots and shouted slogans," he said, adding that Mizoram occupied large swathes of Assam's land while the Bharatiya Janata Party-led State government turned a blind eye.

Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, as part of the campaign, said, "The first lesson every ruler and every government must learn is that – even if you do not do good to the people, do not do harm. The BJP-led NDA government did great harm to India's economy on November 8th, 2016."

He criticised Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for failing to resolve the border problem despite Union Home Minister Amit Shah

When Defence College faced fire in early days

'In 1962, Krishna Menon was furious that the college was suggesting there could be a war with China'

DINAKAR PERI

NEW DELHI
Just two years after being set up in 1960, the National Defence College (NDC) was almost shut down in 1962 after the then Defence Minister, V.K. Krishna Menon, got furious when participants suggested during a discussion at the institute that there could be a war with China.

It was another visit later in 1963 by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru which ensured that the institute continued, said Air Marshal D. Choudhury, Commandant of the National Defence College (NDC) recalling the early days.

The institute is now much sought after across the world and is set to increase its intake from 100 to 120 course members by 2022 with most



Key milestones: The National Defence College in New Delhi celebrates its 60th anniversary this year. ■ FILE PHOTO

new slots going to friendly foreign countries, Air Marshal Choudhury said in an interview to *The Hindu* as the premier institute celebrates its 60th anniversary.

"In 1962, then Defence Minister V.K. Krishna Menon vi-

which was not in sync with what was happening in the world apparently," Air Marshal Choudhury said. Later, India and China fought a short but brutal war.

In 1963, there was actually no course for six months, he said, till Lt. Gen. Bahadur Singh, the commanding officer met Mr. Nehru somewhere and requested him to come and visit the institute.

Nehru visited NDC along with the Defence Minister and during the course of the visit, it was mentioned to him that NDC had actually predicted the war and it had put up the whole thing to the government, which turned out to be a fact later, Air Marshal Choudhury said.

"That's when apparently

the PM made a comment to the Defence Minister that is why the NDC must continue. That is how we had a second lease of life," he said.

Last week the institute celebrated its diamond jubilee virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and has conducted most of the course this year virtually.

A series of changes have been undertaken recently to qualitatively improve the syllabus. To have institutional continuity, Air Marshal Choudhury said the President of India is going to announce a Chair of Excellence on November 11 which will allow them to get one member who will become a sort of resident mentor and ensure continuity in the syllabus.

Arnab, two others shifted to Taloja jail

Jail officials cited security reasons

RAJNA ASSAINAR
NAVI MUMBAI

Republic TV managing director and editor-in-chief, Arnab Goswami, along with two co-accused in the case of abetting suicide, has been shifted to Taloja Central Jail in Navi Mumbai.

Mr. Goswami was arrested on November 4 and has been in judicial custody since then. He was lodged in the Alibag jail-quarantine centre, which is a school

Meant to be TOGETHER

Today, on World Adoption Day, we trace the journey of an adoptee parent and how emotional health is vital for strong relationships

GOWRI S

When Bengaluru-based theatre practitioner Sujatha Balakrishnan and her daughter brought their new family member home, everyone seemed happy. But, for the wrong reasons. They would say, 'Oh! The child is so blessed to have found such a home.' Every time, Sujatha would correct them: 'No, we are blessed.' Even today, a family's decision to adopt is viewed and lauded as altruistic. But, it is as much a gain for the adoptee family as it is for the adopted child.

"Adoption is always seen as a substitute or an alternative. It is also believed that only the biological mother can take care of a child, which is untrue. Love can be showered by anybody," says Sujatha who is ecstatic about the arrival of her grandchild.

Sujatha's Bengaluru-based Theatre for Change (TFC) will bring this aspect to light through an online series of intimate and informal conversations. She plans to have participants from across the globe.

The first segment will have first-person accounts and narratives of adoptee parents, both single and otherwise, grandparents and siblings. They will talk about how a family is defined not just by blood connection." The second segment, directed mainly at children in a bid to sensitise them to adoption, will be a read-aloud event featuring stories by authors across the globe.

Among the participants will be Naina Ballachand, a chartered accountant of Indian origin from Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA, whose 20-year-old adopted daughter joined their family at the age of 10. Here, Naina takes us through her personal journey of



being an adoptee parent.

What prompted you to adopt?

● There really was no catalyst for me to adopt. I enjoy the company of children. So when I got married, I thought [of having] four children... two biological and two adopted. My husband had no objection. I did not hit my plan of two and two. I ended up with one of each. It's just who I am I guess.

What are the stereotypes associated with adoption that you encountered?

● Most people told me that they would like to adopt as well, usually followed by a "but" – either they didn't have the money or the time or their spouse didn't want to. Obviously, they all thought that life had to be perfect to adopt a child. I always wanted to laugh. If only those with perfect lives adopted, no abandoned child would find a family. A child does not need a perfect family, just a family that loves them.

What were the initial reactions within your immediate family when you discussed your decision to adopt?

● I grew up in an educated and fair-

ly progressive family. My parents suggested that I wait to adopt after I have a biological child; they could just see everybody in the community talking about me – how I couldn't have a child so I had to adopt. They were concerned that I wouldn't have the same feelings for the adopted child. Once they realised I was going to do it, my mother was supportive. My father was neutral. I didn't even tell my in-laws until I actually had my daughter with me.

Did those reactions change after your child joined the family?

● My parents came to visit me in the US two months after I brought my daughter home. My nephew was at our home as well. The grandparents hung on to every word uttered by their two grandsons, completely ignoring my daughter. She brought it to my attention. She thought I had not noticed. I don't think it was intention-

al... it was just not thoughtful. Anyway, to get their attention I had her bake cakes with me which we served with tea, every evening. She was happy when they complimented her baking. Since they never lived with us, they have never been close to her and will never be. Reality.

Do you feel that the emotional relationships that an adopted child has (especially if some family members are not accepting), could get complicated?

● The ones I thought would be completely accepting took longer to get adjusted. The ones I thought would have a hard time, like my son, were completely accepting. For over a year after she came home, my daughter was my shadow. I had a hard time with that. I am sure she had a hard time in school more because she struggled with English. Many families [in the US] have complex units. She never faced is-

One's own (Left) Naina along with nephew Armaan, daughter Jyoti and son Tanek, (below) Sujatha ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT, GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCK

sues in school for being adopted.

How did you tackle complicated situations?

● When my daughter came home, she was 10. Understandably, she had formed a bond with her foster family in India. I did not limit her continued contact with them. However, it started becoming clear to me that my daughter saw me as someone who took her away from the family that loved her. She would cry at every call with her foster mother and she was not able to integrate with our family. I had to make a tough call.

I asked her to make a decision of whether she wanted to stay with us or go back to her foster family. She cried all day without giving me an answer and finally that evening we called the foster mother. It was a shock for my daughter to realise that her foster family would not adopt her if she went back to India and she would end up back in the orphanage. It was hard reality for my child but it was also the defining moment for her to let go of her old life and begin accepting her new life. She still feels traumatised when she thinks about that night.

Are there situations when parents need to provide an adopted child with extra care?

● It is no different from a biological child. Each child is different and you have to give them the care and guidance that they need individually. Of course, how you do it as a parent is coloured by the parent's personality and experiences. Children adopted or biological do not come with an instruction manual; as a parent you learn and make mistakes and do the best you can.

What will your dialogue during the Theatre for Change event focus on?

● I believe everyone who comes into your life has a reason and purpose. My adopted child was meant to be with us and the little signs that made it obvious, is the focus of my dialogue for the Theatre for Change event.

The digital compilation of the events can be viewed on TFC's YouTube channel.

WELLNESS ON THE SHELF

Healthy eats

Nourish Organics offers four gift hampers for Deepavali with a range of multi-grain breakfast cereals, cookies, snacks, seed, nuts, fruit, and fibre-rich bars. The company says the products are free of processed sugar, preservatives, GM foods, trans-fats or artificial flavours. At nourishorganics.in, ₹1,120 to ₹1,655.



For a natural glow

Nourish Mantra has recently added three new variants of clay masks to their product line. It claims that the masks are natural and free from parabens, sulphates, and mineral oils. While the Holy Basil and Neem Vardaan Mud Mask claims to help control acne, sebum production, blemishes and open pores; the Exotic Black Turmeric Mud Mask says it helps with wrinkles, fine lines, and tightening of the skin. The Orange and Saffron Ananda Glow Mask is designed to address acne, dullness, pigmentation and dark spots. At nourishmantra.in, ₹1,695 to ₹1,895.

Festive treats

The Earth Collective has launched a gift box called The Nourishment Collective for this festive season, to strengthen the hair. The box has a scalp tonic, hair cleanser, conditioner, hair mask and an overnight hair illuminator. At theearthcollective.in, ₹3,550.

HYPE OR HAPPENING?

Soap brows



DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

follicles don't get enough nourishment and they thin out and fall."

She adds it's advisable to use either a clear, non-fragranced, pH balanced syndet (a portmanteau of 'synthetic detergent') bar soap (with synthetic surfactants, and sulphate-free), or a glycerin-based soap. "They do not irritate the skin and follicles nor do they oxidise upon air exposure." Both products are beneficial to the skin and hairs, she states. Glycerin comprises glycerol, an odourless fatty component derived from soybean, coconut or palm oils.

Pomades or powders which have added tints (which come from the same core ingredient) make the hair darker and thicker whereas glycerin soap itself makes the hairs more prominent in a natural way – it depends upon what look you're aiming for, says Dr Anand.

Big names such as Benefit and West Barn Co have adapted soap brow products into their range, but Dr Anand insists consumers read the ingredients carefully before making a purchase and using them. "If you have skin that's oily, sensitive or acne-prone, be cautious and ensure the product is non-comedogenic (that does not clog pores) in nature. If you have dry and dehydrated skin, the skin is not able to repair itself, so it's sensitive to anything with colour and fragrance. Look for products that are 'hypo-allergic' and 'fragrance-free'."

In this column, we decode health trends, and decide if it's all just 'hype' or actually 'happening'

With festival season on, experts offer tips to guard against fake and adulterated products that are seeing a surge

The food fraud

SOMA BASU

The COVID-19 pandemic has squeezed supplies and increased the demand on e-commerce as people are wary of going out to stores for purchases. This means you need to be more vigilant while buying packaged items now.

Six months ago, 30,000 kilograms of fake cumin powder made from stone powder and broom bits was seized. A month ago, 300 kilograms of

khoa was seized as it made its way from Delhi to Bhopal to Mumbai. The fake khoa is made from milk that contains melamine, a nitrogen-rich organic derivative that increases the volume and the protein count falsely in dairy products.

Other common adulterants in food items include high doses of sulphur dioxide used as a preservative agent in sugar, washing soda and chalk

powder in jaggery, brick and saw dust in chilli powder, and soap stone powder in asafoetida.

Nakul Pasricha, president of ASPA (Authentication Solution Provider's Association), quotes from the *State of Counterfeiting in India 2020* report that reveals a whopping 24% increase in counterfeiting incidents in the country since 2018. "The burden of discerning the authenticity of pro-

ducts has fallen on the customer," he says.

Suresh Sati, the founder-director of Fake Free India Foundation, agrees. "Counterfeits have exploited the pandemic this year as an opportunity to further push a parallel illicit economy." There are inspection challenges because of online shopping, where it is even more difficult to track the offenders.



Check the packaging

Examine the packaging carefully because product labelling reveals many secrets. There are subtle differences in the logo, size, and colours used, or minor spelling errors. Many brands use anti-counterfeiting solutions such as special packaging layers and features, security holograms, SMS verification, QR code, or a scratch code. Look for the FSSAI mark that grants a license to authentic manufacturers and products. Check the nutrition label carefully. Fake items usually have some discrepancy in listing the ingredients with either something extra or missing. Check manufacturing and expiry date. If the date is damaged or not clearly visible, then that is likely recycled packaging with fake contents.

Shop safe online

While making an online purchase, beware of illegitimate websites. Spam mails often redirect you to fake sites, says Pasricha. He advocates shopping only with authorised vendors, who have lock icons as their security certificate. Better still, purchase from the brand's own website.



Be alert to the contents

Note inconsistency in the texture, smell, and colour of the product, says Pasricha. Chemical dyes such as copper sulphate, malachite green, oxytetracycline, saccharin wax are commonly injected in vegetables that make them shiny. If a food item has an unnatural glow and looks glossy (like wax coated apples or a packet of frozen shiny peas), you should probably avoid it.

Stay proactive

Always demand a proper bill for the product purchased. It helps to be suspicious of deals that sound too good to be true, says Pasricha. Download the Smart Consumer App launched by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and FSSAI to get accurate information about packaged food items.

You can lodge a complaint with...

- The police station of the jurisdiction where you find the adulterated product.
- The Health Inspector or senior officials of the Public Health Department at the district/State level or health officials of Corporations, municipalities and urban local bodies.
- The District Commissioner.
- The district or State consumer forum such as the Tamil Nadu State Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission, Chennai, which also gives online links for district forums to lodge local complaints.
- FSSAI through the online platform Food Safety Voice or call on dedicated 24x7 toll free helpline number 1800112100.
- The last resort is to file a case in consumer court.

HAPPENING

Goodbye stencilled eyebrows; the supermodel brow is back in all its textured fluffiness. The soap brow trend is a proponent for this movement, being a "make-up hack more than a skincare hack," as Bengaluru-based dermatologist Dr Chitra V Anand describes it.

This look entails the brushing of glycerin-based solid soap through the brows using a spooly brush, to enhance the hair follicles of the brows by darkening them and give each a layer of thickness.

Across South and West Asia, the brow industry is one of the biggest beauty subcultures in the world, given the aspirational look of brows' fullness.

Though the digital influencer space saw the trend swell in 2018, it has maintained its place in the beauty hack space. However, Dr Anand points out that the trend is actually much older, dating back to movie sets of the 1980s when makeup artists needed a brow product that would keep the brow hairs in place for a whole day and night. Then the plucking and threading frenzy of the '90s came about.

Not all soap bars can be used for this make-up hack, says the founder of Kosmoderma Clinics. "If you use soap in your bathroom with a lot of fragrance and colour, this leads to irritant contact dermatitis or eczema which means dryness, redness, and flaking in your skin, and even a breakout due to clogged pores (if it has heavy moisturisers). Then the hair



How two gay rights movements put together the aspirations of the LGBTQIA community in the form of an open-access story

MEGHNA MAJUMDAR

Here is what could have been.

In September, a group of queer Muslims from around the world sat together (virtually) to daydream about the future.

The dreams were surprising. Throughout the three-day workshop, organised by the Delhi-based Queer Muslim Project and Bengaluru-based Fearless Collective, members of the community spoke of a would-be world where not only are contentious conversations civil, books unburnt and lynchings nonexistent, but also one where messages are written in stars, rose petals are used as currency and political borders hold minimal significance.

"Home is defined by our relationships, not defined by territories we own. And we are all safe with shelter – these can most definitely coincide." This quote is an anonym-

ous one, from the pages of *Queer Muslim Futures*, a publication that collates all that was said and felt at the workshop.

The pages are filled with similar lines, hinting at aspirations of physical safety, emotional freedom, so-

cial comfort, even outright fantasy and utopia.

Cultural archive

Published non-commercially by The Queer Muslim Project, it is available for free download through a Google Drive, for anyone who wants something to relate to.

It is not as much a book as it is a compilation of thought bubbles, character sketches, honestly imperfect poems complete with lines that yell in capital letters, and fantasy lands etched out in fantasy-esque illustrations.

As Maniza Khalid, who compiled and wrote it, says, "It would be nice to have some cultural archives to relate to. I have noticed that a lot of people emerging from Hindu families have rich cultural identity to rely on, including mythological characters with fluid gender identities."

Even outside the queer conver-



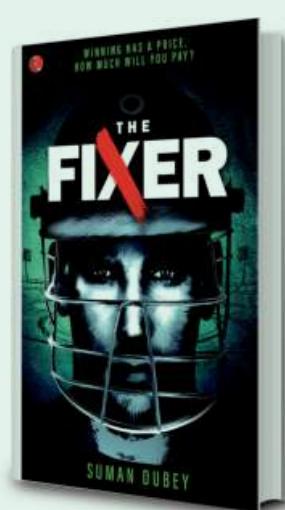
In a fix

Suman Dubey's debut novel is about a retired cricketer involved in match fixing

PRAVEEN SUDEVAN

Suman Dubey recollects with fondness the Eden Gardens Test of 2001 between the Indian and Australian cricket teams. He was in Boston, then, working in an IT consulting firm. "This was much before the days of streaming and instant scores," he says. The result, which went in India's favour, was a shot in the arm for a team stung by a match-fixing scandal.

But it wasn't the Kolkata Test or



Truth and fiction Suman Dubey
• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

quote: "When the gods wish to punish us they answer our prayers".

"I wanted to write about a character going through a mid-life crisis. He gets what he desperately sees but realises he shouldn't have wished for in the first place. I thought a former cricketer neatly fit into this mould," says Suman.

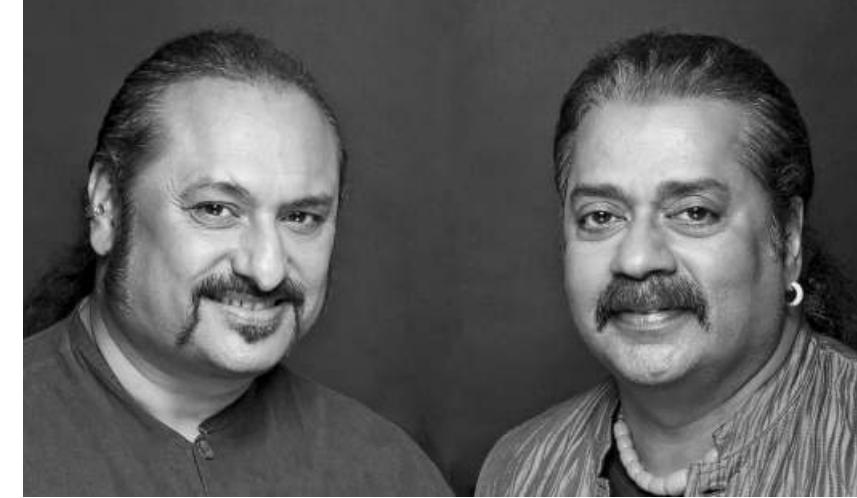
The book follows the journey of

Neil Upadhyay who has sacrificed a lot for cricket. "The protagonist in my book isn't driven by money. He is from a wealthy family that owns a team in an IPL-like league. He is a former cricketer who seeks something else. The story is about how he is caught in this whole fiasco."

Despite being a cricket nut, Suman knew there would be no help from cricket players in writing the book. "Despite this being fiction, the parts where I describe the matches had to sound real. So, I read a lot of cricket writing – match reports, analyses, and others," he says. The book was launched by filmmaker Imitiaz Ali in October.

Former cricketer Aakash Chopra said at the launch that it has the potential to be made into a film.

Meanwhile, Suman has already started working on his next book, an investigative thriller about the Indian media.



Indian flowers in Hotel California

Singers Hariharan and Leslee Lewis kick off virtual concert series, Jim Beam Originals, with a reinterpretation of the Eagles' discography

SWETA AKUNDI

Telling Leslee Lewis that he has been a big part of your childhood gets you a dry chuckle – "Too many people have been saying this." A reminder of his experience, he jokes, is also a reminder of his age. "No no," he is quick to add, "To know that I have influenced you with even one song is half my job done."

Iconic duo from the 1990s indipop scene Colonial Cousins, comprising Leslee and singer Hariharan, is back in action after a gap of over 10 months, having kicked off the Paytm Insider Jim Beam Originals.

The virtual series has a very 2020-appropriate theme: reimagination. Ten leading Indian singers and bands such as Shalmali, Shaan, Thaikkudam Bridge, Usha Uthup and Benny Dayal, will reinterpret legendary international artists in their own styles, for 60-minutes each.

Last weekend, Hariharan and Leslee gave a "Colonial tadka" to the Eagles. "This was our tribute to them. I think the fit is fantastic, as the Eagles is very melodic, and Colonial Cousins also stands strong for melody," says Leslee over a Zoom call. Hariharan puts it more visually: "It's like if Hotel California were decorated with Indian flowers," he laughs.

It's a new experiment for Colonial Cousins, whose forte is live performances. Hariharan has also begun taking masterclasses online for those looking to sharpen their musical skills and understand different genres.

Of course, there is hardly anyone as diverse in his musical genres as Hariharan, celebrated as much for his film songs, ghazals and his devotional songs (his version of 'Hamman Chalisa' with T-Series recently crossed a billion views, becoming the first devotional song in the world to do so).

And then there is the Indipop side of his with Leslee, hair combed-back and grinning – a picture of the late '90s and early 2000s. Their hits 'Indian Rain', 'Sa Ni Dha Pa', 'Krish-

na', 'Kai Zhala' evoke nostalgia and are popular among audiences even today. "The beauty is that the kids of our fans are now following us," says Hariharan.

While indipop ruled in the '90s, Hariharan believes that Sufi and a fusion of folk and rock are genres to keep an eye on now. Given we are on the precipice of change in many ways, how does this reflect in the music industry? "I think people are still searching for a new sound to settle in for a few years. In the '90s, it was indipop, in the 2010s, it was all about EDM. And remixes, because it's easy to market a familiar tune. But we don't have a defining sound for this generation yet," says Leslee.

Time off to reinvent

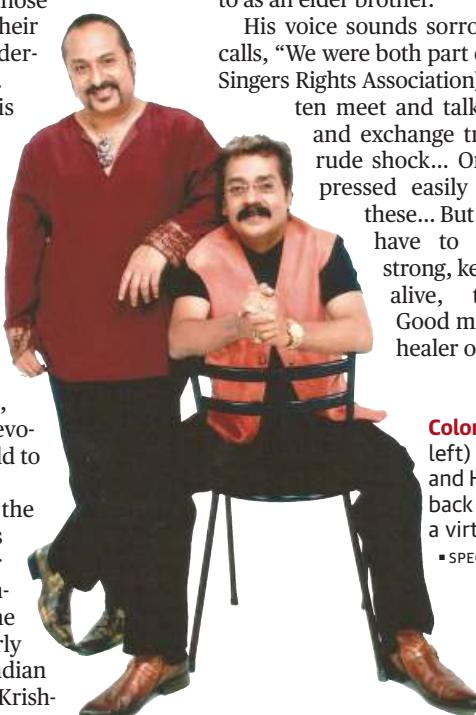
If there's one thing 2020 has been about for the two, it is reinventing the wheel. A pause in performing for endless corporate shows helps. Leslee has been working with upcoming musicians such as Kavya Jones, and also been releasing close to one new song every month.

Hariharan too, is gearing up to release three albums by January 2021. "I have been involved in an electronic project with my son Akshay for which I have sung two or three ghazal tracks in a very modern attempt. I have done an album with Bikram Ghosh (tabla player), which will be out soon. And, then there are my recordings of six of poet Farhat Shahzad's compositions," he says.

Despite the buzz of new releases, however, is the fact that it has personally been a very sombre and trying year for Hariharan. A year marked by the grief of losses, from relatives to fellow singer SP Balasubrahmanyam, whom he looked up to as an elder brother.

His voice sounds sorrowful as he recalls, "We were both part of ISRA (Indian Singers Rights Association) and would often meet and talk about music, and exchange tracks. It was a rude shock... One can get depressed easily in times like these... But that is why you have to be spiritually strong, keep your senses alive, think right... Good music is the best healer of them all."

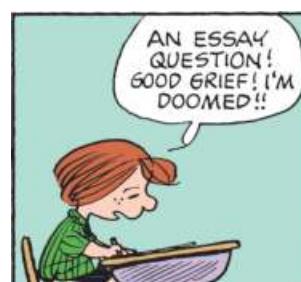
Colonial days (From left) Leslee Lewis and Hariharan are back after a gap for a virtual concert
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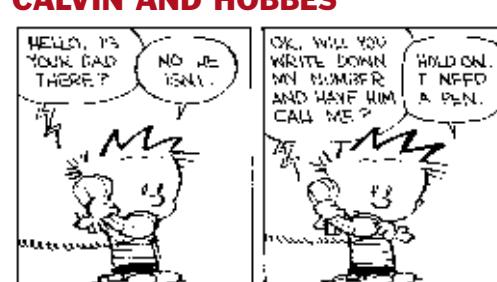
PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



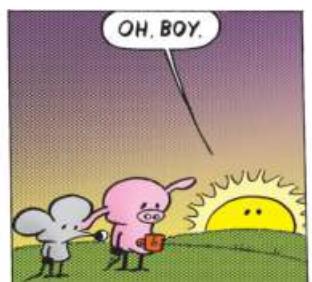
CALVIN AND HOBBES



TIGER



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



Biden steers pandemic politics to victory

His cautious campaigning aided in flipping virus-hit Arizona, Wisconsin, say officials from both parties

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WILMINGTON

Joe Biden was fresh off winning the Michigan primary and effectively capturing the Democratic presidential nomination, a prize he had sought for the better part of three decades. Instead of plotting a strategy to build momentum, he was contemplating an abrupt halt.

As the coronavirus began to explode across the U.S. that March, Mr. Biden asked a question that would ultimately guide the campaign's thinking for months: "What should I be modelling?"

The health experts recommended the 77-year-old Biden step away from campaigning as soon as possible, both for his safety and that of staff and supporters. Mr. Biden agreed. He decided that he and every staff member would work from home starting that weekend. All field offices would be closed.



Fresh start: Joe Biden gesturing to the crowd as his wife, Jill, looks on, in Wilmington, Delaware. • AFP

It was a decision without precedent in modern American politics. Barack Obama and John McCain returned to Washington in the final weeks of the 2008 campaign to respond to that year's financial collapse, but only briefly. In an era when voters are accustomed to seeing their presidential candidates constantly, the idea of a complete withdrawal was unthinkable.

That was especially true for Mr. Biden, whose tactile approach to politics is legendary.

"It was a hard call," said Jake Sullivan, a senior Biden adviser. "If there's no pandemic, he gets a chance to get out and do what he does, which is retail campaigning, meeting people where they are, having the opportunity to sit with folks and speak to crowds and walk down the

street. That's what he would have preferred, obviously."

For Mr. Biden, who has been elected the 46th President of the United States, perhaps no decision was more consequential to his victory, making it possible to flip States such as Arizona and Wisconsin, where coronavirus infections and hospitalisations spiked the week of the election. Still, the cautious approach prompted ridicule from President Donald Trump, who constantly teased Biden for "hiding in his basement" and returned to large in-person events much sooner than his rival, and with far fewer precautions.

Some Democrats also worried. Several State party chairs and down-ballot candidates privately urged the campaign to resume in-person events and canvassing. Texas Democratic Chairman Gilberto Hinojosa warned

Next U.S. govt. must make up for past mistakes: Iran

Biden should return to nuclear deal

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani on Sunday said the next U.S. administration has an opportunity to "compensate for its previous mistakes" following Joe Biden's victory in the presidential election.

"Now there is an opportunity for the future American administration to compensate for its previous mistakes and return to the path of adherence to international commitments," Mr. Rouhani said, in a statement on his official website.

U.S. President Donald Trump has applied a "maximum pressure" policy and crippling sanctions against Iran since his 2018 withdrawal from a landmark nuclear agreement with Tehran.

The reimposed sanctions targeted Iran's vital oil industry and banking ties, among other sectors.

This U.S. administration's harmful and wrong policy for the past three years was not only con-



Hassan Rouhani

demned by people all around the world, but was also opposed by the people of (the U.S.) in the recent election," Mr. Rouhani said.

He added that the Iranian people's "heroic resistance against the imposed economic war" by the Trump administration "proved that America's maximum pressure policy is doomed to fail."

Mr. Biden has said during his campaign that he plans to embark on a "credible path to return to diplomacy" with Iran, and raised the possibility of returning to the 2015 nuclear deal, negotiated when he was vice president under Barack Obama.

As Trump refuses to concede, top Republicans stay mum

Senate majority leader declines to acknowledge Biden's win

EMILY COCHRANE
WASHINGTON

As President Donald Trump refused to concede defeat on Saturday, top Republican congressional leaders followed suit, refraining from releasing the customary statements congratulating the victor that have been standard among senior lawmakers in both parties when a presidential election has been declared.

Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell declined Saturday to acknowledge Biden's victory, with an aide instead pointing reporters to a generic "count all the votes" statement McConnell released Friday before the results were known.

His silence on Saturday came as other Republican leaders also kept mum about the results and some openly questioned it.

"The election isn't over until all legal votes are counted and certified," Rep. Steve Scalise of Louisiana, the second-ranking Republi-



Mitch McConnell

can, said on Twitter. "There are still serious legal challenges that have been made, and until that process is resolved, the election is not final. The American people deserve a fair and transparent process."

The reactions suggested that Republicans, who have spent four years clinging tightly to Mr. Trump or at least have avoided publicly countering him for fear of provoking an angry tweet, were sticking to those approaches even after his loss. In the weeks leading up to

Bush congratulates Biden

WASHINGTON

Former U.S. President George W. Bush has offered his "warm congratulations" to President-elect Joe Biden, calling the Democrat "a good man, who has won his opportunity to lead and unify our country." The two-term Republican also congratulated Donald Trump for his "extraordinary political achievement" in winning 70 million votes. • AFP

the election, as Mr. Trump refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power, some Republicans, including Mr. McConnell, gently pushed back without directly rebuking the President, making it clear that if he were to lose, they expected him to abide by the results. But Mr. Trump's reluctance to accept his defeat and his false insistence on Saturday that he had in fact won raised questions about whether any senior Republican would be willing to contradict him. • NY TIMES

As Myanmar goes to polls, Suu Kyi is expected to win

Elections cancelled in some areas; Rohingya remain left out

REUTERS
YANGON

Myanmar voted in a general election on Sunday seen as a referendum on a fledgling democratic government that remains popular at home but which has seen its reputation collapse overseas amid allegations of genocide.

Leader Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) is expected to win a second term, following a 2015 landslide that ended more than a half-century of military and military-backed rule.

She has the support of a population that largely sees her as a heroine of democracy for her struggle against dictatorship, though her win will likely be narrower than the victory that propelled her to power.

More than 37 million people are registered to vote, but fears about COVID-19 may dampen turnout, with Myanmar seeing a average of 1,100 new daily coronavirus cases compared to a handful in early August.

In the biggest city, Yangon, queues formed before polling stations opened.

Gradual process

Sai Kyaw Latt Phy, 31, said it was his first trip outside his home in three months. "We must take the risk in such a crucial situation for our country."

Ms. Suu Kyi's defenders



Electoral test: People waiting to cast their ballots for the general election at a polling station in Yangon. • REUTERS

say critics are unrealistic to expect rapid change in Myanmar and are hampering efforts to secure gradual progress.

Among the obstacles to some NLD reforms is a Constitution that guarantees the military a significant political stake, including control of several key Ministries and a 25% quota of legislative seats, allowing it to veto constitutional amendments.

Ms. Suu Kyi and the Army have historically been at odds but tensions have been running high lately, with military chief Min Aung Hlaing in a rare interview criticising "unacceptable mistakes" in the lead-up to the polls, which the government said risked creating fear and unrest.

Casting his vote in the capital Naypyitaw, Gen. Min Aung Hlaing said he backed the party that "can work hand in hand" with the mili-

tary "to create a better future".

"I have to accept the result that comes from the people's wishes," he said, when asked if the military would respect the outcome.

The Election Commission has said it will try to ensure polls were free and fair, but more than a million people will be unable to vote after polls were cancelled due to insurrections.

They join hundreds of thousands of Rohingya, who are confined to camps and villages inside Rakhine state, most without citizenship.

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Friday urged "peaceful, orderly and credible elections" that could enable hundreds of thousands of Rohingya who fled to neighbouring Bangladesh during a 2017 Army crackdown to return "in safety and dignity" with the TPLF refused to join.

Tigray crisis: Abiy replaces top officials

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GONDAR

Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed replaced his Army chief, the head of intelligence and the Foreign Minister on Sunday as the military continued a five-day old offensive in the remote Tigray region with a new round of air strikes.

Mr. Abiy's office did not give reasons for the personnel changes, which come as he is pursuing a military campaign against the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), a powerful ethnic faction that led the ruling coalition for decades until Abiy took office in 2018.

Mr. Abiy's office said in a statement that Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen had been appointed Foreign Minister while deputy Army chief Birhanu Jula was promoted to Army Chief of Staff.

Temesgen Tiruneh, who was President of the Amhara region, was appointed as the new intelligence chief. Amhara regional state forces have been fighting alongside their federal counterparts in Tigray.

Countries in the region fear that the fighting could spark a civil war in Africa's second most populous nation and destabilise the Horn of Africa region.

Tigrayans dominated

After defeat, Trump mulls how to keep up the fight

Son-in-law Kushner, officials 'urge him to accept the outcome'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump never admits defeat. But he faces a stark choice now that Democrat Joe Biden has won the White House – concede graciously for the sake of the nation or don't – and get evicted anyway.

After nearly four tortured days of counting yielded a victory for Mr. Biden on Saturday, Mr. Trump was still insisting the race was not over. He threw out baseless allegations of voter fraud, promised a flurry of legal action and fired off all-caps tweets finally insisting he'd "WON THIS ELECTION, BY A LOT."

Mr. Trump is not expected to ever formally concede, according to people close to him, but is likely to grudgingly vacate the White House at the end of his term.

His ongoing efforts to paint the election as unfair are seen both as an effort to soothe a bruised ego and to show his loyal base of supporters that he is still fighting. That could be key to keeping them energized for what comes next.

"He intends to fight," Mr. Trump economic adviser Larry Kudlow said.

Would Mr. Trump ever concede? "I doubt it," said Mr. Trump's longtime friend and adviser Roger Stone, whose prison sentence was commuted by Mr. Trump in July. Mr. Stone asserted that Mr. Biden, as a result, will have "a cloud over his presidency with half the people in the country believing that he was illegitimately elected."

Allies suggested that if Mr. Trump wants to launch a media empire in coming years, he has an incentive to prolong the drama. So, too, if he intends to keep the door open to a possible 2024 comeback – he would be only a year older than Mr. Biden is now.

There are many in his inner circle egging him on, including his personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani. The former New York Mayor has been promising to provide the President with evidence of voter fraud but has produced little, including during a press conference he

kept his legacy in mind – and preserve his status as a GOP kingmaker – by gracefully leaving office.

"If and when it's time to accept an unfavorable outcome in this election, and we hope it never comes, President Trump needs to do it with the same grace and composure that he demon-



Taking a break: Donald Trump returns to the White House after playing golf in Washington on Saturday. • AFP

strated at that town hall with Savannah Guthrie," she said on Thursday. "President Trump's legacy will only become more significant if he focuses on moving the country forward."

This story is based on interviews with more than a dozen of Trump aides and allies, many of whom spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal discussions.

'Never accept defeat'

That the peaceful transfer of power was even in doubt reflected the norm-shattering habits of the now-lame duck President, who even in victory never admitted that he had lost the popular vote in 2016.

Most aides believed the President would take the weekend to decide on a plan, which will most certainly involve more legal action. But some aides believe the legal skirmishes are more about putting up the appearance of a fight than producing results.

There were some indications Mr. Trump was moving in a less contentious direction, even as he continued to angrily complain to aides, reviving old grievances about the Russia investigation that began under President Barack Obama.

In a statement on Friday, Mr. Trump suggested he would avail himself of every avenue under the law to challenge the election's result.

Allies interpreted it as a begrudging acknowledgement of the likely outcome.

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मेरी सरकार
my GOV

ASK US

Gold bonds

Q. I started working a year ago. I want to start saving for my future. I really don't have any idea about where to invest. I got to know about RBI issuing sovereign gold bonds and bought 16 gm valued at ₹74,832. Is that a good move? Gold prices have been increasing during the lockdown. Is it the right time to buy these bonds?

ARUN J.P.

Aarati Krishnan replies:

A. While Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) are a good vehicle through which you can add gold to your portfolio, investing all your savings in one asset is not a prudent course of action as poor performance or lack of liquidity in that asset can materially affect your financial position. In future, it would be best for you to save and invest your earnings in line with a well thought-out financial plan.

While it is good that you are thinking about saving so early in your career, investing requires a bit of planning first. Your first move, while embarking on your investment journey, should be to create an emergency fund amounting to about 6 months of basic expenses. This sum should be parked in FDs from leading banks for you to draw upon any time you have a need. Do get a medical insurance plan too, if your employer doesn't offer one.

Before deciding on where to invest the rest of your money, it would be advisable to map out the financial goals towards which you would like to save or invest.

Do list out, with the help of your family, if need be, the key life goals you have in mind over the short term (within 3 years), medium term (3-7 years) and long term (7 years plus). Mapping out your goals in this fashion will then decide how much you should save and how you can allocate your savings between assets such as gold, fixed deposits, debt and equities.

Usually for goals that are less than 3 years, bank fixed deposits are your best bet. For 3-7 years, you can consider post office schemes such as NSC, debt mutual funds, company FDs and gold. For goals that lie 7 years or beyond, you can consider allocating among equity funds (index or multicap funds), debt funds, PPF and SGBs – as they have an 8-year maturity. Despite the recent surge in prices, gold is not an asset that can generate double-digit returns for your portfolio in the long run. It is an asset that performs the role of insurance by protecting your portfolio value from drastic swings in other assets.

Gold tends to perform well when other assets like equities or debt don't deliver. We suggest investing 5-10% of your overall savings in gold in a systematic manner either through SGBs or gold exchange traded funds.

Capital gains tax

Q. I have been trading in shares in small quantities, now and then, for the past 20 years. During the year 2019-20 also, I sold shares in NSE and BSE.

To determine the capital gains tax liability, I need to know the purchase price of the shares. But the shares sold during the year were purchased several years ago and I am unable to trace the relevant contract notes issued from time to time by the D.P. In the above circumstances, I want to know whether I can adopt the market price as on January 31, 2018, for the purpose of calculating the tax?

N.R. KRISHNASWAMI

N. Sree Kanth replies: A Long Term Capital Gains on sale of equity shares (STT paid) are to be determined in the following manner, the difference of sale consideration (less transfer expenses) and cost of acquisition wherein the cost of acquisition is higher of the 'actual' cost of acquisition and lower of the market value on January 31, 2018 and the sale price.

You may contact your broker and request for a capital gains statement which should contain the relevant details for computation of capital gains, payment of tax and filing of returns. If the values are still not ascertainable, you can choose to take the values as on January 31, 2018.

By doing so, the original cost gets fixed at January 31, 2018 value and if there is any real loss on account of cost being higher than the value as at January 31, 2018 is foregone.

(N. Sree Kanth is partner GSS Associates, Chartered Accountants, Chennai)

Readers can send in queries on personal finance and investing to moneywise@thehindu.co.in. Our experts who write on personal finance will answer these queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

LOOSE CHANGE

RAVIKANTH



"Can you still say that the government is not doing enough to help people financially?"

Balancing safety and RETURNS

You may pick bank deposits or debt funds for investment, but know the pros and cons

SAHIL ARORA

The falling rates of bank fixed deposits (FDs) have led many retail investors to look for alternatives to fixed income generating higher returns.

While debt mutual funds (MFs) have gained significant traction among retail investors over the last few years

Bank FDs offer one of the highest degrees of income certainty, even higher than those offered by most of the small savings schemes

due to higher returns, the setbacks suffered by many debt MFs in the corporate debt segment have scared investors. An in-depth comparison between debt funds and bank FDs can help investors make a judicious choice based on their risk appetite.

Capital protection

FDS with scheduled banks offer among the highest degrees of capital protection. These are eligible for the deposit insurance programme from DICGC (Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation), an RBI subsidiary.

This insurance scheme safeguards each depositor of scheduled banks for cumulative deposits of up to ₹5 lakh, in the case of bank failure. Both the principal and interest components of FDs, cur-

rent, recurring and savings account deposits are covered under this programme. Those having FDs with multiple scheduled banks would be eligible for the ₹5-lakh cover separately for deposits in each of the banks.

On the other hand, being invested in market-linked debt securities, debt funds do not guarantee capital protection. The instruments, traded in debt markets, are not immune to capital erosion. Additionally, interest-rate and credit risks of the issuing entities are the two major risks that threaten debt MF investments.

Credit risk refers to the probability of default in principal and/or interest repayments by issuers of debt securities. Investors can reduce this risk by investing in debt funds having maximum exposure to sovereign/quasi-sovereign debt papers and/or to the highest-rated corporate debt papers.

Interest-rate risk refers to the probability of principal erosion caused by an increase in the broader market rates or due to the RBI's policy rates. This risk is significantly higher in debt funds invested in debt securities having longer maturity profiles. Investors may reduce this risk by investing in debt funds with lower maturity profiles, such as overnight, li-

quid, ultra-short duration, short-duration and low-duration debt funds.

Returns

Bank FDs offer one of the highest degrees of income certainty, even higher than those offered by most small savings schemes. Banks pay interest rates applicable at the time of booking the FDs till the maturity of those FDs, irrespective of any changes in their card rate in the interim.

In case of debt funds, the returns generated are a sum of the interest income of their underlying securities along with their capital appreciation. The capital appreciation of debt securities depends on multiple factors such as changes in policy rates, changes in the credit ratings of the underlying securities, government borrowing programmes, inflation, market intervention by the RBI, and the like. All these factors dim the income certainty from debt funds.

However, debt funds usually generate higher returns than bank FDs opened with PSU and large private banks due to the risk premium offered by market-linked fixed income instruments.

Investment cost

Banks do not charge any fee for opening FDs. However, as fund houses incur various ex-

penses for operating and managing debt funds, they recover these expenses from debt-fund investors in the form of total expense ratio.

Although these expenses are marginal, investors can further reduce them by investing in direct plans of debt MFs. As MF houses do not incur distribution expenses in the case of direct plans, the expense ratios of direct plans are lower than their regular counterparts.

Liquidity

Banks usually allow depositors to close their FDs before the maturity date. Only tax-saving bank FDs and those expressly not allowing premature withdrawals do not offer this feature.

However, most banks usually charge a premature withdrawal penalty of up to 1% on those opting for premature closure. This penalty is deducted from the effective rate of interest of the FD, which is usually the lower of the original rate at which the FD was booked and the card rate of the period for which the FD was in effect.

Investors of debt funds, except for those in fixed maturity plans, are also free to redeem their debt funds as per their requirements. However, many debt funds levy exit load on redemption before the pre-set period. Debt

funds belonging to overnight, liquid and ultra-short duration fund categories do not charge any exit load, making them efficient vehicles for realising short-term financial goals and for parking emergency funds.

Tax treatment

The returns generated from bank FDs are added to the depositors' annual incomes and taxed as per their income tax slabs. In the case of debt funds, capital gains booked from debt funds after three years of investment are treated as long-term capital gains and are taxed at 20% with indexation benefits. Capital gains booked within three years of investing are treated as short-term capital gains and are taxed as per the in-

Market-linked debt securities do not guarantee capital protection. The instruments, traded in debt markets, are not immune to capital erosion

vestors' income tax slab. Thus, when it comes to tax treatment, debt funds are more efficient than bank FDs for investors falling in higher income tax slabs with investment horizons exceeding three years.

(The author is director, Paisabazaar.com)

IMAGING: J.A. PREMKUMAR

COVER NOTE: THE RIGHT POLICY

Standardised covers help you compare apples with apples

Mutiple insurers, numerous policies, differential pricing can confuse a buyer, but an IRDAI-designed plan can help simplify things

K. NITYA KALYANI

Friends, colleagues and family members run questions about buying insurance past me now and then.

Responding to questions, doubts or problems teaches me more about insurance and its buying process than isolated reading and research. So here goes what I learnt from a friend's question on Corona Kavach and Corona Rakshak, policies that were discussed in Cover Note in edition dated July 20.

[These two are standard policies to cover costs of Corona treatment designed by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), the insurance regulator. Insurance companies are mandated to offer it from April 1. Here, I found that the premium rate variance could be 300% and even more!

So, there you have the simplest reason for a standardised cover. You can compare apples to apples instead of getting into a major, mixed fruit, jam!

If the terms and coverage are standardised, why the huge dif-

ference in premium between one company and another for the same quantum of coverage?

The difference had surprised me as well when I was writing about the policy. Taking the lowest quote, you could find companies quoting up to 50% more for the very same policy.

Arogya Sanjeevani
The case of Arogya Sanjeevani, the standardised hospitalisation cover designed by IRDAI, was even more stark. All general insurance companies were mandated to offer it from April 1. Here, I found that the premium rate variance could be 300% and even more!

Standardised covers that IRDAI has designed and mandated insurers to offer is a term life insurance policy called Saral Jeevan.

The latest in the line of stan-



Standardised covers offer prospective clients a chance to compare similar policies offered by various insurers.. ■ GETTY IMAGES/STOCK

dardised covers that IRDAI has designed and mandated insurers to offer is a term life insurance policy called Saral Jeevan.

When you think of buying an insurance policy, the numerous

questions and confusions that arise are somewhat addressed by a standard policy.

Apart from being comparable across every insurer that offers it, you can think of it as a building block.

Standardised policies don't just serve as comparison sounding boards; if you are in a hurry to get a hospitalisation

If you have a Saral Jeevan and add Benefit A to it, how much would such a policy cost and who will offer it? What about adding Benefit B? Or both?

Making a comparison
When the policy reflects your wish list and you want a higher sum assured, how does such an offering compare across companies in terms of premium?

Such options, details and benefits will be numerous, and more confounding, in the case of hospitalisation insurance. Sub limits, daily cash benefits, size of the affiliated hospital network, exclusions, all can be chopped and changed using the standard policy as the basic building block.

Standardised policies don't just serve as comparison sounding boards; if you are in a hurry to get a hospitalisation

policy for whatever reason, maybe year-ending to avail of tax benefits, and don't have time to go through the detailed terms and conditions, opt for the standardised policy.

In the case of hospitalisation policies, you can migrate to a different cover and even to a different insurer at the time of renewal. Take the case of CK and CR. A standardised policy is best in times of panic so that prospective insurance buyers can just grab and go, ensuring protection!

So, whether you want to buy in a hurry or agonise over and analyse your purchase, start with the standardised policy. It would be basic, but life is all about discovering that the basics are not so basic after all!

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

PERSONAL LOAN - RATES AND CHARGES

Name of Lender	Interest rate (%)	EMI (Rs 5 lakh)	EMI (Rs 1 lakh)	Processing fee (% of loan amount)	Tenure - 5 years
					Tenure - 5 years
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Citi Bank	9.99-16.49	10,621-12,290	2,124-2,458	Up to 3%	
HDFC Bank**	10.75-21.30	10,809-13,611	2,162-2,722	Rs 2,999-25,999	
Bank of Baroda	10.10-15.45	10,648-12,013	2,130-2,403	Rs 1,000-10,000	
Axis Bank^	12.00-24.00	11,122-14,384	2,224-2,877	1.5%-2%	
ICICI Bank^^	11.25-21.00	10,934-13,527	2,187-2,705	Up to 2.25%	
Indian Bank	9.05-13.65	10,391-11,544	2,078-2,309	As applicable	
Bank of India	9.35-12.35	10,464-11,211	2,093-2,242	Up to 2% (Max. Rs 10,000)	
Canara Bank	10.20-13.90	10,673-11,608	2,135-2,322	Up to 1% (Max. Rs 5,000)	
Punjab National Bank	8.95-11.80	10,367-11,072	2,073-2,214	Up to 1%	
Federal Bank	11.49-17.99	10,994-12,694	2,199-2,539	Up to 3%	

*Festive Offer: 50% processing fee waiver through branches till January 31, 2021 under Xpress credit scheme & Pension Loan; 100% fee waiver for pre-approved PL through YONO app till January 31, 2021

**50% fee waived off under festive offer till November 15 (Minimum ₹1,999)

^Interest rates starting at 10.49% p.a. under festive offer

^^Festive Offer: Interest rate starting at 10.50% p.a.; Flat processing fee of Rs 3,999 and interest rate starting at 10.75% p.a. for balance transfer

Rates and charges as on November 4

NEW CAR LOAN - RATES AND CHARGES

Name of Bank	Interest rate (%)	EMI (Rs 5 lakh)	Processing fee (% of loan amount)
		Tenure-5 years	
Punjab National Bank	7.55-7.80*	10,031-10,090	0.25% (Rs 1,000-Rs 1,500) Festive offer: 100% waiver (Valid till 31.12.2020)
State Bank of India	7.70-11.20**	10,067-10,921	Up to 0.50% ***
ICICI Bank	7.90-9.85	10,114-10,587	Rs 3,500-Rs 8,500 Festive offer: Flat processing fee of Rs 1,999 for women customers under Aura Loans. Valid till 30.11.2020
Yes Bank###	7.99 onwards	10,136 onward	Up to 1% (Rs 3,000-Rs 10,000)
Axis Bank##	8.75-11.00 Festive offer: Interest rate starting from 7.99%	10,319-10,871	Rs 3,500-Rs 5,500
Lakshmi Vilas Bank	8.80	10,331	0.50% (Rs 1,000-Rs 10,000)

* Floating interest rate of 7.30% offered to Defence/Para Military under Rakshak Plus Scheme. 25% concession on card rate to existing home loan borrowers under Pre-approved Insta Vehicle Loan Scheme

Dhawan, Stoinis and Rabada fire Delhi Capitals into maiden final

The opener's 78, Australian's all-round effort and the South African's four-for help the team recover from the loss against MI; Williamson's genius not enough for SRH

IPL 2020

SPORTS BUREAU

Delhi Capitals entered its maiden IPL final with a 17-run win over Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Sunday. It will play four-time champion Mumbai Indians on Tuesday (November 10).

Chasing 190, Kane Williamson's genius was on show (67, 45b, 5x4, 4x6) before young Abdul Samad (33, 16b, 2x4, 2x6) brought the equation down to 23 runs off 10 balls. But Kagiso Rabada (4-0-29-4) dismissed Samad, Rashid Khan and Shreevats Goswami in the penultimate over to usher the end.

Tactics pay off
Overall, every strategic punt by Shreyas Iyer and coach Ricky Ponting paid off, be it in bringing in Shimron Hetmyer for Prithvi Shaw, promoting Marcus Stoinis as an opener or bowling him (3-0-26-3) in the Powerplay.

Hetmyer (42 n.o., 22b, 4x4, 1x6) and Stoinis (38, 27b, 5x4, 1x6) complemented Shikhar Dhawan's fourth

fifty this edition (78, 50b, 6x4, 2x6). Later, the 31-year-old Aussie dismissed both Priyam Garg and Manish Pandey in the fifth over after Rabada had cleaned up David Warner early. Stoinis then sent back Williamson in the 17th over to leave DC on the threshold of victory.

For a while, Williamson and Jason Holder had given hope, combining for a 46-run fourth-wicket stand. The Kiwi was at his delightful best, hitting a six each off Pravin Dubey, Rabada, Axar Patel and Stoinis.

Then, with 77 needed off 36, Samad caned Anrich Nortje for a six and two fours. But even his best efforts weren't enough.

Earlier, DC spent two overs sizing up the conditions, scoring just 11. In the third, Stoinis, on three, was dropped by Holder at short mid-on off Sandeep Sharma.

Feeling liberated
It seemed to liberate Stoinis, as he hit Sandeep for two fours before smashing Holder for 18 runs, including a six over mid-wicket and a flat-batted whack straight down. DC had racked up 50



Pulling their weight: Marcus Stoinis and Shikhar Dhawan swung the contest Delhi Capitals' way in Qualifier 2. ■ BCCI/IPL



Pulling their weight: Marcus Stoinis and Shikhar Dhawan swung the contest Delhi Capitals' way in Qualifier 2. ■ BCCI/IPL

runs in five overs.

Williamson and Warner went into a huddle and decided to bring Shahbaz Nadeem on. But the left-arm spinner's first delivery was slaughtered over mid-wicket by Dhawan, before a bad full toss was pulled past short

fine-leg. The introduction of Rashid and T. Natarajan slowed things down, with the former even cleaning up Stoinis with a straighter one. Dhawan, though, eased to his half-century with a slog-swept six off Nadeem. Shreyas laboured (21,

20b), but after playing out Rashid (4-0-26-1), DC seemed primed for a big total from 145 for two after 16 overs. Hetmyer didn't disappoint, hitting Holder for four fours in a single over. Natarajan bowled a superb 20th (seven runs), but it was not to be.

SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS

Marcus Stoinis b Rashid 38 (27b, 5x4, 7x6), Shikhar Dhawan lbw b Sandeep 78 (50b, 6x4, 2x6), Shreyas Iyer c Pandey b Holder 21 (20b, 7x4), Shimron Hetmyer (not out) 42 (22b, 4x4, 1x6), Rashid Pant (not out) 2 (3b); Extras (b-1, lb-2, w-3, nb-2); Total (for three wkts. in 20 overs): 189.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-12 (Warner, 1.1), 2-43 (Garg, 4.4), 3-44 (Pandey, 4.6), 4-90 (Holder, 11.4), 5-147 (Williamson, 16.5), 6-167 (Samad, 18.3), 7-167 (Rashid, 18.4), 8-168 (Shreevats, 18.5).

CAPITALS BOWLING

Ashwin 3-0-33-1, Rabada 4-0-29-4, Nortje 4-0-36-0, Stoinis 3-0-26-3, Axar 4-0-33-1, Praveen 2-0-14-0.

Toss: DC; MoM: Stoinis.

DC won by 17 runs, will meet MI in final on Tuesday (Nov. 10).

SUNRISERS BOWLING

Sandeep 4-0-30-1, Holder 4-0-50-1, Shahbaz 4-0-48-0, Rashid 4-0-26-1, Natarajan 4-0-32-0.

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

Priyam Garg b Stoinis 17 (12b, 2x6), David Warner b Rabada 2 (3b), Manish Pandey c Nortje b Stoinis 21 (14b, 3x4), Kane Williamson c Rabada b Stoinis 67 (45b, 5x4, 4x6), Jason Holder c Praveen b Axar 11 (15b, 1x4), Abdul Samad c (sub) Keemo b Rabada 33 (16b, 2x4, 2x6), Rashid Khan c Axar b Rabada 11 (7b, 1x4, 1x6), Shreevats Goswami c Stoinis b Rabada 0 (1b), Shahbaz Nadeem (not out) 2 (3b), Sandeep Sharma (not out) 2 (4b); Extras (lb-1, w-5); 6; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 172.



Top of the charts

ORANGE CAP

K.L. RAHUL (KKIP)

Matches: 14 | Runs: 670

HS: 132* | SR: 129.34

PURPLE CAP

KAGISO RABADA (DC)

Matches: 16 | Wickets: 29

BB: 4/24 | Econ: 8.23

After the DC-SRH match on Nov. 8

Advantage Supernovas



Scream of delight: Radha Yadav delivered at the crunch for Supernovas. ■ BCCI/IPL

T20 CHALLENGE

SPORTS BUREAU

Supernovas and Trailblazers come face to face for the second time in three days, but the stake is higher this time around as the women's T20 Challenge trophy is up for grabs.

If their last meeting is anything to go by, there is certainly much to look forward to in the final at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Monday. Supernovas, champion in both editions, had won a thriller on Saturday by two runs, with left-arm spinner Radha Yadav bowling a superb last over.

It was a must-win match for Harmanpreet Kaur's team and having won the nail-biting contest, they have the momentum.

But they will have to bring out their best against a balanced Trailblazers, led by Smriti Mandhana. Sri Lankan star Chamari Atapattu (43 and 67) and Harmanpreet (31 and 31) are the only batters in form for Supernovas.

Variety in attack

Supernovas has variety in attack, with seamers Shakeela Salman and Ayabonga Khaka and spinners Radha, Poonam Yadav and Anuja Patil in its ranks.

In the final, Supernovas would be keen to send back Smriti and her hard-hitting opening partner Deandra Dottin early.

Trailblazers all-rounders Deepthi Sharma and Harleen Deol – their fifth-wicket association had nearly pulled it during the chase – lend depth to the side's middle-order.

World's No. 1 T20 bowler Sophie Ecclestone, fellow left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad and experienced seamer Jhulan Goswami form a strong attack, which had dismissed Velocity for 47.

Pakistan seals series with thumping win

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Pakistan proved too strong for a sloppy Zimbabwe as it won the second Twenty20 International by eight wickets, to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series, here on Sunday.

Riding on half centuries from skipper Babar Azam (51) and 20-year-old Haider Ali (66 not out), Pakistan made short work of a modest 135-run target, achieving victory with 29 balls to spare. Haider and Babar added 100 for the second wicket.

Haider, playing only his third international match, cracked three sixes and six boundaries in a 43-ball knock and was declared man-of-the-match.

Babar on fire
Babar smashed eight fours and a six off just 28 balls, the fastest of his 16 T20 international fifties.

Earlier, Zimbabwe, sent in to bat, never recovered from early strikes by pace-man Haris Rauf (three for 31) and spinner Usman Qadir (three for 23) and was restricted to 134 for seven in 20 overs.

The scores: Zimbabwe 134/7 in 20 overs (Ryan Burl 32 n.o., Wesley Madhevere 24, Haris Rauf 3/31, Usman Qadir 3/23) lost to Pakistan 137/2 in 15.1 overs (Haider Ali 66 n.o., Babar Azam 51, Blessing Muzarabani 2/33). **MoM:** Haider Ali.

City rues costly miss

Leicester on top with win over Wolves

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCIES

MANCHESTER

City's Kevin De Bruyne missed a potential match-winning penalty as it was held to a 1-1 draw at home by Liverpool in the Premier League on Sunday.

Liverpool took the lead in the 13th minute when Sadio Mane turned sharply in the box and went down after contact from Kyle Walker and Mohamed Salah converted the spot kick.

An even better turn produced City's equaliser in the 31st minute when De Bruyne found Gabriel Jesus in the box and the Brazilian's superb twist set him free of Trent Alexander-Arnold and earned him just enough space to past Alisson.

City then wasted an opportunity to take the lead, three minutes before the interval, when De Bruyne missed a penalty.

Earlier, Leicester City went top with a tense 1-0 win over Wolverhampton



Poor effort: City's Kevin De Bruyne drags his spot kick wide to give Liverpool a reprieve. ■ GETTY IMAGES

Medvedev triumphs

Bests Zverev for eighth career title



Bouncing back: Daniil Medvedev rallied from a set down to get past Alexander Zverev in the summit clash. ■ AP

PARIS MASTERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

PARI

Third seed Daniil Medvedev claimed his first Paris Masters title at Bercy Arena on Sunday by battling back from a set down to beat Germany's Alexander Zverev.

The Russian was on top form in a high-quality encounter, winning 5-7, 6-4, 6-1 to secure his first trophy of the season and the eighth of his career.

"It's great, I'm really happy. As I always say, I don't always show this after matches, but I'm always happy to win," said Medvedev after his third Masters title.

Both players will now turn their attention to the ATP Tour Finals in London, an event won by Zverev in 2018.

Medvedev has had an up-and-down season, but was at his best this week in Paris, continuing his magnificent record on hard courts – all of his ATP titles have come on the surface.

Overcoming agony

"Before this tournament I wasn't in great form, zero finals this year and I was crying, well complaining, to my wife, 'Oh my God, I don't have the level, not playing well, not even any finals,'" he said.

"But now, three Masters titles, it's great. I have had the level this week. I managed to keep the pressure on and in the end I broke his level a little bit," said Medvedev.

The result (final): Daniil Medvedev bt Alexander Zverev 5-7, 6-4, 6-1.

SPORTS BUREAU

ECKENTAL (GERMANY)

Ramkumar Ramanathan was beaten 6-4, 6-4 by seventh seed Sebastian Korda in the final of the €88,520 Challenger tennis tournament here on Sunday.

The 206th-ranked Ramkumar, celebrating his 26th birthday, had six aces and nine double-faults in the 83-minute match.

The 136th-ranked American, son of former Australian Open champion Petr Korda, won nine points more than Ramkumar and converted three of five break-points.

Korda's maiden professional singles title at any level fetched him 100 ATP points and €12,250, while Ramkumar returned with 60 points and €7,200.

The results:

€88,520 Challenger, Eckental, Germany: Final: Sebastian Korda (USA) bt Ramkumar Ramanathan 6-4, 6-4.

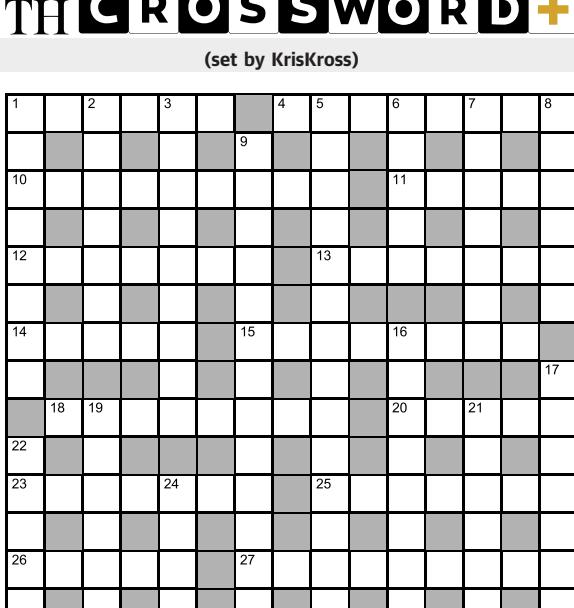
\$15,000 ITF women, Lousada, Portugal: Doubles (final):

Ariane Hartono (Ned) & Yuiko Lily Miyazaki (Jpn) bt Ines Murta (Por) & Riya Bhatia 6-1, 5-7, [10-7].

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(set by KrisKross)

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ACROSS

- Work almost through – beginning to look cheerful (6)
- Well-dressed doctor in ship's mess (8)
- Spooner bullies a lot to maintain a home (9)
- Briefly tie soldier's dog (5)
- More crazy one involved in strike (7)
- An iced cocktail containing unknown poisonous chemical (7)

DOWN

- Englishman can brag... (4,4)
- ... boasted "American state's free – not India" (7)
- Joe made macaroni and cheese finally (9)
- A rich, phony doc's treated people who aren't really sick (14)
- KrisKross reportedly sees a holy place (5)
- Fairly big line in front of garish building (7)
- In Lyon, sixteen diamonds confiscated (6)
- Warns, "Too difficult to crack safes in skyscrapers" (8,6)
- Tense, as all of us are? (9)
- Thrust again... stab... go for blood (8)
- She saves you from trouble, and starts

IN BRIEF



Mir wins European MotoGP, extends lead

VALENCIA Suzuki's Joan Mir edged out teammate Alex Rins to claim his maiden MotoGP victory from Goa, both driving the Volkswagen Polo, notched up victories in the two premier Indian Touring Cars races as the second round of the MRF-MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship concluded at the MMRT here on Sunday.

Mahmudullah tests positive, will miss PSL

DHAKA Bangladesh's T20 International captain Mahmudullah has tested positive for COVID-19 and is set to miss the Pakistan Super League (PSL) playoffs. The 34-year-old all-rounder was scheduled to fly to Pakistan via Dubai on Sunday night, but has instead gone into self-isolation. He is also doubtful for the Bangabandhu T20 Cup, which gets underway on November 21 or 22. PTI



Holding appointed MCC Foundation's new patron

LONDON West Indies pace legend Michael Holding has been appointed patron of the MCC Foundation. The foundation is the charitable arm of the Marylebone Cricket Club and was created with the aim of enhancing lives through cricket. The 66-year-old Holding is a passionate advocate of equality in cricket and the wider community. Since retirement, he has worked as commentator on Sky Sports. PTI

Double delight for Raghul and Tijil

Jhabakh and D'Souza notch up wins in the two premier Indian Touring Cars races

MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

FB Motorsport had a fine day as Hyderabad's Jeet Jhabakh and Keith D'Souza from Goa, both driving the Volkswagen Polo, notched up victories in the two premier Indian Touring Cars races as the second round of the MRF-MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship concluded at the MMRT here on Sunday.

In the limelight
Also in the limelight was Mammalapuram's Raghul Rangasamy (Performance Racing) who won both the races today in the Super Stock category.

Bengaluru lad Tijil Rao (Momentum Motorsport) too completed a double in the Formula LGB class by winning the day's first of the two races in addition to the one he won on Saturday.

Viswas Vijayaraj (DTS Racing) took the honours in the second of today's Formula LGB race. Chennai's Chetan Korada and Chandresh Tolias from Mumbai won a race



On the podium: Raghul Rangasamy, winner of Super Stock Race two, flanked by Alisha Abdullah, left, and Vineet Abhiram, who finished second and third. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

apiece in the MRF Saloon Car series (Toyota Etios).

Jhabakh, former Volkswagen Ameo and Vento Cup champion, enjoyed a trouble-free run once race leader Arjun Balu (Race Concepts) dropped out of contention with a gearbox issue.

Jhabakh managed to nose ahead of teammate Dhruv

Mohite following a brief contact, and gradually extended the lead for a comfortable win, his first of the season, having missed the opening round in February.

Mohite came in second while Arjun was a distant third.

Arjun started fourth on the reverse grid, but cut

through to the front in the very first lap and looked set for another win when the gearbox played up.

The results (Provisional, all eight laps unless mentioned):

Indian Touring Cars (Race two, 10 laps): 1. Jeet Jhabakh (FB Motorsport) (19 mins, 11.577secs); 2. Dhruv Mohite (FB Motorsport) (19:14.720); 3. Alisha (16:32.717).

MRF Saloon Car Series (Toyota Etios) (Race two, 10 laps): 1. Chetan Korada (Chennai) (21:14.775); 2. A. Balaprasath (Chennai) (21:15.945); 3. T.S. Diljith (Thrissur) (19:12.377+1 lap).

Race three: 1. Keith D'Souza (FB Motorsport) (15:22.987); 2. Arjun Balu (Race Concepts) (15:28.096); 3. Jeet Jhabakh (FB Motorsport) (15:30.188).

Super Stock (Race two, 10 laps): 1. Raghul Rangasamy (Performance Racing) (20:08.258); 2. Alisha Abdullah (Race Concepts) (20:30.072); 3. Vineet Abhiram (Race Concepts) (20:52.326).

Race three: 1. Raghul (16:10.165); 2. Rithvik Thomas (Race Concepts) (16:10.728); 3. Alisha (16:32.717).

MRF Saloon Car Series (Toyota Etios) (Race two, 10 laps): 1. Chetan Korada (Chennai) (21:14.775); 2. A. Balaprasath (Chennai) (21:15.945); 3. T.S. Diljith (Thrissur) (19:12.377+1 lap).

Race three: 1. Chandresh Tolias (Mumbai) (17:18.519); 2. Balaprasath (17:19.306); 3. Diljith (17:28.532).

Formula LGB 1300 (Race three): 1. Tijil Rao (Momentum Motorsport) (15:13.237); 2. Chirag Ghorpade (Momentum Motorsport) (15:13.806); 3. Arya Singh (DTS Racing) (15:19.854).

Race four (10 laps): 1. Viswas Vijayaraj (DTS Racing) (20:26.904); 2. Chirag Ghorpade (Momentum Motorsport) (20:28.587); 3. Arya (20:29.120).



daCunha/AB/714

Akram backs Babar Azam for Test captaincy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KARACHI

Pakistan's pace legend and former captain Wasim Akram has backed white-ball skipper Babar Azam to also take over Test captaincy from the tour of New Zealand and urged him to be more assertive.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is expected to announce a new Test captain on November 11 to replace Azhar Ali, who will however remain a part of the 35-member jumbo squad for the New Zealand tour, where the national team will play two Tests and three T20 Internationals.



Babar Azam. ■ AFP
reer, which included a World Cup triumph and plenty of individual accolades.

"I back Babar because I don't want to see those days when I was playing and there were around four to five captains in our dressing room."

"He is our best player and people who say that making him Test captain will affect his batting, don't buy that because he is our future and he can continue for a long time," Akram said on YouTube channel 'Cricket Baaz'

"If the PCB appoints him they should for a proper time so that at least there is no confusion as to who is in charge in the dressing room."

One of the game's greatest fast bowlers, Akram has also led the national team during his glorious international ca-

DELHI ROUND-UP

Sports Cube Academy wins tournament

Vikas Dixit top-scored with 31 and picked up two crucial wickets as Sports Cube Academy beat Royal Strikers by 38 runs and win the YS Sports War T20 tournament title. Dixit was named Man-of-the-Match, Sumit Kumar was named Player-of-the-Tournament, Arun Chaprana best batsman and Ankit Bhadana best bowler.

The scores: SCA 158/8 in 20 overs (Vikas Dixit 31, Deepak Chandila 31; Ravi Tewatia 2/24) bt Royal Strikers 120 in 18.4 overs (Sachin Kumar 34, Gaurav Chauhan 28; Pradeep Parashar 3/18, Vikas Dixit 2/21).

Spars Goyal scalps five

Good bowling by Spars Goyal (5/30) and Sachin Yadav (3/34) saw Hari Singh Academy beat Madras Club by eight wickets in the Satish Sharma memorial under-16 tournament.

The scores: Madras Club 154 in 32.0 overs (Rohit Sharma 34; Spars Goyal 5/30, Sachin Yadav 3/34) lost to HSA 158/2 in 25.1 overs (Abhishek Raturi 87).

All-round show by Kartik

An all-round performance by Kartik Verma (67 and four for 33) and a half-century by Yatharth Kumar as Tyagi Cricket Nursery beat Udaybhan Academy by 27 runs in the third Vicky Bandrey memorial under-16 tournament.

The scores: TCN 197/4 in 40 overs (Kartik Verma 67, Yatharth Kumar 50) bt UBA 170 in 35.4 overs (Rushal Saini 51, Manish Yadav 44; Kartik Verma 4/33).

U&Y Academy in final

Sanjeet Kumar returned a

five-wicket haul, Lakshay Thareja top-scored with 96 and Dilshad Khan made 83 as Ujjawal & Yusuf Academy beat Friends Club by 55 runs to enter the final of the Ghevra Cup tournament.

The scores:

U&Y Academy 251/6 in 35 overs (Lakshay Thareja 96, Dilshad Khan 83; Lakshay Dawra 3/39) bt Friends Club 196 in 34.3 overs (Yash Sharma 58; Sanjeet Kumar 5/42).

Otamendi stars in Sahara Warriors' title triumph

Daniel Otamendi was in irrepressible form, smashing

eight goals, including the match-winner and guiding Sahara Warriors to a 10-9 victory over Sona Polo in the final of the National polo championship at the Jaipur Polo ground here on Sunday.

Vice Chief of the Army Staff Lt. Gen. S.K. Saini, presented the trophy.

The results (final):

Sahara Warriors 10 (Daniel Otamendi 8, Padmanabh Singh, Kuldeep Singh Rathore) bt Sona Polo 9 (Siddhant Sharma 4, Jack Richardson 3, Angad Kalaan 2).

MARUTI SUZUKI

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