

COVID-19 kills 1 more doctor in Gurugram

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
FARIDABAD

A woman gynaecologist and obstetrician, running a private clinic at NIT-3 here, died due to COVID-19 on Saturday. She was the fourth woman doctor to succumb to the infection in the district, which has seen the highest number of COVID-19 deaths in Haryana.

Dr. Santosh Grover practised at Ashok Nursing Home with her family and had contracted the virus during her job. She died on November 21. Dr. Grover is the second doctor to die due to COVID-19 infection in the district within a week. Earlier, Dr. Archana Bhaitia had died of the virus. Dr. Renu Gambhir and Dr. Abha Sabharwal had also contracted the infection earlier and died.

Faridabad Indian Medical Association president Punita Hasija expressed condolences. "We were yet to come to terms with the shocking death of Dr. Bhaitia when the news of Dr. Grover's death dealt us another blow in less than a week," said Dr. Hasija.

Faridabad has recorded 297 COVID-19 deaths, the highest in the State. It includes 229 deaths of patients with co-morbidities. The district has recorded 36,841 cases till November 22, the second highest in the State following Gurugram. The recovery rate, at 86.05%, is less than the State's average of 89.63%.

The district has also recorded the highest positivity rate in the State in both rounds of seroprevalence survey. It recorded the positivity rate of 25.8% and 31.2% during the first and second survey respectively against the State's average of 8% and 14%.

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

With the third wave of novel coronavirus hitting the Millennium City a couple of weeks ago amid festive rush, the district administration has responded to the situation by increasing testing and augmenting the number of hospital beds.

Several police teams have been constituted to ensure adherence to COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures at banquet and wedding halls, and health teams are conducting random testing at crowded places.

Almost five months after the second wave hit in May-end, Gurugram – the worst-hit district in Haryana in terms of total COVID-19 cases – saw a sudden surge in daily infections ahead of Dusshera. The trend has continued.

Sharp spike

The district recorded an average of 250-300 cases for the first 20 days in October, but the number jumped to 300-400 per day between October 21 and 30. On October 31, Gurugram recorded 498 cases, followed by 529 on November 1.

On November 21, the city reported 939 fresh cases – the highest single-day spike since the pandemic began.

Chief Medical Officer (Gurugram) Virender Yadav said cases spiked across the country due to the festive rush. "It was expected. The country witnessed a second wave soon after lockdown restrictions were eased and markets, public transport and offices began to open. The people have also lowered their guard. No one seems to be interested in adhering to the three basic principles of fighting the virus: social distancing, wearing a mask and washing hands," said Mr. Yadav.

In a bid to ensure sufficient beds for treatment of the infected, the district re-



Shopping spree: A crowded Sadar Bazar market in Gurugram on the eve of Deepavali. ■ FILE PHOTO

critical care. Of the 5,693 active cases in the city, 5,264 are in home isolation, as per the November 22 health bulletin.

Increased testing

The district has also managed to double the number of RT-PCR and Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) to around 6,000 a day, up from 3,000 a month ago. "Gurugram tested 10,200 samples on November 21, a new high in per day testing in Haryana. The district health department conducted 5,700 RT-PCR and 4,500 random mass Rapid Antigen Tests. Gurugram has the highest testing in Haryana with a total of 4,52,860 tests. At present, we are concentrating on increasing testing in Gurugram, Faridabad, Hisar and Rohtak, where the cases are much higher. With these levels of testing as being done in Gurugram, we will quickly isolate the positive cases and bring down the positivity rate. We have set a target of 30,000 tests for the State everyday," Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Rajeev Arora told *The Hindu*.

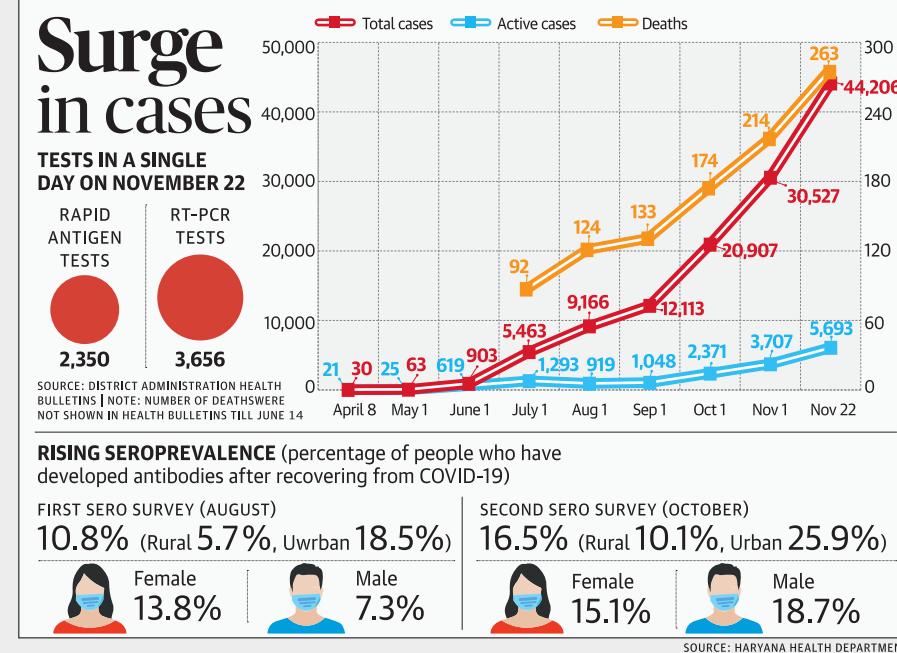
Mr. Yadav, however, said the Indian Council of Medical Research had on November 17 advised against "indiscriminate use of Convalescent Plasma Therapy", stating that trials across 39 public and private hospitals in the country and similar studies in China and Netherlands had not documented any significant benefit of the therapy.

Gurugram Police has also intensified its drive against those not wearing masks in public places and has issued fines to 22,817 people since October 20. So far, 89,582 people have been penalised for not wearing masks.

"The owners of the banquet and wedding halls need to inform the local police station about upcoming events. Legal action, including sealing of premises, will be taken in case of any violation," said Gurugram Police spokesperson Subhash Bohra.

Gurugram battles third wave

The district administration has responded to the situation by increasing testing and augmenting the number of hospital beds reserved for COVID-19 patients



Death toll surges to 75 in Noida

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA

Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddha Nagar recorded one more fatality linked to COVID-19 that pushed the death toll to 75, while the district's infection tally surged to 21,479 with 171 new cases on Sunday, official data showed.

Active cases rose to 1,323, the third highest in the State, from 1,307 on the previous day, according to the data released by the U.P. Health Department, for a 24-hour period.

Also, 155 more patients got discharged during the period in Gautam Buddha Nagar, with the overall number of recovery reaching 20,080, the fifth highest in the State, it showed.

With the death toll reaching 76, Gautam Buddha Nagar now has a mortality rate of 0.35%. The recovery rate reached 93.48%, statistics showed.



With 6,746 new cases, Delhi's COVID-19 tally reaches 5,29,863

400 ICU beds have been added for COVID-19 patients, says Health Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Capital recorded 121 deaths and 6,746 new COVID-19 cases on Sunday, taking the total number of cases to 5,29,863 and fatalities to 8,391.

The number of recoveries recorded was 6,154, taking the total recoveries to 4,81,260. The health bulletin released by the Delhi government said that 54,893 tests had been conducted in the past 24 hours with a positivity rate of 12.29%. The death rate based on the last 10 days' data stands at 1.69%. There are 40,212 active cases in the city, out of which 23,301 people are under home isolation.

Health Minister Satyendar Jain said over 400 ICU beds have been added for CO-

Rapid antigen tests in progress at Lalbagh in north Delhi on Sunday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

VIRUS SPREAD

Total number of COVID-19 cases	Total deaths
5,29,863	8,391

Total number of COVID-19 cases

New cases in the past 24 hours

New deaths

6,746

121

SOURCE: DELHI GOVERNMENT HEALTH BULLETIN

VIRUS SPREAD

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Timings
DELHI

MONDAY, NOV. 23
RISE 06:50 SET 17:25
RISE 13:46 SET 00:27
TUESDAY, NOV. 24
RISE 06:51 SET 17:25
RISE 14:17 SET 01:22
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 25
RISE 06:52 SET 17:25
RISE 14:46 SET 02:14

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 24 07
Safdarjung 24 07
Palam 23 09

Delhi Pali Today
25°C Shallow fog/mist likely during morning. Dry weather very light winds and few clouds likely.

Delhi Pali Tomorrow
25°C Rise in temperature. A comfortable day with partly cloudy sky. Pollution level may deteriorate.

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Air quality of Delhi-NCR		
Delhi 274	Gurugram 242	
Ghaziabad 288	Faridabad 234	
Noida 273	Greater Noida 270	
Good 0-50	Satisfactory 51-100	Moderate 101-200
Poor 201-300	Very poor 301-400	Severe >401
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) SOURCE: CPCB		

Carry out enquiry of de-addiction centre: HC

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has ordered the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to carry out a preliminary enquiry of a drug de-addiction centre based in Dehradun after it found that a 22-year-old woman was being illegally kept there despite her not being addicted to any narcotic or other substance.

A Bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Rajnish Bhattacharya questioned the circumstances under which the de-addiction centre, Golden Dream Society Rehabilitation Centre, admitted the woman and kept her there for over three weeks on the request of her mother.

"The role of Golden Dream Society Rehabilitation Centre, Dehradun, appears to be dubious," the High Court said.

When the Bench interacted with the mother, she revealed her real concern was that her daughter was under "strong influence" of, and in relationship with a married man who has two children. The woman, on the other hand, told the Bench during the videoconferencing hearing that she does not wish to have any alliance with either her mother or with the married man.

Taking note of the submission, the court ordered immediate release of the woman from the centre. It also remarked that "the possibility of the said centre being misused for the purpose of forcibly detaining people on the ground that they require rehabilitation, cannot be ruled out".

It directed registration of a case against the centre and its director.

Capital records coldest Nov. night in 17 years

Air quality remains in 'very poor' category, says SAFAR

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

It was the coldest November night in 17 years as the minimum temperature in the Capital dropped to 6.9 degrees Celsius – four degrees under the normal for the season – on Sunday.

In November 2003, the mercury had dropped to 6.1 degrees Celsius. The Capital recorded a minimum of 7.5 degrees Celsius on Friday, which was the lowest in the month in 14 years, the Met said.

It added that November has consistently seen temperatures below average due to the absence of cloud cover. Also, over the past few days, icy cold winds from the Himalayas have been blowing towards the city.

However, under the influence of a Western Disturbance, the minimum is not likely to go down further and will rise to settle around 10 degrees Celsius, the Met said.

The maximum temperature settled at 24.2, which was also two degrees below normal for the season. Partly cloudy sky is forecast for the coming days with mist in the morning.

October this year was the



A woman waits for public transport on a cold Sunday morning near Anand Vihar Bus Terminal in Delhi. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

coldest in 58 years as the mean minimum temperature was 17.2 degrees Celsius, the lowest since 1962, when it was 16.9 degrees Celsius. The all-time record for the lowest minimum temperature in November is 3.9 degrees Celsius recorded on November 28, 1938.

The air quality in the Capital remained in the "poor category" with an AQI of 274 based on data from 36 monitoring stations over a period of 24 hours. Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziaband, Faridabad and Gurugram also remained in the "poor category".

According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, SAFAR, the effective stubble fire counts with

sufficient potential estimated from SAFAR-multi-satellite products has decreased and are around 649.

"Stubble burning share in PM2.5 in Delhi's air is estimated as 12% for Sunday. Winds are forecast to slow down and low ventilation is forecast for November 23 and 24," the bulletin said. SAFAR said the AQI is likely to deteriorate to the middle end of "very poor" category by November 23 and is likely to further deteriorate to the high end of "very poor" by Nov. 24.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".

Nuh MLA launches campaign for addiction-free society

Political, social leaders attend drive

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Several political, social and religious leaders along with academicians came together to launch a campaign in Nuh for a society free from all types of addiction on Saturday.

Launching the campaign at Satputiyaka-Husainpur village, Nuh MLA and Deputy Leader of Congress Legislative Party Aftab Ahmed said addiction to alcohol, tobacco and drugs were on the rise not only in Nuh but also across the country.

He added that there is an urgent need to prevent youngsters from falling prey to this menace.

Future of the country
The MLA said the youth is the future of the country and therefore cannot be allowed to become slaves to addiction.

"It is not a political campaign, but only a social initiative involving all sections of the society to create an addiction-free society," said Mr. Ahmed.

He added that he had made an appeal to the Haryana government in 2017 to impose a ban on liquor in the State.

Mr. Ahmed, who was the Haryana Transport Minister, realised that addiction has been rising in the past three years in Nuh.

Religion and society'
"Our religion and our society consider addiction an evil. It destroys our body, mind and soul," he said. Pradesh Congress Committee member Chaudhary Mahtab Ahmed and Mewat Vikas Sabha president Salamudeen Meo were also present during the drive.

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• WAZIPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
• JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
• NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
• LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

IC-A-1440(16)/2020

Police file chargesheet against ex-JNU students

Umar and Sharjeel were booked under UAPA in connection with February riots

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The police on Sunday filed supplementary chargesheet against former JNU students – Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam and one Faizan Khan under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act registered in connection with north-east riots.

The supplementary chargesheet was filed in FIR number 59 – being investigated by Special Cell – in the court of Special Judge Amitabh Rawat.

The FIR was registered under sections of UAPA, criminal conspiracy, rioting, cheating, murder, attempt to murder, Arms Act

late impunity, Punj



(From left) Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam.

and damage to public property.

A total of 930 pages of chargesheet were submitted, including 197 pages of chargesheet and 733 pages of documents.

The main chargesheet in

the case, comprising 17,000 pages, was filed against 15 persons in September.

'Planned violence'

The police said protesters had blocked roads at 25 places. They added that

violence was planned on the arrival of U.S. President Donald Trump in Delhi in a WhatsApp group that was created in the name of a Delhi protest support group.

In February this year, riots that broke out in parts of north-east Delhi claimed 53 lives and injured 583 persons.

There was high-scale destruction of both government and private properties, the police said.

They added that claims amounting to more than ₹20 crore to compensate for the loss of property had been filed before the Delhi government.

Court rejects petition of Delhi riots accused

His family members can look after arrangements of his sister's marriage: judge

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

blings are there to take care of the marriage.

The judge also added that he "cannot lose sight of the fact that offence complained of in the present matter is serious one as the same pertains to the brutal murder of an innocent auto-driver – Babu – by the riotous mob".

Additional Sessions Judge Vinod Yadav said he found substance in the submissions of the Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) that parents of Adil and his other si-

presence was very much necessary for the peaceful solemnisation of the marriage.

The judge also added that he "cannot lose sight of the fact that offence complained of in the present matter is serious one as the same pertains to the brutal murder of an innocent auto-driver – Babu – by the riotous mob".

Adil had sought interim bail for a period of 14 days for participating in the marriage. It was argued that his

The SPP had argued that his brother was there to take care of the customs. The

judge also noted that the Delhi High Court in a recent verdict had emphasised that the "gravity of offence has to be taken into consideration while considering the application for interim bail".

"Considering the facts and circumstances of the case in totality, I do not find it to be a fit case for enlarging the applicant [Adil] on interim bail," the judge said refusing the interim bail application.

Development Continues in Bankura District...

In the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister

Mamata Banerjee

Inauguration of a cluster of Projects,
Laying of Foundation Stones and Providing Services



Inauguration

- Mejia Water Supply Project (Second Phase)
- Panchmura 33/11 KV Power Sub-Station
- Administrative Building of Power Department in Khatra Block
- Ambulance Service of Bauri Samaj Unnayan Samity of Kotulpur Block
- Renovation of roads from Ranibandh to Barikul, State Highway-8 to Radhanagar and from Baidyanathpur to T11 in Onda Block
- Concrete road around Tarapur Jheel in Mejia Block
- Modernization of main canal and branch canal of the Kangsabati Project in Ranibandh and Raipur Blocks
- Upgradation of minor irrigation projects of Rukni, Amjor and Jafla in Taldangra Block and of Bhalukajor in Indpur Block
- Consumer Service Centre in Hirbandh and Kotulpur Blocks
- Ragini Marriage and Conference Hall in Bankura Town
- Domestic connection of purified drinking water to each household of Bankura Town under the 'Amrit Scheme'
- Solid Waste Management Scheme in Bankura town area

Laying of Foundation Stones

- Industrial Parkat Deuli mouza in Gangajalghanti Block
- Community Hall for Bauri samaj at Rangamati mouza of Gangajalghanti Block
- S.B.S.T.C Bus Terminus at Senapati mouza of Khatra Block and at Ghagra mouza of Ranibandh Block
- Zilla Udayan Bhavan in Bankura Town
- Additional building at Rai Baghini High School in Kotulpur Block
- Renovation of Taldangra-Panchmura-Choubeta Road in Taldangra and Bishnupur Blocks and Tantipukur-Shyamnagar-Hetia Road in Jaypur Block
- Roads from: Rajgram S.B. Raha Institute to Moynapur Market, Prasadpur Primary School to Hospital Crossing in Jaypur Block, Danne Canal Pool to Mahaldanga, Rautkhand Main Road to Nandipara and from Ramharipur to Kochkunda in Borjora Block
- Modernization of upper parts of Khatra main canal in Khatra, Simlapal and Sareng Blocks
- Bridge with check-dam on the Sarsa canal at Rangamati mouza of Jaypur Block
- Two-Lane-Bridge on Chatra-Krishnanagar Road over the river Amodar in Kotulpur Block
- Kanyakshree
- Oikyashree
- Rupashree
- Cycles under Sabuj Sathi Scheme
- Swasthya Sathi Cards for the folk artistes and weavers
- Motorcycles for the youths under Karmadasi Scheme
- Appointment Letters to the posts of Special Home Guards
- Grants for the people belonging to the Dokra Community
- LandPatta
- Grants under Matir Sristi Scheme
- Grants for the priests of the Bishnupur Temple
- Grants under Tapasili Bandhu and Joy Johar Schemes
- Assistance to Krisak Bandhu Scheme
- Horticulture Pack House
- Retirement Assistance for the Anganwadi workers
- Bangla Aabas Yojana
- Grants for the Self-Help Groups
- Implementation and Seeds
- Cycles fitted with thermo-insulated box for the fishermen
- Identity Cards for the people belonging to the Backward Classes
- Dhamsah and Madal
- Social Security Scheme
- Term Loans, Education Loans and Direct Loans
- Swasthya Sathi
- Food Coupons
- Karma Sathi

Providing Services

- Sri Shyamal Santra, Hon'ble Minister, Government of West Bengal
- Sri Kalyan Bandyopadhyay, Hon'ble MP
- Sri Mrityunjay Murmu, Hon'ble Sahibdhipati, Bankura Zilla Parishad
- Sri Subhasis Batabyal, Hon'ble Saha-Sahibdhipati, Bankura Zilla Parishad and Vice Chairman, West Bengal Agro Industries Corporation
- Sri Swapan Bouri, Hon'ble MLA
- Sri Dharendra Nath Layek, Hon'ble MLA
- Sri Jyotsna Mandi, Hon'ble MLA
- Sri Birendra Nath Tudu, Hon'ble MLA
- Sri Samir Chakraborty, Hon'ble MLA
- Smt. Shampa Daripa, Hon'ble MLA
- Sri Arup Kumar Khan, Hon'ble MLA
- Sri Tusras Kanti Bhattacharya, Hon'ble MLA
- Sri Alapan Bandyopadhyay, Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal
- Sri Hari Krishna Dwivedi, Home Secretary, Government of West Bengal
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CM warns against circulation of videos on Tripura violence

Protest at Panisagar had left two dead and many injured

SYED SAJJAD ALI
AGARTALA

Tripura Chief Minister Biplob Kumar Deb on Sunday warned action against those circulating graphic videos on Saturday's violent incidents at Panisagar in north Tripura that left two dead and many injured.

In a tweet, he appealed to people to refrain from sharing videos and images of the violence on social media platforms to avoid misinterpretation in society.

The Tripura police too, in their Twitter handle, issued a warning against sharing videos on social media. "Strict legal action would be taken against those sharing such videos and spreading rumours", they stated.

Law and order issue

The statement said the incidents at north Tripura were a law and order issue, but on social media, videos were being circulated to 'give the incident the colour of communal violence'.

Police said the situation in Kanchanpur and neighbouring Panisagar was now peaceful.

One person, Srikanta Das (45), was killed when security personnel opened fire on huge crowds from Kanchan-



Tripura CM Biplob Deb

pur who blocked the Assam-Agartala National Highway at Chamtila in Panisagar to protest the government's plan to settle Bru refugees in Kanchanpur. The irate mob lynched a fire service staff, Biswajit Debbarma (40), who got trapped in the clashes.

About 23 people, including 15 police and fire service personnel, were injured in the violence. Some of them were shifted to the GBP Hospital in Agartala.

Five security vehicles were damaged by the protesters of the Joint Movement Committee (JMC) which had spearheaded agitation against the plan to permanently rehabilitate 5,000 Bru evacuees in Tripura, ending 23-year-old imbroglio.

The refugee leaders recently met State Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar seeking implementation of the accord which offered lucrative rehabilitation package to the evacuees.

The JMC had enforced an indefinite strike in Kanchanpur, which entered seventh

day on Sunday.

The Tripura government has announced a compensation of ₹5 lakh each to the bereaved families.

Meanwhile, Kanchanpur Sub-Divisional Magistrate Chandni Chandran confirmed deployment of Assam Rifles and Border Security Force personnel in restive areas. The north Tripura district administration imposed Section 144 of CrPC in both Kanchanpur and Panisagar.

12 places selected

The Tripura government has selected 12 places, including Kanchanpur, to rehabilitate some 35,000 Mizoram Brus currently housed in six makeshift camps.

In January, Union Home Minister Amit Shah presided over the signing of a quadripartite accord of Ministry with State governments of Mizoram, Tripura and leaders of Bru refugees to permanently settle evacuees in Tripura, ending 23-year-old imbroglio.

The refugee leaders recently met State Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar seeking implementation of the accord which offered lucrative rehabilitation package to the evacuees.

According to the order, passed by Mohd. Ghulam Ul Madar, Special Judge (SC/ST Act), Meerut, the incident happened on the night of October 29, 2017 in Raghunathpur village under Jani police station of Meerut, when the convict, Ankit Punia, a neighbour of the victim, trespassed into her residence in a state of drunken stupor and tried to sexually assault her.

When the victim's grandson and his wife rushed out, after hearing the cries of their grandmother, they found the convict lying over the victim.

"The convict has been found guilty under Sections 302, 376/511, and 458 of IPC and has been sentenced to life imprisonment. A penalty of ₹25,000 has also been imposed on him," said Nishant Kumar Garg, the special public prosecutor who represented the State in the court.

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The lawyer of the convict had argued that the victim's

Man gets life sentence for rape bid on centenarian

The Dalit woman died of shock caused by the assault

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

A Meerut court on Friday sentenced a man to life imprisonment for attempting to rape a 100-year-old Dalit woman. The incident occurred in 2017 and the woman had died of shock during the medical investigation.

"The convict has been found guilty under Sections 302, 376/511, and 458 of IPC and has been sentenced to life imprisonment. A penalty of ₹25,000 has also been imposed on him," said Nishant Kumar Garg, the special public prosecutor who represented the State in the court.

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The lawyer of the convict had argued that the victim's

family had owed ₹1 lakh to Punia's family and that they filed a false case against his client so that they did not have to repay the loan and get compensation from the government.

"As he could not produce any documentary proof, the honourable judge did not take his argument into account," said Mr. Garg.

No motive?

"There was no motive. Heavily drunk, he just could not hold his sexual urge," said Mr. Garg. "It is the same as some perverts assault infants and kids," he argued. The judge described the act as heinous and said a lighter punishment would send an adverse message to society.

However, the judge did not find the case to fall in the rarest of rare category, and hence, the accused was awarded life imprisonment.

First phase of panchayat polls in Rajasthan today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR

All preparations have been made for the first phase of the elections to panchayat bodies in 21 Rajasthan districts on Monday, an official said here.

According to State Election Commissioner P.S. Mehra, around 72.38 lakh people will be eligible to vote in the panchayat samiti and zila parishad polls on Monday, for which nearly 25,000 EVMs

will be used at 10,131 polling stations.

Around 50,000 employees will be deployed for the polls, he said, adding that people will be able to vote from 7.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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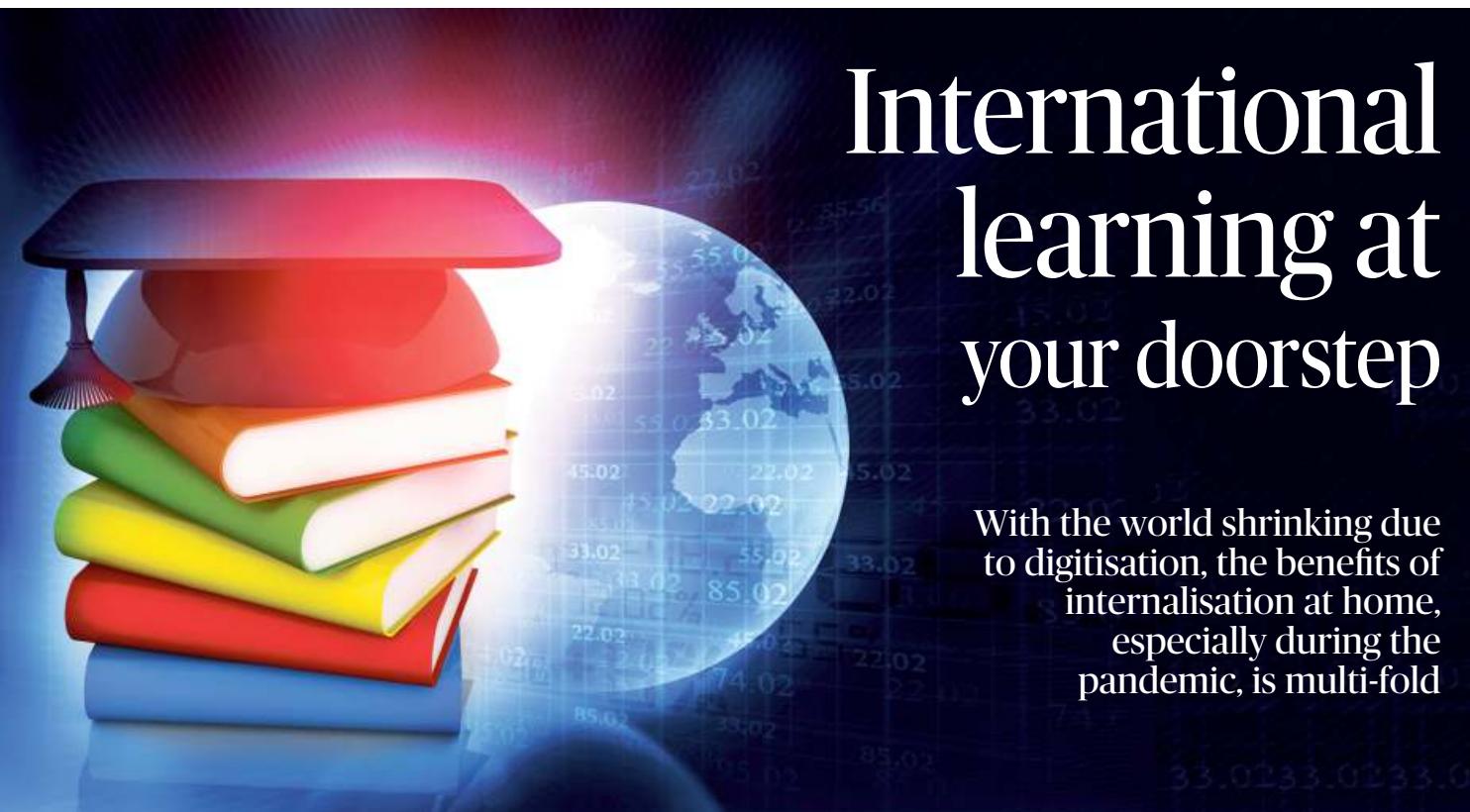
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R.W. ALEXANDER JESUDASAN AND G. ILAVAZHAGAN

The concept of internationalisation began in ancient times when people and material began to move across the world through diverse means of transportation. Nalanda University, established as early as the fifth century CE, attracted pupils and scholars from Korea, Japan, China, Tibet, Indonesia, Persia and Turkey. With quality education offered in some prime institutions in certain parts of the world, people began to migrate both for educational and employment purposes. Thus, it could be said that internationalisation of higher education is the process of integrating an international, intercultural, or global dimension into the purpose, functions or delivery of post-secondary education (Knight, 2003).

STOCKPHOTOS/GETTYIMAGES



In the past

Earlier, opportunities to go abroad were mostly available to the affluent and to those who could secure scholarships, which were few and highly competitive. As globalisation increased and many international conferences were hosted in western countries, there was a movement of academicians and researchers to share and gain expertise.

Undoubtedly, such voyages encompassed excitement and every bit learnt there was internalised and implemented at the individual and institutional levels on

their return. While some of these were brought to fruition, many forgot their unique international experience soon after they returned home.

At home
This involves the purposeful integration of international and intercultural dimensions into the formal and informal curriculum for students within domestic learning environments (Beelen, 2015).

As a response to domestic lacking opportunities with cross-cultural experiences, schools, colleges and universities have developed on-campus efforts to promote a global student identity, including, internationalising the curriculum, developing intercultural research projects, collaborat-

ing with local minority groups, and promoting interactions with international students.

During this pandemic, when travel had become almost impossible, the internationalisation of education, became highly relevant and useful, as experts were invited to deliver talks and webinars on topics of their specialisation virtually to students and faculty, thus, bringing in equity in knowledge-sharing, irrespective of the geographical location and social and economic differences.

International students are often encouraged to experience a stay in the home of a local student or professor from the host institution to experience the different facets of life-related areas such as food, culture, tradi-

tions, and habits in that part of the state/country.

Curriculum

An internationalised curriculum with relevant information embedded in existing courses will engage students with informed research, cultural and linguistic diversity, and purposefully develop a global perspective. As we live in a globalised world, this virtue is crucial as people now move freely across countries. This aspect will provide the necessary impetus to students to handle challenging matters successfully.

Impact

Due to the high fees collected from international students, the economic status of those institutions is likely

to improve (in 2019, nearly 7.5 lakhs Indian students studied abroad, spending nearly \$7 billion). Further

on the academic front, such collaborations are likely to enhance teaching abilities and fill in the language gap and cross-cultural collaborations. Social connections among local and international students will also foster camaraderie and cross-border cultural exchanges.

Benefits to students

As a result of internationalisation at home, local students derive many benefits such as improved interpersonal relationships, enhanced spoken English and communication skills, an amplified ability to articulate, increased self-confidence and self-esteem, visible team work and, overall

improvement and change in outlook.

It is interesting that, in NEP 2020, one of the key areas of focus is internationalisation, which is bound to scale up the quality of Indian Higher Education in the future as it is expected to deal with aspects such as larger number of international students coming into India and greater mobility to Indian students to go to overseas institutions, transfer of credits, joint research programmes and sharing of multiple resources among them.

Alexander Jesudasan is Pro Vice-Chancellor, and G. Ilavazhagan is Director, International Affairs, Hindustan Institute of Technology & Science (Deemed to be University), Chennai.

Learning beyond books

How can science and creativity be combined to kindle a child's curiosity and imagination? How can parents and schools effectively manage quality learning at home? What is the importance of learning and doing at a time when there is more learning happening at home? All these points and more will be discussed at a webinar on "Looking beyond the textbook for your child's learning", hosted by Pidilite and Fevi-create Idea Labs, along with The Hindu Education Plus.

The speakers are Vivek Abrol, Sr. Vice President, Arts Stationery-Fabrics Division, Pidilite Industries; Dr. Srimathi Kesan, Ambassador to NASA, ESA and GCTC space camps; and Jyothi Prabhakar, journalist, writer and managing editor of ParentCircle. The session will be moderated by Radhika Santhanam, Assistant Editor, The Hindu.

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A leaf from Stacey Abrams' book

The Democrat's successful campaign in Georgia offers significant lessons for Indian progressives



LAKSHMEESHA SHARMA & KANIMOZHI UDHYAKUMAR

On November 3, 2020, as the polls closed across the 50 States of America, the world turned its eyes on the key battleground States that would determine who the next U.S. president would be. While there were close contests in the key swing States, Georgia, an unlikely contender, flipped Blue, much to the surprise of everybody except Stacey Abrams. What can the Indian progressive front learn from this?

Ms. Abrams, a Democrat, is the former gubernatorial candidate from Atlanta, who has been credited with turning the southern state of Georgia from a Red State (that voted for the Republican Party) to a Blue one (that voted for the Democratic Party). It is important to note the sociopolitical and geographical context of Georgia, which voted for the conservative Republican Party for decades. Georgia has a significant Black population (32.6% of the demography). A former Confederate State which lost the Civil War, it could be argued that it still harbours the vestiges of racism that manifests today through voter suppression, especially in predominantly Black neighbourhoods.

Georgia's history and the positional significance of Ms. Abrams' leadership (an African-American woman herself) informed her approach. Soon after the flip, congratulatory messages poured in for her and her organisation, the Fair Fight foundation, for standing at the helm of fighting voter suppression in Georgia. Her work brought 8,00,000 Georgian residents, predominantly Black, into the political process. These residents were at the receiving end of policies and operations of voter suppression and intimidation, a silent majority whose political engagement was 'activated' by Ms. Abrams' leadership.

Unlocking choice and action
Ms. Abrams managed to galvanise three important elements that produced a political impact at scale in Georgia: a value framework in-



formed by every citizen's constitutional right to vote, representatives on the ground who embodied this value framework, and technological infrastructure for scale and sustainability. It appears that her campaign operationalised this framework to invoke agency for a historically suppressed community. This activated a citizenry whose political participation single-handedly furthered the core tenets of democracy – an informed and active voter base.

Citizenship is typically seen through the lens of electoral participation, claim making, and resistance. There is, however, an undercurrent of citizenship which is now moving to the forefront – active citizenship. The active citizenship approach works to habituate citizens to utilise their agency in making claims of the State. It involves building the civic muscle of the citizens to engage with civic issues, and political participation. Ms. Abrams sets an example of active citizenship, in the case of Georgia's Black electorate.

Although she is a Democrat, the Fair Fight foundation maintains that it is non-partisan, whose mandate and value framework is to fight voter suppression and induct as many citizens into the political process as possible, for a fair and free election. This value framework was echoed by a network of representatives on the ground who mobilised and informed a citizenry that had faced systemic political erasure. These representatives become crucial in building trust and confidence in the community to drive agency and empowerment. They played a critical role in enabling disenfranchised communities

to exercise their citizenship.

The predominantly Black grassroots organisers played a pivotal role in helping citizens unlearn historical loss of agency to actively engage with the political process. A key feature of representation in leadership is to speak to the unique issues faced by specific communities, and focus on amplifying these issues until reform becomes a national focus. For instance, in her gubernatorial campaign, Ms. Abrams focused on criminal justice reform, and gun control, both issues that deeply affect Black citizens. This not only builds trust and solidarity, but also drives validation for communities navigating these issues on a daily basis. This approach has been buttressed by the accelerated pace of digital transformation where increased information dissemination and expanding avenues for citizen engagement has resulted in amplification of citizenship practices. The Fair Fight foundation used a data-driven approach to identify the demography that was excluded from the political process. It then utilised grassroots campaigning and technology to drive political participation at the last mile. Digital technologies helped amplify and scale Ms. Abrams' campaign to reach suppressed voters across Georgia.

Lessons for Indian progressives
The Indian progressive front would benefit from the Abrams example. It is important to first address that in India, most campaigns for political participation of suppressed groups are often led by a partisan mandate over a constitutional one. In most cases, new vote banks are created

through unscrupulous practices, with the goal centred around the victory of a political leader or party, and not around the political participation of an informed citizenry from diverse socio-structural contexts.

The Stacey Abrams campaign ensured a representative leadership that amplified the voices from the bottom up. While identity politics may have been utilised to mobilise marginalised groups into political institutions, her success in Georgia is not necessarily because of an alignment with a specific party, but because of a simple constitutional mandate – voting rights for all.

In the Indian context, we know that there are issues of missing voters, specifically in the case of religious and caste minorities. How can the progressive front address this without devolving to party politics? An issue-based approach embedded in suppressed communities is perhaps more effective than a partisanship-led approach. In the case of Georgia, the campaign retained focus on issues faced by Black communities. Perhaps a campaign led by party politics may have offered stop-gap results – as it does in the Indian context through vote bank politics – but these are often reactionary and untenable in the long run.

A significant lesson for Indian progressives is to acknowledge that in the American context, there exists a space within a major party for promising, diverse, and independent voices like that of Ms. Abrams to flourish – one which turned the tide against a quasi-authoritarian opposition. A redistribution of agency and decision-making powers for representative leaders with the means to address voter suppression in their own communities seems to be an important first step to strengthen a crippling democracy. Leveraging offline and online architectures to drive access, information, and impact at scale is also of critical importance to build a viable opposition. Perhaps the Stacey Abrams example offers a sense of self-reckoning for Indian progressive voices that could successfully lead the charge against authoritarianism.

Lakshmeesha Sharma is a Senior Research Associate, Aapti Institute; Kanimozhi Udhayakumar is a Data Analyst, Aapti Institute

FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

Smart filters are more important than smart devices

Newsletters are an integral part of re-imagining journalism



A.S. PANNEERSELVAN

I firmly believe that teaching is the best way to learn. The many remote conversations I had with my students due to the pandemic led to an extended discussion on my characterisation of the media ecology under two rubrics: digital empowerment that ensures access to credible information and digital disruption due to algorithms.

Hierarchies created by technology

I explained to them the trappings of the algorithm-driven universe. The dominant elements of this universe are metrics and analytics. I drew their attention to Umberto Eco's reflection on how technology can act as a barrier. He argued that state of the art technological devices are notorious in demanding an upgrade every six months, which is beyond the means of many. He also cautioned us against having an irrational focus on all the information out there, which is beyond any individual's ability to grasp and process meaningfully. He wrote: "Once upon a time, if I needed a bibliography on Norway and semiotics, I went to a library and probably found four items. I took notes and found other bibliographical references. Now with the Internet, I can have 10,000 items. At this point I become paralysed."

Due to the pandemic, most of us are forced to source information remotely through technology. And this option has re-emphasised a hierarchy. The available bandwidth and prowess of the devices are the markers of this divide. In this difficult reality, how does one deal with technology that has nearly become omnipotent and omnipresent? In other words, what are the means journalists can deploy to retain the cyberspace for empowerment? I have often been confronted with a question: isn't disruption a positive development that can shake the status quo? If so, why do I fear digital disruption?

My reading on the role of cyberspace-led ecology flows from the veteran broadcast journalist Edward R. Murrow's reading of television when it was a major disrupter in the 1950s. Murrow said: "This instrument [tele-

vision] can teach, it can illuminate; yes, and even it can inspire. But it can do so only to the extent that humans are determined to use it to those ends. Otherwise, it's nothing but wires and lights in a box. There is a great and perhaps decisive battle to be fought against ignorance, intolerance and indifference." This is vastly different from the imagination that is governing the Silicon Valley conglomerates that rule cyberspace, and in whose roles there is little space for an idea called public good.

Filtering information

The lesson I drew from Eco and Murrow is that I must devise my own filters to manage this information overload and create a system to look at materials that matter. I get about 25 newsletters a day from diverse sources which leads me to credible information and informed analysis. This includes not only *The Hindu*'s newsletters such as *The Morning Filter*, *The Evening Wrap*, *The Daily Digest*, *The View from India*, and *The Hindu Data newsletter*, but also initiatives such as *The India Cable*, *The India Forum* and a host of websites, some of which are free and some of which are behind a paywall. These newsletters let me choose about 1,00,000 words which I can read and process in a day instead of the infinite number of words and images that clutter my screen. The newsletters have sharpened our ability to curate the information we need and hence, they are an integral part of re-imagining journalism.

The *India Cable* pointed me to an ironic move by the Union government in defining its relationship with credible news. Following the entry headlined "Centre cites liberal media as alibi for its own failings on Tablighi coverage", I examined the difference in power between credible journalism and propagandist drivel. Those who attack news organisations that retain their journalistic values should read the affidavit filed by the government in the Supreme Court. Channels and websites that are apologists of the regime were not mentioned when the government wanted to talk about examples of "largely factual reports" and "objective reporting".

Editing makes any story, irrespective of the platform on which it is published, a coherent whole. And if readers and viewers develop editing skills, they can easily convert this avalanche of information into a meaningful, democratic tool.

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A false messiah

Asaduddin Owaisi's remedy for the Indian Muslims' predicament is worse than the disease

MOHAMMED AYOOB

The victory of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) in five constituencies in Bihar, largely at the expense of the Mahagathbandhan, made a crucial difference to the electoral outcome. Asaduddin Owaisi now plans to enlarge his party's national footprint by contesting Assembly seats in districts with substantial Muslim populations in West Bengal and later in Uttar Pradesh.

Wrong diagnosis

Mr. Owaisi is harshly critical of the BJP's agenda that he argues contravenes the basic principles of the Constitution. But his main objective, he says, is to expose the "hypocrisy" of the "secular" parties, especially the Congress, that he argues have exploited Muslims for decades by instilling in them the fear of the BJP and posing as their saviours. However, according to Mr. Owaisi, these parties have done nothing to improve the socio-economic status of the Muslims or empower them politically during the decades they were in power.

Mr. Owaisi's charge is corroborated by the findings of the Sachar Committee, which was set up to study the socio-economic conditions of Muslims. Its report, released in 2006, confirmed the abysmally low rate of Muslim employment in government services. It also showed that Muslims have higher levels of poverty than upper caste and OBC Hindus and their economic condition is worse than those of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in urban areas.

While Mr. Owaisi's diagnosis about the indifference of the "secular" parties towards the Muslims' plight and their use of the latter as mere vote banks may be correct, his solution will make the problem worse. Mr. Owaisi's remedy for the Muslims' sorry condition is to expand the reach of AIMIM across the country as an exclusively Muslim party that would demand that their socioeconomic conditions be improved and their civil and political rights guaranteed.

Mr. Owaisi seriously – and perhaps deliberately – underestimates the counterproductive nature of this solution. While AIMIM may garner a few seats in constituencies with Mus-

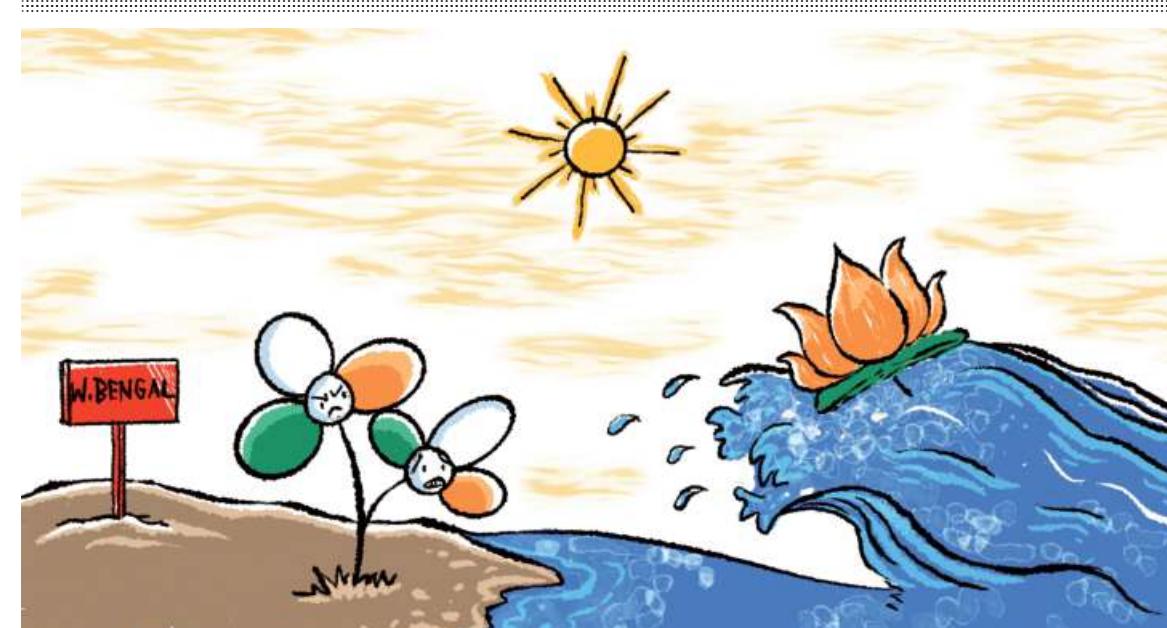
lim concentrations, this will be at the cost of non-BJP parties, thus making it easier for the BJP and its allies to win elections. This strategy will also lead to greater polarisation and the consolidation of Hindu votes behind the BJP, thus rendering the Muslim minority even more marginal to political outcomes. A majoritarian backlash in an increasingly polarised society could irretrievably damage the "secular" parties and remove the buffer, no matter how deficient, they present between a pluralist idea of India and a majoritarian conception of the nation.

This outcome was evident in Bihar where the AIMIM, by drawing away a substantial number of Muslim votes in Seemanchal, spoilt the Mahagathbandhan's chances of gaining a majority. The same story could in all probability be repeated in West Bengal where State elections are due soon. The contest in West Bengal will be principally between the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the BJP. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the TMC won 22 seats and the BJP, 18. The BJP's vote share was only 3% less than that of the TMC. Even a 2% shift away from the TMC could see a BJP government installed in West Bengal. If, as is likely, AIMIM draws a sizeable share of the Muslim vote in Mursidabad, Malda and North Dinajpur, where the TMC has done well in previous elections, this scenario could become a reality next year.

Building bridges

A few AIMIM MLAs shouting themselves hoarse about Muslim grievances will not resolve the community's problems. What is needed is building bridges, not burning them. What is required is holding the "secular" parties' feet to the fire, not tossing them aside just because that is the only way AIMIM can win a few seats. Mr. Owaisi is a consummate performer; nonetheless, he is a false messiah whose remedy for the Indian Muslims' predicament is worse than the disease. Today Indian Muslims need a Maulana Azad, not another false messiah like Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Mohammed Ayoob is University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of International Relations, Michigan State University



DATA POINT

Alone in Asia | Compared to India, most Asian nations have managed to keep the COVID-19 death rate relatively low and also reduce the lockdown's economic impact. India continues to have the highest daily COVID-19 cases and deaths in Asia. However, India's COVID-19 trajectory is on a downward slope since mid-September. Regions in Asia: ● South ● Southeast ● West/Central ● East. By **The Hindu Data Team**

1. DOUBLE BLOW | The graph plots the annual % change in real GDP growth in 2020 against cumulative COVID-19-related deaths per million people for Asian nations. India's estimated GDP growth of -10.3% and 95 deaths per million people was the poorest among all East, Southeast and South Asian nations (except the Maldives in GDP growth). Some West Asian nations have fared poorer than India on both these measures

2. MIDDING IN TESTS | Of the 20 Asian countries for which testing data were, India was among the 12 which conducted fewer than 100 tests per 1,000 people

3. NEW CASES | The graph shows the seven-day average of daily cases since the 25,000th case in Asian nations. India continues to top the daily cases chart despite its first wave easing. Cases in Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, and Japan are rising steeply. However, their daily case count is much lower than India's

4. NEW DEATHS | The graph shows the seven-day average of daily deaths since the 500th death in Asian countries. In this measure, too, India's curve continues to be ahead of other nations. However, it is on a downward trend. Deaths in Iran, Turkey, and especially Pakistan are climbing quickly, though the daily death count is lower than India's

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 23, 1970

President's assent to Bengal bill

The President, Mr. V. V. Giri, to-day [November 22, New Delhi] gave his assent to the West Bengal Prevention of Violent Activities Bill which gives special powers to the State administration to curb extremists' activities. The Bill, which was discussed by the West Bengal Consultative Committee of MPs, has now become a Presidential Act, and it comes into effect immediately. The Act is expected to be presented to Parliament tomorrow. The Bill is a modified version of the old Preventive Detention Act. It will enable the authorities to take into custody anyone who indulges in violence or incites violent activity against the State Government. The Bill provides for certain safeguards to detainees. One such safeguard provides that the case of each person who has been detained should be referred to an advisory board to be constituted by the Government. The decision of the board will be final. Eight M.P.s, belonging to the Left Opposition earlier in the day met the President and urged him to withhold assent to the Bill. In a 30-minute meeting with the President, they said the two Bills were "Draconian in their character," and gave "unbridled powers" to the State police.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOV. 23, 1920

Mr. Gandhi: An interview

Mr. Gandhi arrived here on Sunday morning and had a cordial welcome from the Nationalist of Delhi. On being seen by a representative, he had very little to add to what already appeared in the press. Asked whether he thought he would be able to run all the educational institutions in the country without taking any 'financial aid' from the Government, Mr. Gandhi replied, "Yes, I can carry the country with me. I think it is quite possible to run all the present institutions without any Government aid."

In reply to the enquiry whether the success hitherto achieved by Non-Co-operation made him confident of its ultimate triumph, Mr. Gandhi said, "Yes, certainly." To the question, "Are the Non-Co-operation and the Khilafat agitations really two separate movements or have they been merged into one another for the realisation of any particular object, Mr. Gandhi said: "Non-Co-operation has been adopted by the country as the means to an end. It has been adopted for the rectification of the Khilafat's wrongs, the Punjab wrongs and the attainment of Swaraj."

INTERVIEW | PEMA KHANDU

'Frontier Highway vital for troops'

Arunachal Pradesh CM wants projects fast-tracked due to China's shadow

RAHUL KARMAKAR

Given Beijing's claim over it, Arunachal Pradesh has been wary of increased activities by the People's Liberation Army across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) since the Ladakh stand-off in May. With reports that China has started working on a railway up to the State's border, Chief Minister Pema Khandu has been pushing for better connectivity to the Himalayan heights, specifically the Frontier Highway along the border, to facilitate faster movement of troops during a war-like situation and give local people more accessibility by default.

Vast stretches of the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh are inaccessible, while China, reports say, is working on railway and military infrastructure up to the border. How does your government view this?

If one goes by the history of conflicts since 1962 and unfounded claims over Arunachal Pradesh, it is imperative to protect our homeland. Many stretches of the border are indeed inaccessible. This is why we are pushing for the Frontier Highway along the 1,100-km LAC to facilitate faster movement of troops.

Projects for the border areas used to get confused because of multiple agencies. We have changed this through a coordinated ap-

proach so that everyone from the Army, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, the Border Roads Organisation and State agencies plans things out together for quality, speedy execution. A detailed project report (DPR) is being made after meetings with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Defence Ministry.

Isn't that a literally uphill task in view of the fragile ecology of the eastern Himalayas?

This is where the coordination is crucial. We want the best alignment closest to the Tibetan border with minimum impact on the slopes. There will be a lot of tunnels for the Frontier Highway that will touch existing roads and tracks in some areas. Tunnels are already being built for shortening the highway to Tawang from Assam. The railway to Tawang being surveyed also envisages tunnels.

You keep referring to the LAC as the India-Tibet border despite the official position... ■ Arunachal Pradesh has always shared its border with Tibet, not with China. This is a historic fact that none can erase. The world knows that China annexed Tibet.

Are you looking at foreign investment for the highway projects?

The terrain and natural factors such as landslides make our projects expen-



Roads are of utmost importance, particularly in border areas, from where people have been migrating because of accessibility

sive. Foreign funding agencies provide loans at cheaper interest rates that benefit many States in India, but China has continuously been blocking such funding for us because of its unfounded claim [over Arunachal Pradesh]. China's interference has denied us loans from Asian Development Bank and others.

Nevertheless, the Centre has been providing assistance to projects such as the ongoing 1,600-km Trans-Arunachal Highway project, which has had cost overruns due to land compensation issues. But we have taken action against officials and agencies for misappropriation of funds, besides letting the people know that if they need roads and other infrastructure, they should give up claiming compensation that takes up a big percentage of

a project cost. The East-West Industrial Corridor planned along the foothills bordering Assam is without such claims.

What purpose would the Industrial Corridor serve?

■ Ours is a resourceful State but communication is the biggest bottleneck. We are emphasising digital connectivity to the remotest of places. But roads are of utmost importance, particularly in border areas, from where people have been migrating because of accessibility. Tourism, our strength, also needs good roads. We were told a special desk will be created for Arunachal for investment under 'Invest India'. We are eyeing investments in agriculture and horticulture-based and non-polluting industries.

What about hydropower projects that environmentalists are critical of?

■ Tribal societies coexist with nature. The Central Electricity Authority says Arunachal has potential to produce 50,000 MW of hydropower, which is needed for our industrial dream. But at the same time, we know it is important to conserve the nature that sustains us. We have terminated many projects for which agreements were signed years ago because they were not right or not progressing. We are pursuing the feasible ones.

2 key leaders from BPF join BJP in Assam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

The shaky alliance between the BJP and the Bodoland People's Front (BPF) took a hit on Sunday with two influential leaders of the latter joining the saffron party ahead of the elections to a tribal council in Assam.

Biswajit Daimary, who resigned as a Rajya Sabha member on Saturday, and Emmanuel Mushahary, MLA, joined the BJP at Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal's official residence in Guwahati.

Mr. Daimary was the founder general secretary of the BPF and said to have been the regional party's thinktank. Mr. Mushahary represents Tamulpur, one of the 12 Assembly seats that the BPF won in the 2016 State election.

The joining of the duo is expected to boost the BJP's chances of capturing power in the Bodoland Territorial Council, where elections are scheduled on December 7 and 10.

PM for integrated fight against climate change

India exceeding Paris accord targets, Modi tells G20 event



India has adopted low-carbon and climate-resilient development practices

NARENDRA MODI

Prime Minister

The entire world can progress faster if there is greater support of technology and finance to the developing world, Mr. Modi asserted. "For humanity to prosper, every single individual must prosper. Rather than seeing labour as a factor of production alone, the focus must be on the human dignity of every worker," he said. Such an

approach would be the best guarantee for safeguarding the planet, he said. Mr. Modi said that in times of COVID-19, when everyone is focused on saving citizens and economies, it is equally important to focus on fighting climate change.

"Climate change must be fought not in silos but in an integrated, comprehensive and holistic way," he said.

India is a signatory to the 2015 Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Underlining that India has taken concrete action, Mr. Modi said the country has made LED lights popular, which, he said, saves 38 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emission per year. "We will meet our goal of 175 gigawatts of renewable energy well before the target of 2022. Now, we are taking a big step ahead by seeking to achieve 450 gigawatts by 2030," he said.

Traditional ethos

"Inspired by our traditional ethos of living in harmony with the environment, and the commitment of my government, India has adopted low-carbon and climate-resilient development practices," he said. Such an

132 countries attend global meet on criminal finances

Representatives discuss cryptocurrency-related crimes

DEVESHK PANDEY

NEW DELHI

Over 2,000 representatives from 132 countries attended the virtual 4th Global Conference on Criminal Finances and Cryptocurrencies organised by the Interpol, Europol and the Basel Institute on Governance from November 18 to 19.

Representatives from law enforcement and the judiciary, Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs), international organisations and the private sector have met virtually to shape international cross-sector solutions against the criminal use of cryptocurrencies," said the Interpol.

The conference is an initiative of the Working Group on Cryptocurrencies and Money Laundering established in 2016 by the three organisations, launched



The conference aims at exchanging information and expertise in the area.

with an objective of strengthening knowledge, expertise and best practices for investigations into financial crimes and intelligence on virtual assets and cryptocurrencies.

"Recent increases in the number and quality of investigations in the field of cryptocurrency-facilitated crime and subsequent money laundering means that law enforcement and other public entities are continuing to enhance their level of

knowledge and expertise in this crime area. In this regard, the conference served as an opportunity to underline the need for countries and jurisdictions to increase the exchange of tactical information and best practices," it said.

The conference underlined the need to expand capabilities on ways to probe virtual assets and regulate virtual asset service providers to prevent money laundering.

The conference's agenda included trends and investigations on cryptocurrency related offences, exploring criminal flows and operations in the dark markets, ransomware and sextortion case studies, money laundering involving virtual assets, and the transfer of drug proceeds using cryptocurrencies.

Cong. structure has collapsed: Azad

Party is at its lowest point in the past 72 years and needs reforms, he says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Congress party's 'structure' has collapsed and needs to be rebuilt by having elected leaders from the block to the Congress Working Committee (CWC)-level and enforce accountability in the system, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad said on Sunday.

Mr. Azad, in an interview to the news agency Asia News International (ANI), however, asserted that there was "no rebellion but a call to reform the Congress and become a national alternative".

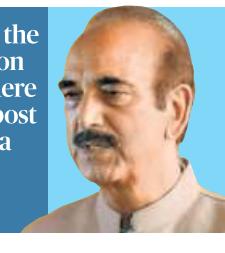
He also gave a 'clean chit' to the Gandhis as they could not have effected drastic changes during the COVID-19 pandemic, but claimed that they had agreed to their demand of having an elected party chief, CWC members and other levels of leadership.



There is no rebellion in the Congress party. Rebellion means replacing someone. There is no other candidate for the post of party president. This is not a rebellion. This is for reforms

GHULAM NABI AZAD,

Congress Leader



lowest in the last 72 years" and that it "does not have even the post of Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha during last two terms". The party's victory in the nine seats of the Ladakh Hill Council elections was a surprise, he said.

Breaking his silence on Bihar election results, Mr. Azad said five-star culture had seeped into the party and candidates first checked into a luxury hotel after getting party ticket to contest an election.

"Our party's structure has collapsed. We need to rebuild our structure and then if any leader is elected in that structure, it will work. But to say just by changing the leader we will win Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh etc. is wrong. That will happen once we change the system. Until we change our way of functioning at every level, things won't change," he said.

Cong. needs a team dedicated to polls: Karti

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Elections are now a 24x7/365-day phenomena and the Congress party needs to have an election preparedness committee with a general secretary, whose sole task is to be election-ready, Lok Sabha member from Sivaganga Karti Chidambaram said on Sunday.

The MP said the party should put in place a plan to tackle "BJP's well-oiled election machine". "There is this new terminology called strike rate that has come into electoral politics. Our strike rate seems to be lower than that of our allies in elections. So, these factors are being used now by our potential allies in the upcoming elections to browbeat us into contesting lesser or a limited number of seats. That is not necessarily true because each State election is different," he told *The Hindu*.

Covid-19 a mixed blessing for Indian Capitalism?

The pandemic has claimed thousands of jobs and lives. As we step into Unlock 5, we look at the possible repercussions on our economy



New Challenges for Indian capitalism:

1. Capitalism thrives on consumerism. But, now firms will have to allot a very large marketing budget to revive the demand, especially in the areas of automobile, fashion, hospitality, malls, and multiplexes.
2. Capitalism needs State-minimalism. But, on October 1, the Government of Gujarat ordered all private schools to reduce

What is Capitalism?

Capitalism is an economic system where the market determines prices, production, and economic activities. Here, the role of the Government is confined to the maintenance of law and order, and enforcement of contracts. The pandemic, this year, has therefore created the following new opportunities and challenges for Indian capitalism.

New Opportunities for Indian capitalism:

1. Entrepreneurs may be able to purchase public sector enterprises, mining and spectrum rights at a much cheaper price, because the government, being desperate for funds, will engage in disinvestment and auctions like a fire-sale.
2. Entrepreneurs may be able to get public land allotted at a very nominal or token price to build new factories,

5. American companies will outsource some of the manufacturing to India, particularly for the network goods given the supply chain disruptions in China.

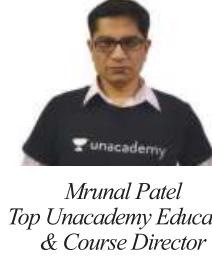
6. There might be a temporary opportunity for profiteering in the mask, sanitizer, and essential commodities sector. There is also a permanent opportunity for raising prices of goods and services by adding fancy-marketing tags like 'safe', 'sanitized', 'anti-bacterial', and 'germs-free'.

their fees by 25% due to the rising anger among parents, whose income has fallen during the Corona lockdown. Thus, State intervention in price determination may become more frequent, even in the

Scan to watch the free class on UPSC General Studies Mains Paper-3 on Economy - Capitalism by Mrunal Patel



Keeping in mind these scenarios, it might be safe to say that the coronavirus pandemic is a mixed blessing for Indian capitalism. What will, however, help is to align the interest of capitalism with that of welfare; which is the need of the hour.



Mrunal Patel
Top Unacademy Educator & Course Director

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Anticipatory bail: SC issues clarification

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

An accused cannot move for anticipatory bail once his regular bail has been cancelled by court, the Supreme Court has held in a recent order.

The accused is in the "constructive custody of law" even while out on bail, a Bench led by Justice Navin Sinha said.

The case concerns a plea for anticipatory bail filed by Manish Jain. Mr. Jain had been granted regular bail for violation of the Environment Protection Act. But he did not appear for subsequent proceedings. The court cancelled his regular bail on the ground of non-appearance under Section 174-A of the IPC. He was again arrested and released on bail. Mr. Jain, apprehending he may be arrested again, then sought anticipatory bail.

The court rejected Mr. Jain's plea for anticipatory bail and asked him to surrender and seek regular bail.

Nadda to go on nationwide tour, eyes 2024 election

BJP president to meet organisational units, State leaders



hand being the first State on his itinerary. December 5 is the likely date for the start of his tour.

Mr. Singh said Mr. Nadda would visit every State, hold virtual meetings with heads of all booth units, the smallest organisational entity in the party, and meet every MP and MLA of the organisation, besides its senior leaders, including district chiefs, in each State. Mr. Nadda would visit some booths to interact with ground-level workers, he added.

During the travel, he will spend an average of three days in big States and two in others.

With Assembly polls in four States – West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Assam – scheduled for the first half of 2021, Mr. Nadda would review the party's preparedness for the election, he said.

The BJP-ruled States will make presentations to Mr. Nadda on various aspects of their work, including implementation of Central government schemes and on how to further raise awareness about them. The party president will also be meeting allies of the BJP and hold public programmes and press conferences, Mr. Singh said.

BJP general secretary Arun Singh told presspersons that Mr. Nadda would begin his tour from the first week of December, with Uttarakhand.

Breaking his silence on Bihar election results, Mr. Azad said five-star culture had seeped into the party and candidates first checked into a luxury hotel after getting party ticket to contest an election.

"Our party's structure has collapsed. We need to rebuild our structure and then if any leader is elected in that structure, it will work. But to say just by changing the leader we will win Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh etc. is wrong. That will happen once we change the system. Until we change our way of functioning at every level, things won't change," he said.

"Our party's structure has collapsed. We need to rebuild our structure and then if any leader is elected in that structure, it will work. But to say just by changing the leader we will win Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh etc. is wrong. That will happen once we change the system. Until we change our way of functioning at every level, things won't change," he said.

IN BRIEF



PM to discuss vaccine strategy with States

NEW DELHI Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to hold virtual meetings with Chief Ministers and other representatives of States and Union Territories on Tuesday to review the COVID-19 situation and discuss vaccine distribution strategy. He is expected to hold two meetings, one with eight States with the highest case load and another to discuss the vaccine distribution strategy. PTI

RBI Twitter handle hits 1 million followers

NEW DELHI With one million Twitter followers, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has become the first Central bank in the world to reach this milestone. The RBI has beaten the U.S. Federal Reserve and European Central Bank on Twitter by emerging as the most popular central bank on the microblogging site. As per information available on its Twitter handle '@RBI', the number of followers increased from 9.66 lakh to 10 lakh on September 27. PTI

Slight improvement in Tarun Gogoi's health

GUWAHATI The health of former Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi, undergoing treatment for post-COVID-19 complications, has improved slightly, doctors at the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) said on Sunday. The 86-year-old Congress veteran was put on invasive ventilation on Saturday after suffering multiple organ failure. "His health has improved slightly and he is maintaining an oxygen saturation of 95-97%. The next 24 hours are very critical," Abhijit Sarma, GMCH superintendent, said.

CPI (Maoist) camp traced in Nuapada district

Bhubaneswar Security forces detected a camp occupied by the CPI (Maoist) and recovered arms and ammunitions in Odisha's Nuapada district. The camp was found near Bhaismundi village under Bhaisdani gram panchayat on Saturday. Upon being tipped off about the movement of CPI (Maoist) cadres in Bhaisdani area, a team of the Central Reserve Police Force had launched a combing operation. One pistol, five rifles, detonators and cookeries were recovered from the spot.

SII stocking emergency doses

Institute official says nearly 100 million Covishield vials will be in stock by Jan.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

The Pune-based vaccine manufacturer Serum Institute of India (SII) is expecting the results of the clinical trials of the COVID-19 vaccine candidate Covishield by January.

"We have started manufacturing the product," the SII's Executive Director, Suresh Jadhav, said on Saturday, adding that the institute would produce 50 million to 60 million doses of the vaccine candidate developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University every month from January.

"But, till January, we will also have about 80 to 100 million doses in stock for supply if we get permission for emergency use by the government."

At a virtual conference on "COVID-19 vaccine - a global perspective" organised by the JSS Research Foundation, Dr. Jadhav said the trials of Covishield were in the final stages in India.

Covishield is one of the five vaccine candidates with which SII was involved in India. While the Phase 3 trials had been completed in some parts of the world, in India,



Trial run: Covishield vaccine being administered to a volunteer at Andhra Medical College in Visakhapatnam. ■ FILE PHOTO

they were in the final stages with the injections scheduled for completion by November-end.

He hoped that the results of the trials would be available by January for submission to the regulator, Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), which had already permitted the SII to start manufacturing the vaccine after the trials entered Phase 3.

Covishield is one of the five vaccine candidates with which SII was involved in India. Globally, a total of 321 vaccine candidates are in different stages of development, 50 of them in clinical evaluation phase.

Dr. Jadhav said the world required 16 billion doses of vaccine with each of the 7.2 billion people on the planet requiring two doses each, besides the 1.5 to 2 billion that were likely to go waste.

"It will require years together for several manufacturers to come up with the required quantity," he said.

Pre-booking problem
He expressed concern over the pre-booking of COVID-19

vaccines by the developed world.

"Most of the developed world has booked more than double the quantity they require from western manufacturers," he said, adding that about 3.4 billion doses had already been booked by the developed world by giving the manufacturers an advance amount.

Pointing out that such a trend was not witnessed in developing countries, Dr. Jadhav raised questions over equal distribution of the vaccine to all parts of the world.

Expiry date

He sought to highlight the challenge the manufacturers would face when giving an expiry date for the vaccine product. "Unless there is a good stability data for a long period of time for the product, manufacturers cannot determine to what extent the product will remain stable," he said, adding that availability of stability data was one of the major reasons for vaccines to take a long time for development.

Govt. exploring ways for emergency authorisation

Vaccine Task Force will lay down the principles

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Union government is exploring the modalities of emergency authorisation and usage of anti-coronavirus vaccines pending completion of Phase 3 clinical trial and regular licensure.

The issue of advance purchase commitment for vaccines, including pricing, was also discussed at a recent meeting attended by NITI Aayog Member (Health) Vinod Paul, Principal Scientific Advisor to the government K VijayRaghavan and Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan.



Rajesh Bhushan.

lead in setting the principles for advance market commitment, including vaccine pricing," a source said.

These developments assume significance against the backdrop of Pfizer seeking emergency use authorisation of its COVID-19 vaccine from the US regulators. Another U.S.-based biotechnology giant, Moderna, said it also intended to apply for an emergency use authorisation (EUA) with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the coming weeks.

According to the source, an urgent meeting of the vaccine task force (VTF) with experts will be convened to review the scientific status of vaccines globally and how and when should the decision on emergency authorisation of vaccines be taken.

Terms of references

The terms of references for two major bodies dealing with vaccine introduction – the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) and the Central Drug Standards and Control Organisation (CDSCO) – will be set and their roles clearly defined for authorisation and emergency authorisation.

It was also agreed at the meeting that one point of contact would be responsible for examining and responding to authorisations given (or in the pipeline), globally, the source said.

Rawat calls for dual-use facilities

CDS says civil-military fusion must in view of the contracting defence budget

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The contracting envelope of the defence budget makes it all the more imperative to create dual use infrastructure through civil-military fusion, Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS) Gen. Bipin Rawat said, calling for integrating civil and military ecosystems to optimise resource utilisation.



GENERAL BIPIN RAWAT,
CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF

"The existing segregated nature of defence and commercial industry ecosystems restricts our capabilities and capacities in making defence equipment. Integrating civil and military technology efforts is the way forward towards for self-reliance

specifications that facilitate use by armed forces as well."

He called for looking into civil-military convergence in storage and warehousing facilities for fuel oil lubricants, rations and ordnance supplies. Civil-military integration in infrastructure development holds the key to whole of nation approach towards national security, he stated.

Stating that a nation's aspirations of becoming a regional power cannot rely on borrowed strengths, Gen. Rawat said Indian wars have to be won with Indian solutions.

He said cooperation between government and commercial facilities in research and development, manufacturing, maintenance operations, production of similar components and sub-components on same production lines will optimise commercial and defence industrial base, maximize resource utilisation and reduce manufacturing and life cycle costs for defence equipment.

India, Thailand, Singapore naval exercise concludes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The second edition of the India, Thailand and Singapore trilateral naval exercise, SITMEX-2020, concluded in the Andaman Sea on Sunday. The 27th edition of India-Singapore bilateral maritime exercise, SIMBEX-20, is scheduled to be held in the same area from November 23 to 25.

"The exercise, being conducted as a 'non-contact,' at

sea only' exercise in view of COVID-19 pandemic, highlights growing synergy, coordination and cooperation in the maritime domain between the three friendly nations and maritime neighbours," the Navy said in a statement.

The Indian Navy deployed indigenous Anti-Submarine Warfare corvette INS Kamorta and missile corvette INS Karmuk for the exercise held on November 21

and 22 and hosted by the Singapore Navy.

Singapore deployed a 'Formidable' Class frigate *Intrepid* and 'Endurance' Class Landing Ship Tank *Endeavour* and the Royal Thai Navy deployed a 'Chao Phraya' Class frigate *Kraburi* for the exercise.

The first edition of the exercise was hosted by the Indian Navy and was held off Port Blair in the month of September last year.

On triservice integration, Gen. Rawat said the joint study groups on integrated air defence command, integrated theatre commands and maritime theatre command have brought out their papers which are "being iterated, deliberated and further

Air pollution linked to health scares for children, says study

It finds a spike in the visits to hospital emergency rooms

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Spike in air pollution levels corresponded to an increase in visits by children to hospital emergency rooms (ER) for treatment of acute respiratory infections, finds a two-year-long study in Delhi.

However a rise in fine particulate matter – PM10 and PM2.5 – was least correlative with emergency room visits for treatment of respiratory illnesses.

Delhi sees a significant rise in pollution in winter. Though the impact of pollution on health is known, there is a paucity of studies that link specific pollutants, for example, sulphur dioxide or nitrous oxide, with adverse health outcomes.

Previous studies have found that children are more susceptible to adverse health effects of air pollution than adults due to immature growth of lungs, making them vulnerable to inflammatory and oxidative damage. Further, due to higher respiration rates and outdoor physical activity, children retain more air pollutants per unit body weight than adults.

Nitrous oxide and sulphur dioxide emissions are associated with vehicular and industrial pollution and previous studies have noted an

increase in hospital visits when these levels spike, the authors note.

Though not peer-reviewed, the study appears in pre-print server 'medRxiv'. The researchers are from All India Institute of Medical Sciences, CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital and Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute.

The study analysed hospital visits of 19,120 children over two years, from June 2017 to February 2019. It states that there was a roughly 21%-28% increase in visits by children manifesting symptoms of acute respiratory disease during days of 'high' and 'moderate' level pollution, compared to days of 'low pollution'.

The researchers compared levels of PM10 and PM 2.5, SO2 (sulphur dioxide),

India set to launch deep sea mission

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India will soon launch an ambitious 'Deep Ocean Mission' that envisages exploration of minerals, energy and marine diversity of the underwater world, a vast part of which still remains unexplored, a top official of the Ministry of Earth Sciences said.

The Ministry's Secretary, M. Rajeevan, said required approvals are being obtained for the "futuristic and game-changing" mission, and it is likely to be launched in the next three to four months.

The mission, which is expected to cost over ₹4,000 crore, will give a boost to efforts to explore India's vast Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf, another senior official of the MoES said.

Mr. Rajeevan said the mission will also involve developing technologies for different deep ocean initiatives.

The multi-disciplinary work will be piloted by the MoES and other government departments like the Defence Research and Development Organisation, Department of Biotechnology, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) will be stakeholders in this mission, Mr. Rajeevan added.

Bharti Singh, husband in judicial custody

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

A Mumbai court on Sunday remanded comedian Bharti Singh and husband Harsh Limbachiyा, arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) following seizure of drugs from their house, in judicial custody till December 4. The court will hear their bail pleas on Monday.

The NCB arrested Ms.

Singh on Saturday and her husband early Sunday morning following seizure of ganja (cannabis) from their house in suburban Andheri. The couple was produced before a magistrates court here Sunday afternoon.

"The court has remanded both the accused to judicial custody till December 4," NCB prosecutor Atul Sarande told PTI. The couple

filed bail pleas soon after being remanded in custody.

NCB recovered 86.5 gm ganja during the search. This is considered as 'small quantity' under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, an official said. Acting on a tip-off, the NCB on Saturday conducted search at Ms. Singh's office and residence.

Up to 1,000 gm of ganja is

considered small quantity, which attracts jail term up to six months and/or fine of ₹10,000. Possession of commercial quantity – 20 kg or more – can attract up to 20 years in jail. For the quantity in between, the punishment can be as much as 10 years in jail. "Ms. Singh's name had cropped up during the interrogation of a drug peddler," the official said.

On triservice integration, Gen. Rawat said the joint study groups on integrated air defence command, integrated theatre commands and maritime theatre command have brought out their papers which are "being iterated, deliberated and further

Twin treat with Feluda and Shankhu

Satyajit Ray's iconic characters will soon share screen space for the first time

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

Two iconic characters of filmmaker Satyajit Ray – Feluda the detective and Professor Shanku the scientist and inventor – will come together and share screen space for the first time in a film directed by the maestro's son Sandip Ray. The initiative is part of the birth centenary of the birth centenary of the legend.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Sandip Ray said he had done half-a-dozen films and television shows on Feluda, and one on Professor Shanku – Professor Shanku and *El Dorado* – in 2019. "Till date, I have made Feluda and Shanku as different contents. But bringing them together in one film is challenging and



A poster of the film with Feluda and Prof. Shanku.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

would start after the situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic normalised. The film will be produced by SVF and is expected to release by 2021-end. "The film will be in Bengali and we are in the process of selecting the best of stories Feluda and Professor Shanku," he said.

While Feluda is the iconic Bengali sleuth, whose cerebral capabilities in solving complex crime dominated the imagination of Bengalis for decades, Professor Shanku is an inventor and scientist who wants to use his inventions for the welfare of humankind.

Feluda's action combined with Shanku's inventions wrapped in a single film will undoubtedly be slated as a remarkable gift to the people of West Bengal.

Decades of nostalgia

Feluda and Professor Shanku and all characters related to them have quintessentially been a part of every Bengali's nostalgia for decades. The filmmakers have released the first look of the film's poster, giving a clear idea of the action and fine elements that will be infused in the film. "Getting to see Feluda and Professor Shanku on screen in the same film is a big thing for the Bengali audience. I have immense faith in the filmmaking of Sandip Ray and believe he can create wonders with his father's work," Mahendra Soni, co-founder and director of SVF said.

Feluda's action combined with Shanku's inventions wrapped in a single film will undoubtedly be slated as a remarkable gift to the people of West Bengal.

Decades of nostalgia

CM YK

The asthma DIET

With winter setting in and pollution levels soaring, people with lived experiences and health pros tell us what foods may work and what don't, to help you breath better



Trigger unhappy

When it comes to asthma and wheezing, different people have different triggers. For Gurugram-based school teacher Lubna Seth, who developed asthma after migrating to Delhi from Shimla a decade ago it's anything cold and maida-based foods. When she's very tempted, "I microwave my bowl of curd or ice cream for 10-15 seconds before eating and follow it up with *kadha chai* or coffee." Kalpana Balbhartha, a Delhi-based consultant with a child rights group knows she must avoid oily and spicy food, sweets, curd, and anything cold. Having developed asthma a few years ago and contracting COVID-19 recently, she values every breath she takes. But, as Lubna says, "It is not always easy to give up certain foods."



WHAT IS IT?

Cow hugging

SOMA BASU

Holland takes credit for a simple self-care practice called cow hugging. *Koe Knuffelen* is Dutch for cow hugging, a wellness trend that was started more than a decade ago. During the pandemic lockdown, it has apparently grown into a global health movement with the appeal of soothing frayed nerves and calming the body.

A BBC report says visitors to cow farms across Rotterdam, Switzerland and the US is significantly up. The huggers lean against a cow to rest, stroke, embrace, snuggle, or talk to the animal for hours in a clean, smell-free green surrounding.

Cow hugging regulates body metabolism, and immune and stress response, says Bengaluru-based psychiatrist Dr B Girish Chandra. The feeling is akin to cuddling a toddler or pets at home. "A hug triggers happy hormones and reduces stress hormone and huggers benefit from the calm and gentle animal's warm body temperature, slower heartbeat and large size."

Outside a gated community in Madurai, a water pit and stacks of grass have been attracting a herd of cows for the past 21 years. Resident Jitendra Golcha says he daily gives them a quick neck and back rub without knowing about cow hugging! When lockdown started, Varun Chirumamilla drove 350 kilometres from Hyderabad to his ancestral home, which he describes as a feel-good animal farm. His three-year-old daughter has taken to the cowshed and plays around one named Gowri for hours, feeding and caring her. The farm gets visitors who come to buy cow milk and Varun allows them to pet the animals if they wish.

Hopefully the cow will not become what yoga is in the West: a commodity to be marketed and sold. Therapy can lend real comfort in unusual ways.

In this column, we demystify the buzzwords in wellness



SOMA BASU

Like most kids his age, Aryaman, a teen living in Delhi with working parents, loves junk food. "My son plays sport, but after a game he'll pick up some packaged food from the shop in our society," says his mother Chhanda Majumdar. "Within 15 minutes, he'll start to wheeze or get a rash."



3cr

The number of people with asthma in India, with 6% children and 2% adults.

Source: Lung India-2015, published by Indian Lung Society

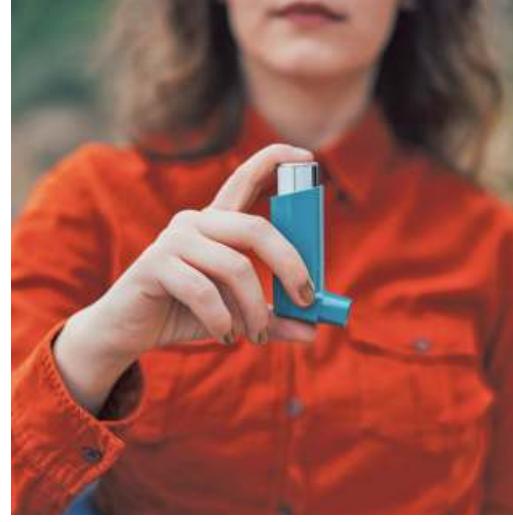
WATER INTAKE AND HEALTHY LUNGS

Human beings require 10,000 litres of air every 24 hours to survive, says Dr Salvi. When we breathe in air through the nose for it to reach the alveoli (the tiny air sacs in the lungs), the passageway needs to be 100% saturated with water. Those with asthma suffer from dry lungs and always need moist air for air passages to function without hindrance. Otherwise dry air can be an irritant and trigger not only a dry cough but also dry skin. Asthma and eczema are related and in severe cases, if you suppress one, the other manifests. That is why it is extremely important to improve hydration by consuming three to four litres of water daily, says Dr Salvi.

Understanding asthma

Asthma is a lung condition in which the tubes that carry air to and from the lungs swell up or become narrow and cause breathlessness. Allopathic doctors say there is no cure, but treatment (medication) can help control the symptoms that worsen due to allergies to dust, pollution, pollen, tobacco smoke, chemical irritants and cold air. Emotional stress, obesity and anxiety also trigger asthma in some people.

People are now waking up to improving the quality of their lives. By trial and error, and by a process of elimination in the diet or otherwise, people are following what suits them the best, says Manjari Chandra, a functional nutritionist and author of the book *Eat Up, Clean Up: Your Personal Journey to a Healthy Life*. If you have asthma, you know cold, dry weather can be troublesome, especially as you may be susceptible to secondary infections. So you up the intake of your immunity boosters with antioxidant rich foods.



Food dilemma

While people with a lived experience say that certain foods trigger reactions, research has so far only confirmed that artificial food colouring causes symptoms to escalate. Pune-based pulmonologist Dr Sundeep Salvi admits that research on lung health has not seen long-term studies. Antioxidants in fruits and vegetables though could be protective. By avoiding foods that cause intolerance (pineapple, dairy, *maida*, sugar), the symptoms can be controlled and suffering reduced, he says. Traditional forms of healing may hold some answers though. Ramesh R Varier, senior physician at AVN Arogya Ayurvedic Hospital, Madurai, says, "In Ayurveda, *tamaka swasha* (the equivalent of bronchial asthma) is related to indigestion caused by excessive Kapha Dosha aggravating foods. Sweet foods, fresh fruits, milk products and cold items eaten early in the morning or late in the evening may trigger respiratory distress. Black gram, beans, sesame, meat, should be limited to avoid constipation.

Tarika Ahuja, in her book *The Asthma Cure*, says that "The underlying cause of asthma is excessive mucus production and high degree inflammation."

Overall, a diet rich in calcium, iron, iodine,

protein, vitamin A, B, C and E, potassium, zinc are anti-inflammatory.

"They benefit the immune system and may help protect the lungs from damage due to smoking and air pollution," says Manjari.

■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

COULD IT BE THAT...



We've been dieting all wrong?



SUNALINI MATHEW

I have been on some kind of food restrictive diet for as long as I can remember (except in college, when hostel kindly did that for me): a gut-friendly diet, an asthma diet, even an auto-immune diet.

Some years ago, when I

read *The Grain Brain* I put myself on a gluten-free diet swearing

that wheat was killing me, while often binge-eating bread and butter – that comfort food when the emotional brain overpowers the logical one.

Sometime later, I approached a naturopath for constipation (yes, yes, I am your mother's age) who asked me to skip grain at dinner. Then I went dairy free, night-shade veggie free, red-meat free, sugar-free (wait, that's a brand name) in turn. Ironically, I never felt free. Instead, I felt bound by choices my mind had made for my body.

Looking back, there were only two foods I'd eliminated that helped: gluten and sugar.

Of late, I have realised that the real diet must be on screens and the screen time we're fed on. How many times have we been on our laptops, while also checking our phones? How many times do we eat in front of a screen? How many times have we used an OTT platform to dull

us into sleep?

A diet of online chatter, which ironically involves the eyes and mind rather than the ears and mouth, is what keeps me distracted from life through the day. I read something online and think (overthink) about it, rather than listening or speaking and feeling for the friend I'm chatting with. My emotions then, are bent through the lens of what someone has posted on social media rather than what someone says to me.

It's like Chinese Whisper at a deeper level. Say someone on Instagram posts a video of an early morning run, extolling her followers to also get up and get some exercise in the park (hashtag vitamin N, hashtag vitamin D). I may perceive it (often do) as a post directed at me (because I've been in bed sleeping until 8 am). I now feel guilt. Now imagine if a friend had called me at 7 am, asking me to join her while she stepped out for a walk in the park, I'm much more likely to do that. I hear her voice, I respond to her friendship and the fact that she's reaching out to me.

Since the festive season will soon be upon us, and the pandemic has changed the way we shop mindlessly, my endeavour for the rest of this year is to have more conversations (sans judgement) with people I know, love, or like, and fewer interactions with my phone that introduces me to people I don't know and really couldn't care less about.

I will be going on a digital diet. Would you like to join me?



Calm is contagious

"Listen, comfort and reassurance. It is important to dispel anxieties by being honest and open about the situation. Parents must provide reassurance to children as many of them may feel anxious about seeing their parents or grandparents hospitalised," she says.

Children thrive on routine

Without schools and schedules they are experiencing a complex mix of emotions they struggle to describe. "The prolonged situation has led to late sleeping hours with binge watching and late night snacking. Rapid weight gain is another issue many parents are talking about due to lack of outdoor games classes," says nutritionist and dietician Anjali, founder of Starlite Nutrition and Wellness Centre.

Praise and flexibility work

"Set limits that are possible. For instance, if your child demands an extra half an hour of watching TV, allow that. Ensure that any changes are discussed, negotiated and fine-tuned to your loved one's needs. But make sure to engage them in other different activities throughout the day," suggests Deepa. Instead of constant correction, notice and praise the desirable behaviour that your child is exhibiting. Frequent criticism can affect a child's developing self-esteem.

Togetherness helps

This is an ideal time to involve preteens in a fund raising activity for a local NGO, to give them a sense of purpose. Cook together and chat while you prep. The lack of direct eye contact may help.

Art calms

"Online classes put a lot of pressure on pre-adolescent children. The academic pressures are high, and the mind is not evolved enough to process the information overload," says Anita, who is also an artist. She says engaging them through art like Mandala can help improve their concentration as well as keep them creatively engaged. "Mandala helps children to express themselves non-verbally," she adds.

SIGNS OF DISTRESS

Changing patterns of sleeping and eating

Being withdrawn or aggressive

Fears of being afraid to be left alone

Clingy or being overly dependent

Decreased interest in playing and engaging in playful activities

Extreme emotions like crying more than usual



The pandemic guide to parenting a preteen

How to bring back a sense of calm to children who are between childhood and the teen years

NIVEDITA GANGULY

When S Prashanti shifted base from Hyderabad to Visakhapatnam following a career move last month, the main challenge she faced were the insecurities of her two daughters, 12 and 14 years old. They missed their friends and the familiar setup of their home, became increasingly withdrawn and would often be overwhelmed with emotions.

"My 12-year-old was more affected. The pandemic had made her more emotionally dependent on me since she couldn't meet her friends. She has been confused and prefers to be silent," says Prashanti, an HR professional. The situation was further complicated as the kids had to live with their grandparents. "The generation gap is obvious and there is an increased friction between my daughters and their grandparents. The girls often break down when I return after my day's work," she says.

While teens battle their own set of problems, children in the pre-teens are experiencing more extreme and varied struggles than they did before the pandemic. "It's typically between the

ages of nine and 12 that children become more withdrawn, trying to find their own voice even as they deal with physical, cognitive, and emotional changes," says Anita Rao, a psychologist in Visakhapatnam. "The prolonged isolation from peers, extended family and school has changed the chemistry between many parents and their preteens. Unlike teenagers who are more plugged into friends via devices, preteens are still dependent on their parents and usually have more controlled use of gadgets."

"Outdoor activity and social interaction are critical for their psychosocial well-being. But parents often find it tough to help them understand why the world around them has changed," says Deepa Mohan, Head of Department of Psychology at GITAM University in Visakhapatnam. Added to that is the realisation that they or their loved ones can get sick. While this is the first sign of them breaking out of childhood, with an awareness of the world, it can also be the cause of worry. Here's what you can do to help, especially if you see signs of distress.

The 6 Kumaon shirt commemorates an epic moment in our collective history when a gallant, unyielding unit was all that stood between India and a tidal wave of hostility. This was the Battle of Walong, November 1962. Under-equipped and overwhelmed, the soldiers of 6 Kumaon fought like lions for their young nation – and left us a legacy of valour that we will never forget.



Saga of courage (Clockwise from left) A postcard that goes along with the purchase of the T-shirt; Brigadier (then captain) Ravi Kumar Mathur receiving the Vir Chakra; Motherland's commemorative T-shirt

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Epaulettes on a TEE

How Delhi-based design company, Motherland, is using a T-shirt as a medium of storytelling, to tell people about the Battle of Walong

SUNALINI MATHEW

"Yesterday I looked at the weather in Walong and it was -4 degree Celsius. It was right at this time that they had gone up. They went to war in nothing more than sweaters," says Rathin Mathur.

He speaks of the officers and men of the 6 Kumaon battalion, who fought the Battle of Walong, during the 1962 Indo-China debacle, halting the Chinese from further advancing into Indian territory in that sector.

At a height of 1,094 metres, Walong in Arunachal Pradesh, has difficult weather and terrain, then made worse with scant resources:



History on your sleeve

The tee, in green and grey variants, introduces a generation not born then to the story mostly confined to military history books and cantonment conversations. On the chest, is the lion insignia that the Kumaon regiment adopted from the coat of arms of Sir Henry Russell, the British Resident under the Nizam of Hyderabad. 6 Kumaon before Independence was 6/19 Hyderabadi Regiment, raised in Agra on February 1, 1941, a part of Russell's Brigade.

This was in tandem with Motherland's own vision of 'India proud' – using local motifs reformulated with a slick design sensibility in functional products and spaces. "The idea was to repackage and present military symbology as a reminder of the story. Elements of the uniform are not accessible to

weapons, clothing,

food. "This was the only battalion that attacked and also counter-attacked the Chinese twice during the war," says Lt Col Prem Andrews, who served in the battalion and is currently writing its history titled *Grit, Blood and Glory: Saga of 6 Kumaon Jangi Paltan*. "Only one-fourth of the 600-700 officers, JCOs (Junior Commissioned Officers), and men from the battalion returned – the rest were killed, taken prisoners of war, or wounded."

To commemorate the 58th anniversary of the battle, Rathin, a culture and development coach and trainer in Guguram, who had heard stories of the battle from his father,

All proceeds of the T-shirt will go towards the welfare of 6 Kumaon;

for details,
motherlandmagazine.com/military/6-kumaon-and-the-battle-of-walong-timeline

ward slopes of another tactical height, crucial to enemy advance; Jamadar Trilok Singh and Govind Singh who charged the enemy MMG (medium machine gun) posts, destroying them.

"Dad was one of the many heroes; the battalion was the real hero," says Rathin, echoing the regimental motto: Valour Triumphs.

Lt Col Andrews says it is important for people to remember the Battle of Walong, because, "It was a place where the human endeavour that goes beyond motivation, manifested."

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•

people who may understand the badge value, but may not have access to it," says V Sunil, co-founder.

Rathin's father, Brigadier Ravi Kumar Mathur, then a captain (with just under five years' service), brought the battalion back to Tezu, walking about 200 kilometres. He won a Vir Chakra for the capture of one of the key heights. In fact, the battalion got five Vir Chakras and one Mention-in-Despatches. Once he had retired, Brig Mathur began to write a book, but passed away after he had penned the first chapter.

Lt Col Andrews says it's important to remember both those who won gallantry awards, but also the unsung heroes, like Lt Bikram Singh, later christened the Lion of Walong for keeping the area from being captured. The young officer had tactically removed the planks of a bridge so enemy soldiers fell into the Namti Nullah, triggering the Chinese forces to switch on torches, thereby revealing themselves; Commanding officer Lt Col CN Madiyah who was taken prisoner of

war and refused to change out of his uniform in enemy captivity; Brig (then major) BN Singh, who led the battalion attack capturing the forward slopes of another tactical height, crucial to enemy advance; Jamadar Trilok Singh and Govind Singh who charged the enemy MMG (medium machine gun) posts, destroying them.

"Dad was one of the many heroes; the battalion was the real hero," says Rathin, echoing the regimental motto: Valour Triumphs.

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Thugs Unit, the duo from Hyderabad does just that in its latest album *Resurrection 040*

PRABALIKI M BORAH

Hyderabad-based Mudassir Ahmed and Syed Irshad of Thugs Unit are unable to contain their excitement. They recently made a comeback with their hip hop album *Resurrection 040* on Apple Music.

Within the hip hop community, Mudassir and Syed are popular as 'Mo Boucher' and 'Irish Bot' respectively. The duo from Hyderabad is known as one of India's finest hip hop artistes who pioneered the Urdu hip hop genre in Hyderabad. Explaining the essence of *Resurrection 040*, Mudassir says, "The tracks in the album blend eastern and western music producing a mystical confluence of Sufism and hip hop.

The 12-track album features expressive lyrics in Urdu, English and is inspired by Jamaican styles. Its tracks include 'Rubaroo' (Face to face), 'Suroor-e-Ishq' (Exhilaration of love), 'Bossman' and 'Kun (Be)' featuring Rebel Khan Artists. Our music is Sufism-inspired, is about self-reflection and raises voice against community evils and power establishments."

Mudassir says, he has been writing, creating and recording his music since 2006. He adds, "Around the same time, I came to know of Irshad who used to hold hip hop parties and events. Without wasting time, I met up with him and also performed at his hip hop events. We got along instantly and decided to create our own music with the experience we both had. We cut a few mixed tapes in 2008 and 2010."

The duo later released a couple of singles in 2012 and 2014 on Myspace and YouTube.

"After our musical journey and the continuous association, I felt I was stuck in a loop; we seemed to be creating one track after the other and yet, I found no contentment. I took a break and pursued a spir-

tual journey in 2014." Mudassir describes his spiritual journey 'as the quest to reflect the purity of thoughts in music.'

The Beginning (2008), *The Movement* (2010) and *Poets Word* (2012) are some of the mixed tapes they recorded, before reconnecting in 2019 to create *Resurrection 040*.

Why did they choose Urdu? "To bring the real flavour of what Hyderabad has to offer in terms of music. All our music is a mix of Urdu and English for ease of understanding. In the early days, Irshad and I experimented with local languages and decided to go with Urdu as we loved how it sounded. Our followers too appreciated Urdu hip hop, so we decided to make it our signature style," explains Mudassir.

Irshad adds, "We see hip hop as a tool for spreading knowledge and shifting mindsets. Essentially, hip hop is a genre that represents the voice of the people; we use it as a tool to voice our thoughts against oppression in all forms. When we see something wrong in our community, we speak about it in our music."

The artistes are very proud that the music for the album is produced by Grammy-nominated and multi-platinum producers like Buck Wild. This also makes the duo the first from Telangana (and perhaps from India) to work with US-based Grammy-nominated producers.

Resurrection 040 will be available for streaming and purchase on all leading music platforms on December 8.



Local flavour, global appeal (From left) Mudassir Ahmed and Syed Irshad of Thugs Unit • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

When colour met water

Artist Vimal Chandran's 2021 calendar, Songs of Birds, follows two people on a bittersweet escape from lockdown

SUSAN JOE PHILIP

There are two things that artist Vimal Chandran always carries in his bag: his drawing notebook and a set of watercolours. "I don't know when inspiration may strike, and I like to be prepared. I get it from my travel, movies, songs and even from casual conversations," he

says. The Bengaluru-based artist recently launched Songs for the Birds, a calendar with 12 of his artworks for the year 2021.

"The works are from my series of illustrations called Unposted Letters. I drew them during the lockdown with soft and vibrant colours, to take away the lockdown blues," he says.



Awash with dreams Vimal (right) keeps his artistic style deliberately simple • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The paintings have two central characters, a young boy and a girl, as simple, colourless line drawings surrounded by a colourful world. "Each piece tells a story. While some of them might make you smile, others have a deeper meaning," he explains. The tabletop calendar comes with a wooden stand in the shape of a bird, made by local artists from Palakkad, his hometown.

"I designed it based on the little bird that comes in this series," he says. "I started the series in 2016. From then on, I keep the best of my drawings of that

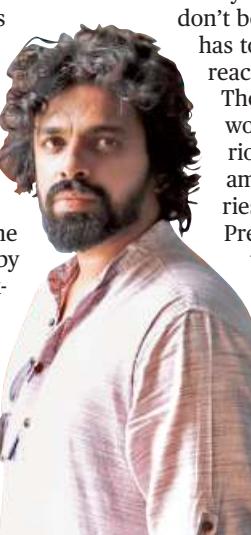
year for the calendar. So far I have done around 200 works." His illustration style is simple. "It fits my way of storytelling. I don't believe that the work has to be complicated to reach an audience. Though simple, my works can convey serious ideas too. For example, my political series called Social Pressure talks about the inequalities in society."

Vimal is a self-taught artist who took up art as a full-time profession in 2013 after quitting his corporate job. So far, he has showcased his works

in 10 exhibitions in India, Dubai and the US. He says that the most exciting thing in art is to get an idea to work around. "Every art created is inspired by someone else. The true talent of an artist is to put their unique perspective to it."

Vimal recently did a collaboration with photographer Ajay Menon, Avial band and Vivo mobile to capture the monsoon of Kerala. "It was fun and I could bring the scenes of my village during monsoon into my illustrations. We hope to conduct an exhibition of those works in Kochi soon," he says. "I also plan to release an illustration book with drawings from Unposted Letters."

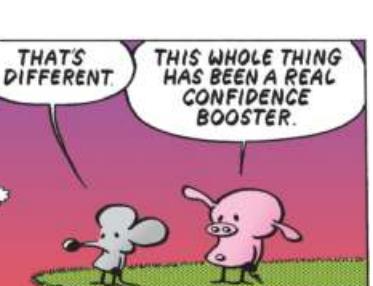
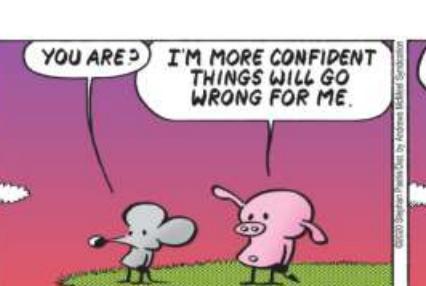
The Songs for the Birds calendar is available at Unpostedletters.in, ₹1,350



POOCH CAFE



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



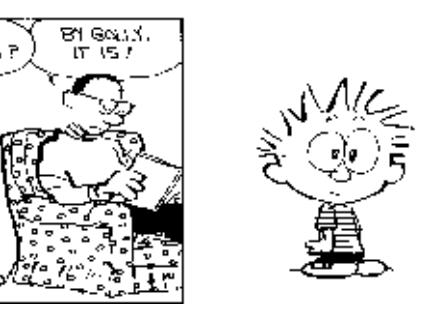
PEANUTS



TIGER



CALVIN AND HOBBES



Trump team requests Georgia recount

Republican Governor had certified Joe Biden's victory in the State, which has 16 electoral votes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA

President Donald Trump's legal team said on Saturday that his campaign has requested a recount of votes in the Georgia presidential race after results showed Democrat Joe Biden winning the State.

Republican Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger on Friday certified the State's election results, which had Mr. Biden beating Mr. Trump by 12,670 votes out of about 5 million cast, or 0.25%. Republican Governor Brian Kemp then certified the State's slate of 16 presidential electors.

Vital safeguards

The statement from Mr. Trump's legal team said: "Today, the Trump campaign filed a petition for recount in Georgia. We are focused on ensuring that every aspect of Georgia State Law and the U.S. Constitution are followed so that every legal vote is counted. President



New objections: Supporters of President Donald Trump rallying outside the Georgia State Capitol in Atlanta on Saturday. ■ AP

Trump and his campaign continue to insist on an honest recount in Georgia, which has to include signature matching and other vital safeguards."

"Without signature

matching, this recount would be a sham and again allow for illegal votes to be counted," the statement added. "If there is no signature matching, this would be as phony as the initial vote

count and recount. Let's stop giving the People false results. There must be a time when we stop counting illegal ballots. Hopefully it is coming soon."

Georgia law allows a can-

diate to request a recount if the margin is less than 0.5%. The recount would be done using scanners that read and tabulate the votes.

County election workers have already done a complete hand recount of all the votes cast in the presidential race. But that stemmed from a mandatory audit requirement and isn't considered an official recount under the law.

State law requires that one race be audited by hand to ensure that the machines counted the ballots accurately, and Mr. Raffensperger selected the presidential race. Because of the tight margin in that race, a full hand count of ballots was necessary to complete the audit, he said.

Mr. Trump has criticised the audit, calling it a "joke" in a tweet that claimed without evidence that "thousands of fraudulent votes have been found." Twitter has flagged the post as containing disputed information.

Before that, during former President Barack Obama's

Judge dismisses election fraud claims

The decision paves the way for Pennsylvania to certify Democrat Biden's victory

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Johnson to end England lockdown on December 2
LONDON
British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has announced plans for strict regional measures to combat COVID-19 after England's lockdown ends on December 2, sparking a rebellion by members of his own party who say the move may do more harm than good. Mr. Johnson's office said late on Saturday that the government plans to return to a three-tiered system of restrictions, with areas facing different measures depending on the severity of their outbreaks. AP

New North Africa leader announced by al-Qaeda
DAKAR

The North African branch of al-Qaeda said it has appointed a new leader after confirming the death of its former chief, who was killed in June by French forces, according to the SITE Intelligence Group. The Washington-based group said al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, known as AQIM, in a video showed the dead body of its former leader, Abdelmalek Droukdel, for the first time. AQIM also said that Yazid Mubarak, also known as Abu Ubaidah Yusuf al-Annabi, is the new leader. AP

14 pro-Iran fighters in Syria killed in airstrikes
BEIRUT

At least 14 pro-Iran militia fighters from Iraq and Afghanistan were killed in air strikes in war-torn eastern Syria, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Sunday. The strikes on Saturday night in Deir Ezzor province, on the border with Iraq, were likely carried out by Israeli war planes, the Observatory said. The Israeli Army said it doesn't comment on foreign reports. The attack killed eight Iraqis and six Afghan fighters, it said. AFP



Donald Trump

Trump's team had presented "strained legal arguments without merit and speculative accusations" in their complaints about mail-in ballots in Pennsylvania.

"In the United States of America, this cannot justify the disenfranchisement of a single voter, let alone all the voters of its sixth most populated state," wrote Mr. Bannon.

"Our people, laws, and institutions demand more."

Mr. Biden won the state-by-state Electoral College

votes that ultimately decide who takes the White House by 306 to 232.

The Electoral College is due to formally vote on December 14, with certifications to take place beforehand. States' certification of results of their popular votes is usually routine following a U.S. presidential election.

But Mr. Trump's refusal to concede has complicated the process and drawn concerns that he could cause long-term damage to Americans' trust in their voting system.

The judgement in Pennsylvania came hours after Republicans also requested a delay in certification in Michigan, another battleground, in a letter that repeated allegations of irregularities in the state which Mr. Biden won by 15,500 votes.

They asked for a delay two weeks to allow for a full audit of results in Wayne County, the state's largest

and where majority-black Detroit is located, won overwhelmingly by Biden.

Michigan's board of canvassers, which includes two Democrats and two Republicans, is also due to meet on Monday to certify the results.

Republican Party national committee chairwoman Ronna McDaniel and the party's Michigan chair Laura Cox called on the board to "adjourn for 14 days to allow for a full audit and investigation into those anomalies and irregularities".

On Friday, Mr. Trump invited Michigan lawmakers to the White House as part of his bid to subvert the voters' will, but the legislators stood firm, saying they would honour the election's outcome.

Mr. Biden has so far limited his criticism of Mr. Trump's actions, though he has spoken of "incredibly damaging messages being sent to the rest of the world about how democracy functions".

Pak. Minister deletes tweet after taking jibe at Macron

France had condemned her remarks

REUTERS
PARIS

were forced to wear the yellow star on their clothing for identification," Ms. Mazari had said in a tweet linking to an online article.

The article was, however, amended earlier on Sunday to reflect the fact that the idea, if implemented, would be applied to all children in France and not just to Muslim children.

In a follow-up tweet on Sunday, Ms. Mazari initially doubled down on her claims following a condemnation by France's Foreign Ministry late on Saturday, which described them as "blatant lies, imbued with an ideology of hatred and violence."

She posted the remarks following a clash between Pakistan and France over the publication of images of the Prophet Mohammad by a French magazine.

The images have sparked anger and protests in the Muslim world, especially in Pakistan.

"Macron is doing to Muslims what the Nazis did to the Jews – Muslim children will get ID numbers (other children won't) just as Jews

Ethiopia gives Tigray 72 hours to surrender

REUTERS
ADDIS ABABA

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed gave Tigrayan regional forces 72 hours to surrender before the military begins an offensive on the regional capital of Mekelle.

"We urge you to surrender peacefully within 72 hours, recognising that you are at the point of no return," Mr. Abiy said in a message posted on Twitter on Sunday evening.

Tigrayan forces could not immediately be reached for comment.

A military spokesman said earlier that advancing Ethiopian troops plan to surround Mekelle with tanks and may shell the city to force surrender.

The Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which is refusing to surrender its rule of the northern region, said its forces were digging trenches and standing firm.

Japanese grant to strengthen Maldives Coast Guard

It is Malé's second major pact with a Quad member, after a deal with the U.S.

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

The Maldives and Japan on Sunday signed an agreement for a Japanese grant of \$7.6 million to be extended to the Maldives Coast Guard and the Maritime Rescue and Coordination Center, an official press release from Male said.

Coming less than three months after the signing of the 'Framework for U.S. Department of Defence-Maldives Ministry of Defence Defence and Security Relationship', the "grant aid" is the Maldives's second major



Abdulla Shahid

bilities of the Maldives Coast Guard, the country's Maritime Rescue and Coordination Center, Sub-Regional Centers and Vessels. "This includes the provision of communications equipment, professional search and rescue dive equipment," the statement said.

Following the ceremony

held to mark the signing between the Maldivian government and the resident Japanese envoy – Maldivian Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid spoke of the "close relations" the Maldives enjoys with Japan, and the need for coordinated action in combating piracy, countering violent extremism and narco-trafficking, and "to ensure a free and open Indian Ocean that would bring about peace and prosperity to the region."

India's position

New Delhi, according to diplomatic sources, views the development as a positive one, as it did when Washington and Male earlier signed

the defence pact that focusses on maintaining peace and security in the Indian Ocean, besides promoting a rules-based order that promotes stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region. Departing from its earlier reservations to other big powers expanding its strategic presence in the region, India had welcomed the Maldives's first military agreement with the U.S., the island nation's first with a country other than India.

Sunday's "Exchange of Notes", as Tokyo terms its official development assistance to partners, falls under the Economic and Social Development Programme of the Government of Japan.

KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e-TENDER
CORRIGENDUM-13
Tender Ref. No.: IN-NMCG-KMC-DG(S&D)/SOUTH/19-20/TNP/R-1, Dated 26.12.2019 (Tender ID - 2019_KMC_262013_1). The Tender inviting Authority is hereby extending important dates of e-tender submission through online as follows:

Document download/sale end date: 27.11.2020 up to 1.00 P.M.

Bill submission end date: 27.11.2020 up to 1.00 P.M.

Bid opening date (Technical Bid): 27.11.2020 up to 2.00 P.M.

417/20-21

National Fisheries Development Board
Department of Fisheries
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying,
Government of India.

File No. NFDB/PMMSY/GAIS/General Insurance/2020-2021 Dated: 23.11.2020

Notice inviting Request for Proposal (RFP) for Insurance Companies for implementation of Scheme on Insurance to Fishers under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) under the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India, invites Request for Proposal from IRDAI approved Insurance Companies for implementation of the scheme of Group Accidental Insurance scheme to cover Fishers under PMMSY. Detailed RFP document providing salient features of the scheme, bid schedule, Terms of Reference, eligibility criteria, formats for submission etc. are available on the NFDB website <http://nfdb.gov.in>, the Department of Fisheries, Government of India website <http://doif.gov.in> and Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP) <http://eprocure.gov.in>.

Sd/- Chief Executive, NFDB

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer (Design),
9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G.Road, Bangalore - 560 009.
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(D)/ACE(D)/TA(D)/916/2020-21 Date: 19.11.2020

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through e-procurement portal)

BWSSB invites tenders in two cover System eligible tenderers for the work of Providing Consultancy Services for the preparation of DPR and PMC for the work of construction of new 60MLD capacity Waste Water Treatment Plant at Horamavu, Bangalore.

Amount put to tender: Rs. 2,16,80,000/- EMD: Rs. 3,25,200/-.

The last date & time for receipt of tenders: 22.12.2020 upto 16:00 Hrs. The Technical bids will be opened on: 26.12.2020 at 12:00Hrs. The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer(Design).

Covid-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE

Wear Mask
Follow Physical Distancing
Maintain Hand Hygiene

Antibody treatment given to Trump gets FDA emergency nod

It has shown promise in early stage of COVID-19 infection

KATIE THOMAS
NOAH WEILAND

The Food and Drug Administration has granted emergency authorisation for the experimental antibody treatment given to President Donald Trump shortly after he was diagnosed with COVID-19, giving doctors another option to treat COVID-19 patients as cases across the country continue to rise.

The treatment, made by the biotech company Regeneron, is a cocktail of two powerful antibodies that have shown promise in early studies at keeping the infec-

tion in check, reducing medical visits in patients who get the drug early in the course of their disease. A similar treatment, made by Eli Lilly, was given emergency approval earlier this month.

The emergency authorisation for Regeneron's drug is limited in scope: It is for people 12 and over who have tested positive for the coronavirus and who are at high risk for developing severe COVID-19. Evidence so far suggests that antibody treatments work best early in the course of the disease, before the virus has gained a foothold.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, CALICUT

NIT Campus Post, Calicut, Kerala 673601, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India

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- IoT & Automation with Raspberry Pi

website <https://nielit.gov.in/calicut/content/course-calendar>

For details like course starting date, last date of application, fee, eligibility etc., click above or

✉ Email us to trng@calicut.nielit.in or

📞 Call us on +91 9446011266 / 0495-2287266, WhatsApp - +91 9446711666

ASK US

VIDYA BALA

Q. I am 35 and married with a 3-year-old kid. I work in the private sector. I would like to retire at 60 with a corpus of ₹3 crore. My present accumulated funds come to ₹38 lakh (including FD, PPF and LIC). I prefer to own an apartment in 5-6 years. Kindly guide me. My current CTC is ₹18.5 lakh.

A. MANDAL

A. If you can save about ₹40,000 per month over the next 20 years, and allow your present corpus to grow, you should be able to reach your goal of ₹3 crore assuming a return of 7%. You may have to dip into this corpus to pay for buying your apartment. In such a scenario, you will have to increase your savings in later years a bit. Take stock then, after seeing how much corpus depletes when you withdraw to buy your house.

We have assumed 7% return. But adding equities will help increase your chance of superior returns. You can consider investing in equity index funds to keep the portfolio maintenance and cost low and allow it to grow in line with equity market. The debt part can be diversified into options like the RBI Floating Rate Bond (7 years) and can be earmarked for buying a house. The remaining debt can also be considered through NPS if you need tax deduction. Continue your other investments and consider adding some quality corporate bond funds if you are familiar with mutual funds.

Q. I am a 76-year-old retired banker. My investment of ₹40 lakh is with a cooperative bank where I get 8.25% interest. I want to know if there is a threat to co-operative banks, in general. If so, where can I invest to get a regular monthly income?

C.K. PREM KUMAR

A. While one cannot generalise, it is true that the risk of co-operative banks going bad is higher than that for regular public and private banks. History suggests the process of any takeover in case a bank goes bad is often delayed. Hence, the possibility of moratoriums being imposed (as for Lakshmi Vilas Bank) cannot be ruled out. Consider exhausting Post office Senior Citizens' Scheme and PM Vaya Vandana Yojana. Park the balance in RBI Floating Rate Bonds and public sector bank, or large private sector bank, FDs. Lock into shorter periods with banks and renew when rates go up.

Q. I am 23 and have just started earning. I am confused as to where exactly I must begin investing.

MANSI GANGURDE

A. This is a good age to start investing seriously. Exhaust the traditional options of EPF for tax purpose and look at investing for the long term in mutual funds (MFs). If you are new to MFs, it is best to start learning about them so that you are not mis-sold products. You can otherwise keep it to equity index funds and avoid active funds entirely. But make sure you have a minimum 7-year view for this and expect the corpus to fall at times.

With debt, consider a combination of short-term deposits and long-term options such as the RBI Floating Rate Bond. You can also consider quality corporate bond funds once you get familiar with MFs. As your income grows, you can consider NPS for additional tax deduction and to save for retirement. Ensure you have good medical cover outside of the one given by your employer. If you have dependents, take a simple term insurance so that your family is compensated well for your income loss.

Q. I am a 21-year-old college student. I make a small sum via freelancing. Please suggest whether I ought to go for equity or MFs.

ASHISH

A. Start investing a small sum in equity index funds if you can give this money at least 5-7 years' time. Please note whether it is stocks or equity MFs, this is the minimum time frame you need to have. Else, stick to bank FDs. If you are familiar with stock markets and are willing to put in effort to constantly learn, track and review investments, start investing a small sum that you can afford to lose. Unless you have good knowledge of technical analysis, do not attempt it. Instead read about businesses and their financials and try to pick stocks for the long term.

(The author is co-founder, PrimeInvestor.in)

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.

When what you see is NOT WHAT YOU GET

SEBI has stepped in to prevent the mis-selling of certain mutual fund products to protect investors



JOYDEEP SEN

Returns from an investment can come from market-price appreciation or payout from the investment itself, or both. In equity shares, returns come mostly from price appreciation and, to a limited extent, from dividends paid by the company.

In bonds, returns come mostly from the coupon or interest payouts from the issuer of the bond. If a bond is held till maturity, then there is no market price-related gain or loss as it is redeemed at face value.

A mutual fund (MF) is a vehicle for investment in instruments from the market (such as equity shares and bonds) and distribution of the returns to unit holders.

The distribution of returns in MFs is done in two ways that are largely similar but slightly different. In the growth option of MF schemes, there is no separate payout; it remains in the net asset value (NAV) and investors get their returns as and when they redeem at the NAV, which is higher than the earlier NAV.

In the dividend option of MF schemes, there is periodic payout of dividends. Apart from this, investors can redeem as and when they want at the prevailing NAV. The NAV of the dividend option, at the time of redemption, may be higher than the earlier NAV or similar, depending on the extent of dividend payouts.

Mis-selling a product

The relevance of the above discussion is that sometimes some products are not sold in the right spirit. The dividend option is highlighted to investors as if it is some extra return such as a bonus. If the earnings in an MF scheme is not distributed in the form of dividend, it will remain in the NAV. As and when the investor redeems, she or he will get returns based on the NAV.

An example of this kind of misuse is selling balanced funds (now aggressive hybrid funds) on the basis of '1% dividend per month.' Dividend in an MF scheme is not a commitment and is dependent on market conditions. This '1% dividend per month' was touted as a committed return over and above the NAV-based returns. A mutual fund is a vehicle for long-term wealth

creation. It is not a Post Office Monthly Income Scheme.

SEBI has stepped in now. In a circular dated October 5, applicable from April 1 next year, it has been stated that all dividend options shall be named 'Payout of income distribution cum capital withdrawal option.' Though it is a change of nomenclature only and not any restriction or other change in dividend, it is significant. It will not give the sense of something extra or a bonus being given out, but of means of income distribution, which it actually is.

If you invest straight away in an equity share or bond, the extent of the payout makes an impact on your returns, but in an MF, it is just a method of distribution of income to unitholders.

What's in a name?

Sometimes, a name may carry a different implication to people who are not in the thick of things.

A long time ago, when an MF came out with a scheme, it was called an initial public offer and in certain sections, it used to be marketed as 'IPO at par.' These used to

C If you invest in an equity share or bond, the extent of the payout makes an impact on your returns. But in an MF it is just a method of distribution of income to unitholders

be marketed on the pitch that – with the NAV of other (older) schemes being higher, say ₹20 or ₹30 – the investor was getting a good bargain as it was available at par, say ₹10. To restrict this convoluted logic, SEBI stipulated that these offers should be called new fund offers (NFO) and not an IPO, so that the investors do not confuse this with an equity IPO.

Similarly, while dividend is apparently an innocuous word, the misuse of the term by certain sections prompted SEBI to rename the dividend option. On your part, if you do not require regular cash flows, you need not opt for dividend option/payout of income distribution option. The growth option houses the gains in the NAV and you can redeem as and when you want, subject to any exit load implications.

(The writer is a corporate trainer – debt markets – and author)

COVER NOTE: HEALTH INSURANCE

A premium that doesn't burn a hole in your pocket

If Arogya Sanjeevani proves popular, insurers may well begin offering instalment options on other health policies

K. NITYA KALYANI

As easy as 1,2,3...or 12 monthly instalments, if you wish. We are talking about the possible future of your health insurance premiums, where you may opt to pay in instalments through the year.

The standardised health insurance policy – Arogya Sanjeevani – was designed by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority with many interesting features. Every general insurance or health insurance company is mandated to offer it from April 1, 2020.

Options for instalment premiums in Arogya Sanjeevani operate with some conditions, similar to annual premium payments we are familiar with.

Grace period

There is a grace period of 15 days for paying the instalment premium. The caveat, however, is that during the period between due date of premium and actual receipt of premium

pandemic, when earnings and even jobs are at stake, and one would like to stagger expenses.

In Arogya Sanjeevani, the policyholder can opt for half-yearly, quarterly or monthly payment of premium and also automate the payments using the auto-debit or ECS mode. If this proves popular, one can see insurers offering this option on other health policies.

Options for instalment premiums in Arogya Sanjeevani operate with some conditions, similar to annual premium payments we are familiar with.

Grace period

There is a grace period of 15 days for paying the instalment premium. The caveat, however, is that during the period between due date of premium and actual receipt of premium

by the insurance company, you will be uncovered.

But the good thing is that, even if you have used your grace period to the fullest, your benefits of waiting period for pre-existing conditions, and specific waiting period for treatment of specified conditions are fully protected. Neither will there be any interest charges if the instalment premium is not paid on the due date.

However, if you fail to pay within the grace period, your policy will lapse and, along with it, any accrued benefits such as waiting period or cumulative bonuses. Your choice will be only to start another hospitalisation policy, afresh.

Most of us are used to making monthly payments of all kinds including rent, society

dues, EMIs on home loans, school fees, phone, broadband, electricity and a host of other utility bills.



Matter of timing: Payment in instalments is of great value in current times when incomes are at stake. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

even monthly public provident fund or recurring deposit payments are very common. So, instalment premium for health insurance can smoothly be incorporated into the payments list once the salary comes in. Once insurers start offering it on various policies.

The catch is, what if you forget? The cost of that in the case of health insurance will be higher than in the case of other financial investments.

The freedom has now been given and it is up to us to remember that with freedom comes significant responsibility. There is no point in forgetting to pay your instalment premium and losing health insurance coverage.

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

LOOSE CHANGE

RAVIKANTH



"Here is the list. Tell me how much I get to save by not buying these."

Life insurance term plan premium

Male: 30 Years, Sum Insured- 1 crore, Cover upto- 70 Years

Insurance company	Plan name	Maximum Cover Up to (Years)	Annual premium ₹(Male)
Aditya Birla Capital	Life Shield Plan	85	12,998
Aegon Life	iTerm Insurance Plan	100	9,114
Bajaj Allianz	Smart Protect Goal	85	10,911
Bharti AXA	Premier Protect Plan	75	11,092**
Canara HSBC OBC Life	iSelect Star Term Plan	99	11,605
HDFC Life	Click2Protect Plus	85	12,601
ICICI Prudential	iProtect Smart	99	15,628
India First Life	e-Term Plan	80	8,260
Kotak Life Insurance	Kotak e-Term Plan	75	9,558
Max Life insurance	Smart Term Plan	85	11,800***
PNB Met Life	Mera Term Plan Plus	99	12,272
Reliance Nippon Life	Digi Term	80	11,012
SBI Life	eShield	80	15,070
TATA AIA Life	Maha Raksha Supreme	100	12,980

Bharti AXA coverage up to 65 years for age 30 years | *Max life offers additional 5% discount for first year

Health insurance premium

Insurer name Key features Plan names Premium ₹

Insurer name	Key features	Plan names	Premium ₹
Care Health	Day Care Treatments Family Floater option Health Checkups Pre and Post Hospitalisation Coverage	NCB Super Premium with UAR	9,712
Max Bupa Health	Day Care Treatments Hospitalisation at Home Family Floater option Alternate Medicine	Health ReAssure Health Pulse Enhanced Go Active	9,590 10,696 11,747
Star Health	Family Floater option Restoration of cover Wellness Benefits	Medi Classic Star Comprehensive Young Star Gold Plan Young Star Silver Plan	9,661 11,476 8,389 7,133
HDFC Ergo Health	Family Floater option Health wallet	Optima Restore	11,575 22,908
HDFC Ergo General	Hospitalisation at Home Hospital Room Eligibility Alternate Medicine	My:health Suraksha Gold Smart My: health Suraksha Silver My: health Suraksha Silver with Rebound & ECB	13,886 12,231 12,765
Aditya Birla Health	Day Care Treatments Restoration of cover Family Floater Option Health Checkups	Activ assure Diamond Activ Health Enhance Activ Health Enhance (Diabetes) Activ Health Enhance (Asthma) Activ Health Enhance (Hypertension) Activ assure Diamond with Super NCB Activ assure Diamond with Unlimited Reload Activ assure Diamond with Super NCB and Unlimited Reload	7,919 9,801 38,146 16,818 32,616 8,711 9,265
Chola MS General	Day Care Treatments Hospital Room Eligibility Hospitalisation at Home Alternate Medicine	Flexi Health	7,807

For a 30-year-old male, non-smoker, for sum insured of ₹10 lakh living in a metro city

Insurer name Key features Plan names Premium ₹

Digit Healthcare Plus	Hospital Room Eligibility Day Care Treatments Family Floater Option	Option 1 - Maxima Restore Super Option 2 - Early Cover Option 3 - Super care Option 4 - OPD Cover	8,861 7,985 7,541 11,806
Bajaj Allianz General	Hospital Room Eligibility Wellness Benefits Family Floater Option Pre and Post Hospitalisation Coverage	Individual Health Guard	12,213
SBI General Insurance	Coverage Day Care Treatments Hospitalisation at Home	Arogya Premier	10,547
Royal Sundaram General	Hospitalisation at Home Hospital Room Eligibility Alternate Medicine	Lifeline supreme	8,578
TATA AIG	Pre and Post Hospitalisation Coverage Day Care Treatments Hospitalisation at Home	Medicare Medicare Premier	9,820 12,176
Universal Sompo General	Hospitalisation at Home Hospital Room Eligibility Alternate Medicine	Complete Healthcare Priviledge	12,241

Angulo saves FC Goa's blushes

Scores twice in three minutes to help the side share honours with Bengaluru FC

ISL 2020-21

SPORTS BUREAU

Igor Angulo's brace helped FC Goa salvage a 2-2 draw against Bengaluru FC (BFC) in its opening Indian Super League (ISL) encounter at Fatorda, Goa, on Sunday.

New signing Angulo, a replacement for prolific striker Ferran Corominas, made a mark on his ISL debut.

FC Goa entered the second-half trailing 0-2, before Angulo came alive.

The Spaniard scored his first goal in the 66th minute, slipping behind the BFC defence to latch on to a clever pass from Alberto Noguera.

A strong left-footed shot was too hot to handle for BFC goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh. Just a few minutes later, Angulo was in perfect position in front of goal to chest in a cross from Alexander Jesuraj.

On the double

Earlier, BFC held all the cards, going in front through goals from Cleiton Silva and Juanan.

On both occasions, the FC Goa defence stumbled. Brazilian Silva got on the scoresheet in the 27th minute, with a powerful header



Announcing his arrival: Angulo, making his ISL debut, came up with two fine goals after FC Goa had gone 2-0 down against Bengaluru FC. ■ ISL/SPORTSPICS

which flew past FC Goa custodian Mohammad Nawaz. Silva was able to shake off his marker Sanson Pereira much too easily.

Juanan doubled BFC's lead after the restart, when he found him completely unmarked deep inside the FC Goa box. BFC midfielder Erik Paartalu – similarly left free – had all the time and space in the world to head

the ball to Juanan, who slammed his shot in. The FC Goa back-line had fallen asleep, and paid the price.

FC Goa played with greater purpose in the second-half, creating chances regularly.

BFC, on the other hand, was content to play it safe, substituting forward Udanta Singh for defender Rahul Bheke.

MONDAY'S MATCH
Odisha FC
vs
Hyderabad FC, 7.30 p.m.
STAR SPORTS 2 (SD & HD) AND 3

'Fab Five' can hunt down the Aussies: Shastri

Says Bumrah, Shami, Umesh, Saini and Siraj have the ability to swing it India's way

INDIA IN AUS

VIJAY LOKAPALLY

Ravi Shastri has been talking tough to his team. "No let up."

The conditions, as he admitted in this chat on Sunday with Sportstar from his room in Adelaide, are "tough," but so is the resolve of the Indian team to make a mark this summer in Australia, one of the hardest cricket countries to tour, especially under the current scenario due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The expectations from India are huge. "Nothing wrong. It makes us all the more excited to perform. I know it is going to be tough, but then the monkey is off our back...off the back of the captain (Virat Kohli)."

"We beat Australia here the last time (2018-19) and beat them when they played in India (2016-17). None from this Australian team has the experience of having beaten India in India. We have lost at home to Australia only once in the last 15 years and that was in 2004," Shastri said.

India was capable of producing sparkling cricket, Shastri felt. "We have a tremendous bowling attack. I know Ishant (Sharma) is not here [yet], but then we have



Buzzing around: Shastri feels that Bumrah, one of the best in the business, can wreak havoc. ■ FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

the capacity among the young bowlers to deliver. It is for them to grab the chance and prove that they are second to none."

The full range

When asked to elaborate, Shastri observed: "We have a fabulous five - (Jasprit) Bumrah, (Mohammed) Shami, (Mohammed) Siraj, Umesh (Yadav) and Navdeep Saini. Yadav has the experience. Saini is young and fast. Bumrah is one of the best in the business. Shami is raring to go. Siraj is an exciting prospect. You put up

runs on the board and watch these fast bowlers hunt the opposition. They can beat Australia in their own den."

At the same time, Shastri said that much depended on the surfaces.

Chalk and cheese

"We begin with pink-ball cricket where we lack experience. We have played just one pink-ball Test (against Bangladesh in Kolkata), but there is a qualitative difference between them and Australia. It is like chalk and cheese."

"We have not played

C We have not played much pink-ball in domestic cricket, but I just want them to go and enjoy their game when they play the Adelaide Test

much pink-ball in domestic cricket, but I just want them to go and enjoy their game in Adelaide. We will be having some match fitness for white-ball cricket and [after that] we have to show the willingness to adapt."

Backing Kohli's decision

Shastri also backed skipper Kohli on his decision to return home for the birth of his first child.

"It is a once-in-a-lifetime moment and I am with him. He is not the one to miss a game without a compelling reason. But for the quarantine, he would have returned for the last Test."

"But it's not easy because the quarantine process in Australia is strict and to go through another 14-day period of isolation would be tough for anyone."

"I must tell our fans and critics that Virat is the only Asian captain to have won a series against Australia both home and away."

"That's the trigger for the team to remember and shine."

runs on the board and watch these fast bowlers hunt the opposition. They can beat Australia in their own den."

"We talk about bounce, but except for Perth, over the past few years, the other grounds (Adelaide, MCG, SCG) don't have that much bounce. Nowadays, especially while opening the batting, I will have to think about not playing the cut or pull shots and focus on playing in the

Carrasco on target as Atletico shocks Barcelona

Records its first league win over the Catalans in 10 years; Spurs sink Man City

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE MADRID

Atletico Madrid delivered a boost to its hopes of winning the LaLiga by beating Barcelona 1-0 on Saturday, consigning its opponent to the worst start to a league season in 29 years.

Yannick Carrasco finished brilliantly from range after mistakes from Gerard Pique and Marc-Andre ter Stegen left the goal open.

Atletico recorded its first league victory over Barcelona in 10 years, putting it three points ahead of Real Madrid with a game in hand. It is now second in the table, level on points with early high-fliers Real Sociedad.

The result also left Barcelona languishing in 10th, with 11 points from the first eight games. It is the club's worst tally at this stage since the 1991-92 season.

Atletico has extended its unbeaten run in the league to 24 matches.

In the Premier League on Sunday, Arsenal held on for a 0-0 draw at Leeds after Nicolas Pepe was sent off for head-butting Ezequiel Alioski. Arsenal has won only one of its last five Premier League games and sits 11th, while Leeds is 14th.

Dominic Calvert-Lewin scored after just 42 seconds as Everton won 3-2 at Fulham. On Saturday, Tottenham powered to the top with a 2-0 win over Manchester City, while Chelsea jumped to second after victory at Newcastle. Jose Mourinho's side is now two points clear of Chelsea, thanks to goals from Son Heung-min and Giovani Lo Celso. Manchester United was a 1-0 winner over West Brom.

Verona 0 lost to Sassuolo 2 (Boga 42, Berardi 75); Roma 3 (Mayoral 28, Mkhitaryan 32, 40) bt Parma 0.

Sampdoria 1 (Thorsby 7) lost to Bologna 2 (Regini 44-0g, Orsolini 52).

EPL: Fulham 2 (Decordova-Reid 15, Loftus-Cheek 70) lost to Everton 3 (Calvert-Lewin 1, 29, Doucoure 35).

Atletico Madrid 1 (Carrasco 45+3) bt Barcelona 0.

Serie A: Juventus 2 (Ronaldo 38, 42) bt Cagliari 0.

1 (Haller 56); Leeds 0 drew with Arsenal 0.

LaLiga: Eibar 0 drew with Getafe 0; Cadiz 0 lost to Real Sociedad 1 (Isak 66).

Bundesliga: Freiburg 1 (Petersen 63) lost to Mainz 3 (Mateta 2, 34, 40).

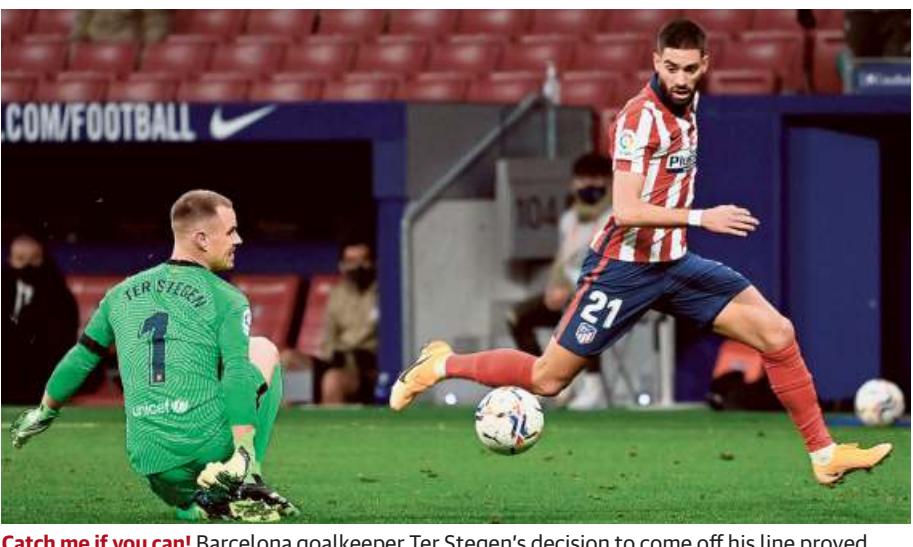
On Saturday:

EPL: Tottenham 2 (Son 5, Lo Celso 65) bt Manchester City 0; Manchester United 1 (Fernandes 56-pen) bt West Brom 0.

LaLiga: Sevilla 4 (Kounde 5, En-Nesyri 45+3, Escudero 85, Munir 87) bt Celta Vigo 2 (Aspas 10, Nolito 36).

Atletico Madrid 1 (Carrasco 45+3) bt Barcelona 0.

Serie A: Juventus 2 (Ronaldo 38, 42) bt Cagliari 0.



Catch me if you can! Barcelona goalkeeper Ter Stegen's decision to come off his line proved fatal as Carrasco pounced on the opportunity and powered Atletico to victory. ■ AFP

Ready to bat anywhere: Rohit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

He has enjoyed and revelled in his role as a Test opener, but Rohit Sharma says he will be flexible about his batting position in the Test series against Australia.

"We talk about bounce on Australian tracks... but tell me how many people got out to bouncers during the last series? When we played in Perth in 2018-19, it was Nathan Lyon who got eight wickets, including a five-for. In Australia, half the job is done if you can start well upfront."

The senior batsman is expected to play a big role alongside Test vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane and Cheteshwar Pujara when skipper Virat Kohli returns to India after the opening Test for the birth of his first child.

"I will be happy to bat wherever the team wants me to, but I don't know if they would change my role as an opener," said Rohit. "I am sure the guys already in Australia must have figured out what the options are when Virat leaves and who will open the innings," Rohit said.

"Once I reach there, I will have a better idea of what's going to happen. I will be okay to bat wherever they want."

One of the finest players of the hook and the pull, Rohit felt that the bounce on the Australian tracks is not as big a factor as it is made out to be.

"We talk about bounce, but except for Perth, over the past few years, the other grounds (Adelaide, MCG, SCG) don't have that much bounce. Nowadays, especially while opening the batting, I will have to think about not playing the cut or pull shots and focus on playing in the

"V", he said. Rohit cited the example of how Nathan Lyon was Australia's best bowler (eight wickets) in the Perth Test that the host won in the 2018 series.

"With the new ball, whoever bowls, whether it's Starc, Cummins or Hazlewood, they will obviously pitch it up, swing the ball and the bouncer would be used sparingly."

"They would try to get some movement in the air and off the pitch. With the new ball, every bowler in the world loves to bowl full, and send down the odd bouncer."

He spoke about how a



Primed: Rohit is up for the challenge Down Under.

Zaman ruled out of NZ tour

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE KARACHI

Pakistan's dashing opener Fakhar Zaman was on Sunday ruled out of the forthcoming tour of New Zealand just a few hours before the team's departure after failing to recover from fever.

The 30-year-old left-hander tested negative but had fever, forcing Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to withdraw him.

"The decision to withdraw Zaman from the tour was made keeping the health of the rest of the squad members as a top priority," said a PCB release.

Prajnesh loses in final

SPORTS BUREAU
ORLANDO

Prajnesh Gunneswaran lost to Brandon Nakashima 6-3, 6-4 in the final of the Orlando Open Challenger tournament on Sunday. However, it was a productive end to the season for the 31-year-old, having made the final of the Cary Challenger the week before.

Prajnesh, as a result, is set to leapfrog Sumit Nagal (ranked 136) to finish as India's No.1 singles player this year.

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 13099

O	N	T	H	E
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TV PICKS

ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), Star Sports 3, 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday).

IN BRIEF



Streb stretches lead

WASHINGTON

Robert Streb stayed steady on Saturday, stretching his lead in the US PGA Tour RSM Classic to three strokes over two-time Major winner Zach Johnson and Bronson Burgoon. Streb had three birdies without a bogey in a 67 on the par-70 Seaside Course, where he won his only Tour title in 2014. Argentina's Emiliano Grillo was alone in fourth after a 65. AFP



Kim soars over field

MIAMI
Kim Sei-young shot a sizzling 64 and opened up a five-stroke lead over Ally McDonald at the LPGA Tour's Pelican Women's Championship on Saturday. South Korea's Kim caught fire on the back nine, making birdie on four straight holes from the 14th through the 17th to reach 14 under. American McDonald's 68 included a hole-in-one. Northern Ireland's Stephanie Meadow was third at eight-under after a 68. AFP



LOS ANGELES
NBA free agent Gordon Hayward is headed for Charlotte Hornets on a deal reported by ESPN to be worth \$120 million over four years. Hayward became a free agent on Thursday when he declined a \$34.2 million player option with Boston Celtics. Meanwhile, journeyman point-guard Rajon Rondo is joining Atlanta Hawks on a reported two-year, \$15 million deal. Also, Toronto Raptors is poised to sign guard Fred VanVleet on a four-year, \$85 million deal. AFP



KARACHI
Former Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi will lead Galle Gladiators in the coronavirus-hit inaugural Lankan Premier League (LPL) to be played from November 26 to December 16. Initially, Sarfaraz Ahmed was named captain, but the wicketkeeper-batsman has been included in the Pakistan squad for the tour of New Zealand. PTI

Pranjala tops group

SPORTS BUREAU

MELBOURNE
Y. Pranjala beat Alana Parabny 6-4, 4-6, [10-7] in the second league match of the UTR Pro tennis championship here on Sunday.

The 21-year-old Pranjala thus topped the three-player group, having earlier beaten former World No. 20 Daria Gavrilova.

Pranjala awaits the top of the other group, in the four-day competition.

Medvedev outduels Nadal

Russian star sets up summit clash against Djokovic's conqueror Thiem

ATP FINALS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Daniil Medvedev sent Rafael Nadal packing after a gruelling slugfest at the ATP Finals here on Saturday to set up a title match against Novak Djokovic's conqueror Dominic Thiem.

World No. 2 Nadal, who has never won the elite event in his illustrious career, served for the match in the second set but was eventually beaten 3-6, 7-6(4), 6-3.

Medvedev – arguably the hottest player on the Tour after his Paris Masters win – put Nadal's serve under intense pressure in the early stages of their evening match at the empty O2 Arena.

But he was unable to make his chances count and a drop in his level allowed the Spaniard to break to love to lead 5-3 before serving out the set.

Medvedev immediately found his focus at the start of the second set, winning his first service game to love before Nadal double-faulted to give the Russian a 2-0 lead.

Just when it seemed as though Medvedev was cruis-



Hot streak! Medvedev denied Nadal a tilt at the rare silverware missing in his cabinet. ■ REUTERS

ing, Nadal broke back twice to take total control and stepped up to serve for the match.

But, in another astonishing twist, the 20-time Grand Slam champion was broken to love and Medvedev won the eventual tie-break.

The deciding set hinged on the seventh game, which Medvedev won and went on to seal a famous victory.

The results (semifinals): Sin-

gle: 4-Daniil Medvedev (Rus) bt 2-Rafael Nadal (Esp) 3-6, 7-6(4), 6-3.

Doubles: 7-Jurgen Melzer (Aut) & Edouard Roger-Vasselin (Fra) bt 2-Rajeev Ram (USA) & Joe Salisbury (GBR) 6-7(4), 6-3, [11-9].

Herrmann quits, AFI for two HPDs

Sumariwalla acknowledges the German's contribution

ATHLETICS

UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

The Athletics Federation of India, while acknowledging German Volker Herrmann's contribution, indicated on Sunday that it was looking at dividing the responsibilities of the erstwhile High Performance Director with separate ones for seniors and juniors going ahead.

"He dedicatedly contributed a lot in our coaches' education programme. We tried to convince him to stay, however, it's his personal decision to go back to Germany and we respect his decision. He has expressed his wish to continue as a consultant in future and we will definitely do that as and when required," AFI president Adille Sumariwalla said.

"We are now looking for-



ward to appoint two High Performance Directors, one for senior athletes and one for juniors and youth," he added. Herrmann, who worked with the AFI for 16 months since joining in July 2019, had resigned three weeks ago and announced the same through a Facebook post late on Saturday night.

"Working in high performance sports requires a high

level of expectations. Numerous athletes and teams all around the world, supported by their coaches and staff, are competing with the one goal to be the best at a particular date. Only one will succeed.

Fruitful years

"After one and a half fruitful and inspiring years in India, the day has come when I could not any longer meet the self-imposed expectations coming along with the role of AFI's high performance director, which is why I resigned from my position three weeks ago," Herrmann wrote.

Herrmann had expressed positivity at his stint in India in July this year and even expressed hope at the road ahead in another post a month back as athletes' training resumed.

DELHI ROUND-UP

MAHARAJA HARI SINGH CUP 2020



Champion: Sahara Warriors emerged victorious in the Velocity-48 Maharaja Hari Singh Cup 10-goal polo tournament on Sunday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sahara Warriors takes the honours

Daniel Otamendi scored

three goals in guiding

Sahara Warriors to a 4-goals

to 3-1/2 victory over Jindal

Panther in the final of the

Velocity-48 Maharaja Hari

Singh Cup 10-goal polo

tournament at the Jaipur

Polo ground here on

Sunday.

Vikramaditya Singh

presented the trophy.

The results (final):

Sahara Warriors 4 (Daniel

Otamendi 3, Allan Michael)

bt Jindal Panther 3-1/2 (Siddhant Sharma 2, Venkatesh Jindal,

handicap 1/2).

Mixed luck for Mansi

Mansi of Tagore School had

a mixed bag as she won the

girls' under-14 title and

finished runner-up to Tia

Singh in the under-18

section, in the Rackonnect

tennis championship on

Sunday.

The results (finals):

Boys: Under-12: Samridh Atri

bt Anay Panay 6-0.

Under-14: Shivam Devam

bt Namit Bhatia 6-4.

Girls: Under-18: Tia Singh bt

Mansi 6-0.

Smashing Blue claims main event

HYDERABAD: Trainer R.H. Sequeira's Smashing Blue, ridden by Akshay Kumar, won the upper division of the Youngsters Plate, the chief event of Sunday's (Nov. 22) races here. The winner is owned by Mr. P. Prabhakar Reddy & Dr. Peddi Reddy Prabhakar Reddy and trained by R.H. Sequeira.

Trainer R.H. Sequeira saddled three other winners, while Jockey Akshay Kumar rode two more winners on the day.

1 RECOMMENDER PLATE (Div. II), 1,400m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat.

III): SHIVALIK VALLEY (Akshay Ku-

mar) 1, Chuckit (Afroz Khan) 2,

Spicy Star (Abhay Singh) 3 and

Lightning Power (Kuldeep Singh)

4. Not run: Kute and Silver Set. 7-

1/2, ns and 2-1/4, Im 26.49s. 17

(w), 17, 37 and 29 (p). SHP: 34,

THP: 49, FP: 227, Q: 328, Tanala:

14,456 (c/f). Favourite: Kute. Own-

ers: Mr. Ravinder Reddy Male &

Mr. Teja Gollapudi. Trainer: R.H.

Sequeira.

2 YOUNGSTERS PLATE (Div. I), 1,200m), rated 60 to 85 (Cat.

II): SMASHING BLUE (Akshay Ku-

mar) 1, Classic Remark (Gaurav

Singh) 2, Warrior Supreme (Md.Ismail) 3 and N R I Super King (Darshan R.N.) 4. 3/4, 3-1/4 and hd. Im 13.78s. ₹5 (w), 5, 36 and 20 (p).

SHP: 36, THP: 43, FP: 17, Q: 89,

Tanala: 36. Favourite: Southern

Princess. Owners: Mr. S. Daljeet

Singh, Mr. Sardar Jitvesh Singh,

Mr. Ashok Chukka & Mr. S. Mohan Raju. Trainer: M. Srinivas Reddy.

5 RECOMMENDER PLATE (Div. I),

1,400m), rated 20 to 45, (Cat.

III): MIRANA (Ashad Asbar) 1,

House of Diamonds (Akshay Ku-

mar) 2, Southern Princess (P. Tre-

vor) 3 and Francis Bacon (Surya

Prakash) 4. Not run: Crazy Horse

and Castlerock. 4, 2 and 1-1/4. Im 27.24s. ₹68 (w), 9, 8 and 7 (p).

SHP: 6, THP: 7, FP: 156, Q: 99,

Tanala: 365. Favourite: Southern

Princess. Owners: Mr. S. Daljeet

Singh, Mr. Sardar Jitvesh Singh,

Mr. Ashok Chukka & Mr. S. Mo-

han Raju. Trainer: R.H. Srinivas Reddy.

6 DEMOCRACY PLATE (Div. II),

1,200m), 5-3/4 & over, rated 20

to 45 (Cat. III): MARVEL PRIN-

CCESS (Kiran Naik) 1, The Special

One (Abhay Singh) 2, Starboy

(Ashad Asbar) 3 and Royal Green

(Darshan R.N.) 4. Not run: Best

Friend. 1/2, 2 and 2-1/4. Im 15.87s.

₹16 (w), 6, 19 and 21 (p). SHP: 32,

THP: 34, FP: 348, Q: 175, Tanala: 5,

472. Favourite: Marvel Princess.

Owner: Mr. Niraj Tyagi rep. Blaz-

ing Saddle. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad

Raju.

7 YOUNGSTERS PLATE (Div. II